

Fr. Martin's Reflection – March 26, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are quickly moving towards Holy Week and the Easter Triduum, the utopia of our Catholic faith. Jesus, the son of God, is willing to die for the truth, the truth that God's love for us is unbelievable, incomprehensible, beyond the human ability to fully grasp, and yet our God became human to show us there is another way, a better way, the way of love and forgiveness.

What prevents us from truly recognizing and accepting God's love for us is our shortcomings, our frailties or weaknesses, our sinfulness. God does not want us to live in this condition. God wishes for us to experience the full depth of God's love, a love that renews, cleanses and fills us with hope. The prophet Joel 2:12-13 puts it very beautifully:

“Come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning. Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn, turn to the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness, and ready to relent.”

I want to extend to you this opportunity to **“come back to the Lord”** through the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession. **Tuesday, May 28, St. Mary Church, Bordentown from 7pm – 8pm and Wednesday, May 29, Holy Assumption from 7pm – 8pm.** I hope you will come and experience the love of a tender, compassionate and gracious God.

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own,

Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves, not in God,

Father, forgive.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Fr. Martin