

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



On Ash Wednesday we began what the Church calls the “joyful season of Lent.”

Joy is probably not the word that comes to mind when we think of Lent, with its fasting and penance. That is evidence that we need Lent. We have looked for joy and not found it. The Church comes to show us where it is.

Joy is unbidden, it is a visceral response to an event in one’s life. This event, The Event, is the Paschal Mystery of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ’s Passion Death and Resurrection is the event of God’s love for you. The experience of this love allows us to be who we were created to be - sons and daughters of God.

To settle for anything less means to live life with the absence of Lent. Lent means ‘Spring’ or new life. We can only discover this life in Lent, a time of preparation for the joy of the Resurrection. Our fasting, prayer and almsgiving will be done in secret, an interior disposition that will correspond to an exterior truth. We will, with grace of God, voluntarily choose the hard path, the narrow road during these forty days and nights. We will carry in our bodies the dying of Jesus, his hunger, his nakedness, his being forsaken and desolate, his being humbled and betrayed, his want and lack of, his dark night of the soul.

For Christ all of this culminates on the Cross on Calvary, but it is prepared by the Lent he lived in the desert of temptations, where for forty days and nights he voluntarily was subject to the same spiritual battle each of us faces every day.

We have found that we are unable to win this battle, we have been vanquished. We have fallen when faced with our daily temptations, the insinuations of the evil one that we are not loved by God. Lent gives us the opportunity to experience in Christ that we are not forsaken, that we are not unloved, that we are not desolate. This can be experienced by the fact that Christ is with us in our darkest moments, in our weakness, in our depressions, in our crises.

Lent allows us to experience the joy of the love of God even in the midst of our temptations and of our darkness. The light of the love of God allows us to see that everything contributes to our good, that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Whereas we have fallen in the face of our daily temptations, Christ becomes one with us this lent, and allows us to experience in our flesh, what he experienced in the desert of the temptations. Happy Lent!