

# Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

522 Main Street • P.O. Box 399 • Marydel, Maryland 21649-0399

Phone: 410-482-7687 • Fax: 410-482-7253

[www.iccmarydel.org](http://www.iccmarydel.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., 9:30-12noon Fridays, Closed Wednesdays  
*Because of the limited size of our staff, hours are subject to change. It's best to call first.*

**March 5, 2017 – First Sunday of Lent**

## Eucharist of the Lord's Day

**Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.  
7:00 p.m. (in Spanish)

**Weekday Eucharist**  
Thursday 7:00 p.m. (in Spanish)

**Holydays of Obligation**  
As announced in the bulletin

### Reconciliation

After the Sunday morning Masses,  
Thursday evening 6:30pm  
And by appointment at any reasonable time

### Pastoral Care and Liturgy

Very Rev. James S. Lentini, V.F., Pastor  
Rev. Michael Angeloni, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Idongeset Etim, Parochial Vicar

Deacon James M. Tormey, Sr.  
Deacon Sherman Mitchell, III

### Christian Formation

Mrs. Alicia Poppiti, D.R.E.

### Hispanic Ministry

Mrs. Arline Dosman

If you or someone you know is in need of financial assistance, please call

**St Vincent DePaul (302) 670-6702**

## The Sacraments

**The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is the process in which adults and children of catechetical age join the Catholic Church. Please contact Deacon Sherman Mitchell III, our R.C.I.A. Coordinator, for details at 302-492-0753.

Parents wishing to present their children for **Infant Baptism** must participate in an orientation session. Please call the parish office at 410-482-8939 for details.

Please contact Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 about the preparation of young people for **Confirmation**, or about children's first reception of the Sacraments of **Reconciliation** and the **Eucharist**.

Couples planning **Matrimony** meet with the Pastor or one of the Deacons at least one year in advance of the wedding date they are considering. Please call the parish office to arrange for this meeting.

**Pastoral Care of the Sick:** The **Anointing of the Sick** is appropriate for anyone faced with hospitalization or a serious challenge to health. When a hospital admission is planned, please arrange to receive the Anointing here beforehand, if at all possible. Our lay ministers to the sick bring **Holy Communion** to those unable to come to Mass for any length of time. Please call the parish office to arrange for these services.

Your Pastor, Deacons and parish staff members are always happy to speak in confidence with anyone who senses a call to **ordained ministry** or **religious life**.

## Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

This week, I turn this Pastor's Column over to our Holy Father, Pope Francis (edited a bit for brevity). We will return to our regularly scheduled Pastor's Column next week! See you then!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

**Lent is a new beginning**, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive.

Lent is a favorable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. At the basis of everything is the word of God, which during this season we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply. I would now like to consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Lk 16:19-31). Let us find inspiration in this

meaningful story, for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. It exhorts us to sincere conversion.

**I. The other person is a gift.** The parable begins by presenting its two main characters. The poor man is described in greater detail: he is wretched and lacks the strength even to stand. Lying before the door of the rich man, he fed on the crumbs falling from his table. Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change. The parable first invites us to open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it be our neighbor or an anonymous pauper. Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. But in order to do this, we have to take seriously what the Gospel tells us about the rich man.

**II. Sin blinds us.** The parable is unsparing in its description of the contradictions associated with the rich man. Unlike poor Lazarus, he does not have a name; he is simply called "a rich man". His opulence was seen in his extravagant and expensive robes.

