

Ash Wednesday

February 26, 2020

Fr. Larry Richards

Today as we begin another Lent, we hear the same thing. The first words out of God's mouth every year in the First Reading is, "Even now, says the Lord, "return to Me with your whole heart." Lent is a heart thing. It is not so much what we do and all the practices that we practice, and all the things we give up. It is about coming to God with our whole heart. To being converted to fall more in love with Him.

We do that, of course, by praying, fasting, and almsgiving. When we pray and grow close to God, we get to know His will. When we fast, we empty our self, so that God can fill us with Himself. So, we always have a choice. Do I want to be filled with me or do I want to be filled with God? Lent is a time I empty myself so God can fill Himself with me. It is in no way just losing everything. It is an emptying to receive everything. It is like being filled with water and God wants to fill us with gold. We always want to have Him more.

When we give alms, we take care of God who is in all people. So often our following of Jesus is just me and Jesus. Me and Jesus. But it is never about me and Jesus. It is always about all of us together, to start seeing Jesus in all people. That is the call. That is what we begin together this Lent.

So, let it be a heart thing. May each of you know His love today and forever, amen.