

TOTALLY LENT!



A TEEN'S
JOURNEY TO
EASTER 2021



Did you ever put your “whole heart” into a task, project, or event? Then you know that putting “all your heart” into something means being willing to put a great deal of effort into reaching a worthy goal.

Through the prophet Joel, God is asking you to open your heart, to “return to me with all your heart.” And, while doing what you know to be right may be very difficult at times, the rewards are great.

*Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.*

[JOEL 2:12-13]



What Teens Say

“When I was little and I heard my Mom and Dad talk, I didn’t always know what they were saying, but I knew when it was important. I could just tell. Now, just like when I was a kid, even though I don’t understand everything about Lent, I know it is important. I can just tell.” ➔ JENI, 14

How will you open your heart to God during this Lenten season?

Saints Alive

There are saints, and then there are canonized saints. A saint is anyone who has led a good life and who, we may assume, is enjoying life with God. A grandmother who died a few years ago might be considered a saint. You might be thought of as a saint someday by the people who knew you.

A canonized saint is a person who is recognized by the entire Church as a person who is enjoying life with God. Canonized saints are those people who have lived a good life and, after death, have been added to the list, or canon, of people who have been named as saints by the pope. Each of them has a special day on the Church's calendar. On that day we celebrate the saint's life, as we do on March 17 for Saint Patrick or March 19 for Saint Joseph.

VENERABLE AND BLESSED

The first step along the path of canonized sainthood is for a person to be named as venerable.

This means that a person, upon his or her death, has undergone much study and is seen as a person who lived an especially good life—one that other Christians should model their lives after.

Beatification is the next step. The person's life has now undergone even more study and the person is seen as especially holy. The pope then celebrates a Mass in his or her honor and says a prayer for the person who is beatified. The person is now called blessed. Blessed Father Stanley Rother is an example of an American who has been beatified.

DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

Very few people have been named Doctor of the Church. In fact, there are only 36 doctors of the Church. Doctors of the Church are those men and women of faith who are recognized by a pope or council as supreme teachers in the Church. The writings and speeches of these holy people can teach us great things about our faith.

“If you don’t practice, you are going to find yourself sitting on the bench all season and your team will never see a championship game.” Jonah used words similar to these to motivate the people of Nineveh. They responded and got favorable results.

Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.”

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. [JONAH 3:4-10]

What or who motivates you to do or to be better? Why?



32 First Friday of Lent

FEBRUARY 26

Your brother and your sister and your mom and dad and your cousin and your aunt and uncle and your friend and your neighbor are very important people—VIPs. In the following passage Jesus is telling you that you need to take care of problems in your relationships with these very important people before you participate in Mass.

“So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.” [MATTHEW 5:23-24]

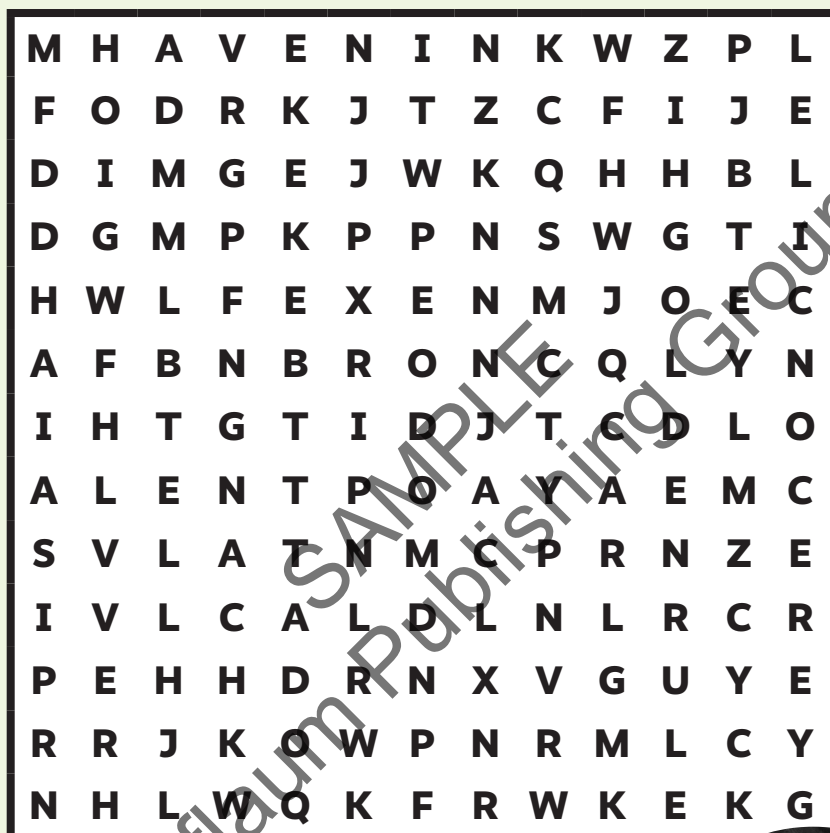
Now, this is not going to be easy! To whom should you go to make things right? And how are you going to do that?



What Teens Say

“Lent means fasting and praying more. It means giving my time to the poor. It means paying more attention in church. It means really thinking about what Jesus did for us. I try to stick with what I gave up for Lent and try to love my family as much as I can.” ➤ ERIN, 11

SEARCH for HELP ALONG the WAY



**TRY
THIS**

This week, try to find your way into a helping situation. Remembering the example of St. Padre Pio and the words of Isaiah, try to be a model and a voice for helping others around you.

