

March 10, 2019

My Dear Cursillo Family,

Our journey in the desert of Lent has begun. We all want to have a productive Lent in which we cleanse our souls and lift our hearts to the Lord. Under the power of the Holy Spirit Jesus goes into the desert to conquer the devil. Like in the Book of Job the devil is prowling about, like a lion looking for someone to devour. We have to see ourselves in the desert because we want to get away from the noise and temptations of the world. Like Job, God allows the devil to tempt us. We are vulnerable but the devil does not have ultimate control of our minds. Jesus wants us to trust in Him. It is when we are tested that our weaknesses show themselves.

Jesus is tempted by the devil for wealth and power. The devil asks Jesus to worship him and Jesus can have everything He wants. Who needs God when all you ever want you can have in this world? This Lent can be a time for us to strengthen our faith in God and to grow in our love for God. Temptations can appear to be God's will. We think that we need something to do God's will when in reality it is something for our own pleasure.

In the third temptation Jesus is asked to jump off the parapet of the temple. Jesus does not have to prove He is the Son of God; His own actions should be proof enough. Many people wanted to see miracles but they were not sincere, they had no desire to change their hearts. Many times instead of trusting in God to help us, we decide that we have to do things ourselves to the point we wear ourselves out. Moses was wearing himself out doing all the judging of so many cases. Jethro, his father-in-law, suggested that he delegate this task to others.

May this be a Lent in which we grow in our faith. Let us take time to examine ourselves with an honest heart. The Church has penance services for many people but it would be better to go when the priest has more time to help us

In the peace of Christ,

Fr. Mark E Mitchell