

Ash Wednesday Homily

Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Could you please tell me: What happens when you die?

Remember, you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.

(Story about the potted plant from the book, Die Wise. We live each day because plants and animals die and we are fed by them. When we die, our bodies decay and we join the earth and replenish plant and animals.)

Death is a life-giving thing

Not just plants. Insects and animals, but not just them, but us too.

We can see plants and insects in the good earth but we usually cannot see Uncle Frank as part of that earth. And we can't see ourselves until we are pretty much dragged there.

Life does not feed on life.

Life feeds on death.

Death feeds life.

Death is a life-giving thing.

“A competence-addicted culture (which we are) happily amasses labor-saving devices, time-saving gizmos and comfort-giving technologies. It signs up for self-improvement and self-actualization. It puts a high premium on knowledge transfer and skill acquisition. It resists learning though. The Internet is full to bursting with this kind of thing, tons of bits of information all carrying a little orange tag that says, “You need to know this, or you will. Add to basket.” (Die Wise)

But true learning is wisdom.

Remember, you are dust and unto dust you shall return.

We need to ponder such words as: “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains but a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit.”

This season of 40 days is a time to wonder about the mysteries of life... about changing our hearts, about dying and rising, about being soil so that others may grow.

Here are some opportunities for Lent:

- **Fast from our addicting world of gizmos and self-actualization.**
- **Pray and ponder the word of God by attending Emmaus faith sharing groups, daily reading from the small black books, joining**

in the Stations of the Cross, and attending the Generations of Faith.

I encourage you: this Lent, take all 40 days and learn about dying and rising.