Purple cloth was even more precious than silver and gold, and was thus reserved to divinities and kings, while fine linen gave one an almost sacred character. The man was clearly ostentatious about his wealth, and in the habit of displaying it daily: "He feasted sumptuously every day.". In him we can catch a dramatic glimpse of the corruption of sin, which progresses in three successive stages: love of money, vanity and pride:

- **Money.** [St.] Paul tells us that "the love of money is the root of all evils" (1 Tim 6:10). It is the main cause of corruption and a source of envy, strife and suspicion. Money can come to dominate us, even to the point of becoming a tyrannical idol. Money can chain us and the entire world to a selfish logic that leaves no room for love and hinders peace.
- **Vanity.** The parable then shows that the rich man's greed makes him vain. His personality finds expression in appearances, in showing others what he can do. But his appearance masks an interior emptiness. His life is a prisoner to outward appearances, to the most superficial and fleeting aspects of existence.
- **Pride.** The lowest rung of this moral degradation is pride. The rich man dresses like a king and acts like a god, forgetting that he is merely mortal. For those corrupted by love of riches, nothing exists beyond their own ego; money is a sort of blindness. The rich man does not see the poor man who is starving, hurting, lying at his door.

[Thus,] we can understand why the Gospel so bluntly condemns the love of money: "No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money" (Mt 6:24).

#### MASS INTENTIONS:

**Sun., Mar., 5**

**8:30:** Robert Messner

**11:00:** For the People

Misa en Español **7pm** For the People

Thur. Mar., 9

Misa en Español **7pm** For the People

**Sun., Mar., 12**

**8:30:** Frances Comegys

**11:00:** For the People

Misa en Español **7pm** For the People

**Stations of the Cross:**

Fridays during Lent at 7pm in the Church

Mass Intentions for 2017 are still available.

**III. The Word is a gift.** The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us to an experience quite similar to that of the rich man. When the priest imposes the ashes on our heads, he repeats the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". As it turned out, the rich man and the poor man both died [and] discover that "we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it" (1 Tim 6:7). [Then] in the afterlife, the rich man speaks at length with Abraham, whom he calls "father," as a sign that he belongs to God's people. This detail makes his life appear all the more contradictory, for until this moment there had been no mention of his relation to God. In fact, there was no place for God in his life. His only god was himself.

The rich man recognizes Lazarus only amid the torments of the afterlife. He wants the poor man to alleviate his suffering with a drop of water. What he asks of Lazarus is similar to what he could have done but never did. Abraham tells him: "During your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus had his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony." In the afterlife, a kind of fairness is restored and life's evils are balanced by good.

The parable goes on to offer a message for all Christians. The rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers, who are still alive. But Abraham answers: "They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them." Countering the rich man's objections, he adds: "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

At the root of all [the rich man's] ills was the failure to heed God's word. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbor. When we close our heart to the gift of God's word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters.

Dear friends, Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in His word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor. Then we will be able to experience and share to the full the joy of Easter.

+ Francis

#### COLLECTION TOTALS:

**Regular Offertory:** \$4479.70

**Supplementary:** \$ 477.00

**Second Collection Today:** CRS and Latin America

*Your continued support of the work of your Church is much needed, and appreciated.*

*Tax Letters are prepared and available for pick up at the Church Office.*



**Join the Knights of Columbus  
in the Hall THIS MORNING  
at 9am for Breakfast.**

## STEWARSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

### Collection Counters

**Mar 5** Paul & Robin Engstenberg

**Mar 12** Tom & Mary McGowan

**Mar 19** Julia Moore & Paul McQuaide

### Church Cleaning Crew

#### **March 10, 2017 Grupo #6**

Ovidio Roblero, **Natalina Capistran**, Fausto Ortiz, Everilda Pérez, Amanda Salas, Ashley Salas

