

Easter 2008

My dear friends in Christ,

Peace be with you always!

Holy Week (March 15th – 23rd), which begins with Palm Sunday, is fast approaching. I pray that your Lenten journey has been spiritually nourishing and fruitful. I pray too that you're indeed going to take time from your often busy lives to participate in your Holy Week celebrations.

At the back of this letter are schedules for **CONFESSIONS AND HOLY WEEK CELEBRATIONS**. Please put it somewhere visible and easy to find! Once again, I want to remind you that we are requesting donations of Easter Lilies and white or yellow mums (if you wish) in memory of a loved one who passed away. Please drop them off in the Msgr. Flynn Room during the Holy Week.

Lent is for us the privileged season of change, of renewal, of transformation. It is a season of change because God is calling us *'to rend our hearts and not our clothing.'* (Joel 2:13). It is a season of renewal because it's calling us for total conversion. Lent involves the whole person: with our hearts we give alms to those in need; with our hearts we pray to our heavenly Father who meets all our needs; with our head we fast. May we thus strive to overcome our sins through prayers, fasting and works of mercy! It is a season of transformation because it's calling us to help change the world --- from injustice into integrity, from hatred into kindness and friendship. I know we are afraid of change, especially at the cost of ourselves. But let us not forget that the reward is great; that is, life eternal.

I continue to thank you for the tremendous support you have given me and the parish. It's a joy and a great blessing to journey with you – personally, spiritually and as a parish family.

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, I wish you and your family a most blessed, and fruitful Easter! May this season of grace bring us closer to God and to each other! May our lives truly be a reflection – in word and in deed – of Christ's saving love!

Sincerely in the Risen Lord,
Fr. Rex M. Velmonte