

In the words of our Lord, Jesus Christ, *Peace be with You!*

As we shift from Ordinary Time into Lent, the lyrics of *Jerusalem, My Destiny* capture the challenge ahead:

I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Jerusalem, my Destiny!
Though I cannot see the end for me, I cannot turn away. [...]
Let no one walk alone. The journey makes us one.

This season is a shared pilgrimage. On Ash Wednesday, the ashes on our foreheads serve as a great equalizer. No matter what part you play in our school community, the message remains the same: **humility**. It is a stark reminder that we are not meant for this world, but the one to come. We **unite** ourselves with Jesus on this pilgrimage, preparing to die to ourselves so that we might rise with Him.

But what does this journey mean practically? Specifically, what does it mean to “die to self”?

It seems morbid. My students will ask, “does it mean I have to actually die?!” and, thankfully, the answer is no.

“Dying to self” isn’t about physical death; it is about ego death. In a world that constantly shouts, “look at me,” “like my post,” or “validate my success,” lent offers a radical alternative. It invited us to stop letting our ego control our lives. It frees us from the exhausting pressure to be perfect. When we accept the ashes, we admit we don’t have it all together—and that is exactly where God meets us.

So, this lent I invite you to fix your eyes on the “hills of Jerusalem”. Let us try and move past the surface-level sacrifices. Instead of just giving up chocolate, perhaps we can give up the need to be right, the need to compare ourselves to others, or the fear of the future.

Look at the person next to you—even the one who irritates you. If you see someone stumbling this season, don’t walk past them. The journey to Jerusalem is a group project. Let us walk this path not as individuals competing for a prize but as a family heading toward a shared destiny.

May this Lenten season free you and bless you for others.

Br. Rafa
Mr. Ryan
Mr. Sarmiento
Mr. Meraz
Mr. Fernandez