



Lenten

Reflections

The Divine Intervention

April 4, 2017

Scripture

Numbers 21: 4-9

From Mount Hor the children of Israel set out on the Red Sea road, to bypass the land of Edom.

But with their patience worn out by the journey, the people complained against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert, where there is no food or water?

We are disgusted with this wretched food!"

In punishment the LORD sent among the people saraph serpents, which bit the people so that many of them died.

Then the people came to Moses and said,

"We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you.

Pray the LORD to take the serpents away from us."

So Moses prayed for the people, and the LORD said to Moses,

"Make a saraph and mount it on a pole, and whoever looks at it after being bitten will live."

Moses accordingly made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Our Scripture Reflection

How miserably ungrateful the Lord's people were. After having been freed from bitter slavery in Egypt where they suffered from physical torture and starvation, they complained about the quality of the food the Lord provided them in the desert, food meant to hold them over until they entered the Promised Land. God had every reason to wipe them out but He didn't. Through the intercession of Moses, God gave them a second chance.

Food for your Journey

Emperor Sigismund (1368-1437) was once asked for his secret to living a life of happiness in this world.

He said, "Always do in health what you have often promised to do when you were sick."

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, When I am tempted to complain about what I don't have, help me to recount the many blessings I enjoy each day as the result of Your generosity. May I become humble and grateful. Amen.