

*Second Sunday of Lent
February 25, 2024*



*Growing
in Spirit,
Community,
and Service*

Bonnie News

Franciscan Church of St. Bonaventure

Mass Times

Sunday Eucharist

*Saturday Vigil: 5 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am, 10 am
and 12 noon*

Weekday Eucharist

Monday to Friday: 9 am:

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 9 to 10 am

Ministry Centre

Hours

Sunday:

9:30 am to 2:30 pm

*Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday:*

9:30 am to 4 pm

*Thursday: Closed,
appointments only.*

Saturday:

3 pm to 7 pm

*1300 Leslie Street,
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9*

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www.st-bonaventure.ca



Detail of "Transfiguration of Christ" (1685), by Luca Giordano (Naples 1634 - 1705), Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy.

Transfiguration

For that one moment, 'in and out of time',
On that one mountain where all moments meet,
The daily veil that covers the sublime
In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.
There were no angels full of eyes and wings
Just living glory full of truth and grace.
The Love that dances at the heart of things
Shone out upon us from a human face
And to that light the light in us leaped up,
We felt it quicken somewhere deep within,
A sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope
Trembled and tingled through the tender skin.
Nor can this this blackened sky, this darkened scar
Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.

- Malcolm Guite, "Transfiguration," *Sounding the Seasons* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2012), 56.

NEW MINISTRY CENTRE HOURS

Please note, we have posted new hours for the Ministry Centre (parish office). They are: Sundays from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm; Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:30 am to 4 pm; and Saturdays from 3 pm to 7 pm. The Ministry Centre will be closed on Thursdays (meetings by appointment only).

LITURGY & SACRAMENTS

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, February 26	9 AM	† Eleanor Gomes
Tuesday, February 27	9 AM	† Ivy Lyn
Wednesday, February 28	9 AM	† Rev. Fr. Ramon S. Torres
Thursday, February 29	9 AM	Intention for Robylie Ilagam on her birthday and in thanksgiving
Friday, March 1	9 AM	† Peter Glowczewski † Nelia Arellano Dave Alon and Lucy Xie
Saturday, March 2	5 PM	The Parishioners
Sunday, March 3	8:30 AM	† Melencio and Gregoria Bustos
	10 AM	In thanks for the Holy Trinity
	12 PM	† Ralph Daniel
Sanctuary Lamps	Bl. Sac.	† Annette Bourgeois-Bent
	Bl. Sac.	† Denise Baranecki
	O.L. Chapel	† Jhonny Mujica

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard on a weekly basis on Saturdays from 9 to 10 am in Our Lady's Chapel. In addition, confessions are heard on the first Monday of the month from 1 to 2 pm. Finally, you can always make an appointment with Fr. Peter or Fr. Tom to celebrate this Sacrament in which we encounter our merciful God.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during the Season of Lent after the 9 am Mass. (Exception: Friday, March 22 at 7 pm).

PRAYER



In our charity we remember those who are ill and all who have requested a remembrance in our prayers.

We commend to the Lord the members of our parish who died recently:

- + Jim Meyer, + Marjorie McGinty, + Gerry Devlin, + Alice Eaglen, + Deanna Andrew, + Norman Bell,
- + Jean-Gabriel Castel, + Romi Walsh, + Brigid O'Rourke, + Joyce Dias Lamoureux,
- + Joan Watson, + Matt Gleeson, + Denise Baranecki, + Jhonny Mujica.

PRAY FOR OUR CATECHUMENS AND OUR CANDIDATES FOR FULL COMMUNION

Last Sunday, our two catechumens, Schavana and Marieana, were presented by their sponsors to Bishop Kasun at St. Michael's Cathedral. Based on their sponsors' testimony, they were declared "elect", that is, "chosen" to celebrate Sacramental Initiation through the waters of Baptism this Easter Vigil. On Saturday evening, candidates for Full Communion in the Catholic Church, Darryl, Michael, and Sandra, have been invited to join us in Lenten renewal to help them deepen their awareness of their baptismal dignity as they prepare to be received into the Catholic Church. Please pray for the Elect and the Candidates for Full Communion this Lenten Season.

MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS FOR LENT 2024

Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom

Dear brothers and sisters!

When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery" (Ex 20:2). These are the first words of the Decalogue given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Those who heard them were quite familiar with the exodus of which God spoke: the experience of their bondage still weighed heavily upon them. In the desert, they received the "Ten Words" as a thoroughfare to freedom. We call them "commandments", in order to emphasize the strength of the love by which God shapes his people. The call to freedom is a demanding one. It is not answered straightaway; it has to mature as part of a journey. Just as Israel in the desert still clung to Egypt - often longing for the past and grumbling against the Lord and Moses - today too, God's people can cling to an oppressive bondage that it is called to leave behind. We realize how true this is at those moments when we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a desert and lacking a promised land as our destination. Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more - in the words of the prophet Hosea - the place of our first love (cf. *Hos 2:16-17*). *God shapes his people, he enables us to leave our slavery behind* and experience a Passover from death to life. Like a bridegroom, the Lord draws us once more to himself, whispering words of love to our hearts.

The exodus from slavery to freedom is no abstract journey. If our celebration of Lent is to be concrete, the first step is to desire to *open our eyes to reality*. When the Lord calls out to Moses from the burning bush, he immediately shows that he is a God who sees and, above all, hears: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey" (Ex 3:7-8). Today too, the cry of so many of our oppressed brothers and sisters rises to heaven. Let us ask ourselves: Do we hear that cry? Does it trouble us? Does it move us? All too many things keep us apart from each other, denying the fraternity that, from the beginning, binds us to one another.

During my visit to Lampedusa, as a way of countering the globalization of indifference, I asked two questions, which have become more and more pressing: "Where are you?" (*Gen 3:9*) and "Where is your brother?" (*Gen 4:9*). Our Lenten journey will be concrete if, by listening once more to those two questions, we realize that even today we remain under the rule of Pharaoh. A rule that makes us weary and indifferent. A model of growth that divides and robs us of a future. Earth, air and water are polluted, but so are our souls. True, Baptism has begun our process of liberation, yet there remains in us an inexplicable longing for slavery. A kind of attraction to the security of familiar things, to the detriment of our freedom.

In the Exodus account, there is a significant detail: it is God who sees, is moved and brings freedom; Israel does not ask for this. Pharaoh stifles dreams, blocks the view of heaven, makes it appear that this world, in which human dignity is trampled upon and authentic bonds are denied, can never change. He put everything in bondage to himself. Let us ask: Do I want a new world? Am I ready to leave behind my compromises with the old? The witness of many of my brother bishops and a great number of those who work for peace and justice has increasingly convinced me that we need to combat a deficit of hope that stifles dreams and the silent cry that reaches to heaven and moves the heart of God. This "deficit of hope" is not unlike the nostalgia for slavery that paralyzed Israel in the desert and prevented it from moving forward. An exodus can be

interrupted: how else can we explain the fact that humanity has arrived at the threshold of universal fraternity and at levels of scientific, technical, cultural, and juridical development capable of guaranteeing dignity to all, yet gropes about in the darkness of inequality and conflict.

God has not grown weary of us. Let us welcome Lent as the great season in which he reminds us: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (Ex 20:2). Lent is *a season of conversion, a time of freedom*. Jesus himself, as we recall each year on the first Sunday of Lent, was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom. For forty days, he will stand before us and with us: the incarnate Son. Unlike Pharaoh, God does not want subjects, but sons and daughters. The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken.

