

March 1, 2026



WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

I am always searching for ways to preach at funerals to bring comfort and hope to families in their sadness. I was recently reminded of a wonderful poem that was written by Linda Ellis in 1996. I thought it also provides a good focus for our Lenten journey.

THE DASH

"I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on the tombstone
From the beginning...to the end.
He noted that first came the date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years.
For that dash represents all the time
That they spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved them
Know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not, how much we own,
The cars...the house...the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.
So, think about this long and hard.
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left
That can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect
And more often wear a smile,
Remembering this special dash
Might only last a little while
So, when your eulogy is being read
With our life's actions to rehash...
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent YOUR dash? (*Linda Ellis, Copyright 2020 Inspire Kindness*)

"What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?" (Luke 9:25)