

March 12, 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today is just about the half-way point in Lent. How's Lent going for you? Do you remember what you pledged on Ash Wednesday? Have your pledges of prayer, fasting and works of mercy been kept? Or is there room for improvement? Last Sunday's opening prayer included these words:

Father, you have taught us to overcome our sins by prayer, fasting and works of mercy.

When we are discouraged by our weakness, give us confidence in your love...

If you're discouraged, as I am in some ways, then look upon this half-way point in Lent as a new opportunity to begin again.

Think of Lent not as half-*over*, but as half-*yet-to-come*!



Think of Lent as a glass half-*full*, not half-empty.

If you've not kept your Ash Wednesday Lenten pledges, renew your commitment today. And if you made no pledges on Ash Wednesday to begin with, if Ash Wednesday somehow passed you by, begin today! The lesser failure is to have missed the first half of Lent, the greater failure would be to miss the opportunity of the second half...

As you know from my letters over the past couple of weeks, the Archdiocese of Boston is sponsoring a program in which there will be a priest available for confessions in every church and chapel of the archdiocese on the Wednesday nights of Lent: February 24 and March 3, 10, **17, 24** and **31** from **6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** Our parish is participating in this effort on those dates and at the prescribed time. On most Wednesdays I will be the priest available for confession but on **March 24, Fr. Michael Medas** will be in the Penance Room.

To assist you, I included in the bulletin several weeks ago an insert with a guide for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, with explanatory notes: a refresher on "what to say and do" and, on the reverse side, a guide for examining one's conscience prior to coming to the sacrament. This insert should be helpful to adults and high school students. For those of you who were not here on the weekend of this insert, copies are available at the church doors and will be available in church on the Wednesday nights of Lent. A similar guide, suitable for younger children, will be available in the same way. And of course, in addition to these special times, confessions will also be heard at the regular time: Saturday afternoons from 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Sincerely,
Fr. Fleming