

A LENTEN MISSION – WHAT’S IN IT FOR ME?

When I registered last year for the Georgetown Summer Scripture Institute I did so with some reluctance. One of the three topics being presented was “The Book of Job”, an Old Testament book of which I had never been particularly fond; it had always seemed so depressing. But it turned out to be my favorite part of those three days last June and the inspiration for this past winter’s Adult Formation sessions here in the parish.

Often, when we consider whether or not we want to see a movie, attend a play or concert or lecture, even watch a TV show, we prejudge the experience and dismiss it without really knowing how it might entertain us, inform us or impact our lives. But the fact is, we can often be surprised—as I was at Georgetown—by an unexpected experience of insight, joy or enlightenment. Sometimes we need to set aside those prejudgments and not make “what’s in it for me?” or “will I like it?” the questions that keep us from taking a chance.

So I’m inviting you to take a chance on one, two or three nights this week and see if there’s something God might want you to hear that you never thought about before. It’s always good to have Bishop Perry with us; he’s a deep thinker and it sometimes takes a bit of effort to plumb the depths of his homilies, but there are always nuggets of truth and wisdom to be carried away. I’ve come to know Deacon Jim Norman as a deeply spiritual and thoughtful man with a great gift for shaping the truths of faith in a way that touches the heart. As for me, I can only say that if you appreciate my homilies, my Tuesday night presentation will amount to about four of those over the course of one hour, with time for reflection in between.

So take a chance this week. I don’t know “what’s in it for you” but, who knows—you may be surprised.

Fr. Bob