



REBUILD *this* TEMPLE

DAY 1

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025

THE REALITY OF GOD

As we embark on our Lenten journey, let's start at the beginning: God is real. He deeply desires to be involved in our lives. This is not a distant or abstract idea; rather, the Lord invites us into a relationship that is alive, personal, and transformative. God did not simply create us; He yearns to lead us. He is real and ever-present, longing for us to engage in a relationship rooted in mutual love and investment.

You long for a relationship with God, and your very act of reading this reflects that desire. This longing exists within you because He designed you this way. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* beautifully affirms, "The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God" (no. 27). This inner yearning points to the reality that God wants to be known. He longs to reveal Himself through the Bible, the Sacraments, and the wonders of creation. Ultimately, God revealed everything in Jesus Christ, becoming Emmanuel, "God with us." His love is manifested not only in words but in the extraordinary act of becoming one of us so that we could truly know Him.

God not only wishes to make Himself known but also to know us intimately. He desires a relationship defined by love and trust. Relationships thrive on mutual self-disclosure and quality time together. This Lenten season offers an unparalleled opportunity to deepen this relationship through prayer, opening wider the door for God's grace to enter our lives and transform us.

Our only response is to open our hearts to Him. Every sigh, every whispered prayer, and every spiritual exercise invites God into our hearts. Remember, no step toward God is too small; each step deepens the relationship He longs for with you. Regardless of where you find yourself as we begin this journey, God is with you "there."

Today, God invites you to something infinitely greater—a relationship of eternal significance and unending love. Today, God invites you to reflect on the foundation of all reality: the truth that He is real and that He truly longs for a deeper relationship with you.

GOING DEEPER

Take an extra 15 minutes for prayer today. Begin by reading Psalm 63:1-9. Read it once to familiarize yourself with the text. Then, read it a second time, slowing down to focus on the word or phrase that resonates with you. Read it a third time, again slowly, and see if the same word or phrase still speaks to you. Finally, have a conversation with God about how this word or phrase relates to your life. Take a moment to listen and invite God to speak to you.