#### **March 17, 2017 Grupo # 7**

**Rafael Morales**, Marcos González, Osvaldo Miranda Eleazar Santizo, Reyna Morales

### Altar Servers

#### **Mar 12**

**8:30am Mass** – Anna Clancy

**11:00am Mass** – Joanne Santizo & Vince Haass

**Spanish Misa 7pm** – Jeffrey Gabriel & Sofia Ramirez

### Lectors

#### **Mar 12**

**8:30am Mass** – Marilyn Dixon

**11:00am Mass** – Donna King

**Spanish Misa 7pm** – Clara Gonzales, Juan Ramírez

### Eucharistic Ministers

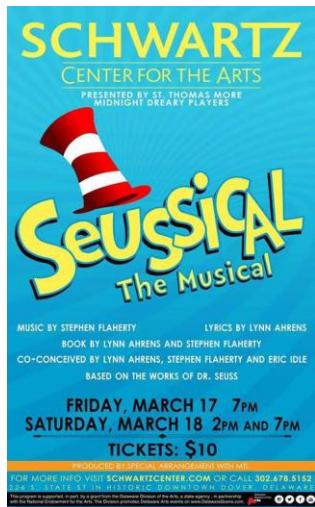
#### **Mar 12**

**8:30am Mass** – Deacon Tormey, Sarah Bell, Karen Durham

**11:00am Mass** – Deacon Mitchell, Alicia Poppiti, Joan Stewart

**Spanish Misa 7pm** – Alberto Morales, Carlos Miguel, Flora Pérez, Miguel López, Antonio Pérez

## The St. Thomas More Academy -Midnight



Dreary Players present "Seussical The Musical" at the Schwartz Center for the Arts on Friday March 17th at 7pm and Saturday, March 18th 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are \$10.

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Sun, Mar 5** 9am Knights Breakfast

**Sun, Mar 5** 9:40am SRE Classes

**Sun, Mar 5** 1pm RICA

**Mon, Mar 6** 6pm St Vincent dePaul

**Mon, Mar 6 & Wed Mar 8** 7pm ESL

**Tue, Mar 7** 6:30pm Communion Prep

**Tue, Mar 7** 7pm RCIA

**Tue, Mar 7** 7pm Juan XXIII

**Wed, Mar 8** 6:30pm 6 Weeks with the Bible

**Fri, Mar 10** 7pm Stations of the Cross

## **Knights of Columbus**



We meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month at 6:30pm. **Come join us!**

For more info, contact Grand Knight, Harry Brown 302-233-8336.

**Follow us on Facebook @ Knights of Columbus Council 12509**

**THANK YOU** to all who joined us at the Shrove Tuesday Supper. The

**Knights of Columbus** wish a most blessed Lent to All.



## Marriage & Family Life Corner

### Marriage Moment –

"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk" (Gn. 12: 1) Moving to a new home can be exciting, exhausting, and scary - all at the same time. Share the best and worst part of a move you've made together.

### Parenting Pointer –

If your child is old enough to choose a Lenten sacrifice, help them to see beyond just giving up candy. Consider how the devil tempted Jesus with food, power, and money. Let the tangible sacrifice be a reminder to love someone who is hard to love.

**Join Come And Seek along with other men like yourself, who think the Lord may be calling them to be a priest.**



+ Saint Francis de Sales Parish Office Complex, located at the corner of Camden Avenue and Wicomico Street in Salisbury, Maryland on March 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. For information, contact Fr. Glenn Evers at (410) 882-3244.

+ Saint Mary of the Assumption Church, 7200 Lancaster Pike in Hockessin, Delaware on March 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Father Chris Coffiey at (302) 239-7100 x 24 for information.

**FROM THE DRE'S DESK**  
**School of Religious Education**

**Religious Education Classes**  
**9:40am-10:50am on Sundays**

**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:**

**First Communion Preparation** – Session #3, Tuesday, February 21, 6:30-7:30pm in the hall.  
**Confirmation Preparation**- Session # 6, Sunday, March 12, 12:30-3:30pm in the hall.

**ADULT FORMATION:**

**Six Weeks with the Bible:** Join us for **Lent on Wednesday's at 6:30pm-8pm** in the office meeting room. **Luke: The Good News of God's Mercy.** If you know you will be joining us or are interested, please contact the office so we may have enough materials for all to attend.

