

**"Open the door
of your heart to
the other "**



Fr. Lic. Saúl Ragoitia Vega
21 of February 2017, Danli,
Honduras.



Lent is time to "open our heart's door t to the other one," it is part of the logic of a new culture of Encounter that Pope Francis has been insisting. It is a time to discover that the other one is a gift, and that his life deserves to be welcomed, respected and loved.

In his 2017 Lenten Message, Pope Francis makes a reflection in the light of the parable of the rich and poor Lazarus (Luke 16: 19-31), where he highlights the tragedy of the poor and the egoism of the rich, blinded by Wealth, full of vanity for opulence and arrogance that stops him from looking and hearing, the face and the outcry of the needy weak, who seems to be an invisible annoyance to be in front of his door.

Lent that begins with Ash Wednesday is the opportunity for a new beginning, a call to conversion, is to return to God with all of our heart; Is a propitious time to intensify the life of the Spirit through fasting, prayer and alms, holy means that the Church proposes to us; It is time to listen and meditate on the Word of God that gives us the key to know how we should behave and achieve happiness and build this culture of encounter; it's time to:

1. Open your eyes and see the face of Christ in the neediest; We cannot close these, or make us as we do not see what happens to the brother, or worse, blind us by our selfishness and indifference, where we only look at ourselves with great vanity, worried about the eccentricity of consumerism and voracity insatiable of the superfluous, which cut of us from sharing and living the generosity shared with the other.
2. Open the ears, to the anguished cry of the one who suffers; that nothing opaque his voice; It is necessary to listen, learning to listen with delicate attention to his often-harrowing voice because of the great need he experiences. By listening only to ourselves, it renders us unable to listen, and much less to dialogue.
3. Open the door of the heart to other, as an opportunity not only to welcome, to let in, to make feel "at home", but as an opportunity to find myself in the other, and to be able to form a "we"; it means, to make community where peace can be built. Whoever knocks at our door does not go unnoticed, is not invisible, much less a nuisance or a burden.

May this time of Lent let us listen and meditate on the Word of God that moves us and strengthens us, capable of provoking the conversion of the heart and orienting the life back to God and attending to the invitation: "open the door of your heart to the other ".