CONVERSION AND PERSEVERANCE

Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings of the Roman Catholic Church

"A FAVORABLE TIME"

Lent is a favorable time for personal and community renewal, as it leads us to the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

DON'T GIVE UP

... We will do well to refect on Saint Paul's exhortation to the Galatians: "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity ..., let us do good to all" (Gal 6:9-10)

"A CHANGE IN MINDSET"

Lent invites us to conversion, to a change in mindset, so that life's truth and beauty may be found not so much in possessing as in giving, not so much in accumulating as in sowing and in sharing goodness.

"OPEN AND DOCILE"

Regular listening to the word of God makes us open and docile to His working ... and bears fruit in our lives. This brings us great joy, yet even more, it summons us to become God's co-workers.



"FREEDOM FROM SIN"

Serving God in freedom from sin brings forth fruits of sanctification for the salvation of all (cf. Rom 6:22).

A DAILY CHALLENGE

Each year during Lent we are reminded that "goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized every day ... Let us ask God to give us the patient perseverance of the farmer ..., and to persevere in doing good, one step at a time. If we fall, let us stretch out our hand to the Father, who always lifts us up. If we are lost, if we are misled by the enticements of the evil one, let us not hesitate to return to God, who is "generous in forgiving" (Is 55:7)

DON'T GROW TIRED

In this season of conversion, sustained by God's grace and by the communion of the Church, let us not grow tired of doing good. The soil is prepared by fasting, watered by prayer and enriched by charity. Let us believe firmly that, with the gift of perseverance, we shall obtain what is promised (cf. Heb 10:36), for our salvation and the salvation of others (cf. 1 Tim 4:16).

"THE GIFT OF PATIENCE"

May the Virgin Mary, who bore the Savior in her womb and "pondered all these things in her heart" (Lk 2:19), obtain for us the gift of patience. May she accompany us with her maternal presence, so that this season of conversion may bring forth fruits of eternal salvation.

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