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Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak
michaelr@stmoside.org
758-4100 x100

The Whole Trouble with You Is You Won't Listen to What The Whole Trouble with You Is!

In one series of the comic strip, "**Peanuts**," by Charles Schulz, Lucy the constant critic asks a solemn-faced Charlie Brown, "*You know what the whole trouble with you is, Charlie Brown?*"

Charlie looks at her sternly and responds, "*No, and I don't want to know! Leave me alone!*" And he walks away angrily.

Surprised by his response, Lucy watches him go but, because she is always the one with the last word, she hollers after him, "*The whole trouble with you is you won't listen to what the whole trouble with you is!*"

This past Wednesday we celebrated Ash Wednesday and began the holy season of Lent. It is a penitential season, a time to stop and take a hard look at ourselves and ask, "*How well am I doing? Am I faithful to my baptismal promises? Am I deepening my commitment to Jesus Christ and the Gospel?*"

In the Gospel on Ash Wednesday, we were challenged to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These are the three pillars of the season. As we participate in these activities, we have an opportunity to create a space in which God can speak to us, and allow God to tell us what the trouble with us is, and what needs correction, change, and attitude adjustment.

So often we are like Charlie Brown. The whole trouble with us is that we won't listen to what the whole trouble with us is!

Lent provides the time and the space, if we take advantage of it, to allow God to speak and, for us, to listen.

Be mindful that Lent is not meant to be just a personal journey. It is a communal journey. Lent is a spiritual journey that we as a community travel together. Only together can we be the Lenten Body of Christ that will celebrate Easter as the Risen Body of Christ.

We have some 40 days in this journey! Take advantage! Listen up! Allow God to speak to you!

Happy Lentening!!

Fr. Mike