



LENT *Faith Conversations*

Week of April 3-9

Sunday Readings: *Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11*

ADULT REFLECTION

Sunday Reading Summary: In our first reading, the prophet Isaiah relays God's message, "see, I am doing something new!" The Psalm heralds the great and joyful things God has and will do for us. St. Paul writes of "forgetting what lies behind" and "straining forward. . . toward. . . the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus." The Gospel has Jesus setting aside the old traditional punishment for adultery under Mosaic law, and uttering words of healing and empowerment – staggering in their newness. "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."

We can fall into thinking that this religion of ours is old and tired, stodgy and out-of-touch. But the truth is that the unconditional love of our God, revealed in Scripture, is always *fresh* and *relevant Good News* for our lives. God reveals his name to Moses as "I AM." Transcendent of time and space, our God is living and attentive, constantly working to bring about something new and beautiful, and. . . never out of touch. (Not even a sparrow falls to the ground without his knowing it! See Matthew 10:29) He is the Author of Life, the Risen One, and his Word is relevant for you, for me, for the world. Now. Staggering in its newness!

For Reflection: *Have you fallen into some degree of despair/ hopelessness in the face of your own challenges. . . or those of the world around us? Have you thrown in the towel, or are you planting seeds of the Kingdom and participating in the newness of our God and what he's doing? What is moving /shifting in you these days? What new thing might God be wanting to do in you?*

FAMILY CONVERSATION & PRAYER STARTERS

Does faith in God and going to church seem a little old-fashioned and not very up-to-date and cool? How so? And if not to you, what about to others around you?

Faith in Jesus and the Catholic Church have been around a very long time. But does that make it less true or good or beautiful? What is something "old" that you value? Why?

Our God is living and personally invested in loving us unconditionally. Our Church is called to help us see how the Good News of Jesus is relevant in every place and in every age. Have you experienced God, alive in your own life? What new things is he calling you to do for him? How might you help someone else see the relevance of Jesus' Good News?

PRAYER

Jesus, renew us! Renew our Church. Renew our world. Give us new perspective and hope. Give us new energy and courage to share this hopeful vision with others. We trust in you and surrender ourselves to you. Do something new in us. Amen.

FASTING

What *old* habit (negative thinking, procrastinating, complaining) can you replace with a *new* pattern of thinking/acting/speaking that better reflects our living God? OR, what *good, valuable* old habit have you fallen out of that you can renew this week?

ALMSGIVING (SHARING WITH THOSE IN NEED)

Who can you actively share hope with this week? How? Write it in your calendar for the week.



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