

SAINTLY WISDOM: Lenten Love of Neighbour

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Lent is a season of intense prayer, fasting and concern for those in need. It offers all Christians an opportunity to prepare for Easter by serious discernment about their lives, with particular attention to the word of God which enlightens the daily journey of all who believe.

This year, as a guide for our Lenten meditation, I would offer a phrase taken from the Acts of the Apostles: «It is more blessed to give than to receive» (Acts 20:35). What we have here is not simply a moral exhortation, or a command which comes to us from without. The inclination to give is rooted in the depths of the human heart: every person is conscious of a desire to interact with others and everyone finds fulfilment in a free gift of self to others.

Our age, regrettably, is particularly susceptible to the temptation toward selfishness which always lurks within the human heart. In society generally, and in the media, people are bombarded by messages which more or less openly exalt the ephemeral and the hedonistic. Concern for others is certainly shown whenever natural disasters, war and other emergencies strike, but in general it is difficult to build a culture of solidarity. The spirit of the world affects our inner propensity to give ourselves unselfishly to others and drives us to satisfy our own particular interests. The desire to possess ever more is encouraged. Surely it is natural and right that people, by using their own gifts and by their own labour, should work to obtain what they need to live, but an excessive desire for possessions prevents human beings from being open to their Creator and to their brothers and sisters. The words of Paul to Timothy remain relevant in every age: «The love of money is the root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced their hearts with many pangs» (1 Tim 6:10)! [...]

The love of God poured into our hearts ought to inspire and transform who we are and what we do. Christians must not think that they can seek the true good of their brothers and sisters without embodying the charity of Christ. Even in those cases where they might succeed in improving important aspects of social or political life, without charity every change would remain short-lived. The possibility of giving oneself to others is itself a gift which comes from the grace of God. As Saint Paul teaches: «God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure» (Phil 2:13).

To modern men and women, often dissatisfied with a shallow and ephemeral existence and in search of authentic happiness and love, Christ offers his own example and issues the invitation to follow him. He asks those who hear his voice to give their lives for others. This sacrifice is a source of self-fulfilment and joy, as is seen in the eloquent example of those men and women who, leaving all security behind, have not hesitated to risk their lives as missionaries in different parts of the world. It can also be seen in the response of those young people who, prompted by faith, have embraced a vocation to the priesthood or the religious life in order to serve God's plan of salvation. It is likewise the experience of the growing number of volunteers who readily devote themselves to helping the poor, the elderly, the sick and all those in need.

It is my fervent hope that believers will find this Lent a favorable time for bearing witness to the Gospel of charity in every place, since the vocation to charity is the heart of all true evangelization. To this end I invoke the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church and pray that she will accompany us on our Lenten journey. With these sentiments I affectionately impart to all my blessing.

Saint John Paul II, Abridged Message for Lent 2003

ANNOUNCED MASSES
March 23rd – 31st, 2019

Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Mar. 23rd	Sunday Vigil Beverly Piper – RIP – by Linda Piper
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Mar. 24th	Third Sunday of Lent <i>Pro Populo</i> Siran Kehishian Akelian – RIP – by Joseph Akelian
Monday 9:00 a.m.	Mar. 25th	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD Noel Atas – RIP – by the family
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	Mar. 26th	Weekday Adrian de Souza – RIP- by the family
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	Mar. 27th	Weekday Theresa Mary O'Neil – RIP – by the Ladies' Auxiliary
Thursday 9:00 a.m.	Mar. 28th	Weekday Raymond Jack – For Spiritual Guidance and Protection
Friday 9:00 a.m.	Mar. 29th	Weekday Marie Simmons – Special Intentions
Saturday 4:30 p.m.	Mar. 30th	Sunday Vigil Theresa Helferty – RIP by Joan
Sunday 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Mar. 31st	Fourth Sunday of Lent Living Members of the Borges and Alvares families Bruna Alesi – RIP – by her parents

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace.**

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS



To our dear parishioners who used the envelope system for the weekly donation to the Parish in 2018, your income tax receipts are ready at the **Sacristy**. Please pick up your receipt either on the weekend after Mass or during the week, Monday to Friday, from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Thank you.

WAY OF THE CROSS



Everyone is invited to the Way of the Cross **every Friday at 7p.m.** during this Lenten season.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE - CARITAS CANADA LENTEN CAMPAIGN

This year, the D & P campaign's theme is **Share the Journey**, a look at the work being done by partners in the Global South to help and support forced migrants. More than ever before families are being forced to leave their homes and live in refugee camps.

This Share Lent, let's create a culture of encounter. For this year's Share Lent, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada encourages us to reach out to forcibly displaced persons and to share their journey. How?

- 1) Donate online at devp.org/give or give during the Solidarity Sunday collection on the 5th Sunday of Lent on April 7. The funds collected are used to support over 162 projects in 37 countries around the world!
- 2) Take part or organize a solidarity walk in solidarity with forcibly displaced persons: devp.org/walk
- 3) Read the Development and Peace Share Lent materials as a way to encounter children, women and men who have been forcibly displaced and to learn how their partners are making a difference. For more information, please contact your D & P parish representative or visit this website : <https://www.devp.org/en/lent>. (*The Grapevine, Issue 5, Vol. 14*)

BE MY DISCIPLES NEWS

REMINDERS:

Holy Spirit Day – March 31st (Cathedral for Confirmation of Candidates)
Confirmation – Saturday, June 8th at 4:30 p.m.
First Eucharist – Saturday, June 15th, at 4:30 p.m. Mass

Please pray for our children and their families as they prepare for their sacraments.

HOLY HOUR



Silent adoration every Tuesday evening, following the 7:00pm mass (from 7:30pm to 8:30pm) Also, Adoration every Friday, following the 9:00am mass (from 9:30am to 10:30am). Come and spend some time with the Lord!

"Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Eucharist will obtain a more abundant measure of grace." -St.Alphonsus Ligouri