

## True Conversion

**“Conversion is the key word of Lent, a favorable time to grow closer to Jesus.” Pope Francis**

Throughout lent we hear a lot about reconciliation, looking at one’s life and seeing what needs to be changed. We look at our sinful habits and we try to get our lives back on the path that God has laid before us. So do we just give up our sinful habits for Lent, or do we make it stick?

**“Stepping outside of ourselves, of a tired and routine way of living the faith, of the temptation to withdraw into pre-established patterns that end up closing our horizon to the creative action of God.” Pope Francis**

Let’s face it, we get stuck in our daily routines and we like it that way. We feel safe and comfortable, we feel as though we are in control. But in fact there’s nothing safe about routine day to day living, it’s rather a day by day slowly dying from the inside out. When we close our hearts to the freedom, excitement and passion of the Holy Spirit, we fail to see who God is calling us to be each and every day.

**“Every day is a new day and every day begins with a new you.”**

**“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”**

**2 Corinthians 12:9**

God calls us to greater change in our lives not just during Lent, but every day of our lives. He calls us to true conversion; conversion of the heart. Changing one or two things here and there is fine on the surface, but true and lasting conversion takes place in our hearts. This can feel a bit daunting and even seem impossible or impractical, but God does not expect us to go it alone. God will be there every step of the way and He will help to make the conversions in your life that need to be made.

**“It is the LORD who goes before you; he will be with you and will never fail you or forsake you. So do not fear or be dismayed.” Deuteronomy 31:8**

When you feel as though you are helpless to change, as if you don’t have the strength to make it last, fear not for the God who breathed you into life and who created you with talent and purpose, will help you to become the best and truest you that you can be. Just open your heart to change and allow God to make the changes that need to be made. Now that is true conversion!

**“May the Lord give us all light and courage: light to know what’s happening within us, and courage to convert, to draw closer to the Lord. It is beautiful to be close to the Lord.” Pope Francis**

*Bread of life,*

*Create in my heart a fire that will enable true and lasting change. No longer shall I weep for my sins, for you O’ Lord have saved me from my weaknesses. You bring about change in me that is lasting and true. And I shall praise you all the days of my life, and I shall bless your Holy name, by fulfilling the change you placed in me; in sharing the strength of your hand and the wonder of your merciful love with all my fellow men.*