This, however, entails *a struggle*, as the book of Exodus and the temptations of Jesus in the desert make clear to us. The voice of God, who says, “You are my Son, the Beloved” (Mk 1:11), and “You shall have no other gods before me” (Ex 20:3) is opposed by the enemy and his lies. Even more to be feared than Pharaoh are the idols that we set up for ourselves; we can consider them as his voice speaking within us. To be all-powerful, to be looked up to by all, to domineer over others: every human being is aware of how deeply seductive that lie can be. It is a road well-travelled. We can become attached to money, to certain projects, ideas or goals, to our position, to a tradition, even to certain individuals. Instead of making us move forward, they paralyze us. Instead of encounter, they create conflict. Yet there is also a new humanity, a people of the little ones and of the humble who have not yielded to the allure of the lie. Whereas those who serve idols become like them, mute, blind, deaf and immobile (cf. Ps 114:4), the poor of spirit are open and ready: a silent force of good that heals and sustains the world.

It is time to act, and in Lent, *to act also means to pause*. To pause *in prayer*, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan *in the presence of a wounded brother or sister*. Love of God and love of neighbour are one love. Not to have other gods is to pause in the presence of God beside the flesh of our neighbour. For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us. Then the atrophied and isolated heart will revive. Slow down, then, and pause! The contemplative dimension of life that Lent helps us to rediscover will release new energies. In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another: in place of threats and enemies, we discover companions and fellow travelers. This is God’s dream, the promised land to which we journey once we have left our slavery behind.

The Church’s synodal form, which in these years we are rediscovering and cultivating, suggests that Lent is also *a time of communitarian decisions*, of decisions, small and large, that are countercurrent. Decisions capable of altering the daily lives of individuals and entire neighbourhoods, such as the ways we acquire goods, care for creation, and strive to include those who go unseen or are looked down upon. I invite every Christian community to do just this: to offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles, times to examine their presence in society and the contribution they make to its betterment. Woe to us if our Christian penance were to resemble the kind of penance that so dismayed Jesus. To us too, he says: “Whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting” (Mt 6:16). Instead, let others see joyful faces, catch the scent of freedom and experience the love that makes all things new, beginning with the smallest and those nearest to us. This can happen in every one of our Christian communities.

To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope. Allow me to repeat what I told the young people whom I met in Lisbon last summer: “Keep seeking and be ready to take risks. At this moment in time, we face enormous risks; we hear the painful plea of so many people. Indeed, we are experiencing a third world war fought piecemeal. Yet let us find the courage to see our world, not as being in its death throes but in a process of giving birth, not at the end but at the beginning of a great new chapter of history. We need courage to think like this” (*Address to University Students*, 3 August 2023). Such is the courage of conversion, born of coming up from slavery. For faith and charity take hope, this small child, by the hand. They teach her to walk, and at the same time, she leads them forward.

I bless all of you and your Lenten journey. FRANCIS

PRAYER NETWORK REQUESTS

Network members pray daily for your prayer intentions which are held in confidence. New members are welcome! Please call Teresa Krijgsman at **416-709-8150** with your prayer intentions or if you would like to join the prayer network.

HELPING OTHERS

SHARELIFE 2024 PARISH CAMPAIGN

Living the Gospel: 2024 Parish Campaign

ShareLife Sunday Collections

March 17 | April 28 | June 2



Support our vulnerable youth through ShareLife

In this time of Lent, we ask you to think of our brothers and sisters in need - especially our vulnerable youth who call the streets their home.

“Your gift ensures youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness have access to individualized support and variety of programs and services to meet their complex and diverse needs,” says Mark Aston of Covenant House Toronto. “With your caring support, youth have a safe space to turn to and a supportive team to help them plan their own path.”

Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



SERVING IN HOPE. Vincentians ‘Serve in Hope’ because we are called to bring the love of God and the compassion of Jesus to people in need. St. Vincent said, “God demands first the heart, then the work”. It is only with our heart that we can bring compassion, respect and devotion to members of our community who are vulnerable and marginalized.



By visiting people in need in their homes and walking alongside to guide them to resources to break the cycle of poverty, we give them hope for the future.

Your generous donations to our poor boxes and through Canada Helps do help us make a difference. Thank you!

Our confidential helpline is: **416-447-5571 Ext. 570.**

In addition to donating through our poor boxes located at our three main exits, online donations can be made securely through our QR code or the following link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul-st-bonaventure-conference/>

Tax Receipts for SSVV donations have been mailed out last week.

