



March 19, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

Traditionally, Lent has been about engaging the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, self-reflection, and giving alms. The custom of "giving up" something for Lent was meant to create space; space for deeper prayer and greater generosity.

Human beings are forgetful. We tend to lose sight of what makes life worthwhile. We lose sight of the fact that God is supporting and sustaining us in every moment. We need not fear of not having enough; we need not fear that *we* are not enough. We need the spiritual disciplines of Lent to be reminded of this. As we anticipate the light and joy of Easter, giving up something in Lent is a way of renewing our confidence in God's incredible abundance. With Easter on the horizon, we reorder our priorities.

To assist in your Lenten preparations, we have Wednesday evening classes and a Saturday retreat. We offer a full schedule of cathedral classes and Holy Week services* to help you prepare for the fullness of Easter. I can assure you that the more you participate, pray, and serve, the more the you will receive from the glory of the Easter dawn.

Additionally, I invite you to give generously to our special Easter offering which is dedicated this year to combatting gender-based violence in Kenya and Liberia. Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) works tirelessly on education, prevention, and survivor support for the women and girls who are victims of gender-based violence. To learn more, simply go to bit.ly/2Y42Uad on your tablet or smart device.

Please dare to be generous and imagine that each dollar you give will be matched by the Coombe Fund. Join with your Foyer Group, choir friends, or neighbors and find your Easter joy by making life better for women and girls who live half a world away. **Make your Easter offering check payable to "Christ Church Cathedral: Easter Offering," or simply go to cincinnati.catholic.com and click on the "donate" tab at the top of the page.** We will send our matching gift with your gift to Episcopal Relief and Development.

I wish you a most blessed Lent and a joyful Easter.

Faithfully,

Gail⁺

The Very Rev. Gail Greenwell, Dean

*A complete list of offerings can be viewed at cincinnati.catholic.com