

*Meditations for the Fourth Week of Lent*

# WE THIRST FOR YOU, O LORD

## Proclaiming the Faith

*John 3:14–21*

**T**he events that give rise to the teachings in today's Gospel begin a few verses before when the Pharisee Nicodemus comes to visit Jesus secretly in the night. Nicodemus has heard about Jesus and is curious, but he is also afraid. He wants to believe, but he isn't quite ready to make a public commitment.

The people of the Gospels aren't so very different from us. Nicodemus

is intrigued by Jesus but unwilling to be seen publicly with him. How often have you learned that someone you've known for a long time is or was raised as a Catholic? This is particularly true of famous people who are afraid that making their faith public will harm their careers. Sometimes we fall victim to this same temptation, hiding our faith out of fear. However, we should remember that while we fear that we may be mocked or made fun of for our faith, in some parts of the world today, people

actually are being killed for their Christian beliefs.

Truly the words of John 3:16 ("For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life") are at the heart of our Catholic faith. The season of Lent is the perfect reminder that we are called to let our faith show in our daily lives — with joy and fervor!

### FOR REFLECTION

- › Do the people I work with, go to school with, and spend free time with know that I am Catholic?
- › Who encourages me most in my faith? Who can I encourage?
- › How can I come more closely to the light of Jesus this Lent?

