

newbee

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNION
PARTICIPATION AND MISSION. (MATTHEW 5: 13-16)

MONTHLY FOCUS
CELEBRATING
HUMAN
FRATERNITY



A SEASON FOR OPENING DOORS

On 14th February, the entire Church observed Ash Wednesday. It marked the start of the Season of Lent. Lent is a time of reflection, repentance and reconciliation. We reflect deeply on our lives, repent for those areas that harm our friendship with God and be reconciled with Him. To help us on this journey of transformation, the Church encourages us to practice almsgiving, fasting and prayer.

“Lent is the road leading from slavery to freedom, from suffering to joy, from death to life.”

Pope Francis



SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Gen 9: 8-15;
Ps 24: 4-9;
1 Pt 3: 18-22;
Mk 1: 12-15.

Coincidentally, on 20th February, the world observes ‘World Social Justice Day’, which is organised by the United Nations. Its purpose is to help humanity focus on social justice issues and work towards social equality in areas such as poverty, gender equality, unemployment, human rights and other areas. But what has this to do with Lent?

In his 2017 Lenten Message, Pope Francis stated that, “Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognising in them the face of Christ... **Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love**”.

As such, during Lent we are invited to “open the door” not only to God, but also to our neighbour, most especially the poor, marginalised and oppressed. Lent is a sacred “time of grace” given to us to experience personal conversion by drawing closer to God, and also undergo communal conversion by drawing closer to our neighbour.

In this regard, it would be helpful to ask ourselves: “In what way can the Lenten practises of almsgiving, fasting and prayer help me to work towards greater social equality in my home, neighbourhood, workplace and society?”

The first reading reminds us that the Covenant that God made with Noah is meant to re-establish the relationship between God and humanity that was damaged because of sin. It is noteworthy that God chose the rainbow as the sign of the Covenant. A single rainbow has seven different colours. Humanity consists of people from diverse ethnic, religious, cultural, social and economic backgrounds, and yet, we form a single human family.

Therefore, during this Season of Lent...
“... may our fasting be a hunger for justice, our alms an offering of peace, and our prayer a reflection of humble and grateful hearts.”
(Prayer for Lenten Solidarity, Catholic Relief Society) ✦