

LENT - REFLECTION OF THE DAY

RECONCILIATION

March 27, 2022

" We put ourselves on the line every time we say the Lord's prayer: 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' It would be a strange thing to say about someone. 'I'll never forgive them' and then pray, "forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Bishop Ken Untener, who died on this date on 2004

It's not easy to walk in the Lord's footsteps, never was and never will be.

The winds of sin can gradually blow me off course and, without even realizing it, I can sail in a direction contrary to my baptismal commitment.

Years ago, the notion of a long look at the whole direction of my life (particularly the "why" behind the sins I was confessing) was far from people's minds, except for people who had been away from the sacraments for a long time and needed to make a "general confession."

Everyone else simply dealt with individual fix-its, a clean up before going to Communion. The Church is now returning to its earlier tradition of celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation by centering on baptism and personal conversion. This requires deep reflection and much longer preparation.

Lent is the time when I do this.

Lent is a time of conversion. It all starts on Ash Wednesday when the ashes are placed on our foreheads with the words, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."

It all ends on Easter Sunday when I reach into the baptismal water and renew my "yes" to the Lord's invitation to "come, follow me."