

## LENTEN REFLECTIONS

“Jesus had a dream for a Kingdom of love,  
This carpenter with nails in his hands.  
He assembled a community of hope around Him,  
this King of the Jews with the tears still wet on His face.  
He came with a message,  
with Beatitudes by which to live  
and Bread and Wine with which to celebrate.  
He gave promises, of God’s Spirit, of life forever.”

Anthony Padovano

What is your dream?

*“Go straight on, and always in God’s sight.  
God takes pleasure in seeing you make your  
little steps; and like a good father  
who holds his child by the hand,  
he will conform his steps to yours  
and will be quite happy not to go any faster than you.*

*What are you anxious about?  
Whether you are taking this road or  
that other way, going fast or going slow?*

*All that matters is  
that He is with you and  
you are with Him.”*

*St. Francis de Sales*

***This, rather, is the fasting that I wish:  
Releasing those bound unjustly...  
Sharing your bread with the hungry...  
Clothing the naked when you see them...  
Isaiah 58:6-7***

Isaiah reminds us that religious people must also be people of justice. Religious practices like fasting are meant to support and nourish concrete acts of love.

And our own sins are somehow healed when we reach out to others in compassion. These words are sobering. They imply that my Lenten practices are not a private affair between God and me.

As the old proverb says, “Be not simply good: be good for something.”

How am I working to build a more just world... starting in my own home, workplace, parish, and neighborhood? With whom am I sharing my “bread”-whether that bread is food, money, time, talents, or attention?

Who am I helping to free from bondage - the bondage of addiction, ignorance, poverty, sickness, loneliness, poor self-esteem?

God of love, may my Lenten practices support my endeavors to make this world a better place.

Sister Malannie Svoboda, SND

“As a community of believers,  
we will only be effective when we continue

His presence in the world.

The only way to make Him present  
is by manifesting His divine love.

When people experience how we love one another  
Jesus becomes real for them.”

Reverend Adrian Van Kaam

How will you be Jesus’ presence in your world today?

Let my life be a gentle preparation  
For the pure and precious moments  
of listening to you, Lord,  
So that I may not drown  
In the rushing waters  
Of practical pursuits.”

Adrian Van Kaam

