

# **STAY WITH ME, REMAIN WITH ME.**

## ***A LENTEN RETREAT ON PRAYER***

### **I PRAY FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS, O GOD, FOR I HAVE SINNED.**

#### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

The parable of the Prodigal Son is a favorite in the Christian scriptures. One reason is its proclamation of 'unconditional love'. The wayward son did not promise anything in return for the father's forgiveness, he just admitted his sin and CAME HOME. He said: 'I'm sorry'.

For Bro. David Steindl-Rast, the prayer of *Thanksgiving* is very important. Perhaps, a second very important prayer, is to ask forgiveness for not being *thankful* enough. Like the prodigal, we waste so many of the gifts we've been given. Gratitude and repentance melt the heart of God.

#### **LIVING THE FOURTH WEEK**

1. When you pray this week, it may include an examination of conscience, and sorrow for failures.
2. Name the ways that you need to *come home* to a more spiritual and virtuous life.
3. Complete the following: *I shall get up and go to my father and say: .....*
4. Create your own *Act of contrition*.

#### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

2Cor. 5:17-21

Luke 15:1-32

#### **YOU ARE SENT**

...we experience our own failure to love...and learn little by little that we are all engaged in the *life-long process* of conversion of heart, of *return to love*. (C-39)

#### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

We count on God's forgiveness. Although, we need do nothing to *earn* this reconciliation with God, we do have to *come home*.

Sometimes we forget to examine the response of the older son, the ONE WHO DOES ALL THINGS RIGHT. It's hard to accept that after we have struggled to be virtuous, all the 'sinners' are forgiven so easily, and are sliding into heaven before us. The older son is in need of forgiveness too. Which 'son' or 'daughter' are we?

## **GOD IS RECONCILING THE WORLD TO HIMSELF IN CHRIST, NOT COUNTING OUR SINS. 2Cor.5:19**