

Lent 2010



Lenten Meditation #1 – (For Ash Wednesday)

LENTEN GARDENS *"FAR FROM EDEN"*

Gardens can be a source of joy. They can also be a source of disappointment. You can relax and rest in a garden. You can also strain muscles and grow weary under a hot sun. Gardens provide both food for our bodies and beauty for our souls.

Lent can be a gardening time. Coming as spring draws near, it offers an opportunity for thinking how our lives can be more productive and satisfying. We have come a long way from the Advent/Christmas season's hope and promise to a far different place. This is a time for "digging in", because it takes work to reap a rich harvest.

As winter snow melts and freezing temperatures moderate, fields and gardens often look pretty barren and bleak. Stubble and skeletons of leaves provide only memories of growing things. In our personal lives, we may feel that we have come a long way from the Garden of Eden. The ashes of Ash Wednesday symbolize some of this deadness - lack of life and vitality.

It is time to go to work in our personal gardens. One of the wonderful things about faith is its reminder that we can always make a fresh start. Human lives are really like perennials. They may look dead in wintertime, but there is life within them. The sun of God's wisdom quickens us. The showers of God's love start our life juices flowing.

Whatever our age or position in life, growth is possible. We need to weed out those things that hinder us, that absorb our time and energies, but are not productive. Loosen up the soil around us, so that we are open to receive the goodness of God's providence. Don't let the Lenten season just happen! Use it for starting new growth and letting God nourish your spirit!