Thank you to all who have donated to help our neighbours in need. Please note that by using a SSVV envelope you receive a tax receipt for \$20 or more in a calendar year. May God Bless your kind hearts.

CWL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - APPEAL TO ALL PARISHIONERS

If you are aware of any elderly members of the parish who may be experiencing loneliness, isolation or sickness that may render them needful of a compassionate ear we would be happy to reach out to them with a friendly phone call. Kindly contact Rosemary de Gannes at 416 460 1514 or email rosiedeg04@gmail.com.

CASSEROLES FOR THE GOOD SHEPHERD REFUGE



Preparing these meals in our homes is a great way to show that we care for our hungry neighbours who depend on the charity of others. If you are new to the parish and would like to join this mission of mercy, pans and recipes are available in the cupboard at the back of the church. Let's keep up the good work. Kindly sign for pans you need.

A reminder that your casseroles are due at the Ministry Centre by Monday February 26th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MINISTRY WITH MATURING ADULTS

**Nurturing Our Spirituality in the Second Half of Life
With a Focus on Care of the Body, Mind and Spirit
In Person Meeting**

Coffee and Conversation: 9:45 - 10:00 am, Meeting: 10:00 - 11:30 am

February 27, 2024: The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Lenten Reflection on the book of Henri J. M. Nouwen and the painting of Rembrandt

The morning will include presentation, music, prayer, small group sharing and a time for reflection as we explore how Henri Nouwen was captivated by this beautiful painting and how we too can enter into the story of that very moving parable.

Facilitated by Trena Finnegan, Coordinator, Ministry with Maturing Adults at St. Bonaventure Parish



Save the dates: March 5: TBD

Tuesday March 12, 10AM to 11:30AM: Estate Planning

Do you have an estate plan? Are you planning to create one? This information session will explain what an estate plan is and the key steps needed to ensure that your assets are distributed in life or after death.

Presented by: Bruce Morrison, CPA CA

Mr. Morrison obtained his Chartered Accountancy designation in 1985. Since that time, he has been the Chief Financial Officer of a number of companies, including Southam, Maple Leaf Foods and the STRONCO Group. In 2017, he established his own financial services firm, BMF, where he specializes in taxation, restructuring and financing. Mr. Morrison teaches professional development courses for CPA Ontario and mentors CPA students. He is a former member of the Finance Committee of the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation, and a member of the Granite Club.

Tuesday March 26th 10:AM to 11:30AM - Coffee and Conversation (and a little Scripture!)

Join us on this Tuesday of Holy Week as we enjoy a coffee and a reflection on Holy Week.

Drop in and casual gathering. Stay as long as you like.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus invite all parishioner students in grades 8-12 to participate in the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest. The theme, "*How can the Church evangelize in the digital age?*" prompts reflections on leveraging technology for spreading the Word. Submit a 500 to 750-word essay with parental consent by **May 15th, 2024**, at the Parish Office. Entry forms and guideline are available at the back of the church or parish office. All participants will be recognized, and winners announced in June. This is a valuable opportunity to showcase writing skills and reflect on the Church's role in the digital age. We encourage your participation to foster understanding of the Church's evolving mission. Good luck!

2023 PARISH TAX RECEIPTS

Tax receipts will be mailed out this week.

Your tax receipts will include your donations to the parish, Pre-authorized Giving, the second collections, amount donated through the parish to Share Life and St. Clare Inn.

Donations made through the Archdiocese of Toronto by credit card, including ShareLife donations, will be mailed out to you directly from the diocese.

We are grateful to each of you for your generosity and continued support of the parish! Thank you!

