

FROM THE DESERT TO THE MARGINS



Fr. John Conway, M.M. in Sudan

PRAYER

Begin by taking 5 minutes in silence to increase your awareness of God's loving presence in your life. Place your burdens in God's hands. Open your heart and mind to let the Spirit move within you. Then pray together: *Come Holy Spirit, increase our compassion for those at the margins.*

INTRODUCTION

Today we read that Jesus was driven out into the desert for 40 days. Around the world we feel we have been driven into a "desert" where we've experienced loss but also new possibilities. We are tempted to turn inward and focus on our narrow circle. Instead, the Spirit invites us to move out of our desert and into the world.

1. SEE OUR REALITY



- Share when you were in a "desert" situation. How did it help you grow?
- **Global connection:** Read a **recent letter from Fr. John Barth M.M.**, about daily life helping the people in Sudanese refugee camps and in Uganda.

2. DISCERN WITH OUR FAITH



Read or listen to the Gospel: **Mark 1: 12-15**

Reflect:

- As you enter this Lenten time what "wild beasts" distract you from sharing love? Who are the "angels" that minister to you?
- What "wild beasts" oppress others near you and in the wider global family? How can you be the angel that feeds them God's love?



3. GO FORTH AND DO JUSTICE



PRAY

Ask for the grace to use the hunger pangs of your fasting as a bell that calls you to prayer. Pray for those who face hunger daily.



FAST

Fast with an awareness of those near and far who are hungry every day.



GIVE

Donate to the **Maryknoll Mission Fund** for Sudan refugees in the desert.

PRAYER

Bring your intentions to God with an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. Then pray together: *Come Holy Spirit, increase our compassion for those at the margins.*