



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

Dear Members and Friends of the UICC:

Tomorrow we begin our Lenten Journey. This season calls us to die to ourselves so that we can rise with Christ in His glory.

This journey need not be a season of self-blaming or giving up anything. It is a time of changing our horizons that separate us from God to a new direction of holiness. This journey will take us into the desert where through fasting, praying and alms giving we come to the realization that God calls us to be whole and at peace. God constantly calls us to himself and never gives up on us as we travel away from the love that he so desperately wants to give.

In the fullness of time, our loving God sent to us a savior, his only begotten son. Jesus took upon himself all of our sin and through his supreme act of love died that we might have everlasting life. Yes, Jesus died on a cross, but because of his dying he was raised from the dead. We, who are baptized, are called to do the same so that like him we can rise to new life.

During this time of grace, let us enter this season with hope and expectation. Lenten observances are very positive and helps us to enter fully into the Paschal Mystery. During this time, make it a time of prayer and try to go to church every Sunday and other liturgical celebrations, such as Stations of the Cross. Meditate with Scripture and take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Be creative and have two meatless meals a week and what you save on that meal, give to the poor. Volunteer work is also good as you share your valuable time with those in need. The list goes on, but in this journey we will encounter the love of God that passes all understanding.

It is my hope that during our Lenten journey we might encounter the fullness of grace that God offers us every day.

Prayerfully,

+Jerry
Servant