

Lenten Reflection for the Week of February 14, 2016 – Sr. Fran Ryan DC

SCRIPTURE:

Reflect upon the Readings of Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Psalm 91; Romans: 10:8-13,
Gospel: Luke 4:1-13.

The theme of the readings centers on the steadfastness of God's words to us as 'a blessing'. The first Reading calls us to gratitude as 'the priest receives the basket and sets it in front of the altar of the Lord.' We bow in grateful presence during Lent and pray for the Lord to be with us when we are 'in trouble.' The word is near us in 'mouth and heart'. Luke 4:1-13 recounts Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, going into the desert for forty days and the three temptations of the devil.

REFLECTION:

Jesus is led into the desert. His fasting during 40 days made him physically and psychologically *vulnerable*. He was tempted three times by the devil. The most perplexing, for me, was the third temptation where the devil leads Jesus to Jerusalem and orders Jesus to stand on the parapet of the temple, throwing Himself down yet commanding his angels to guard Him. A spiritual writer (1) points out that here the devil tempts Jesus to use His relationship and power in the Blessed Trinity, as God's Son, *for His Own Benefit*. The Lord replies to the devil "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test".

PRAYER:

Jesus, in this third temptation, shows *Trust in God's Providence*. Though vulnerable in the human condition of the desert, and the devil's temptations, Jesus chooses blind, evolving, unknown Trust in the *Will of His Father*.

The Writings of St. Vincent DePaul (Coste, V1-14) gives us Vincent's reflections regarding trust and submission to God's Providence, and the need to be submissive to God's will. Vincent shows 'there are treasures in it' for 'God orders all for the best'. 'When God gives 'being' to something in our lives, He also uses *Providence* to preserve it'. 'Providence has upset plans many times, but God's goodness consoles in another to manifest His concern for us. Like Jesus in the desert, in relationship to His Father's Will for Him, Vincent can *wait* in the mystery of Providence, as he was known as the 'Apostle of Holy Delay'.

TRY THIS TODAY:

Having a conversation with the Lord is the most precious gift of the Lenten season. We are called for that 'inner connection to Jesus Crucified'. As a Lady of Charity, what *place* at home or on the streets, *time* in the daily routine, or *occasion* pulls you to remember that daily conversation with the suffering Christ?

References:

- (1) *Living with Christ*, (February, 2016) p.117
- (2) Coste, Vol.14, p.472- (Providence)