

FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As Lent pushes forward and we get closer to Easter Sunday, I hope you have received many graces and have been able to grow closer to the Lord through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We still have a couple of weeks to take advantage of this holy time. I found this list of suggestions for things we can 'give' and 'give up,' *asking the Lord's help of course*, that are different from the usual things that might come to mind.

Suggested things to GIVE and GIVE UP during Lent

Give thanks	Give up complaining
Give compliments	Give up harsh judgments
Give forgiveness	Give up revenge
Give encouragement	Give up negativism
Give hope	Give up despair
Give attention to virtue	Give up sin
Give time to prayer	Give up wasting your time
Give respect	Give up prejudice
Give help	Give up selfishness
Give time to God	Give up what keeps you from God

The above suggestions seem helpful as they are different from 'giving' material goods or 'giving up' chocolate. Here is a question: do you find yourself in a battle against pride during these 40 days? Regarding pride, St. Augustine once said, "There never can have been, and never can be, and there never shall be any sin without pride." Check out this 'Litany of Humility' by Rafael Cardinal Merry del Val who was the Secretary of State for Pope Saint Pius X (read down the two columns, starting on the left).

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, Hear me.
From the desire of being esteemed,
Deliver me, Jesus.
From the desire of being loved...
From the desire of being extolled...
From the desire of being honored...
From the desire of being praised...
From the desire of being preferred to others...
From the desire of being consulted...
From the desire of being approved...
From the fear of being humiliated...
From the fear of being despised...
From the fear of suffering rebukes...
From the fear of being calumniated...
From the fear of being forgotten...

From the fear of being ridiculed...
From the fear of being wronged...
From the fear of being suspected...
That others may be loved more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.
That other may be esteemed more than I...
That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease...
That others may be chosen and I set aside...
That others may be praised and I unnoticed...
That others may be preferred to me in everything...
That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should...

Sometimes it is hard to believe how pride touches so many aspects of our life. Lord, have mercy.

One last thing. Bishop Michael Saporito will celebrate Holy Thursday here with us at Our Lady Mother of the Church. I cannot think of a better way to begin this year's Easter Triduum.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Jason". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.