

## “Finding Strength in the Desert”



The Season of Lent begins with the Gospel Reading of Jesus' temptations in the desert. The Lord ventured out into the wilderness for 40 days - a time He needed to spend alone in the presence of His Father. We imagine that He needed this time - to reflect, to pray, to prepare for the ministry that He came to Live.

The temptations of Christ in the desert are our temptations as well.

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- We are all tempted to seek more than we need; "Man does not live by bread alone." The Lord tells us. The Word and The Eucharist are sufficient to sustain us as a community.
- "All these kingdoms will be yours, if..." We are all called to be righteous

and use whatever power we have for the good of others. Yet it's easy for us to become self-righteousness, content with our own answers and solutions.

- There are days when we feel like giving up - when we ask ourselves why we even bother... throwing ourselves down, throwing in the towel becomes an easy way out. But Jesus tells us by example not to give up, to keep going - even in the midst of uncertainty.

Let this Lent become for you a desert experience. Take the chance, venture out into the darkness. Take some time to pray, to "reach out in the darkness," to reflect - to let the Father speak. (That means we have to listen!)

Let this season become the point which will buoy you when times seem at their lowest, when you feel your loneliest or

when you recognize your weakness most acutely.

Let us all learn from the example of Jesus: pray, reflect, prepare for the Easter victory, and return from our personal desert experience prepared - perhaps just a little better - to face the daily reality of our lives.



Click here for [October 2019 for Extraordinary Missionary Month](#), and [here](#) for Sunday Reflections.