

# THE LORD FASHIONED MAN OUT OF DUST

NOTRE DAME  
COLLECTION

First Sunday of Lent  
March 8, 1987

The Lord will overshadow you,  
and you will find refuge.

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RELIGIOUS BULLETIN



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## A GLOBAL LENT

Rev. David E. Schlaver, C.S.C.

The times of temptation are immortalized in today's Scripture. Way back in those idyllic days in the garden, surrounded by God's good gifts, a devilish serpent tantalized Adam and Eve and they ate the forbidden fruit.

Much later, after an exhausting fast, Jesus encountered the devil who taunted him with displays of power and glory, with the potential to have more worldly goods and greater influence. Jesus held his ground and the devil went away sad.

ARE WE NOW THE ONES LIVING IN THE MIDST OF ANOTHER PERIOD OF SERIOUS TEMPTATION? We know that we are linked to people everywhere on the globe in an INTERDEPENDENT way of life. But in our hearts we still want to be "in charge." We want more things and more power for ourselves.

Meanwhile much of the world goes hungry and thirsty, naked and unnoticed. Survival is the daily lot for a vast number of our fellow human beings. All the while we Americans consume and amass and spend untold billions protecting what we already have or finding places to dispose of it when something newer comes along.

Have we succumbed to this modern temptation? Do we think ourselves more deserving than our hungry brothers and sisters? Do we really need so much more to live in this world? Do we really expect other nations to look up to our own with honor and respect when the majority of their people can barely raise their tired heads?

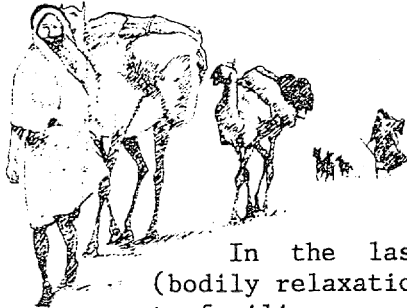
Though we are linked in an amazing global network of communications, do we still see what we want to see and hear only what we want to hear? Some thoughts for Lent in a world trying to fathom want and plenty, side by side.

(Fr. Schlaver lived in Bangladesh as a missionary for years.)

Go forth  
to a land that  
I will show  
you. ○

WHAT AM I DOING

FOR CHRIST?



P R A Y E R + + + PART THREE

Fr. Paul Holland, S.J.

In the last two weeks, we have tried CENTERING PRAYER (bodily relaxation, breathing, imaging of Jesus), and linked it to familiar prayers and scripture texts. Then we suggested that keeping a SPIRITUAL JOURNAL will complete this series of reflections.

At the end of each prayer session, spend some time reviewing with the Lord what happened. Talk to HIM about the feelings or insights you had. Tell the Lord when in the prayer time you felt distracted or bored, or scared, or peaceful. Ask Him about these feelings, and listen to Him.

Most often, concerns from your daily life will emerge during these prayer times--anxiety over school work, dismay over a broken relationship, puzzlement at an impending decision, embarrassment or guilt for sin. Share these concerns with Jesus, and then carefully listen to His response.

Now set these down in a JOURNAL, just as they occur to you in this final reflection period. Using the dialogue form, and writing as you meditate, can help this reflection. Note the words you actually speak to Jesus. Imagine, listen to and record His answers. Continue this as long as you profit from it.

Now, dialogue with yourself, ask yourself three questions:

WHAT HAVE I DONE FOR CHRIST?

WHAT AM I DOING FOR CHRIST?

WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR CHRIST?

In answering each question. Be specific, note these answers in your journal. A commitment written down will be more concrete, more practical and more likely actualized, than a vague mental resolutions to be "more charitable" or to "work on my anger."

A periodic rereading of your journal will help you glimpse patterns of growth or continual obstacles.

Always end prayer with a word of thanks to the Lord for the time spent with Him.

Once you develop the habit of Journaling after meditation, you can make it into a mode of prayer in its own right.

Here is one simple method, which works well at the end of the day.

Use the relaxation method already learned.

Style your writing as a letter to God. Begin by reminding God of the events of the day. As you do so, ask yourself where God was present to you. Be specific: record striking events, and especially your feelings around them.

Now in your letter to God, tell Him how much and why you found Him in that time. If, after recording the day, you did not glimpse Him, tell God about that fact, and your feelings about that absence.

Often the feelings will focus on an image or an insight. Explore that with God. Tell Him what you think it might mean, or ask what He's trying to tell you.

Since God is the one you want as your closest friend, write to Him as you would to such a friend. In this letter bring to Him whatever concerns the day has held for you. How have you responded to God's presence today? What do you want to do differently tomorrow?

End your letter to God with an expression that best captures the reality of your relationship with Him. Some of us are not quite ready to sign ourselves "Love, your friend." Our more honest conclusion is "wish you were here." But truth, with God and with ourselves, is the beginning of Freedom in God.

The treasury of Christian prayer is vast; we've explored but a very small part. As you use these simple methods this Lent, may God enrich you with His presence and peace and lead you ever more deeply into his loving embrace.

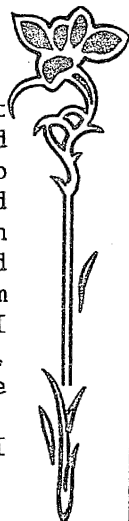
MAN DOES NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE  
BUT ON EVERY WORD  
THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.



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AH! TEMPTING! In today's readings God speaks to us about temptations: about the devil tempting Eve, Eve tempting Adam, and the devil tempting Jesus three times. We are all tempted to leave God out and to seek our own pleasure, power, and possessions. "You can't take it with you!" Lent is an appropriate time to reconnoiter, to check out my stance with God and with my neighbors near and far. Having a healthy self-esteem helps me keep God and my neighbor in my life. Is it possible I don't experience God because I yield to the temptations of power, pleasure and possessions and leave God out? God can't be substituted for these. I cannot serve two masters. My God becomes more apparent and less elusive to me the more I pray and the more I am conscious of my global neighbor.

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MAY THE ROAD RISE TO MEET YOU,



MAY THE WIND ALWAYS BE AT YOUR BACK,

MAY THE SUN SHINE WARM UPON YOUR FACE,

THE RAIN FALL SOFTLY ON YOUR FIELDS,

AND UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN,

MAY GOD HOLD YOU IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.



-IRISH BLESSING

