

FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER

Have I Got a Deal for You!

I bet you're one of those people who, when you see "60 days to a..." you think it is some rip off that produces nothing of what it promises, whether to lose weight or to become a millionaire through buying up foreclosures. But the Church has a time-tested plan that produces results, and results much better than a sculpted body or \$1,000,000. The **40 Days to Eternal Glory** program (also known as Lent) requires no cash or credit card. It offers eternal life and happiness beyond this world with none other than God. Yes, you heard correctly: Eternal life! (For this special bargain, just enter the code word LENT in your prayers.)

Here's how this amazing offer works. Since you are already baptized, you have the life of Christ within you. You are a daughter or son of God, and a temple of the Holy Spirit. (If you have not been baptized, simply pray at www.gotwater.com and enter the code word PASCHALMYSTERY.) What many people do not understand about these great gifts mentioned above is that they are all interactive. To benefit from them, you have to let the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit into your life to rule your life. Over the years, maybe you let this slide. A little too much anger here, a little too much greed there, a slacking off following Christ. Maybe you have grown hard of hearing to God's call to holiness. Well, **40 Days to Eternal Glory** is just the thing to get you back into a living loving relationship with the Lord, and it can happen in three easy steps (well, maybe not easy, but worth it). Yes, just three easy steps.

The first is **PRAYER**. Not just the rattling-off of words, but taking time to listen to the Lord as well as speak with him. Just find a time and space with some quiet; begin

by asking God to speak to you whatever he wants to tell you, and then sit/kneel there. [SMALL PRINT: You will probably hear nothing, but that is OK because he will speak to you as life unfolds because you took the time to listen.] After giving God some time, speak to him whatever is on your mind. Begin with five or ten minutes a day. Pope Francis said that even if you fall asleep, it's OK. Pray, too for others, because when we do that, we are united with Christ who gave his life for others.

The second step is **FASTING**. First, fast from sin and the things that keep you from being Christ for others. (God doesn't care how many beers, candies, or coney's you give up if it's not drawing you closer to him.) Then you might also give up something you enjoy to be in solidarity with those who have no luxuries in life. Think about them when you are longing for what you give up. Fasting helps us discipline ourselves to be able to even give up what is good in itself to gain something better, a deeper life in Christ.

The third step is **ALMSGIVING**. Begin by looking at your life and asking how you can become more of a "person for others" with your material goods, your time, and your talent. Remember that you meet God in the poor and the needy. When you give to others, you give to God. Don't forget to give patience to those who drive you crazy, and forgiveness to those who hurt you. In that, you do as Jesus does for you and me.

You may think that this offer is too good to be true, but it is one of the few things that is as true as it is good. The secret is that by these steps, you are simply accepting into your heart the life God is constantly offering to you. You aren't earning or piling up points; you will simply be accepting Christ with His cross, so that you may share with Him eternal life and glory.

An Easter of unending joy may we at last attain.