

A post from Fr. Niblick.

March 27, 2020

A few short weeks ago many of us had ashes smeared on our foreheads with the ash smearer telling us to “remember that you are dust and to dust you will return.” That admonition to “remember,” in my mind is rooted in the second story of creation in the Book of Genesis 2:7 “then the LORD God formed the man* out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”

They are the words of God found in the third chapter of Genesis when God in Genesis 3:18 “By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, Until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

It is not a punishment that God speaks, but the truth of being human. In these days when we sweat it is good to remember the long story. It is good to remember that our origin is our destiny. It is good to pray for so many not that God do something but that we remember that our love can sustain those dying alone and afraid, that our love can sustain those caring for the sick and for us, it is good to remember that we are all in touch with one another because we all share the same handful of dust that God’s hand shaped into the uniqueness that is ours, it is good to remember that all of our heads rest in the lap of God.