



Lent 2017

Dear Friends:

In his message for Lent this year, Pope Francis offers us the reminder that “the other person is a gift.” His Holiness does this by inviting us to reflect on the parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man. We find Lazarus in the doorway of the Rich Man. He is poor and broken while the Rich Man has wealth and comfort. The Rich Man does not open his door to Lazarus but, as Pope Francis notes in his message, the presence of another, no matter who they may be, is an invitation to enter into relationship with others. The presence of those in need is an invitation for those who have been blessed to share those blessings.

Pope Francis notes that this season of Lent is a good time to open our eyes, see the other, and embrace them because “each of us meets people like this every day.” The volunteers at FrancisCorps have committed a year of their lives to seeking out those in need and, like Saint Francis embraced the leper, embracing those that they meet without hesitation. In this spirit of using Lent as a time to enter into right relationship with all those around us, we’ve put together some ideas on how you might consider encountering others during this Lenten season.

We would also like to invite you to accompany the FrancisCorps volunteers as they encounter those in need. Please make a Lenten offering to FrancisCorps, knowing it makes these encounters possible!

On behalf of all of us here at FrancisCorps and especially on behalf of the poor and marginalized whom we serve... we pray that the face of Christ shine upon you and bless you this Lent!

Peace and All Good,

Friar Rick

Friar Rick Riccioli, OFM Conv.

Chaplain

A.J. LaPoint

A.J. LaPoint

Director

WAYS TO ENCOUNTER THE OTHER

HERE ARE A FEW IDEA FOR HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE FACE OF CHRIST THIS LENT...

- When you are served by others in a store or restaurant, greet and thank them by name.
- Next time you hand something to someone at home or work, take the time to look them in the eye.
- Use Lent as a time to clean out your contacts and address book and reach out to and reconnect with someone you have not heard from in a while.
- Every morning while brushing your teeth, look closely in the mirror and while acknowledging your aches and pains, problems and challenges, make sure to also take time to thank God for all your blessings
- After watching or reading the news, pray for an individual from a story that spoke to you.
- If someone is annoying you, ask yourself what God might be trying to teach you through them.