

Some Thoughts For Lent

from Gary Texter, Pastoral Assistant

From the homily at last Sunday's Mass yesterday, I took away the word **awareness**. As Father Tim explained, the young Monk asked the older, wiser Monk what he must know. And the older Monk, his superior, kept writing AWARENESS every time he asked.

As we think of LENT, a time we look to prayer, fasting, and Almsgiving, this is also a time to increase our awareness - of God's ever presence in our lives, and our brothers and sisters. Many people think first to give up something for LENT - maybe candy, or some food or beverage, or less time on TV, or something else. I hope it can be a time for many to help us live our Parish's mission statement: *"To live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ through our EUCHARISTIC Celebration, our prayers, our works and by reaching out to others with compassion and joy."*

Fasting and prayer can help enhance our awareness. By giving up something, maybe some dollars can be freed up to help someone in some way. As laity we are out in the world and have opportunities each day to be aware of ways we can show Christ's love to others. Maybe by helping someone who is homeless or in need. Maybe there is someone at work who needs a non-judgmental ear to listen.

As we heighten our awareness during this season of LENT we will see many opportunities within our own parish to be the face of Christ to others. Maybe it's making the new parishioner feel welcome, maybe it's contributing to the food pantry or putting something extra in the collection, or maybe it's noticing that someone wants to go to the corned beef dinner but budget is tight and anonymously giving Alms by buying the person's ticket and saying nothing to them. It can also mean being even more Aware and present at the Mass and truly appreciating the wonderful gift Christ has given us in the Eucharist . . . and then bringing that into our lives and interactions with others as we are sent forth.

Let us together look forward to the many opportunities given to us this LENT.

God Bless You All.