

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2024

Offer

What do you offer to special guests in your home? Do you prepare the best meal in your repertoire or heat up leftovers from the back of the fridge? Do you put your beloved grandmother in the sewing closet for overnight stays or dislodge yourself from your own bedroom to make a privileged place for her? When a close friend calls in distress, do you let his anguished words go to voicemail. Or do you pick up and give him your full attention?

We know how to treat the people who matter most to us.

We offer them our finest and serve them selflessly.

Abraham seeks to do the same with God, even when his sovereign Lord asks for Abraham's only son—the very son who was a miraculous gift. There's horror in this ancient story. And pathos. But also an indelible picture of what it means to make a genuine offering of ourselves and all we possess to the God who first gives us everything. The limits of any relationship are described by what we withhold.

Alice Camille, Our Lenten Road to Holiness: Daily Reflections, Prayers and Actions (Waterford, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2024). Used with permission.

Questions To Ponder:

When is a time that you have welcomed another into your home? How did you make that person feel welcomed?

What is the greatest sacrifice that you have made in your lifetime? What did it feel like to make this act of self-giving?

Lectio Divina: Read Mark 2:7-8

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

What word or phrase from this Scripture passage most resonates with you?

How will this reading shape your life this week as you continue your Lenten journey?

Challenge for the Week:

Look in your closets and drawers. What can you sacrifice from your storehouse of possessions? Fill a box with items that you commit to donate and bring it to the local thrift store or service organization.