



March 7, 2010

Dear Parishioners,

Some years ago my Abbot suggested that for Lent I read “Letters from Westerbork” by Etty Hillesum. She was a Dutch Jew put to death at Auschwitz during World War II.

As we continue to plod along through this season of Lent, let me borrow from her writings:

Even a small head can be piled high inside with irrelevant distractions. True these may be edifying emotions and thoughts too, but the clutter is ever present.

So let this be the aim: to turn one’s innermost being into a vast, empty plain with none of that treacherous undergrowth to impede the view so that something of God can enter you, and something of love, too.

--“An Interrupted Life”

In this passage, Hillesum is writing about the aim of prayer and what prayer involves interiorly. However, I find her words helpful in understanding the ‘aim’ of Lent as well, because this season wants us to empty ourselves to make room for God. In this way we break free from the “treacherous undergrowth” of sin that impedes us, and so grow in love: a love increasingly selfless and less self-serving.

May this be our aim as we continue this journey from ashes to Easter.

Father Tim Clark
Pastor