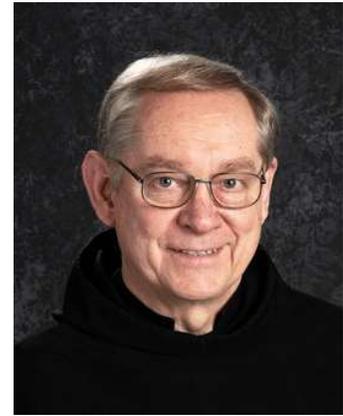


Sunday, March 10, 2019



**Sisters and Brothers of Our Parish Family,**

How blessed we are as Catholics that Holy Mother Church offers us so many grace-opportunities during the forty days of Lent! Hopefully, we will all adopt a specific penitential practice that will best help us grow spiritually and nurture that healthy relationship we desire with our Lord.

A good number of us were here for+ Mass on Ash Wednesday. But receiving ashes is of little value if that is the extent of our Lenten observance. The Church offers us ashes on the first day of Lent to help put us in a mind-set of prayerful introspection as we prepare ourselves spiritually to celebrate the priceless Gift of our redemption.

Mass—our greatest act of worship. How privileged are we as Catholics to be with Jesus *physically present* to us at every Holy Sacrifice! Why would any Catholic not *yearn* to be in the *Real Presence of our Lord* as often as possible at Holy Mass? I encourage every parishioner whose schedule permits to come to weekday Mass at least once or twice each week during Lent.

What better time than Lent (there is no better time) to receive the Sacrament that returns our soul to that spiritual state of innocence of our Baptism Day! When we allow Jesus to come to us in the Sacrament of Confession, He *guarantees* us that, by this Sacrament, no matter what our sins are, as we confess them, He forgives them through the sacramental administered by the priest. Jesus further pledges to be our Rock of Strength in our future struggles against the false promises of the evil one.

Ash Wednesday ashes remind us of the hunger and thirst we all have for deeper spiritual union with our Lord; Lent is about our ongoing desire to turn our lives over to Him as His faithful disciples. I pray that you will meet Jesus in sacramental confession at least once during Lent and that this year's Holy Season will be a wonderful spiritual journey for you.

Peace and Blessings,

**Father Conrad**