

Today's Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent is so inviting, so intriguing.

"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and He remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to Him.

A smart-aleck might say, "What was the driving — a Ford, a GMC, a Jeep 4-wheel drive, or was it maybe a Fiat like Pope Francis?"

Now, that is a good starting point, but certainly one needs to move beyond that introductory level. What does it mean to be driven? How valuable is it? What are the values and what are the drawbacks in being driven?

How much drivenness do I need — could I need in my life?

Am I aware of that drivenness in my life? What specific areas of my life?

Have you ever felt the Spirit driving you?

How awesome an experience that must be — to feel so compelled by the power of the Spirit to do something definitive — to take some significant action and just totally trust God!

But, Jesus felt it. It was like a communion of God. The Spirit driving Jesus out into the desert to be in communion with His Father. Upon completing those 40-days, He immediately begins His public ministry!

I like to think of those 40 days as a time of retreat — a time of withdrawal — a time away from the world where He could move clearly reflect on His Mission and His ministry in the world.

Why would it not have been the time that He reflected more deeply on the question, "What am I Here on Earth For?"

Would that be a co-incidence, or is it rather a God-cidence that we are reflecting on a very similar question these 40 days — "What on Earth Am I Here for?"

Do I feel driven by the Spirit to reflect on this pivotal question?

Do I feel driven by the Spirit to withdraw — to retreat — to commune with God and reflect on the issue of what purpose does He have for me at this particular point in my life?

Let's do it now — these 40 days!