



YEAR B – February 21, 2021

The Holy Season of Lent invites us to enter into a spiritual kind of desert, alone with God, to experience who we are by God's design.

In today's gospel (Mark 1:12-15) we hear that after Jesus was baptized "the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts and the angels waited on him".

The desert was our Lord's school of spirituality where He came to distinguish between the voice of God and the voice of Satan.

How many voices do we hear from the moment we get up in the morning until the moment we go to sleep at night? The countless "voices" in the daily paper, the soliciting voices on the radio and television, the voices of those who live and work with us, and our own unceasing inner voices. In our spiritual desert (Lent) we seek to leave those voices behind in order to focus on the difference between the guiding voice of God and the tempting voice of Satan.

In this "Lenten Desert", we come to know ourselves as God knows us. We get to know our strengths and our weaknesses. We reflect on our calling from God. Why are we here?

We can all create a desert space in our overcrowded lives. We can set aside a place and time every day during Lent to be alone with God. It can be a time to distance ourselves from the many voices that bombard our daily lives, a time to hear God's voice in the Scriptures, a time to say yes to God and no to Satan as Jesus did in the Gospel today.

Every year, Jesus invites us to come into this spiritual desert we call Lent to learn who we really are - to see ourselves as God sees us.

For a few moments in silence set aside all the distractions that are already part of this day and listen in silence for the voice of God.

What does God ask of you today?

