



...Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them...

Isaiah 58.6,7

**Dear people, the Peace of the Lord be with you.**

We have reached another Lent yet another time, and we will continue this Lent, walking in the certainty that LOVE is the hermeneutic key to every relationship with the Christ who delivers us and with those who are beside us, that person who is our neighbor.

In the context in which we have been living since 2020, a pandemic, it is time to get closer to our neighbor, and not to ask, “who is our neighbor?” Since our neighbors are all the people who suffer. There are more than 240 thousand families around this Brazil that mourn the loss of their loved ones, whose lives were taken by COVID-19.

Thus, this year's Lent calls us to dive much deeper into care: caring for one another, and caring is healing and loving.

The call is to live Lent with love, embraced in the mercy and compassion of God that has no end and that is renewed every morning.

Certainly, when Lent approaches us, each one of us, in our affective and spiritual memory, we remember that it is a time of fasting, reflection, meditation of life in following Christ.

However, this time also brings to mind the poetry of Minister João Dias de Araújo “... what I am doing if I am a Christian, if Christ has given me his forgiveness. There are very poor people without a home, without bread. There are many lives without salvation.”

Hence the importance of thinking that Lent, in addition to being merely a period for individual meditation, is a time to reflect on our actions, gestures and concrete signs as people who follow Christ whose in their attitudes have always expressed love, if with hope and renewing faith.

Lent is an open door for the transformation of life. And to live the full life "I came that they may have life, and life in abundance" (John 10.10).

Lent 2021 brings another challenge to be experienced for the fifth: occasion: the Campaign for Ecumenical Fraternity. This experience of living an Ecumenical Fraternity Campaign began in 2000, and we continued in 2005, 2010, 2016 and here we come to this fifth experience.

This year's theme is FRATERNITY AND DIALOGUE: COMMITMENT TO LOVE, and we are supported by the text of Ephesians 2:14 "Christ is our peace, of what was divided he made a unity".

The theme of CFE(Campaign for Ecumenical Fraternity) 2021 is too important for our context, since we have been shaken by so many news and stories of hatred and aggression and, undoubtedly, Dialogue is the way of Peace.

It is urgent that we realize that life is plural, the world is not single-colored. On the contrary, life is marked by diversity. In this inevitable context of a different world, the dialogue involved in love is the path that will lead us to understand and respect each person's experience.

The theme of CFE(Campaign for Ecumenical Fraternity) 2021 reminds us of one the Church's Mission Marks, which involves us in the practice and expression of following Christ.

It is the Church's mission "To seek the transformation of the unjust structures of society, challenging all kinds of violence and to seek peace and reconciliation

For our world today, it is imperative to speak of dialogue, peace and reconciliation, and according to the apostle Paul calls us to place our hope in reconciliation "... let yourselves be reconciled to God" (II Corinthians 5:20).

The year 2020 was a long period of failing to do, to abstain: We get away from loved ones; we stop having family and friends meetings, we hide our joy behind the masks we keep using, and we just stop doing it.

What to ask for this Lent? I tell you that the challenge I want to leave for this **Lent is the Fast of not failing to do.**

Be sure to make a message every day to one person, there are many people in need of a personal message, do this;

Be sure to participate in the virtual liturgical moments in this Lent, your presence will be a joy for many other people;

Be sure to continue respecting the basic and necessary care to reduce the spread of the virus and to reduce deaths by COVID-19. This care is love.

Be sure to seek scientific information, from reliable sources, regarding the prevention of COVID-19.

Be sure to get vaccinated if the vaccination schedule reaches any social group you are in. Vaccinate for all people. Vaccinate now.

Be sure to ..... (Complete your list yourself)

But especially that it be a Lent of the Fast of not failing to do.

May we go together in Faith, hope and love, certain

That Love casts out all fear.

Brasília, 17 de fevereiro de 2021

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