

The Pray More Lenten Retreat Study Guide

The Prodigal Son with Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers

Reflective Questions

“When he celebrates the sacrament of Penance, the priest is fulfilling the ministry of the Good Shepherd who seeks the lost sheep, of the Good Samaritan who binds up wounds, of the Father who awaits the prodigal son and welcomes him on his return, and of the just and impartial judge whose judgment is both just and merciful. The priest is the sign and the instrument of God's merciful love for the sinner.”

- Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1465

1. Of all of the players in the story of the Prodigal Son, which have you been the most? The father, the son who went away and came back, or the son who had always stayed nearby? How has that experienced changed your faith life?
2. Has your perspective of God, the prodigal son or the other son, changed over time?
3. Deacon Harold says we must respond to God's love and mercy like the Prodigal Son, in that we must: 1) recognize our sinfulness, 2) have humility before the Father, 3) have conversion of the heart, the mind and the will. Which of these do you struggle with the most? Which of these comes more naturally for you? Which of these do you need to work on during the rest of Lent?
4. God can begin to work in our lives when we empty ourselves and give Him space to work. Which area of your life do you need Him in the most right now?
5. God never abandons us or stops looking for us. How has this played out in your life in the past? How have you seen Him waiting for you to come back? How have you seen God running towards you & embracing you?