

Lenten Message

Dear Rev. Fathers and Brothers,

"For you are dust, and you will return to dust." (Genesis 3:19)

- 1. **Lent is THE FREE COUPON** for an annual pilgrimage a journey within and a journey to the other. "Let us go over to the other side." (Mark 4:35)
- 2. Lent is THE COACHING CAMP to shake away the dust of lethargy and warm up to run to the finishing point. "I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified." (1 Corinthians 9:27)
- 3. **Lent is THE LONG RETREAT** to pray in silence, read and reflect and enhance the quality of our conversation. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41)

- 4. **Lent is THE EXPOSURE** to feel with the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the homeless and the imprisoned as we are on His way. "After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry." (Mathew 4:2) "You give them something to eat." (Matthew 14:16)
- 5. **Lent is THE WAY OF THE CROSS** of self-discipline to leave the way of temptations and to follow the crucified. "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)
- 6. **Lent is THE PATIENT WAITING** for His Third Day. "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!" (Luke 24:5-6)
- 7. **Lent is THE WAKE UP CALL** to set our life in order so that the Spirit can work in us for His Mission. "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you." (Luke 1:35) All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4)

Wish every CMI a holy season of grace to realize what we ought to be!

Fr. Paul Achandy CMI Prior General