

March 2024



Other Email

Dear Prefix First Name Last Name,

Greetings from the St. Elizabeth Men of Action!

As we journey through this season of Lent, our hope is that this letter finds you doing well. The prophet Joel tells us in our Ash Wednesday reading to return to God with all our whole heart. Also, Jesus' parable of the prodigal son speaks to a restless, wandering, and even hardened heart in many ways. The younger son's restless heart led him to no longer want his Father in his life, just the material benefits. His restless heart led him far away; maybe he was not satisfied with his life and just felt discontent. But once he lost everything, and was completely humbled, he re-gained perspective on his Father's love.

The older son, the one we can probably often relate to more easily, was dutiful but maybe developed some hardening of his heart. He felt enslaved to his Father, and probably didn't realize how much his Father loved him, leading to some resentment and bitterness. He chose to compare himself to his younger brother, and felt self-righteous and superior. Had he recognized how lost and unhappy his younger brother was, he might have been led to pray for him with intention, and his heart might have been softened.

Whichever brother we can relate to more clearly, we know that our heavenly Father loves us unconditionally and completely, and wants our full hearts. We are thankful to you for modeling our Father's love in your vocation of service. Your commitment to the church, being Christ to others, is such an inspiration to us! And know that what you do, and how you do it, returns the hearts of your flock back toward God. We pray that God continues to bless you, your ministry, and your Easter season!

Your Brothers in Christ,

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Men of Action