



The great invitation of Lent is right from God: Come back to me with all your heart.

This is God's extraordinary and deeply personal invitation to each one of us on Ash Wednesday. Come back to me with all your heart.

It is an invitation not from a God standing before us with folded arms and stern judgmental stares, but of a loving parent straining his eyes as he waits eagerly for our return, longing to embrace us and rejoice in our homecoming.

Lent is the invitation to rid our lives of anything that keeps us from this return to God. Lent is the invitation to use the next 40 days root out anything that keeps us from running toward the great reunion with the God Who loves us and calls us to love one another.

Lent is the invitation to work on *ourselves* so we are able to say Yes to God's astonishing invitation to us.

~Sister Patricia Schoelles