

## REFLECTION ON THE THEME OF LENT 2021

**"Discerning His presence. This is the theme chosen by Vie liturgique for Lent 2021.**

We are entering the time of Lent, which will lead us to the great feast of Easter. It all begins with the Ash Wednesday invitation "Convert and believe in the Gospel". This call to conversion appears as an invitation to discern what prevents us from allowing ourselves to be guided by the Divine will.

Faced with a multi-faceted world, how can we discern God's presence in our lives? What will Lent 2021 be like in this exceptional time of a pandemic that continues to shake up our morals and our way of life? Stopping to look at what we are experiencing is the first and most fundamental decision in any discernment process. Certainly, we must stay "in the race. And yet, we always tend to run relentlessly. But what are we running after and who are we running for? Is our race a "race for happiness", a race for life? Are we building God's holy city or are we building on perishable things?

Through this theme, the Church once again invites us to enter into the time of Lent by reminding us that with Christ's resurrection, nothing is or will be the same as before. A new world is before us, despite Covid-19, which may have created a climate of fear and trauma, but which has been a source of transformation and enrichment. Hence the importance of discerning what God wants to tell us and of hearing the calls for change that are being sent to us.

For 40 days, let us take this wonderful opportunity to strengthen our bond with the Lord and with our brothers and sisters through the 3 guidelines: prayer, sharing, and penance (or fasting).

What does Christ expect from me during this time of Lent? He offers me friendship. He simply proposes that I avoid at all times, in the words of Pope Francis: "to develop a globalization of indifference". He invites me, in this time of Lent, to meet Him personally in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to allow myself to be transformed by His Word. In order to do this, it is fitting that I open my eyes and ears to discern His presence in our troubled world and to manifest it in a reconciling and giving life. Let God be active in our history! A good Lenten time to all of you!

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