



A weekly reflection by members  
of the Precious Blood Community

**March 5, 2025**

Sr. Mary Kevin Rooney, ASC

*“Return to me with your whole heart” (Joel 2:12)*



When Vicki Otto invited me to write today’s reflection, I went, as usual, to the sacristy to check the Ordo (the guidebook for liturgical celebrations) for the readings – which, of course, after so many Lents, I presumed I knew. So, instead, I first looked at the explanatory notes regarding Lent, this season of grace that begins today. What a wonder!

I, like you perhaps, was thinking something like this: “What can I do to make this Lent the most special ever?” Something new and exciting! After all, if you had 85 Lents under your belt already, which would have included the “old liturgy”- plus the Vatican II restoration of the Rite of Christian Initiation, surely you would understand the need for a fresh look!

That blessed Ordo! There it was! Something new and refreshing! Paraphrasing, it said something like this:

- How about being more attentive to really HEARING the Word of God - and then being more attentive to respond to that Word, which is your prayer?
- The demands of a Christian life are quite beyond us, and we fail! Any Lenten Penance is more effective IF we fail!!!
- Penance is not to confirm us in our sense of virtue, but to bring home in a very real way our radical need for salvation!
- And even more, a radical need for a Savior! One who accompanies us on this journey of life! What a gift!

So, what am I willing to take on in order to be more aware of that One who invites me to share in His journey, in his Passion of self-giving? In the face of that kind of love, I choose my Lenten response.

Perhaps I shall meet you on this same road.....

*Sr Mary Kevin Rooney, ASC, has been a vowed member of the Adorers community for over seventy years. She has served in many ministries, including teaching and spiritual direction. [Click here to learn more about the Adorers.](#)*

This weekly reflection is made available to everyone in our Precious Blood family. Feel free to share it with others. Would you be willing to write a reflection? If so, please contact Vicky Otto at [votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org](mailto:votto@pbspiritualityinstitute.org)