

## Msgr. Bill's Weekly Letter...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I was pleased to hear from several parishioners that they had already made a pledge to the Archdiocesan DSF for the year 2023. I went on the Internet to give my pledge and found out that the page that is used by the Archdiocese has a problem with Firefox. When I moved over to another browser the program worked very well. If you have attempted to give your pledge using Firefox, please use Edge or your phone.

Our goal this year is \$265,000 and I am confident we will reach that goal. If we go over this year's goal, as we have for the past few years, the parish will receive 75% of the overage. The other 25% will go to the aid for poor parishes' fund.

The Archdiocesan DSF it's a very good thing we do as the church in the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston. So many are helped by the generosity of others and I ask everyone to prayerfully ask your heart how much you can pledge. As I said at mass on Sunday, the \$120 pledge is \$10 a month and the vast majority of our parishioners can manage that. Many of us can give much more. I know that \$10 a month may not sound like a lot, but the Lord does not look simply at the size of the gift but rather the generosity of our hearts and our effort to join with so many fellow Catholics in helping support these many ministries.

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This is short article about Lent from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. I have added some emphasis.

*Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy*



*Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ. Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this reflection. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446). In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics.*

Here are two trustworthy sites with some good ideas to help celebrate Lent. The first is from our neighbors to our East, the Diocese of

Houma-Thibodaux, with 10 solid practices <https://htdiocese.org/top-10-lenten-practices>. The second comes from Busted Halo with 25 Great Things You Can Do for Lent, besides giving up chocolate, <https://bustedhalo.com/ministry-resources/25-great-things-you-can-do-for-lent>. Lenten exercises are NOT meant to prove you can do something or to prove one's strength. They ARE meant to help us grow in holiness — if that does not happen we have wasted a gift.

pace – bene,

*Msgr. Bill*

Houma-Thibodaux



Busted Halo

