18 Homily for Ash Wednesday Year A -WEB

Season of Lent! What sort of a time this season of Lent that we begin on Ash Wednesday? Let me explain to you with an example. In our life there are moments that we strongly experience the love of parents. If you have taken ill, your mum or dad would sit next to you , nurse you, feed you and take you to the doctor. We know they love us generally but during this time of sickness, we feel it and we sense it very strongly. Don’t we? Like that for me Lent is a very special time we become aware and conscious all of a sudden how He loves me. During Lent we feel and sense that love right here deep our hearts. We look that cross in a special way and tell this is how much he loved me. We feel I don’t deserve that love and mercy. But he loves me any way. He loves me as who I am. He never gets sick of me. He never gives up on me. St John tells us God loves us first (1 Jn 4:19).

When we experience that love you want to love him back with passion. That we give it a name. It is called Lenten observances. But I love to call them “Acts of Love” (Remember LOL in chat rooms and other text-based conversations): All that we do in Lent is to show our love for Him. Let’s see what these acts of love are:

Fast: Fasting for us means to forgo a meal and once we do that we feel good because I have fulfilled an obligation. So we fast to satisfy ourselves. So in the very act of fasting there is a degree of selfishness. Real fasting invites us to question our security and “feel good” attitude. Step out of our own comfort zones. Fast from your pleasure and cozy couches and meet a newly arrived refugee family and have a meal with them. Fast from the opportunities that can satisfy you.

Give: Give your ear to listen to a friend who doesn’t have anybody to listen. Give your words to appreciate a person rather than gossiping and tarnishing somebody’s good name. You’re your words to bring a smile on somebody’s face rather than tormenting him with bullying. Give your time to visit your grandparents and say hello to them or any other person who needs your help.

Pray: There are many things that we can pray for. “More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.” By Alfred Lord Tennyson. Who said a simple prayer like this: Thank you Lord for this day, for the air I breathe and for the friends I have. We know currently innocent civilians die in Mosul. Who did pray for them? We can intercede (pray on behalf of somebody) through prayer for many situations of poverty and suffering in the world.