

Lent 2022

Lent 2022 is much different than lent 2020 and 2021. However, I think COVID has hurt so many peoples' hearts in so many ways. Some have been through death, illness and not understanding how to deal with the many aspects of COVID and what it has done to our lives. So many people have lost their homes, their jobs, it has affected them mentally and people don't know where to turn. I find so many people fearful to seek counseling when they are in need and when there has been a death, they don't think grief support is important but as I always say someday it will come tumbling down on you and then you need to deal with it. How many people do you know that have shut their friends out and don't sit with God and have a conversation and try to deepen that relationship? I know many and so often it is because of fear. So many people are fearful they are going to be judged and not accepted. I think during the shutdown so many people got comfortable in their own space and didn't feel the importance of reaching out to anyone. So very wrong, right now more than ever we need our God, friends and others.

We as a world need to pray for the people of Ukraine and Kyiv and all people throughout the world. Did we think this

fighting, bombing, shooting and killing was going to happen and hurt so many people? There are so many people in the United States and other countries who have families living in fear and know they have loved ones who have died. We ask, what can we do? Maybe we gather a group together and join a prayer circle or prayer group and take time to share with another. What is it God is calling you to do? This fear not only affects us adults and our military but also all of the young children and teens including all of the people of Ukraine. I met with a group of teens and the many issues they shared with us broke our hearts. We never got to what is happening in the world. However, the next time we meet, we will and I can't imagine how that is touching each of their lives. If you have young children and teens, spend time with them looking at the bigger picture of what surrounds us as a world right now including those who have family members living here along with having family members in Ukraine. What can you as a family do? What can the teens do to help those many people of Ukraine and Kyiv and family members' who are living among us? So as we journey through lent, let each of us make this a time of not only deepening our relationship with God but also coming together with others to do something for those of

Ukraine. This is a new Lent. Let us make it special and worthwhile to our lives and the lives of others. When is your special time to go to prayer and listen intently and not be afraid to tell God what is in your heart?

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Sister Pat Fesler, HM

Pastoral Assistant