



Lent / Carême / Cuaresma 2021

1st Sunday of Lent

21 February

“After Jesus was baptised, the Spirit drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.”

Mark 1: 12-13

After reading the **Gospel**, consider:

Where is my wilderness?

How can this become a place of self-discovery?

Do I have the courage to let the Spirit act to transform me?

Our **Constitutions** guide us:

“The Spirit dwelling within us gradually transforms us, enabling us through His power to remove whatever hinders His action.”

Constitutions #21

Thomas Merton reflects:

“At the centre of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth. A point or spark which belongs entirely to God, which is never at our disposal, from which God disposes of our lives, which is inaccessible to the fantasies of our own mind or the brutalities of our own will.

This little point of nothingness and of absolute poverty is the pure glory of God in us.

It is like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven. It is in everybody, and if we could see it we could see these billions of points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely.

I have no program for this seeing. It is only given. But the gate of heaven is everywhere.”



In our JPIC document, *Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World*, we read:

“Transformation through an ethic of caring implies our participation in personal, local and global transformation. At its foundation our conviction is that JPIC is rooted in the experience of God’s compassion, which evokes a caring response at all levels, always guided by the Spirit.” (p. 12)

Consider:

Where are the possibilities for transformation in my life?

Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti*, says:

“St Paul describes kindness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22) ... Individuals who possess this quality help make other peoples’ lives more bearable, especially by sharing the weight of their problems, needs and fears.” (#223)

Consider:

*What does the Spirit call me to do to live my life more authentically?
What will I commit to focus on during this Lenten season?*



Jana Parkes, *Transformation of the Heart*

“We are not converted only once in our lives but many times and this endless series of conversions and inner resolutions leads to our transformation.”

Thomas Merton

Lent: A Season of Transformation

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JPIC LEARNING HUB
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