

Lent 2010



Lenten Meditation # 2 (First Sunday in Lent)

LENTEN GARDENS *THE WORLD IS GOD'S GARDEN"*

The Bible tells us that human life began in a garden. With all the arguments about the nature of God's creating, we often miss the rich symbolism of the creation story. God intends for our world to be like a beautiful garden. God has provided everything that is needed for the world's people to be nourished in body and spirit. We also have been given the wisdom to develop ways for this to happen.

According to the story, Adam and Eve disobeyed God's instructions to them and ate forbidden fruit. How well this symbolizes the greed, which now hinders a fair distribution of the earth's resources! Wealthy people live in mansions, while the poor live in makeshift hovels. Well endowed nations waste water resources and defile rivers, while poorer countries have people suffering from polluted wells and streams. Are the wealthy eating "forbidden fruit"? A laborer "is worthy of his hire", but what about those, who never have an opportunity to labor for a decent wage and earn enough to live comfortably?

Jesus spoke frequently on behalf of the poor. What is more, Paul wrote that "Jesus Christ, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (II Corinthians 8:9). If we are to observe Lent properly, may this not be a time for considering how we can restore balance in God's garden? This would include not only being generous in what we give to help others, but also reviewing what we hold as priorities in our lives. What do we really treasure? Do we choose things of genuine value or tokens of wealth and privilege?

God's garden is a place for all of the world's people. If we are to regain the beauty and peace God intended, it is going to require a greater willingness to share. We are called to give to others both material things and the mutual love and acceptance that can make the world a family.