**Answer Bishop Malooly's Invitation to Love Without Measure.**

  
Bishop Malooly invites youth and young adults from all parishes and schools to join him as we come together for the eighth annual **Pilgrimage on Saturday, April 8, 2017**. Young people from across the diocese will carry the diocesan pilgrimage cross through the streets of Wilmington with the bishop as a representation of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem and his journey on Good Friday to Calvary. The day begins at St. Elizabeth parish with opening prayer and a concert featuring Cooper Ray at 10:30 am. We conclude with the 5pm Mass at St. Elizabeth. Don't miss this great opportunity to wrap up your Lenten journey with hundreds of your peers. **Cost for the day is \$15 per person or \$45 max per family (bring your own lunch).** For more information, visit [www.cdowcym.org](http://www.cdowcym.org). To register, please contact Alicia Poppiti at (410) 482-8939.



As we begin the first full week of Lent, Matthew reveals to us the story of Christ's temptation. This passage always provides me with strength and hope as we begin our journey through Lent. It is encouraging to know that, like myself, Christ also was tempted. From this passage we are shown how Christ answered these temptations, by turning to scripture. How often do you turn to scripture or to Jesus himself during your times of temptation? Lent is a perfect opportunity to begin this habit. Lent is a time when we make sacrifices and in making these sacrifices many times we find ourselves tempted. It is at these moments that we should turn to Christ and the scriptures for assistance. This week during times of temptation turn to the One who can assist you like no other. He will surely help you to overcome them.

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

**First Sunday of Lent**

**Theme:** Temptation - What would Jesus do?

**Question for Children:** What do you plan to do during Lent this year as a way of showing you want to grow closer to Jesus?

**Question for Youth:** Jesus was tempted by the devil. How are you tempted? What helps you resist these temptations?

**Question for Adults:** When you yourself pause to be alone with God, what distracts and prevents you from dwelling in that? Busyness? The demands of life? TV? The internet?

**1er domingo de cuaresma**

**Tema:** La tentación, ¿Qué haría Jesús?

**Pregunta para los niños:** ¿Qué planeas hacer durante la cuaresma este año como una forma de mostrar que quieres crecer cerca de Jesús?

**Pregunta para los jóvenes:** Cuando hay silencio a tu alrededor, ¿cómo te hace sentir? ¿Cómo creas momentos de quietud y reflexión para ti?

**Pregunta para los adultos:** Cuando usted hace una pausa para estar a solas con Dios, ¿qué lo distrae y evita su presencia? ¿Las demandas de la vida? ¿El Internet?



**Operation Rice Bowl:**

FIRST WEEK OF LENT

ENCOUNTER INNOVATION

We encounter the Singh family in India, where a mother and father are using innovative farming techniques to feed their family amidst a flood. How is God inviting us to think outside the box in service to others this Lent? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more.

**Catholic Charities asks all its communities to "Stock the Pantry"**



CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
Diocese of Wilmington

by contributing  
nonperishable food goods  
now through March 2017.

"Over 3,000 households in the Diocese depend on Catholic Charities for food assistance, often on a monthly basis. Our Stock the Pantry drive helps us meet the increasing demand we are experiencing," said Richelle Vible, Catholic Charities' Executive Director. "At least 1 in 5 of our neighbors does not have enough to eat on a daily basis, and must choose between buying food and making their rent, mortgage, or utility payment."

Catholic Charities will accept donations at its locations Monday through Friday between 9 am to 4 p.m. Drop off food donations at:

Kent County Office

2099 S DuPont Highway

Dover, DE 19901

(302) 674-1600

Seton Center

30632 Hampden Avenue

Princess Ann, MD 21853

410-651-9608

To make an online monetary donation, visit Catholic Charities' website, [www.cdow.org/charities](http://www.cdow.org/charities). Designate your gift to Food Assistance

## COLUMNÁ DEL PÁRROCO PADRE JAMES LENTINI 5 DE MARZO, 2017.

Estimados feligreses,

Esta semana, doy vuelta a esta Columna del Pastor a nuestro Santo Padre, el Papa Francisco (editado un poco para brevedad). ¡Regresaremos a nuestra Columna del Pastor regularmente programada la próxima semana! ¡Hasta entonces!