2023 PARISH REPORT

The Parish report was presented at last weekend's Masses. The report includes an update on parish life, activities, upcoming projects and initiatives and on the finances of the parish. Additional copies are available at the back of the church. You can request a copy by email at admin@st-bonaventure.ca

CWL EVENTS



REFLECTION, REPENTANCE, RENEWAL

Lent

**You are invited to join the
St. Bonaventure CWL
for a Lenten Retreat**

Sunday, February 25, 2024
From 1:00 to 4:00 pm
St. Bonaventure Parish Hall
Tea, Coffee & Light Refreshments will be served

**Friar Tom will lead us in an afternoon of
reflection, repentance and renewal**

All members of the parish are
welcome

To rsvp or for more information contact Waveney Duarte at
waveneyduarte@rogers.com



World Day of Prayer 2024

**"I Beg You...
Bear With One
Another in Love"**

Ephesians 4:1-3

Artwork by Halima Aziz



**« Je vous en prie,
supportez-vous les
uns les autres avec
amour »**

Éphésiens 4, 1-3

œuvre par Halima Aziz

Worship Service Information

Saturday March 16, 2024 at 10:30am

Day, Time

**Donway Baptist Church
235 The Donway East**

Location

Wishing you an awesome weekend!!

Inside our CWL:

- 1. Sunday, February 25, 2024** all are invited to attend a lenten retreat hosted by the CWL Council from 1:00-4:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Refreshments will be served. Our Council is collecting canned goods for the North York Community Food Bank and are continuing our campaign in support of "Period Poverty Ladies helping Ladies" and will be collecting sanitary products. Kindly bring your donations to the retreat.
- 2. Sunday, March 3, 2024** is the NY Region Mary Matthews Public Speaking Competition from 1:00-4:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Julia Miranda, a student at St. Bonaventure School will be representing our parish.
- 3. Thursday, March 7, 2024** the St. Bonaventure CWL Council will be hosting the North York Region Annual Spring General Meeting. Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 pm with the meeting to follow in the Parish Centre. All are invited and encouraged to attend.



The Catholic Women's League of Canada
St. Bonaventure Parish Council
Spiritual Bouquet for
34th Annual Ordinandi Dinner



The Ordinandi Dinner is a dinner to honour the Transitional Deacons who study, pray and reside at St. Augustine's Seminary and at Redemptoris Mater Seminary, who with God's grace will be ordained to the priesthood this year, and to hear their unique call to the priesthood.

In honour of their call and commitment to service and religious life, I offer the following spiritual bouquet of prayer (please select one or more).

- I will offer a Mass intention.
- I will pray the Rosary
- I will attend Eucharist Adoration
- I will attend Blessed Sacrament visits
- I will complete the Stations of the cross
- I will offer daily prayer
- Other: _____

Ordinandi Spiritual Bouquet

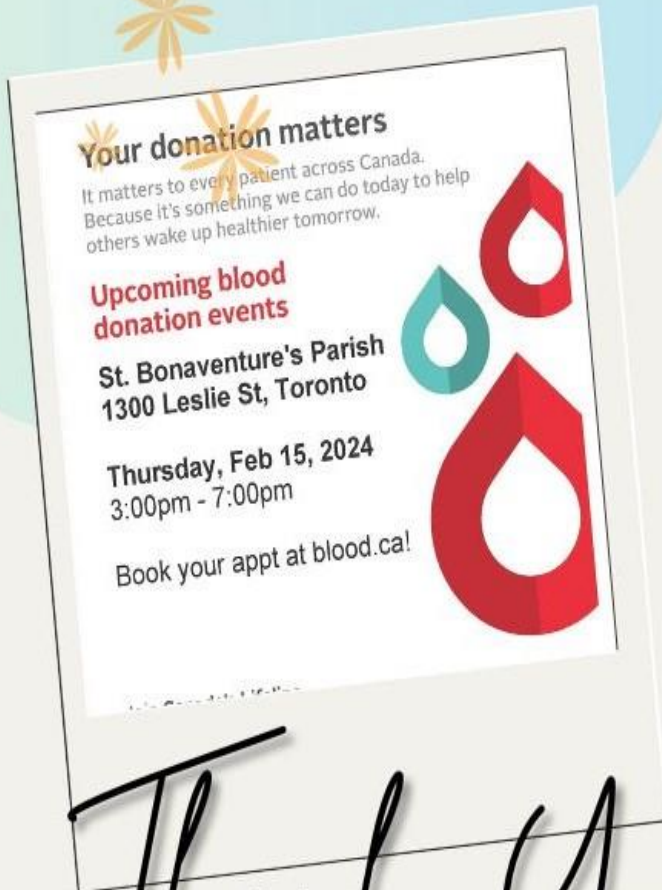
The Toronto Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada is compiling a Spiritual Bouquet for this year's Ordinandi to be presented at a dinner on March 19th. Your prayers will be gratefully accepted by filling in the above form available at the Lent Retreat this Sunday. All prayers are anonymous and can be completed anytime during 2024. If you will not be at the Retreat you can still participate by emailing your prayers to Natalia Zamora John at Thaljo777@gmail.com.



