

STAY WITH ME, REMAIN HERE WITH ME.

A LENTEN RETREAT ON PRAYER

I AM DOING SOMETHING NEW. IT IS HAPPENING ALREADY. LOOK FOR IT.

Isaiah 43:19

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

This is the last week before Holy Week. Saint Paul says to us: *I forget the past and do my best for what is to come (Phil.3:14)*. Regretting the past, and feeling discouraged, is not always helpful in our life of prayer. This week we 'look ahead' and continue our work of prayer in spite of our failures. It is never too late to *let God do 'something new' (Is.43:19)*.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us to: *Go, and sin no more (Jn. 8:11)*. This is more encouragement to 'begin again'.

LIVING THE FIFTH WEEK

1. Is *something new* happening in your prayer this Lent?
2. Do you still need to *let anything go* so that God can *do something new*?
3. What is your deepest HOPE for your relationship with God?
4. Write or draw your prayer without specific thoughts. Just let your 'heart' *draw the lines*.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 43:16-21

Philippians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS: You Make All Things New by David Haas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgkblPybzb8>

YOU ARE SENT

*We learn with God's grace to trust that God's power is at its best in weakness. (C-37)
...we are called to conversion...to know the Lord more deeply in the acceptance of forgiveness, and to begin again. (C-39)*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When we begin to take our prayer life seriously, we grow in the awareness of ourselves and our weaknesses. So often we are ashamed that we 'do not pray well'. Or we even think that we are *not praying at all*. No more 'burning bushes' appear, and God is a 'silent darkness'. At these moments we need to grow in the belief that God is indeed *doing something*, but deep within us. Let us BE in God as God DOES in us.

BE IN GOD, AS GOD DOES IN US.