

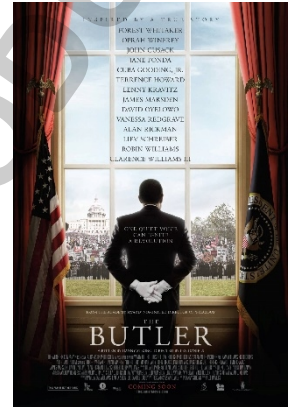
Walking with Jesus: Lent, Year B

Learning through Movies

The Butler

The 2013 film, *The Butler*, is based upon the true story of Cecil Gaines, a White House butler whose service spanned the presidencies from Dwight Eisenhower through Ronald Reagan.

The gospel passages from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday for the season of Lent in Year B can be summarized thematically with seven words listed below. These themes were explored at your recent parish learning session. Continue your learning at home by viewing *The Butler* and reflecting upon the seven themes using the reflection questions below:



Humility: A humble, down-to-earth person reflects the integrity of creation by using gifts in a generous way but with an awareness of how those gifts are one part of a complex network of relationships. How does Cecil Gaines serve with humility?

Desert Time: Alone time can help us integrate our life experiences. How does Cecil use his “time in the desert” to empower him for new life and mission-driven living?

Connected: Life draws its deepest meaning from the connections of love. How do loving connections bring happiness to characters in this story? How does disconnection bring sadness and despair?

Zeal: Someone once said that anger is the emotion that supports evil attacking good and zeal is the emotion that supports good challenging evil. How is this true in *The Butler*?

Healing: How does purposeful perseverance through suffering bring healing both personally and communally in *The Butler*?

Dying: Without death, there can be no resurrection. What slowly dies in the course of Cecil’s life that brings new life to his family and to the nation?

Victory: The gains of the civil rights movement as depicted in *The Butler* included political winners and losers. What other insights about spiritual victory, a victory in which everyone wins, can you discern in the civil rights movement from watching this movie?