

LMC Jubilee Regional Retreat  
Dalton, PA  
Fr Michael Harris  
Retreatmaster

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Retreat Notes

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“ My thou Lord of life- send my roots rain.”

*Gerard Manly Hopkins*

“RAIN DEEP”

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**Hail Mary**

**NOW**

**and AT THE HOUR OF OUR DEATH**

Two realities for us. One day my “now “ is the hour of my death. The kingdom , breaking in. The kingdom - already, but not yet realized. “Gia ma non acoli” - Now, but not yet.

A homily is always about CHANGE. We are all, always, challenged to change. Every spiritual encounter is the already, but the “not yet”.

You know your “alpha” moment, the moment of your birth. The earth was forever marked with your presence at your birth. The “omega” moment is the moment of your death. “ I’m Kingdom bound”. Life is a process of becoming. I am moving through time. We have a past, a present and a future.

The past – this is what I was. For this, I rely on God’s mercy.  
I trust in Divine Providence.

We have to take the Divine Leap – to the awareness of the “Other” – of God.  
On this retreat, we are taking a “pulse” . We are breathing in, taking a personal inventory.

In Genesis 3:9, God said to Adam : “ Where are you?”

Where are you physically?

What is your body saying to you.

Do you have aches and pains?

How is your appetite? Am I eating wrong, or right. Are you getting enough sleep? Are you alone? Is there anything that has you concerned right now? The pace of life precludes reflection.

Are you at peace, or on edge.

Where are you emotionally.

Part of the mission must be yourself.

What are your emotions?

Attitude IS everything.

Do we care, or do we care- less.

Commercials, advertisements are always saying something is not right. That you have no value. They are all negative. They imply that their products will remedy this.

Where are you intellectually.

What are you watching, reading. What are your conversations. What is your leisure time.

Inventory socially. Who are your close friends. Do they affirm, support and love you. People are alone.

Do you take a day off? Do you take a different street to church? Try a different street.

Shake yourself up a little . Have your relationships gone sour? Any relationships off?

Things to challenge us:

Where are you spiritually.

How is your prayer life. What does it consist of. Do you have a personal relationship with the Lord. How is your celebration of the Eucharist.

Every Mass, every homily, is about CHANGE. Is God far away, or close?

Sometimes people don't really believe that God is Divine Mercy.

Come here, to hear God ask- Where are you? . How is that affecting your Mission?

LUKE 11 2-13 The Midnight Meal [ "Suppose one of you has a friend- who asks for a loaf, and he says to him from within- my door is already locked. . . he will gather because of his persistence. ASK and you will receive. SEEK , and you will find.

How much more will the Father give the HOLY SPIRIT to those who ask him.

When we go to God in prayer – we are asking for THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Time is our most precious possession. Do we give of it – even if inconvenient. Who is God, in the parable of the Midnight Meal. The man at the door/gate, or the man within with the bread at midnight. We want to be in relationship with God - if I have a relationship with God I will never be alone.

The goal of prayer is a dependency – we depend on God. We express a need to be needed.

God: Just know Me. Love Me. Experiencing the Divine Spirit - God Spirit.

“My thou Lord of life- send my roots rain.” Rain deep.

Fulton Sheen- We live our lives in sharing such common benefits of air and water. See, even in our sorrows, the shade of His hand.

Many are desiring to do good things for God. In the little things, people miss their opportunities for loving God.

The Divine Prompt is a whisper.

We are looking for the trumpet.

It is in doing the little things with love where we find our holiness. The bigger things bring pride, not humility. To accept our crosses as coming from Him – is the patient reformation of SELF.

All things borne patiently with LOVE- for one who bears patiently with us.”

***Fr Michael Harris***