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

**La Cuaresma es un Nuevo Comienzo**, un camino que nos lleva a un destino seguro: la Pascua de Resurrección, la victoria de Cristo sobre la muerte. Y en este tiempo recibimos siempre una fuerte llamada a la conversión: el cristiano está llamado a volver a Dios «de todo corazón» (Jl 2,12), a no contentarse con una vida mediocre, sino a crecer en la amistad con el Señor. Jesús es el amigo fiel que nunca nos abandona, porque incluso cuando pecamos espera pacientemente que volvamos a él y, con esta esperanza, manifiesta su voluntad de perdonar.

La Cuaresma es un tiempo propicio para intensificar la vida del espíritu a través de los medios santos que la Iglesia nos ofrece: el ayuno, la oración y la limosna. En la base de todo está la Palabra de Dios, que en este tiempo se nos invita a escuchar y a meditar con mayor frecuencia. En concreto, quisiera centrarme aquí en la parábola del hombre rico y el pobre Lázaro (cf. Lc 16,19-31). Dejémonos guiar por este relato tan significativo, que nos da la clave para entender cómo hemos de comportarnos para alcanzar la verdadera felicidad y la vida eterna, exhortándonos a una sincera conversión.

**1. El Otro es un Don** La parábola comienza presentando a los dos personajes principales, pero el pobre es el que viene descrito con más detalle: él se encuentra en una situación desesperada y no tiene fuerza ni para levantarse, está echado a la puerta del rico y come las migajas que caen de su mesa, tiene llagas por todo el cuerpo y los perros vienen a lamérselas. El cuadro es sombrío, y el hombre degradado y humillado. Mientras que para el rico es como si fuera invisible, para nosotros es alguien conocido y casi familiar, tiene un rostro y, como tal, es un don, un tesoro de valor incalculable. Lázaro nos enseña que el otro es un don. La justa relación con las personas consiste en reconocer con gratitud su valor. Incluso el pobre en la puerta del rico, no es una carga molesta, sino una llamada a convertirse y a cambiar de vida.

La primera invitación que nos hace esta parábola es la de abrir la puerta de nuestro corazón al otro, porque cada persona es un don, sea vecino nuestro o un pobre desconocido. La Cuaresma es un tiempo propicio para abrir la puerta a cualquier necesitado y reconocer en él o en ella el rostro de Cristo. Pero para hacer esto hay que tomar en serio también lo que el Evangelio nos revela acerca del hombre rico.

**2. El Pecado Nos Ciega** La parábola es despiadada al mostrar las contradicciones en las que se encuentra el rico. Al contrario que el pobre Lázaro, no tiene un nombre, se le califica sólo como «rico». Su opulencia se manifiesta en la ropa que viste, de un lujo exagerado. La púrpura, en efecto, era muy valiosa, más que la plata y el oro, y por eso estaba reservada a las divinidades y a los reyes. La tela era de un lino especial que contribuía a dar al aspecto un carácter casi sagrado.

Por tanto, la riqueza de este hombre es excesiva, también porque la exhibía de manera habitual todos los días: «Banqueteaba espléndidamente cada día». En él se vislumbra de forma patente la corrupción del pecado, que se realiza en tres momentos sucesivos: el amor al dinero, la vanidad y la soberbia.

**El Dinero.** El apóstol Pablo dice que «la codicia es la raíz de todos los males» (1 Tm 6,10). Esta es la causa principal de la corrupción y fuente de envidias, pleitos y recelos. El dinero puede llegar a dominarnos hasta convertirse en un ídolo tiránico. El dinero puede someternos, a nosotros y a todo el mundo, a una lógica egoísta que no deja lugar al amor e impide la paz.

**La Vanidad.** La parábola nos muestra cómo la codicia del rico lo hace vanidoso. Su personalidad se desarrolla en la apariencia, en hacer ver a los demás lo que él se puede permitir. Pero la apariencia esconde un vacío interior. Su vida está prisionera de la exterioridad, de la dimensión más superficial y efímera de la existencia.

