



### **Day thirty-eight**

For the next 40 days we are offering us all a challenge to consider 40 things that are sucking the life out of us. The challenge is to examine these and through confronting God's word, his Spirit, and his community of faith as we seek to be filled with his life and his love again. At the conclusion of each challenge there will be an opportunity to engage about this with another person and/or the larger community.

Today the thing we are asking us to explore giving up is:

## **self-sufficiency.**

### **Confronting the text**

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

*Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas*

*our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it, (1 Cor. 12:12-27).

### **Confronting my self with God**

“No one is alone” sing the cast of Into the Woods at the play’s conclusion. No one is alone, but more importantly to our theme for today, no one can act or grow alone.

Whenever I think of this idea one of the first challenges to it are the monastics who spend their lives separated from the rest of the world. But a monastic is not really separate. A monastic is intimately connected to God and his community. They are in constant prayer and intercession, not for themselves alone but for the Church; the Holy Catholic Church.

As Paul points out in the twelfth chapter his letter to the church at Corinth, we need each other as much as my finger needs my hand: we/you need to participate in the community of faith because we/you are the only we/you we’ve got.

### **Listening to God’s people**

What do you bring to the community of faith?

No fair saying nothing, God has put you here for a reason.

Have you shared that with them?

What is holding you back?

How could you surmount that impediment?