

To the Beloved of God,

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an opportunity to experience, to know, and to feel the Mercy and Compassion of God in our lives, and to meet and rediscover Jesus.



The name
of God
is Mercy

Our world is dominated by Sin – I personally feel this in my life - when I allow my need for “**individualism**” to dominate my thoughts, words, and actions. You know, that “**It’s all about me**” attitude. Christ needs a Body in this world – reaching out to the lost, the last, and the least.

We are that Body of Christ – but it’s so easy to want to stay apart, and as I mentioned recently, the “ Culture of Indifference “ that our Holy Father Francis speaks about is so easy to buy into.

I repeat the example of Dante’s Inferno, when he describes indifference as “**a miserable way taken by the sorry souls who were not rebels nor faithful to their God, but stood apart.**” It is so easy to stand apart, forgetting that sin is against God and against the community.



Lent provides us with the opportunity to be better able to share with others the Mercy and Compassion that God offers to us. Sharing and giving messengers of mercy in our own lives reflects our truest self and image we are called to become – our best selves – the Beloved of God. We can name our sins, those distortions of our lives, and seek the healing and wholeness that God offers in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Lent is a Season of Grace that provides the opportunity to turn from the false pretensions, distortions and illusions of our society and become Servants of Christ – and to do what Jesus did – being the face of Mercy. Let’s start by being that face of mercy in our own families – with our spouses, children, parents, employees and employers - letting go of all that keeps us apart and being free to love. LGaetano

