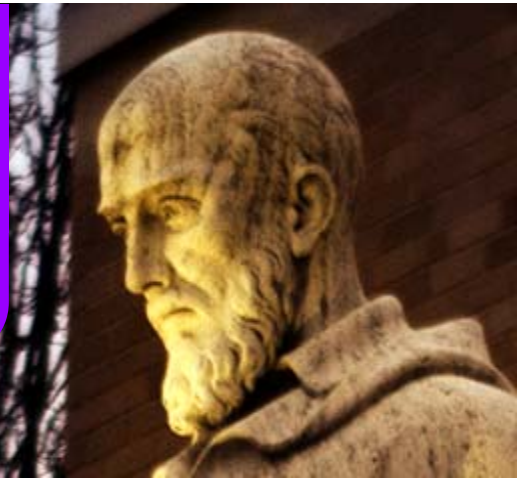


## A Moment With De Sales

Richard R. DeLillio, OSFS

# Protective Wrappings



### A Salesian Lenten Time Reflection



My father had a prized fig tree in our garden. Every winter he covered it carefully with old newspapers, tar paper, and rope. Although unsightly and ugly, these wrappings gave it protection from the chilling winds and freezing temperatures.

In order for the tree to stay alive and produce its fruit my dad had to take these measures. And it worked. When each summer arrived, the fig tree gave its edible

treasures and cooling shade. My dad knew what he was doing.

Lent is here again. It is time to wrap ourselves in the protection of things that will help us yield our own good fruit. Now is the time to renew our hearts, attend to those with whom we live and to invite the Lord within. These are wrappings we need to help us blossom into Christ's disciples. Lent prepares and readies us for Easter's new life.

Francis de Sales' positive spirit is a great encouragement for our Lenten journey. He wrote:

*"Having called you to this life, God will strengthen you with grace to do what is required for God's glory and for your own welfare and happiness, provided you walk simply in faithful observance."*

That's wonderful wrapping as we approach Lent.

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### A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 5:13-14

Jesus said to His disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But what if salt goes flat? How can you restore its flavor? Then it is good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."