



To all those on the journey of the Retreat in Daily Life:

This letter comes to you as we move into the beginning of Lent and the final days of our Second Week of the Exercises. Again and again these past days we've been asking, in one way or another, to know and love and follow the Lord – MORE. More closely, more ardently, more faithfully. *More than ever before....*

The days of Lent as well as the dynamic of the Exercises are leading us to a place where this companionship becomes more costly. Before we enter into the Third Week, the one we call "Holy," let us take time to pause, to look back at how I perceive God to be working in and with me, in my prayer and in my daily life. What do I want to note, to name, to gather up as I "set my face toward Jerusalem" with Jesus and the coming Third Week of the Exercises?

Accordingly, the week of February 25th will be one of **pausing** in our journey, looking back on what has most significantly marked our path, the path that began in the Preparation Days of October and has reached to this last phase of the Second Week.

The grace for our "Pause Week":

***I ask the Spirit for an awareness of the ways God has been present to me,
and for an openness that allows God to show me what God wants me to see.***

You might return to the questions in the sheet given earlier for Reflection at Week's End:

- ***What graces was I seeking? What graces did I receive?***
- ***How did I experience encouragement (consolation) or discouragement (desolation)?***
- ***Have I become more deeply aware of any? More deeply desirous of something?***

You might consider what has been significant in these past weeks about:

- ***Your experiences in ministry, in community, in all your inter-personal relations; the feelings or attitudes underlying these experiences. What is their root?***

This week is not a time for a critical assessment of how well "we have been doing" in the retreat. It is a peaceful turning to the One whose "active goodness" has been working tirelessly in each of us, and an earnest plea to recognize and respond to the graces offered. It is a time to reach for the hand of the One who, as we enter into the Lord's Passion, can "Place me with the Son." As his followers, we prepare for the Great and Holy Mystery we will celebrate.

February 19, 2018