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RELIGIOUS



BULLETIN

Dolores W. Tancoes

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My Father's House

Third Sunday of Lent

LET US ABANDON LUXURY.
WE WILL NOT REGRET IT.

-Tertullian

IT IS THE POOR WHO MINE GOLD,
THOUGH THEY ARE DENIED GOLD;
THEY ARE FORCED TO WORK FOR WHAT
THEY CANNOT KEEP.

-St. Ambrose

THE COMMAND IS CLEAR: THE HUNGRY
ARE DYING NOW, THE NAKED ARE
FREEZING NOW, THOSE IN DEBT ARE
BEING BEATEN NOW. SO WHY WAIT
UNTIL TOMORROW?

IF EVERYONE TOOK ONLY WHAT THEY
NEEDED AND GAVE THE REST TO THOSE
IN NEED, THERE WOULD BE NO SUCH
THING AS RICH AND POOR.

-St. Basil



Enduring Faith

Robert Pelton, CPC

At the end of today's Gospel we read that Jesus "knew them all." That is, He knew the difference between a sort of "seasonal" faith, and that faith which expresses itself in enduring actions. There are many contemporary persons and situations which invite us to review the quality of our own faith-lives.

One example is present in the attitude of many Chilean "grass roots" Christian leaders: men and women who have lived for twelve years under a military dictatorship and still have not given up hope that their liberation will eventually be achieved. They know that this will not happen tomorrow, but they continue on in deep prayer and non-violent resistance. There is no doubt that their faith is truly an enduring one.

Another instance is that of Cardinal Paul Arns of Sao Paulo, Brazil. During the last few years a hired killer murdered fifty pastoral agents in his Diocese. This killer was finally apprehended. During an interview from his prison confinement he vowed that he would escape, and stated that his next victim would be the Cardinal himself. Since that time he has, in fact, escaped. When Cardinal Arns was told this he replied calmly:

"If I am killed, I shall be succeeded by someone more capable than myself. I do not fear, since I have been faithful to the Lord and am ready to die." His faith also is clearly an enduring one.

Finally, during this month we remember the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero who lived and died with a faith which deepened in the midst of signs of death. Priests and laity were murdered; refugee camps were established; and the diocesan radio station was bombed. Archbishop Romero spoke out for the poor and was killed because of it. He also saw death in those who —while living— refused to make commitments to the suffering ones, and he urged all to renew their lives through involvement. His enduring faith was like the grain of wheat which dies and is buried to produce new and abundant life!

These contemporaries are examples of enduring faith. Lent offers us an opportunity to look at the quality of our own faith. Perhaps it is "seasonal" in some ways. If so, now is an appropriate time to make it deeper and more enduring. Let us respond gratefully to the invitation to do so.

Fr. Robert Pelton is the director of the Notre Dame Institute for Clergy Education.

From Ashes to Easter - 3

JOHN 2: 13 - 25 Jesus drives the money changers from the temple.

What are some of your favorite habits? Eating, sleeping, talking, studying, praying, running? Are there ones you would wish to change?

Habits are not easy to change. Yet the events of life are constantly calling on us to change our ways. A new job or the loss of an old one, financial crises, divorce, sickness, the marriages of brothers and sisters, the beginnings of a new love relationship, all call on us to change in some way. There is a natural human inclination to resist change. We are comfortable in our self-designed ruts.

The gospel is always calling on us to change and grow. Jesus preached a message of conversion. Turn away from evil. Turn toward God. Conversion is the everyday experience of choosing or refusing to grow. Lent is the time when the church stops and reflects on what changes the gospel demands of us. Are we ready?

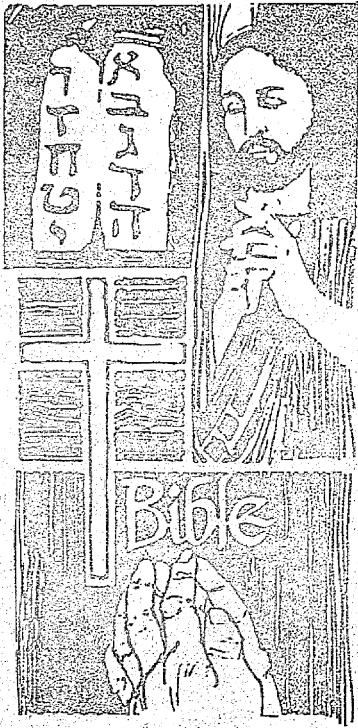
OPERATION  RICE BOWL

*Shaping a
Peaceful World
Together*

**3rd Sunday
of Lent** In developing countries malnutrition contributes to the death of 40,000 children a day, 15 million a year. Your contribution to Operation Rice Bowl will help Catholic Relief Services in its nutritional programs to combat these alarming statistics. Please be generous in your support.



Bless me, Father



Some people have asked if we would say a few words about the reception of the Sacrament of Penance. How do we do it now days? Many of us are familiar with and feel comfortable with the traditional, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been this many weeks since my last confession. Some may choose to simply exchange a greeting with the confessor and ask for his assistance in making a good confession. It may be helpful to him in any advice he may give if you tell him the frequency with which you receive the sacrament. Tell him your sins or about an area of your life which you feel could be helped with the grace of this sacrament. After his few words he will ask you to say a prayer of contrition for your sins. Prayerful recitation of a traditional Act of Contrition is fine. So is a prayer of your own which reflects your feelings of contrition and your thankfulness for God's mercy. After the confessor's prayer assuring you of God's forgiveness and blessing, go in peace, and spend a few moments in quiet penitential prayer.

WHEN you begin to study, look up to Him and think: 'O Lord, how worthless this knowledge would be, if it were not for the enlightening of my mind for Thy service, or for making me more useful to my fellow men.'

Elizabeth Seton (1774-1821).

No one in the world can alter truth. All we can do is seek it and live it. □ MAXIMILIAN KOLBE