



## COD LENTEN NEWSLETTER NO. 3.

Dear Reader,

Special greetings and mercy to you as we continue on our Lenten walk

I sincerely hope that you are still coping with your efforts and self-discipline to attend to your relationship with God and your neighbor this Lenten season. We need to believe that God is always keeping His appointments (ever since the Garden of Eden). It is us that allow ourselves to be diverted from spending time with Him. We even try to hide from Him because of the knowledge/guilt that we have for letting Him down.

Please do not allow anything to come between you and your Creator, but return to Him as soon as possible with the hymn in your heart: *Just as I am and waiting not, to rid my soul of one dark blot; to Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God I come.*

## 1. WHAT'S YO TAKE?

*Is there a need for confession/ spiritual accountability?*

The knowledge of the availability of forgiveness of our sin can lead to an underrated view of sin on the one hand. It is so easy to hold the view that we need not bother very much about our thoughts, words and deeds, as we can confess our sins again every Sunday, or on my deathbed –to be extreme. On the other hand, during contemplation we can become so aware of the holiness of God and the destructive nature of sin that drove Christ to Calvary that we cannot believe that Christ can be willing and able to forgive your particular “grave” misdeed. It is just too much and beyond the scope of admission of guilt alone.

Sometimes both the need for earnest confession and the gaining of forgiveness can be facilitated by a spiritual guide. Whether we are talking of a spiritual director, a mentor, prayer partner, counselor, accountability partner or therapist, the need for opening up our innermost being is sometimes so needed. For many confidentiality is a problem, but then it is better to reveal a sin to one another and work through it than to give the devil the opportunity to bring it to the open, with much destruction and harm to friend and family. Do not give him the occasion to shame you. Rather shame him when the blood of Jesus erases your guilt once for all by sincere confession.

Besides confession, I would like to urge you to test the spirits or your visions and undertakings by talking it through with a confidant that you know endeavors to fulfill the law of Christ. Such a mature Christian will just be able to warn you about possible pitfalls or create options that were hidden from your scope and frame of experience. May you have someone when *tossed about, with many a conflict, many a doubt, fighting and fears within, without*, to bring it to the *Lamb of God*.



## 2. CHRIST'S CHURCH DURING LENT

Something that is more and more on my mind these days is the difference between efficiency versus effectiveness. Peter Drucker sees efficiency as doing things right, whilst effectiveness is doing the right thing. With what is the Church busy? Something efficient or something effective? We can go through our motions and liturgies this Lent with precision, but what will be the benefits? Was it just beautiful to the beholder or were we moved to reconsider our ways or even amend/change our conduct to bring them in line with Christ's guidance. Do the poor, naked, forsaken, sick, homeless benefit from us this Lent? Will our work outlast the fire or will it go up in smoke?

We earnestly need to investigate what really matters and whether we are busy with that? Our time, energy and efforts should be investments with positive spin-offs, rather than a chasing after wind that will leave us utterly despondent and destitute.

I sincerely hope that the Spirit will be our Guide, revealing to us where to participate in the establishment of the kingdom of God; an exercise that will never be futile.

We go but once through this world.....

## 3. PRAYER/HYMN

*Print Your image pure and holy, on my heart O Lord of Grace.*


*So that nothing high or lowly, Your blest likeness can efface.*

*Let the clear inscription be: Jesus crucified for me,*

*And the Lord of all creation, be my refuge and salvation.*

## 4. WHOSE WILL IS SUPREME?

*If anyone would come after me, s/he must deny himself/herself and take up her/his cross and follow Me (Jesus)(Mark 8: 34).*



Father in Heaven! Hold not our sins up against us but hold us up against our sins so that the thought of You when it wakens in our soul, and each time it wakens, should not remind us of what we have committed but of what You did forgive, not of how we went astray but of how You did save us! (Soren Kiekegaard)

## 5. A SIDELINE AND YET SO VITAL....

Please try to participate on 26 March in Earth Hour by switching off electricity for one hour. The global event aims to create awareness towards consumption of energy and a more sustainable green environment. (It is strange that NGO's need to conscientize us towards taking care of God's creation).

Maybe this will however again stimulate you not to take this vital source for granted (although I doubt after power sharing that you will do so), but to be grateful for this luxury. Let us also think about God's creation and the footprints we are leaving behind. We have but one Mother earth and if we do not act as stewards in vain will we try to undo our actions when the damage is done. Don't kill the world...

*The editor can be contacted at [newtonbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:newtonbrandt@gmail.com)*

