

## March Lenten Reflection

Life is full of disruption ...and grace! We all know the struggle and perhaps frustration of unexpected disruptions, but we also know, often, the surprising “gift” of these unplanned disruptions.

I once heard a story by Jose Hobday, a Franciscan sister, who was on the circuit for giving presentations on spirituality. She told of the time she was in the Denver airport between planes, and she decided to sit at an empty desk to work on her talk. Before she knew it people kept coming up to her, asking her questions about where to go, where to find the rest rooms, etc.

At first she was getting very irritated because she needed this time to work on her ministry talk. But after the disruptions kept happening, she just laughed at herself and was very gracious in responding to those with questions. Only later did she realize that she was sitting under the sign that said: INFORMATION! She realized that indeed she was doing “ministry” in a way she had not planned. God was using her in an unexpected way!

Lent is a time, an opportunity, to reflect on the disruptions in our own lives. By drawing back and reflecting, we can see there might be a connection between plans gone awry and “newness,” between broken relationships and healing, that there is a *mystery* here.

We see from the Lenten Gospels the disciples’ terrible loss of Jesus in the Passion and Death, but we also see their HOPE renewed a short while later at the Resurrection.

Lent is the opportunity for us to *enter into* the Paschal Mystery, the reality that assures us life comes out of death, so we can recognize that it is actually going on in our own life’s journey...in whatever form of “dying” and “rising” we are experiencing.

If we can give ourselves more time for reflection and prayer, we can get in touch with the mystery and Grace of this Lenten season.

### Reflection questions

How is God at work in my disruptions?

Where do I recognize the “dying” and “rising” going on in my life?

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