

*Monthly study guides can be used in personal prayer and for small group reflection.*

## APRIL 2026

### SCRIPTURE

Read: Malachi 3:6-12

### REFLECT:

1. In this passage, the Lord, through the prophet Malachi, contrasts his own unchanging character with the changing affections and varying fidelity of his people. How is this perhaps reflected in our own experiences?
2. The Lord also accuses his people of robbing him by refusing to support the Temple through tithes. Do you think there is more to this accusation than simply monetary concerns? How might this be applicable in our own time?
3. This passage ends with a promise for prosperity at least in terms of agricultural abundance. What does it mean to trust in God's promises? What happens when God fulfills promises in a way or in a timeframe that differs from our expectations?

### READ: A selection from *Via Fidelis* — Chapter 4

God, however, is the author of all things, and he is unchanging. As the prophet Malachi gives witness: "For I the Lord do not change" (3:6). And God desires to teach us so that we can know him and his way, as the Lord Jesus told us: "The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name — he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you" (Jn 14:26). By knowing the Lord's unchanging truth, he becomes a rock and fortress for us, as the Psalmist sings: *Lord, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, My God, my rock of refuge, my shield, my saving horn, my stronghold!* (Ps 18:2)

We cannot love what we do not know. We cannot give to others what we ourselves do not have. And so, we must be true disciples and learn from the Lord. We must let him teach us and show us his way. We are called to trust him and accept his divine guidance and love. As Christians, we must be vigilant and alert, so as not to be caught off-guard (*see* 1 Pt 5:8). We need to stay close to the Lord and let his teachings be a lamp to our feet (*see* Ps 119:105).

As the Lord Jesus says to us: "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (Jn 8:31-32). While the faithful must be attentive to the fallen world around them, the *Via Fidelis* is not the way of paranoia, fear, repression or misery. It is the way of prudence, filial boldness, freedom and joy! We cannot know this way unless we know Jesus Christ and accept him as our teacher, prophet and companion.

### REFLECT:

1. This selection begins with an appeal to the passage from Malachi that we discussed. What does it say about how we place our trust in God?
2. In this selection, the bishop emphasizes that we cannot give what we do not have. What do you think this means and what are the implications of this for our lives?
3. In this selection, while urging us toward vigilance, the bishop also emphasizes that the "faithful way" is a way of "prudence, filial boldness, freedom and joy" and not one of "paranoia, fear, repression or misery." How can we embody this in our way of life?

