



Msgr. Mike's Blog: Spring into Lent

March 2016

The word **Lent** comes from an old English word "lenten" which means springtime. Lent is that season that serves as a bridge which leads us from winter into spring. Lent brings us from all that is cold and dead and barren into a season which is emerging with new life. The warmer weather we gladly welcomed this week certainly shows us that we are well on our way out of winter and moving into a new spring. This will be even more evident this coming weekend when our clocks "spring forward" one hour.

With Lent more than half over we might also look within to see if there is something new emerging in our inner lives. So how is your Lent going? Have you given up? Fallen flat? Wish it were over? If so, do not worry for there is still plenty of time to pick yourself up again and make this season of renewal meaningful.

Perhaps you could focus on actions related to the Jubilee Year of Mercy which we are now celebrating. This Lent we have focused on God's mercy and how we are called to show this same mercy to others. Take a minute and look over the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Pick out one or two of them and think of some concrete action that would put these works into motion for you. Think of something that you could do but have not done this Lent. Do it and then celebrate the ways in which you are growing as we all seek to be *Merciful Like the Father*.

The Works of Mercy

Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the Hungry
- Give Drink to the Thirsty
- Clothe the Naked
- Visit the Imprisoned
- Shelter the Homeless
- Visit the Sick
- Bury the Dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Instruct the Ignorant
 - Counsel the Doubtful
 - Admonish Sinners
 - Comfort the Sorrowful
 - Bear Wrongs Patiently
 - Forgive all Injuries
 - Pray for the Living and the Dead
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