

Lent is a period of 40 days, marked by almsgiving, fasting, and prayer, in preparation to celebrate Easter.



“Life without fraternal gratuitousness becomes a form of frenetic commerce, in which we are constantly weighing up what we give and what we get back in return. God, on the other hand, gives freely, to the point of helping even those who are unfaithful; he “makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good” (Mt 5:45). There is a reason why Jesus told us: “When you give alms, do not let your right hand know what your left hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret” (Mt 6:3-4). We received life freely; we paid nothing for it. Consequently, all of us are able to give without expecting anything in return, to do good to others without demanding that they treat us well in return. As Jesus told his disciples: “Without cost you have received, without cost you are to give” (Mt 10:8).”

[Encyclical Letter FRATELLI TUTTI of the Holy Father Francis on Fraternity and Social friendship]

- Reading of the Book of Joshua 5:9-12. The people of God celebrate Easter, after entering the Promised Land.
- Reading of the second letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians 5:17-21. God, through Christ, reconciled us.
- Reading of the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke 15:1-3.11-32. This brother of yours was dead and has come back to life.

Lord Jesus, with your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free. During this Lent, lead us with your Holy Spirit to live more faithfully in Christian freedom. Through prayer, increase our charity and the disciplines of this sacred Time, and draw us closer to You.

Purify the intentions of my heart so that all my Lenten practices are for your praise and glory. Grant that by our words and actions, we may be faithful messengers of the Gospel message to a world in need of hope and of your Mercy.

Dear friends of the ACI Family, dear Sisters:

Each year, Lent offers us a providential opportunity to go deeper into the meaning and value of being Christian, and encourages us to rediscover God's mercy so that we too may become more merciful to our brothers and sisters.

May we discover and reflect on the practice of almsgiving, so that it allows us to grow in charity and recognize Christ Himself in the poor.

With friendship,

Claudia Iwanica, Isabel Branco, Juan Jairo Lavarde, Silvestra Bardeskar, Vanessa Amarelle,
Sr. Brigit Viji, Sr. Pilar Guzmán, Sr. María Vaz Pinto

International Commission of the ACI Family