



THE PASTOR'S PEN

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What are You Doing with Lent?

This issue's *Pastor's Pen* is a bit brief and to the point. I have only one question to ask you to consider this fortnight. What are you doing with Lent this year? No, I am not asking what you gave up or what you maybe depriving yourself of these forty days. I am asking what have you been doing differently with yourself and/or what are you planning on continuing during Lent?

Since Lent is really more about what we do than what we do without; what are you doing this season to make your relationship with God stronger? What are you doing to make your faith more practical and more central to the way you live each and every day? That is the key to whole concept of having Lent as a special time in the Christian calendar. It is a time set aside for specialized, intentional, personal spiritual development. So the heart of the question is: are you using Lent this year for the reason it was added to the annual list of the celebrations and the observances of the Church, or not?

If you are using Lent as it was intended, that is great! If you are adding more time during your already full day for extra bible study or more prayer, then it is my prayer for you that God will bless your efforts and help you with your continued spiritual growth. However, if you are just keeping your normal daily schedule and letting the Lenten season pass by without making any extra effort, then you are letting yourself down. By failing to keep Lenten traditions, you are letting one of the best opportunities to get closer to God slip away from you. That may not be such a good idea considering the current social, political and economic conditions that our country is going through right now. Come to think of it, regardless of the social, political and economic conditions that our country is going through, it is never a good idea let God be pushed out of our daily lives for any reason.

However, all is not yet lost, there is some good news. If you are not observing Lent this year, it is not too late to begin keeping the season right now. Even though Lent seems to be rapidly passing us by this year, you can still add a little more time for God into your daily schedule. If you do, I can guarantee that in time it will make a positive difference in your daily life. Once again though, it is a choice that you have to make. So if you are not already doing it, will you make some extra time for God in your life between now and Easter? After all, He has already made time for you in eternity.

Keeping my Lenten traditions,

James