

## **Reflection:**

### **A Wholehearted Return**

“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart.”

Joel 2:12

Each Lent we heard the phrase “return to me”. Surrendering one’s whole being to God is quite a challenge. Each Lent we look again into our hearts to discover those places that we have not yet returned to the One who calls us. This is the wisdom behind having a Lenten journey each year. Knowing that we will be re-invited to return to God keeps us from being discouraged as we struggle to give more of our whole selves to this loving Creator.

What does it mean to “return”? Re-turning indicates that we have been there, that we are making a shift, turning around and heading there again. We cannot return to a place where we have not already been. We should find this thought very comforting because we know that if we go to the very depths of our being, we belong totally to God. Some places of our hearts have strayed and lost their way, but we know they can return to God. Lent is a time to go looking for these places. Lent is also a time to remember that God’s invitation stands forever. Always God waits for us to return with all our hearts.

Thank you, loving God, for the challenging invitation to re-turn to you with all our hearts.

Thank you, loving God, for the challenging invitation to re-turn to you with my entire being.