



## FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN

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**MARCH 5, 2017**

During my early morning spiritual reading time, I ran across a very simple passage from one of my favorite early Church Fathers, Gregory of Nazianzus (4th century Archbishop of Constantinople). In a passage that is very appropriate for our Lenten journey, he reminds us of how simple our Christian life can be as we follow Jesus' command to love the poor.

*"So long as you are sailing with favorable winds, give a hand to those who are shipwrecked; so long as you are healthy and wealthy, help those who are suffering! Do not wait to experience for yourself how wretched it is to be inhuman, and how good it is to open your heart toward those in need. Do not wish to become an example of how God shows the strength of his arm against the proud, against those who pass by without taking care of the poor. Learn this from the calamities of others: give even a little to those who are in need; it is not so little for those who need everything" (On the Love for the Poor, 27-28).*

Who are the poor in my life? Even if I consider myself to be poor because I am struggling to pay bills, take care of children, or dealing with bad health.... there are always people near me who are in greater need than me. Every single Christian is called to serve the poor. I ask again, who are the poor in my life? Do I take seriously this call to be the hands and feet of Jesus for the poor among us?

We are now beginning the second week of Lent. Let's not let these holy weeks pass us by without God's grace changing us.

**God Bless,  
Father Jonathan**

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