**La Soberbia.** El peldaño más bajo de esta decadencia moral es la soberbia. El hombre rico se viste como si fuera un rey, simula las maneras de un dios, olvidando que es simplemente un mortal. Para el hombre corrompido por el amor a las riquezas, no existe otra cosa que el propio yo, y por eso las personas que están a su alrededor no merecen su atención. El fruto del apego al dinero es una especie de ceguera: el rico no ve al pobre hambriento, llagado y postrado en su humillación. Cuando miramos a este personaje, se entiende por qué el Evangelio condena con tanta claridad el amor al dinero: «Nadie puede estar al servicio de dos amos. Porque despreciará a uno y querrá al otro; o, al contrario, se dedicará al primero y no hará caso del segundo. No podéis servir a Dios y al dinero».

**3. La Palabra es un Don.** El Evangelio del rico y el pobre Lázaro nos ayuda a prepararnos bien para la Pascua que se acerca. La liturgia del Miércoles de Ceniza nos invita a vivir una experiencia semejante a la que el rico ha vivido de manera muy dramática. El sacerdote, mientras impone la ceniza en la cabeza, dice las siguientes palabras: «Acuérdate de que eres polvo y al polvo volverás». El rico y el pobre, en efecto, mueren,

y la parte principal de la parábola se desarrolla en el más allá. Los dos personajes descubren de repente que «sin nada vinimos al mundo, y sin nada nos iremos de él» (1 Tm 6,7). También nuestra mirada se dirige al más allá, donde el rico mantiene un diálogo con Abraham, al que llama «padre», demostrando que pertenece al pueblo de Dios. Este aspecto hace que su vida sea todavía más contradictoria, ya que hasta ahora no se había dicho nada de su relación con Dios. En efecto, en su vida no había lugar para Dios, siendo él mismo su único dios.

El rico sólo reconoce a Lázaro en medio de los tormentos de la otra vida, y quiere que sea el pobre quien le alivie su sufrimiento con un poco de agua. Los gestos que se piden a Lázaro son semejantes a los que el rico hubiera tenido que hacer y nunca realizó. Abraham, sin embargo, le explica: «Hijo, recuerda que recibiste tus bienes en vida, y Lázaro, a su vez, males: por eso encuentra aquí consuelo, mientras que tú padeces» (v. 25). En el más allá se restablece una cierta equidad y los males de la vida se equilibran con los bienes.

La parábola se prolonga, y de esta manera su mensaje se dirige a todos los cristianos. En efecto, el rico, cuyos

hermanos todavía viven, pide a Abraham que les envíe a Lázaro para advertirles; pero Abraham le responde: «Tienen a Moisés y a los profetas; que los escuchen». Y, frente a la objeción del rico, añade: «Si no escuchan a Moisés y a los profetas, no harán caso ni aunque resucite un muerto».

De esta manera se descubre el verdadero problema del rico: la raíz de sus males está en no prestar oído a la Palabra de Dios; esto es lo que le llevó a no amar ya a Dios y por tanto a despreciar al prójimo. La Palabra de Dios es una fuerza viva, capaz de suscitar la conversión del corazón de los hombres y orientar nuevamente a Dios. Cerrar el corazón al don de Dios que habla tiene como efecto cerrar el corazón al don del hermano.

Queridos amigos, la Cuaresma es el tiempo propicio para renovarse en el encuentro con Cristo vivo en Su Palabra, en los Sacramentos y en el Prójimo. El Señor "que en los cuarenta días que pasó en el desierto venció los engaños del Tentador" nos muestra el camino a seguir. Oremos unos por otros para que, participando de la victoria de Cristo, sepamos abrir nuestras puertas a los débiles y a los pobres. Entonces viviremos y daremos un testimonio pleno de la alegría de la Pascua.

Papa Francisco