



# LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

## offered by Leaders of the Diocese of Toliara



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### Reflection on Buildings & Grounds

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***“You also are like living stones, being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood.” 1 Peter 2:5***

#### **“Building” – a Lenten Reflection**

You may well have heard the story of the man who walked past a building site and asked, “What are you doing?” The first laborer said, “I’m making bricks.” The second said, “I’m building a cathedral.” Back in 2014, I was visiting Toliara,



and there were a group of men making bricks. They were indeed building a cathedral!

I was fortunate to be able to go back to Toliara last year and to see the new cathedral. I was struck by an overwhelming sense that it is the *right* building for its place and purpose. Built with care. Not too big or too ostentatious, but very appropriate for the diocese. And in

daily use for prayer.

What did you do to help build a church today? I've just been struggling with some particularly tedious church accounts. My version of "making bricks." If I keep my head down and just look at the "bricks," it's tedious, time consuming, and I'd rather be doing something else! But if I look up – see that the accounts are part of the functioning of the Lord's church, then I can see glimpses of the "cathedral" that's being built.

Peter says: "you also are like living stones, being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood." (1 Peter 2:5). Sometimes being involved in a church, we're all too aware that we're in the middle of a building site. In the middle of the mess and noise of construction, it's good to keep an awareness that the Lord does have a plan for what's going on – a glorious plan that we're invited to help.

The work in Toliara has moved on: the cathedral is completed, and new churches are now being built across the Diocese – church as building, and more important, church as worshipping congregation. Whether your calling is in Toliara, or closer to home, the call is the same: "Builders wanted!"

To help sustain the building of the church in the Diocese of Toliara, please consider a gift to the Bishop Todd & Rev. Patsy McGregor Diocese of Toliara Endowment Fund. Just click the link below:

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