



United Independent Catholic Church

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Dear Members and Friends of the United Independent Catholic Church:

As we enter into the liturgical season of Lent, I would like to share with you what this privileged time is about. While people say that they are going to give this up or that up, this season is not about giving up anything. This is a season of emptying in us what prevents us from receiving all the gifts that God has to offer. It is a time for a time of dying to self so that we, like Christ, can rise to everlasting life. It is a time to travel with Jesus in the desert to truly be hungry and thirsty. It is a time to change horizons from sin to a closer relationship with God. This makes us receptive to the joys of Easter.

During this season we can do a number of things that help us prepare for the joys of Easter. Prayer is essential during this Lenten Season. Take time to be with God and listen to what is being said to you. Read Sacred Scripture, particularly some of the Old Testament prophets like Isaiah, Joel, Zechariah, and Nehemiah. Read the Gospel accounts of the healings of Jesus, His compassion for the lost sheep of Israel and the cCucifixion story.

Another way to observe Lent is to eat simpler meals and then donate what you would have spent to the poor. Fasting helps us enter into prayer and openness to see where we need to change. Go to church and experience with the faith community the saving power of God. Volunteer at soup kitchens, visit the shut-ins, donate to food banks, make yourself available to all that are in need.

This time of penance is an ongoing journey. Even though the Lenten season is only 40 days, we should never think that these observances should stop after Lent. The observances speak to the realization that we are always seeking a closer relationship with God and His people.

It is my prayer for you that this privileged season will find you ready for the joys of Easter and that you continue to seek a closer relationship with God. He continues to call to us a closer relationship. My prayers go with you as we prepare for the joys of Easter.

Faithfully,

Jerry A. Wood, Jr.
Servant