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# 2020 Lenten Reflection

Prepared by Sister Jane Blabolil

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***“Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ.”***

– Pope Francis

Ashes, fasting, preparation and baptismal renewal – all things familiar to us as once again this Lent we are invited to an ongoing conversion of heart and mind. Along with those who are preparing to be baptized through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and received into the church, we, too, desire to deepen in our living out of the radical call of Christian discipleship. No matter how many Lents we have lived through we are always called to go deeper in love, understanding, and forgiveness.



As Franciscan men and women we commit ourselves to the Gospel and a Franciscan vision of life as expressive of Jesus in our lives. Every day of his life, Francis began again to “do mercy” with the “lepers” of his world. Every day we are all capable of deepening in our love, understanding, and forgiveness of one another and of our very selves. Lent is, in part, about “doing mercy” with those whose lives intersect with our own. In addition, it is about Hope – hope that little by little even our small efforts can make a huge difference.

A Quaker friend of mine has co-authored a book in which he speaks of HOPE and gratitude and of letting others know when their efforts and virtues have gifted us. One suggestion he makes is to practice gratitude – create a journal where each day you write down three things for which you are grateful. He also suggests writing down why you are grateful to a person who has made a big difference in your life and make a “gratitude visit” and read it to them. If you are an introvert, he suggests, just put your letter in the mail.

So, let us open the doors of our hearts and bend to wash the feet of all those who enter therein showing gratitude, love, and recognizing that it is Christ who knocks at our threshold.

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[Note regarding the graphic in this reflection: *“It is a plaque I have on my office wall that I just love, so I took a picture of it.”* – Sister Jane Blabolil.]