



LENT – WEEK 5: The MASK of DIFFERENCE

Music: “I am what I am” (Jonas Brothers) or “As” (Stevie Wonder) or Here I Am lyrics (Air Supply) or “Embracing our differences” (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MF-sdbq-O4E>).

Centring Prayer: (have a few moments of silence)

Lord, let me put my worries and busy schedule to one side
and help me to focus on listening to You
speaking to me through the Holy Spirit,
who animates and touches each member of this group.

If appropriate, say the Our Father, slowly!

Gospel: Grain of Wheat Falls and Dies

Jesus foretells his death and subsequent glorification

12:20 *Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. [*c]*

12:21 *These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus'.*

12:22 *Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus.*

12:23 *Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.*

12:24 *I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

12:25 *Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.*

12:26 *If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.*

12:27 *Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.*

12:28 *Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'*

Discussion Points:

1. Identify ways in which all people are **different**. Then identify ways in which all people are **similar**.
2. What do we really mean when we want to be different. Debate the pros and cons of difference.
e.g. The world would be a better place if everyone believed the same things.
3. Explore Ecumenism as a way of recognising and celebrating difference between Christians.
4. Consider the ways in which Christians are different from others: values, image of God, ethics, etc.
(*Key difference to draw out is that no other religion believes that their God has suffered for them.*)
What makes Catholics different?
5. Explore the world through the eyes of advertising - what does the media say about what will make us happy / how we should treat others / what we should believe?
6. Reflect on the masks we wear (get personal in the group).
What image are we advertising to the world, our workplace, our family, our friends.
Are the images different for each place? Why?
7. Conduct a debate: Notre Dame & Catholic Ed. does not exist to be better or different, but rather to make a difference!
8. Write a prayer about how you are equal to others but make a difference in the world.
Task: make a concrete, practical, difference in the life of Notre Dame or your family communities?

Closing Prayer

Lord, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
the courage to change the things I can
and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.



LENT – WEEK 5 – A REFLECTION

The Mask of DIFFERENCE

A Reflection on Corinthians 12:4-11

These are many different gifts, but the same Spirit who gives them:

Different gifts for different circumstances;

Different gifts for different communities;

Different gifts for the promotion of the Reign of God.

The gift that you are, is a gift, for others.

To one is given the gift of openness, friendliness and warmth:

To welcome the stranger, comfort the afflicted and bring joy in sadness.

To another is given the gift of voice, valour and virtue:

To speak for the Voiceless and to challenge the Voiced,

The gift that you are, is a gift, for others.

To one is given the gift of quietness, contemplation and reflection:

To calm the storms, restore harmony and welcome the sunshine.

To another is given the gift of action and activity:

To conceptualise, organise, and prioritise.

The gift that you are, is a gift, for others.

To one is given the gift of vision and creativity:

To imagine the unimaginable and compose it into existence,

To another is given the gift of gentleness and compassion:

To stand on the margins and there be comfortable!

To yet another is given the gift of leadership and wisdom:

To recognise, affirm and empower the giftedness in others,

The gift that you are... will make a difference!

Acknowledgement → this programme is a modified version of the work by:
Rina Wintour, *Sacred Celebrations for Lent*, (Mountjoy Enterprises, Bris, 1999).
Permission is given by the author for the purchaser to reproduce...
The purchaser is The University of Notre Dame Australia.