

My Dear Friends,

As I write this article we are in the middle of Lent. Behind us are the dark days of winter and Ash Wednesday. In front of us are the days of spring with the celebrations of Easter. The Easter Triduum is the high point of the liturgical year. The Last Supper, Good Friday and Easter mark why we are Christians and, yes, why we are Catholics. In many ways much of our lives reflect these realities in many ways.

I am aware that all of our parishes are going through the Together in Faith II program at this time. Many others are getting ready for the Changing Lives Together Financial Drive program. There is fear, questions, strong feelings, concern and many other emotions about both of these programs. I know that they are needed for many reasons such as planning the future of the Archdiocese with fewer priests, putting the Archdiocese on a strong financial footing for the future and the opening up of communication between all concerned. I know all these things to be true and, yet, I know that all of us have strong emotions about each of these programs.

You are probably wondering right about now what all this has to do with Lent, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. I do not mean this as a commercial. I view it as a reality in all of our lives. There is always a dying to ourselves. Sometimes it means embarking out into new adventures when we cannot see the end. Sometimes it has to do with being secure enough to believe that God will see us through. While there is a lot of work involved with these projects I know that they will be successful. I have this faith in God and in each of you. We all see this as a time of tension and perhaps the future as holding signs of death. Yet, there is always an Easter after each Good Friday. The Archdiocese will be better and stronger for both of these processes. We will have something strong to pass on to our children.

All this being, said I really want to wish everyone a great Lent and a joyous Easter. It is the basis of our Faith that the Lord was born, lived, died and rose for us that we might live eternally. There is much to celebrate in these truths. Faith is more than just listening. It is more than just accepting. It is about experiencing. May the experience that is Faith be yours, now and always.



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Vicar