

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It doesn't matter if you are 7 years old or 77 years old - God is about to do something in your life. Whether you come to church only occasionally or every week - ***God is about to do something in your life and in mine.***

Perhaps you're a mom or a dad, busy with a thousand things to do and 10,000 things to worry about; perhaps you're a youngster in the third grade; you might be a middle school or high school student; maybe you're retired; perhaps you live alone; you might be a young single adult; you might be happy or sad, tired or rested; perhaps you are engaged to be married or you may have been recently widowed; perhaps you're separated or divorced; you might be a single parent; maybe you have forgotten about God, or you might think that God has forgotten about you: whoever you are, *God is about to do something in your life and mine.*

Do you have an idea, a thought, a notion of how God might want to touch your life in this season of 40 days? Don't doubt for a moment that God waits to touch your heart this Lent. As a matter of fact, not a day goes by without the Lord reaching out to touch us, to speak to us, to forgive us, to heal us, to comfort and challenge us.

Lent is a time when we make an extra effort, for ***40 days***, to listen for God's word, to ask for his mercy, to open ourselves to his healing touch, and to invite the Lord to enter more deeply into our hearts and lives. At least for a season, we make a special effort to be open to God - and you can be sure that God is ready to take advantage of our seasonal readiness! God is about to do something in your life and mine.

Just what ***IS Lent***, anyway?

Lent is a time for those preparing for baptism (and for the already-baptized) to prepare for the celebration of the Paschal mystery of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. ***Lent*** is a season to do some spring-cleaning in the many rooms of our hearts and to ready them for celebrating God's gift of new life at Easter. ***Lent*** is a season to prepare for Easter by: ***prayer*** (with the faith community and alone); ***fasting*** (learning to hunger for God); and ***almsgiving*** (works of mercy, especially for the poor).

For fasting that leads us to prayer, and for prayer that leads us to serve the poor, let us pray to the Lord...

Lent is a time for getting back to basics: to learn again and to practice for forty days how we should live as Christians every day of the year. ***Lent*** is a time for coming home: coming home to the Church community; coming home to prayer; coming home to God. ***Lent*** is spring training for Christians: a time to get in shape, spiritually; a time to strengthen what is weak within us and tone up the strengths we have. ***Lent*** is a time to make the time to begin to actually do the things we say we want and hope to do - but just never seem to have the time to get around to... ***Lent*** is a time for getting ready to celebrate EASTER! Easter is at the heart of our life as Christians and ***Lent*** is the way to prepare for Easter joy!

God is about to do something in your life and in mine...

Are we ready? Are we open? Are we willing?

Pray with me that our Lenten season will be filled with grace and peace,

Fr. Fleming