



Lenten Meditation # 5
(Fourth Sunday in Lent)

Sharing Who We Are "Needs and Strengths"

What a confusing mixture we all have within us! We are strong and we are weak, wise and foolish, insightful and blind, honest and self-deceiving. In Lenten openness and sharing, all of these things are on the table. There is a risk. We may not want to know all of someone else's faults. We may hope that our own shortcomings are not discovered. But, if we are overly self-protective, we can miss out on some of the warmth and guidance that others can give. We can also miss out on their caring and love.

What are some of the needs that we share? Some people seem to need nothing. They appear to be self-confident and self-sufficient. If their appearance is true to their real selves, they are fortunate. If it is a false bravado, they are to be pitied. If we are truly self-aware, most of us admit our needs. We need to learn from others and we also need their acceptance - need to be appreciated for who we really are. God knows that we need these things and acts to provide divine acceptance. Those, who see God only as judge and not as one who cares and loves, need to go back and reread the scriptures. But we also need human acceptance. As a child is reported to have said, "I know that God loves me, but I want to be loved by someone with skin on." When we share, we receive love.

What are the strengths we share? People thronged to see Jesus, because he brought healing. Every one of us has the power to heal and relieve the pain of others. Even if weakened ourselves by some physical problem, our spirits can strengthen others. Jesus shared his sense of God's nearness. If we share what God means to us, it may help others to have faith and trust. Jesus had a mission of love and compassion. We can share our own sense of purpose and meaning in life and strengthen those around us. Sharing the strength we have within us makes it grow. Sharing both our needs and our strengths with others enriches everyone's life and moves us closer to what God seeks for us.



**NORWICH DIOCESAN COUNCIL
OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**

37TH Annual Layette Program

Sunday March 26, 2017 at 2p.m.

Middletown District Council of Catholic Women

Hosted by St Mary Guild

**St Mary Church Hall
45 Freestone Ave. Portland**

**Guest Speaker
Representative from Catholic Charities
Followed by refreshments**

Please bring baby items from birth to toddler 3

Items will be donated to Catholic Charities

**For more information call : Connie Gillies 860-347-4733
e-mail- pwgillies@sbcglobal.net**

