



How Is Your Lent Going So Far?

March 2015

Even though this season of 40 days has just begun, we are already one quarter of the way through it. Today on the Second Sunday of Lent and the first day of March we have a good opportunity to ask ourselves how this time of renewal and repentance is going for us. The ashes placed on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday have long been washed away, but are we following Jesus aware of the call to carry our cross. How are your acts of sacrifice going? How about your care for others who are in need? Have you been able to find some time to pray each day? Have you started Matthew Kelly's book *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*?

This Lent I cannot help but think of the many Christian people in other parts of the world who are suffering greatly simply because they bear the name "Christian". Persecuted, killed and driven from their homes simply because they are disciples of Jesus Christ. There were the 21 Christians from Egypt who were beheaded in Libya last week. They were Coptic Christians and part of the ancient community going back to the time of the Apostles. This week thousands of Assyrian Christians were driven from their homes and villages and 300 were taken captive by ISIS terrorists. Think of the cross that they are carrying in a very literal way. They are victims of injustice and violence just as Jesus himself was. I often wonder if my faith would be strong enough to do what they have done. I do not think that any of our Lenten sacrifices or acts of love can come close to what these Christians are giving up this Lent. Let us pray for them and their experience as captives and may this prayer strengthen our resolve to live the Christian life.

God bless.