

The Pray More Lenten Retreat Study Guide

Rich in Mercy with Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers

Reflective Questions

"God created us without us: but he did not will to save us without us."116 To receive his mercy, we must admit our faults. "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." — 1 John 8-9.

1. Conquering sin in our lives begins with a personal transformation and understanding that God is Love. How have you not accepted this truth? How have you not believed that God is Love in your life?
2. Sin damages our relationship with God. Can you see how that's happened in your life and with your particular sins? On the other hand, have you also allowed yourself to be welcomed back into the fold of God's mercy through Reconciliation? What did that feel like?
3. What is it that keeps you from going to confession more often? How can you spend some time in prayer sharing those thoughts of yours with God, and discussing it with a close friend or family member?
4. Deacon Harold says that sin happens when we think we know more than God. When have you seen that play out in your life?
5. The love of human beings often fails us and people turn away from us. God isn't like this. His love never fails and He doesn't turn away from us. How have you confused who God is, in this way? How have you thought of Him in the terms of how you think of other people in your life?