

Homily for Ash Wednesday

Busy, busy lives. We lead incredibly busy lives. Always trying to keep up, get errands done, pick up children...life is often nothing more than a punch list that never ends.

And in the midst of this busy life, we stop and come forward. Come forward to receive a small cross of ashes on our forehead and to once again hear the ancient words: “Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return.”

While each of us has a different reason for coming today, all of us should know that this isn't an empty gesture. It is a reminder. A reminder that no matter how busy we are or how fast life is moving, the only thing that will count is the question that God will ask us when we return to dust.: “Did you love me? Did you love your sisters and brothers? Did you care for those who need help? Or, were you just too busy?”

Lent begins today. For some it means giving something up. For some it means praying more. For some it won't mean a whole lot except they did what they always do...they got ashes. But for all of us it should remind us that life isn't about running around. Life is about God and us and each other. And Lent invites us to remember that relationship with God and with each other to live it more carefully each day of our lives.

