

Lent

A path of conversion and hope



Dear friends,

We are preparing for Lent, which always has a profound value and significance that is both spiritual and educational. Like a father or mother who wants to encourage his or her children to make the right choices or correct the wrong ones, Jesus invites us to get back on track, to rise above our weaknesses and recognise our mistakes. Also, this year we are celebrating the "Jubilee of Hope", which adds an extra dimension to our Lent.

When we read Matthew's Gospel, we learn that Jesus, at the beginning of his public ministry, was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil, and that he stayed there for forty days. So we could say that Jesus also lived his Lent: forty days to prepare himself to accept God's will and to give his life for us.

But it is also what happens to all of us, every time we want to get back on track with Jesus and follow him at the heart of the important choices in our lives.

If we decide to renew our spiritual life, we will have to face up to our temptations and weaknesses.

But we should be aware that the most insidious temptation is that of mistrust and discouragement. That's why we need to ask God for the gift of hope and become "pilgrims of hope", so that we can fight the doubt that we don't have enough strength to follow Jesus, and nourish the certainty that God is a merciful Father, always ready to forgive us.

All the moments of celebration and prayer that we will experience during this time with our Faith and Light communities will be a precious help, as they will support our friendship with Jesus and improve our attitude of forgiveness.

Blessed Lent journey to you all!

Don Marco Bove
International Chaplain