

April 11

Is 49:1-6

Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

“Are we there yet?” “How much longer?”

If you have kids you’ve most likely heard these questions from the back seat of your car. If you ever were a kid, it’s a good bet that you’ve asked them yourself.

Lent’s almost over. The Triduum begins in just a couple of days, and so these sentiments seem appropriate right now. They also fit well with today’s readings.

In the Gospel, Peter thought he had arrived. He was ready, ready to follow Christ wherever that would lead. “Master ... I will lay down my life for you.” But he’s wrong. “Amen, amen, I say to you, the cock will not crow before you deny me three times.” He’ll get there eventually. Peter’s threefold denial will be replaced by three exclamations of love, and he’ll become the rock on which Christ’s Church is built. It will just take a little longer, a little more living, a little more conversion.

Isaiah undergoes a similar change in the first reading. After initially thinking he “had toiled in vain, and for nothing, uselessly, spent my strength,” he discovers that, in reality, he has been “made glorious in the sight of the Lord ... a light to the nations.”

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It’s a time for reflection and preparation. But most of all, Lent is a time to open oneself to conversion, to a metanoia, which reorients our lives toward Christ. Lent is almost over, but the call to conversion lasts a lifetime.

Are we there yet? No, not yet, but we’re well on our way!

Reflection questions:

Faith involves a profound change of mind and heart, a change of life, a metanoia. Such a change can only arise from deep within the interior of one’s being, where one faces the truly important questions about human life. *(taken from National Directory For Catechesis)*

With that in mind:

- 1) Who is God?
- 2) Who am I?
- 3) What difference in my life does (should) 1 and 2 make?

Reflection by Deacon Bill Hathaway, St. Edward, Lowell.