

Apostolate Letter – March 1, 2007

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Welcome to the season of Lent!

“May Lent be for every Christian a renewed experience of God’s love given to us in Christ, a love that each day we, in turn, must ‘regive’ to our neighbour, especially to the one who suffers most and is in need.”

These are the words of Pope Benedict XVI in his Lenten Message for this year and they are fitting for our letter to the sick and home bound of our diocese.

In his letter the Holy Father reminds us that Lent is a time for us to draw ever closer to Jesus by contemplating His passion and death and to unite ourselves in His sufferings. To unite our own sufferings to Jesus in His sufferings is to unite ourselves also in His love – “Christ ‘draws me to Himself’ in order to unite Himself to me, so that I learn to love the brothers with His own love.”

Try every day to spend some time looking upon the crucifix, contemplating the truth that Jesus freely went through His sufferings and death out of His love for His Father and for each of us. Imagine yourself with Mary looking up into the face of Jesus and within your heart silently express – “My Jesus I love You, increase my love for You and for my brothers and sisters!”

The intentions I wish to propose to you for the month of March are the following:

1. **General** - For listening to the Word of God
That the Word of God may be ever more listened to, contemplated, loved and lived.
2. **Mission** - For training of people committed to the service of the Gospel
That the training of catechists, organizers and lay people committed in the service of the Gospel may be the constant concern of those responsible for the young Churches.
3. **Diocesan** - For us and all the Church
That this Lenten time be a time of repentance and new beginning.

May God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Monroe
Bishop of Kamloops
DJM/dd