

Lenten Mediation

Then ADONAI said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,' and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats" (Exodus 8:16). Some translations use the word lice, while others use vermin, or maggots, or fleas, or sand flies, or mosquitoes, or gnats. But the Hebrew word kinnim simply means mixture, and refers to a swarm of insects. Not any one particular insect, but swarms of many kinds of insects so small as to be hardly visible to the eye but with a very irritating and painful sting. They would even creep into the eyes and nose.

<http://jaymack.net/exodus-commentary/Bm-Strike-the-Ground-and-the-Dust-of-Egypt-Will-Become-Gnats.asp>

Our church had fleas, yes, a little opossum had gotten through a tiny hole in a screen over an opening which supplied our organ with air; she hid in a tiny corner and could not escape and died with her fleas, which proliferated. And we had billions and billions of fleas, mostly in our basement, every July 4 for three years; we even had to cancel church one Sunday when they came upstairs. Finally, the exterminator was able to get rid of every flea, pupa, larva, and egg, and we were free of those little creatures once again.

Our lives are oftentimes filled with fleas, things which irritate us and seem never to leave us, that seem to keep coming back; but with persistent and fervent prayer, I have found that we can find healing even from those seemingly trite issues, and even much larger problems. Maybe these little trials are preparing us to cope with larger issues, things of life and death, of safety and security, of finding life or losing life. We will probably never escape the irritations of life, but with God's help, even the little things can resolve in our favor, or maybe God miraculously changes us so we see the situation with different and more informed eyes. The world needs people of faith to be healers for all sorts of things, violence, degradation, wars, and even the little things; maybe someone needs help finding food, shelter, safety, and with our persistent prayers and help, we may be the ones to bring peace to them, to us, and to the world. Let us not cower facing the large or small issues of life.

Readings: Exodus 7: 25- 8:19; 2 Corinthians 3: 7-18; Mark 10: 17-31; Psalms 131, 132, 140, 142