

## Reflection and Prayer time – Lenten Change

February 22, 2021

Last week we entered the season of Lent – a period of fasting, moderation, and self-denial traditionally observed by Catholics and some Protestant denominations that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday. It can be a somber and serious time for self-reflection and examination of one's life and relationship with God and a time to let some things go and take some things on.

I somewhat feel as if we have been in a period of Lent for nearly a year with much time to reflect and self-evaluate, yet it always requires intention and planning to truly incorporate new practices in our lives. One thing that could have happened as we isolated, social distanced, and quarantined, is that we don't look into the faces of others enough, although we see plenty of each other in the square zoom boxes, don't we?

With the story of the Indian engineer with choices to make about his Kit Kat treasure and whether to share or not, I believe proximity to his roommate made a big difference in his decision to eat the whole thing rather than sharing. I believe that if he'd been seeing his roommate's face, he would have entered into the joy of sharing as his roommate did.

Sometime in the about 2 or so years ago, I began volunteering with Grannies Respond Kentucky Action. What happened before I did is that some mostly elderly women went to the Texas border to see what was happening with refugees and immigrants and in looking into the faces of people who had walked hundreds of miles in harsh conditions at great risk they felt moved to do something and specifically to share. Grannies across the country set up systems at Greyhound bus stations to greet people coming from Central America, sometimes who didn't even speak English, and to offer them infant supplies, small toys for children, fruit, snacks and drinks, personal hygiene items.

I began volunteering and I remember one Saturday a dark-skinned man, but not from Central America if I gauged his accent correctly, came over to ask what I and the other Grannies were doing and set down on the table several snacks and drinks he'd just purchased for his comfort on the next leg of his journey. He acknowledged what we were doing and went and sat down to wait for his next bus. About 5 minutes later he came back and laid a \$100 bill on the table and told us to use it to buy more supplies.

I believe he has looked into faces that suffer and we should have made him an honorary "Granny" that day. He loved with fierceness and sacrifice that day and I think of him often when I observe Lent. Thanks be to God for his generosity and compassion.