

Ash Wednesday Reflection, 3/1/17

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Scripture: “Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold now is the day of salvation.” (1 Cor. 6: 2) “... return to me with your whole heart ...” (Joel 2: 12) “... your Father ... sees what is hidden ...” (Mt. 6: 18)

Reflection: Today, during this 40th anniversary year, we commence the season of *Lent*, a four-letter word which often triggers reluctance, hesitancy, sighs, foot-dragging and aversion. However, Lent is also connected to another four-letter word: *love!* In truth, **LENT = LOVE!** During these 40 days, we are invited to explore Jesus’ love for us and to show our love for Jesus by how we live each day. May it be a time for us to rediscover Jesus’ love for us and to grow in our love for him.¹

Prayer: Let us take as our own the “Jesus Prayer” of St. John Gabriel Perboyre, C.M.

O my Divine Savior, transform me into yourself.
May my hands be your hands. May my tongue be your
tongue,
Grant that every faculty of my body
may serve only to glorify you.
Above all, transform my soul and all its powers
so that my memory, my will and my affections
may be the memory, the will and the affections of you.
I pray you to destroy in me all that is not you.
Grant that I may live but in you and for you
and that I may truly say with St. Paul,
"I live, now not I, but Christ lives in me." (Gal 2:20)³



Try This Today: In 1638, in the midst of intense problems with caring for the foundlings, Vincent concluded a letter to Louise with, *"I wish you a young heart and a love in its first bloom for Him Who loves us unceasingly and as tenderly as if He were just beginning to love us."*² As we continue the journey of this special year and embark on this season of love and service, as Ladies of Charity, let us hear this prayer for each of us personally .

References:

¹ adapted from Ash Wednesday homily, Fr. Jim Benz, 2/18/15

² Coste, volume 1, #288, page 408

³ adapted Catholic Prayers: The Jesus Prayer (Prayer of St. John Gabriel Peroyre, CM)
<http://saluscredentium.blogspot.com/2007/08/stjohn-gabriel-perboyres-prayer.html>

