

March 9, 2025: First Sunday of Lent

For my second posting for the Lenten Season, I offer this simple reflection on a prayer from Luke 9:22-25.

-Jesus is telling us to carry our cross as he willingly carried his. What Jesus did on the cross was to bear the burden of the world's sin. He bore others' burdens in love. This is what we are called to do.

-Lent and Prayer: This reminds me of when I found the power of intercessory prayer: Praying for others, Offering my difficulty for others, and it is powerful when we remember the souls in purgatory.

-I was humbled after visiting a 90 year old mother who is taking care of her 70 year old son on hospice. A courageous and beautiful example to me of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and the denial of self for the love of the other.

-My sister's example while in the hospital a couple of years ago. She was diagnosed with a brain tumor. While in the hospital she was offering up her difficulty, and praying for others (she saw in the hospital) she felt were worse off than she was. WOW!

-There is a humility in the denial of self when we pray and offer up our difficulties for others, a hidden fulfillment. Jesus said Sunday you will receive eternal rewards and blessings now, and of course future "eternal blessings to come."

-One of the important aspects of Lent is its corporate dimension: it's not just me but also about my family, my friends, my neighbor, my parish, the whole Catholic Church that is focused on getting right with God.

-Be Bold / Be Catholic / Never leave the Lord out of the equation / He will always have our back / Give your life to Jesus / Be bold and be Catholic.

**Vivat Jesus,
Fr. Vic Gournas**