

## Notes from the Liturgist...

# LENT

The Lenten season is a fitting time to climb the holy mountain of Easter. This season has two main characteristics. First is to prepare the catechumens for the celebration of the paschal mystery of our Lord. We prepare the catechumens for the rite of election, and the scrutiny rites as a major component of their Lenten journey. The scrutinies are celebrated on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays in Lent. During



this period, extensive catechizing and praying for them so that they will be prepared for the celebration of Christian initiation on Easter Vigil. This period is their final stretch of spiritual preparation before entering into full sacramental life. Second, we, the Catholic faithful, should prepare ourselves by being attentive to the Word of God, by constantly praying to Him and by celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation so that we will be ready in renewing our baptismal promises at Easter. It is our responsibility to walk with the elect in their journey of spiritual cleansing and growth.

The baptismal font and all holy water fonts will be emptied right after the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday until they are refilled with water blessed at the Easter Vigil. This is so that during the whole Lenten season, the baptismal font may remind us of our renunciation of the evil and our profession of faith to Jesus.

Lent is a season of penance. It is also rich in symbolism like water. Through symbolisms, we are being cleansed physically and spiritually. The Holy Water reminds us of our baptism. We die spiritually because of our sin but we are born to new life through the sacrament of baptism.

Baptism is one of the Lenten foundational focuses. Baptism is not only a great gift from God for each of us personally but it is a gift to all humanity. We are not baptized only for ourselves but we are baptized for others. Our baptism commits each and all of us to help others come to know the great divine love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Each time we enter a Catholic Church, we bless ourselves with holy water. Making the sign of the cross, we remember that we are baptized into the life of the Trinitarian God. We are marked living in a perfect communion of love which is in the love Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our fidelity to the grace of baptism draws us more and more into that divine communion of love.

My dear friends, this Lenten season is a season of hope, renewal, and redemption. The Lord reminds us not to limit our focus on the pain and sorrow of the cross but encourages us as well to appreciate better, and hopefully respond positively to the cross' manifestation of great love- a love that says: I'll never give up on you!

- Ace Tupasi