St. Bonaventure Parish Council

The Catholic Women's League of Canada

BLOOD DONOR EVENT - THANK YOU



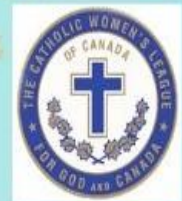
Thank You

A successful Blood Donor event

Thank you for coming to the St. Bonaventure Blood Donor Event on a frosty Thursday in February.

46 people attended and a total of 39 units of blood were collected! From that 16 people were new donors and 13 were people who were reinstated to the program! Reinstated donors are people who have donated in the past but not in the last year.

Adding new donors and reinstated donors means there were 29 donors our church was able to reach that Canadian Blood Services was not - those are AMAZING results. Well done!!



CONTACT US

Ministry Centre (Office)
1300 Leslie Street
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9
Office: 416-447-5571

Pastor
Fr. Thomas Reist, OFM Conv.
Ext. 234
frtom@st-bonaventure.ca

Associate Pastor
Fr. Peter Knaapen, OFM Conv
Ext. 233
FrPeter@st-bonaventure.ca

Lay Pastoral Associate
Gregory Beath
Ext. 258
gregb@st-bonaventure.ca

Parish Manager
Connie Durante
Ext. 224
connie@st-bonaventure.ca

ARE YOU REGISTERED? IF NOT, ASK AN USHER
FOR A PARISH REGISTRATION FORM TO COMPLETE

St. Anthony of Padua Mission Aid
1320 Leslie Street, Suite 100
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9
416-690-9904
www.saintanthonyofpadua.net

St. Clare Inn Office:
1320 Leslie Street, Suite 200
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9
416-690-0330
info@stclareinn.org

St Bonaventure School
1340 Leslie Street
Toronto, ON M3C 2K9
416-393-5263
<https://www.tcdsb.org/SCHOOLS/STBONAVENTURE/>

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
416-447-5571 ext. 570

Casseroles for the Good Shepherd Centre, contact
casseroles@st-bonaventure.ca

REFLECTION

“Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

~ Mark 9:2-4

In the midst of our suffering and hardship, we must keep sight of the “light at the end of the tunnel.” We know that Jesus is that light and that we must trust in that light the way Abraham trusted in God.

We are suffering voluntarily in our Lenten fast. We are also acutely aware in this season of the suffering caused by our sinfulness. Easter, however, awaits us, the hope of resurrection, because “God is for us.”

Many in our world are suffering involuntarily. They are the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the victims of oppression and war and other injustices. Is there “light at the end of the tunnel” for them? When will Easter come to them? Who is for them besides God? Christians cannot allow the magnitude of social evils to overwhelm them. They must always live by the light of Christ and the hope of resurrection.

Christian hope is strong and resilient, for it is rooted in a faith that knows that the fullness of life comes to those who follow Christ in the way of the Cross. In pursuit of concrete solutions, all members of the Christian community are called to an ever-finer discernment of the hurts and opportunities in the world around them, in order to respond to the most pressing needs and thus build up a more just society.

U.S. Bishops, *Economic Justice for All*, 1986:126

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May the Lord bless you and keep you!