

Usually my rule for picking movies is it has to have at least one explosion - so action movies are the norm  
I don't always admit this, but every once in a while I'll be in the mood for a drama - however, I don't understand rom-coms  
- from the opening scene you know they are getting together - there is no mystery to the plot  
However, I say that and yet I'm in the middle of season 3 of the Chosen series - that is the tv show with Jonathan Rommie  
as Jesus - it is a compelling depiction of the Jesus and His ministry - and yet anyone, including me, who has  
listened to or read the Gospels very much knows what's going to happen - so maybe I'm a hypocrite  
In every movie, especially in action movies, the protagonist has to make a decision - is he or she going to sacrifice, maybe  
even possible death, to save other people, possibly the whole world, from certain destruction - they had to be  
willing to die for the sake of others - as I have said many times, true love on this side of heaven requires sacrifice -  
St. Thomas Aquinas defines love as willing the good of the other - parents naturally make many sacrifices for the  
well-being of their children  
In the first reading, through the prophet Jeremiah, God says that He will make a new covenant with Judah and Israel, the  
southern and northern Kingdoms  
God says He will place His law within them and write it upon their hearts  
As Catholic Christians we might say there are three types of laws: the laws of nature, natural law, and divine law  
The laws of nature are those that we learn in science class - like Newton's three laws of motion - the four laws of  
thermodynamics - don't ask me what they are - I don't remember them at the moment  
Natural law has to do with human beings and morality - natural law uses rational discernment of the natural order as a  
means of telling right from wrong - for example, theft is wrong because it subverts the basis of social life and the  
right to private property  
Divine law has to do with morality as revealed by God - for example, that when someone wrongs you, you should respond  
with mercy and forgiveness instead of justice  
Again in the first reading, God says He will write His law, His divine law, upon our hearts - Jeremiah goes on to say that  
God will forgive their evildoing and remember their sins no more - again, God's divine law is about forgiveness and  
mercy; not revenge, or even justice  
In John 3:35, Jesus says people will know you are My disciples if you love one another - we are God's people by virtue of  
our baptism - but that becomes evident by the way we love and forgive one another  
Sometimes to love well, we need to sacrifice our own desire for justice and revenge and instead offer mercy and  
forgiveness  
We are able to do this only by the grace of God, by the graces won by Christ on the Cross  
In our second reading from Hebrews, the author says that Jesus became the source of our salvation for those who obey  
Jesus  
Jesus took justice upon Himself by dying on the Cross so that we can receive not justice, but mercy from God

Jesus took on flesh - Jesus took on our human nature so that He could suffer death, death on the Cross - throughout His time on earth with a human body, He prayed constantly for us to God the Father, but especially during His passion and being on the Cross

In the Gospel Jesus says it even more plainly - He says that unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat - but if it dies, if it is buried into the ground, if it spends time in the darkness underground, then it will produce much fruit

Jesus died on the Cross, Jesus sacrificed, out of love for us - the fruit - eternal salvation is now offered to billions of people

Jesus says if we are to be His servants - if we are to be His followers, we too must be willing to sacrifice, to lose our lives Are we willing to lose our lives for Jesus? - are we willing to lose our lives for the sake of eternal life in heaven?

As I have said before, I did not want or desire to be a priest - however, I came to a point in my discernment where I knew I had to trust God with my life

I knew that I had to trust what God wanted for me was better than what I wanted for me - I had to trust that becoming a priest would bring me more joy than getting married, even if I couldn't see how

Speaking of sacrifice, Jesus asks, "Should I say, 'Father, save me from this hour?' But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour

Remember the scene at the wedding at Cana - to run out of wine was a huge social no-no - so Mary intercedes for the couple and asks Jesus to perform a miracle - Jesus responds, "My hour has not yet come." - Jesus knew that once He started, it would end in the Cross, in this hour - Jesus knew that this first miracle in Cana would lead to His death on the Cross

The hour Jesus speaks of is His death on the Cross - this was the main reason Jesus took on our human nature - this was the main reason He took on a human body - was so that He could suffer for our sins and die on the Cross

Just like action movies, the Cross is the pinnacle, the climax, not of a movie, but salvation history - this was the ultimate triumph of good over evil - as Jesus says, "It was for this purpose that I came to this hour."

Hopefully you have had one or more experiences where you could say, "I existed for this purpose. I existed to do this for someone else. I existed to make a difference in this person's life."

In some ways, parents have it easy - obviously your children would not exist without you - even outside of that though, hopefully you have had experiences where you could say that you made a difference in someone else's life - that someone else is better off because you existed - I would bet a million dollars that this required some sacrifice on your part

As we come to the end of this Lenten season, how is the Lord asking you to continue to make sacrifices for the sake of others?