

February 15, 2026



WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

When was the last time you borrowed something? I don't know about you, but it always makes me nervous. It's not mine and I feel responsible to make sure that nothing happens. Even when I have to use someone else's car, I don't even like to change the seat even though I have to. I'm sure everyone feels the same. The bottom line is that we're using something that's not ours so we have to use it carefully and responsibly.

You can also remember those times when someone brings you food in their own dish. After you enjoy the meal, you will wash the bowl or plate, I hope! You wouldn't dare return it without saying, "thank you," and making sure that it is clean.

I invite to consider that as we enter this holy season of Lent. The word Lent actually has roots from the Old English *lencten*, meaning "spring" or "springtime." It also stems from the Germanic *langitinaz*, meaning "long days." This refers to the lengthening of days in the springtime. From this secular background, the word was adapted by the Church for the 40-day period in the springtime in preparation for Easter.

However, we can also reflect on the more common use of the word in every day life, namely that something is "lent," or "borrowed." While we don't often think about it, that is what life is. It is lent to us by God. We have only borrowed it, because it ultimately belongs to God. One of the options for receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday tells us just that: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Our life is a gift from God. What do you do with that gift? We must make a return of it to God, not damaged with sin and neglect, but sanctified by God's grace. Too many people treat their lives as their own to do with whatever they want. They don't acknowledge that their life comes from God. Lent, to "borrow" from its meaning in common usage, can be a time to humbly acknowledge our dependence on God and to make our lives an offering to Him in gratitude. As you receive ashes this week, you can also pray in your heart, "I belong to God." My life belongs to God; the day belongs to God; my time belongs to God. It's all only lent to us, for His greater honor and glory.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)