



**United Independent Catholic Church
Office of the Presiding Bishop**

Dear members and friends of the United Independent Catholic Church:

We soon begin the Liturgical Season of Lent. This is a time of grace where we come to encounter the love and mercy of God. It is during this season that through prayer and fasting we can come to the knowledge that we have all sinned and fallen short of the Kingdom of God. It is a time for us to listen to the loving messages that are given to us through the reading of scripture during the celebration of the Eucharist.

During this graced time we are led to the desert where we realize our need for God's presence and the love that God offers us. We experience our emptiness and longing for God's assurances that his spirit is always with us. It is a time when we empty ourselves of our hearts of stone and transform our hearts to accepting and sharing the grace that God offers us every day.

This journey in the desert affords us the ability to return to our live's journey to God and our neighbor. We become seekers of our baptismal mission of proclaiming the Kingdom of God by our daily lived experience. We begin to put on Christ and become Christ for our brothers and sisters in and out of the faith. This is a time when love becomes real and helps us to walk in the paths of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

During this graced time let us pray more, empty more, give more, accept more and share more. Let us long for the healing waters of Baptism where our sins are washed away and we are made whole. The journey in the desert makes us hungry and thirsty for the joys of Easter. This thirst and hunger will afford us to enter into the fullness of our redemption. We become one with Christ and experience the heart wrenching joys of his resurrection.

My friends, let us begin this journey with hope and support each other as our transformation begins. I will keep each and every one of you in my heart. I will take each and every one of you in prayer and I humbly ask that you might pray for me as well.

May this graced season transforms us into the Easter people that we are called to be!

Sincerely,

Jerry A. Wood Jr.
Presiding Bishop and Servant