

FROM THE DESK OF MARY SHARON . . .

No ordinary times

by Mary Sharon Moore

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The times we live in are not ordinary times.

This Lent, therefore, cannot be an ordinary Lent, nor can our Easter Triduum be a carbon copy of what we have done in the past.

And Pentecost must register as something mightier than a Sunday celebration wedged between Mother's Day, Dads-n-Grads, and the launch of the summer season.

Because these are not ordinary times, we are assured of this: There is nothing ordinary in God's calling of men and women of faith to come forth with grace and selfless courage to share the fruits of Jesus' resurrection with a confused and fearful world. Our profession of faith must find fresh, bold expression in the decisions we make to follow, stand with, die and rise with, the One who loves us

eternally and beckons us to share in his work of redemption.

In these extraordinary times, we faithfully pray for "an increase in vocations." But more important than praying that God will call (God already has and will continue to call), we must pray that men and women of faith will awaken and respond generously to God's movement in their life through ministry or mission. And after we rise from prayer, we must act in fresh, bold ways to help one another to discern God's calling and to respond whole-heartedly.

In this Lenten season, we pray, "Grant us, O Lord, a heart for this world—a heart like your own."

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