



St. Peter Damian Catholic Church

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Lent 2014

I greet you in the words of St. Paul: *“Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!”* (2 Thes. 1:2)

As the holy season of Lent approaches, I take this time to thank you for your generous and faithful commitment to St. Peter Damian Catholic Church. Your prayers and good deeds are greatly appreciated. They signify the presence of the Holy Spirit. They also allow us to be active participants in the New Evangelization.

All of us are truly forming a Church family that is evangelizing and, at the same time, is being evangelized. We are a community of lifelong learners. We are disciples of the Gospel of life. We wholeheartedly embrace the deposit of faith and joyfully live it. As St. Peter recaps: *“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence.”* (1 Peter 3: 15-16)

Lent gives us plenty of opportunities. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are key personal responsibilities of our faith; the minimum expected of us to show our appreciation for God’s gift of divine life. When we practice them on everyday basis, our faith grows to the point that our love for God is visible in our love for our brothers and sisters.

In our efforts to observe the Lenten practices we should not miss the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:23-24: *“Don’t begin prayer or any religious act without first seeking forgiveness and reconciliation with anyone who has anything against you.”* Forgiveness is the heart of the Gospel. After *The Lord’s Prayer* at Mass, we exchange the sign of peace with our brothers and sisters. By this sign we acknowledge with others that we must be at peace and forgiving with others, and that we recognize God as the loving Father of us all.

Invoking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I pray that all of us are “of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble. Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing.” (1 Peter 3: 8-9)

Fr. Walter
Your brother