



## “LORD, WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR LENT?” “BE HOLY!”



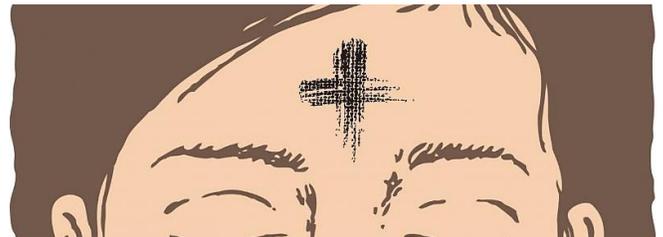
In just a few days, Catholics suffering from the Coronavirus in China, plagued by Locust swarms in Africa, concerned about the rise of Socialism in the United States, dealing with a post Brexit Great Britain, and persecuted by radical Islamists in Syria, will by God’s grace, find their way to a church on *Ash Wednesday*. Before we get to Ash Wednesday though, and the Holy Season of Lent, the Church in the United States and around the world must first get through the *VII Sunday in Ordinary Time*.

On that Sunday, Mass-goers will not hear the Ash Wednesday words that are as familiar to CAPE Catholics as they are to Sunday Mass-goers (the first recorded words of Jesus after emerging from His forty days in the desert): “Repent and believe in the Gospel”, but we will hear words that are no less significant. “Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.” Those words from Sunday’s first Reading, taken from chapter nineteen of the Old Testament Book of Leviticus,

set the foundation for various rules of conduct and the Ten Commandments which when faithfully kept, lead us to Holiness.

“Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.” That command given by God to the “whole Israelite community” through Moses, is just as binding two thousand years after Christ, as it was fifteen hundred years before Christ. And while Moses spoke the command of the LORD, Christ showed us the Way to fulfill it!

Before He ever called disciples, healed with miracles, taught with parables, preached sermons, and suffered, died, and was buried, Christ fasted and prayed for forty days in the desert. Through that two-fold exercise of free will, He showed us the Way to keep the *VII Sunday in Ordinary Time* command to: “be holy”; the Way to defeat temptation; the Way to get to Lent, through Lent, and beyond Lent! Follow the Way today, and on Ash Wednesday you will be prepared to: “Repent, and believe in the Gospel”.



*Please Come Home and join us for a*

## *Holy Hour*

*as we pray for Life, Marriage, & Religious Liberty*

*Sunday, 23 February 2020*

*at 8:00 P.M. in the church*

