



Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

*"Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. Above all it is a time of Grace."*

– Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2015



This week many of us marked the start of our Lenten journey with an ashen cross on our foreheads. The ashes are a reminder to us for our need for God's mercy and forgiveness, a reminder that we need God in our lives to be truly happy and fulfilled.

We receive the ashes on our foreheads not with gloom but with joy, for we know that if we allow Him to do so, the Lord will take us in our sinfulness and transform us into images of His love. How do we get from here to there? The roadmap of our Lenten journey can be found in three words: prayer, fasting, almsgiving.

The [Archdiocese](#) and the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#) have developed a number of resources to assist you in your Lenten journey. You will find links to the readings of the day, Lenten prayers, and information about a program to welcome you back to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, *The Light is on for You*. There is also information about the practice of fasting and abstinence and about Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl campaign to assist in ending world hunger.

May your Lenten journey be a fulfilling and fruitful one. Please be

assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones this Lent.

Faithfully in Christ,

*+ William E. Lori*

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