



## *Lenten Calendar Guide*

### **Highlights from my trip to El Salvador by Deacon Keith Hoffman**

My trip to El Salvador was filled with many wonderful events and experiences. Some of my personal highlights of the trip were visiting the Romero community where the women of the community grow Indigo (a dye to color fabric), process it and sell the finished powder. Another highlight was visiting a former C.I.S. scholarship student, Juan Carlos, and learning about his education in agronomy engineering. We learned how his experiences with California red worms increased plant growth. But the most important highlight for me was when our delegation arrived in San Rafael Cedros, where we received a very warm and wonderful welcome by the scholarship students and their families. Even though we faced a language barrier, it was easy to see from the smiles and joy of being with us that we were among friends. This wonderful sense of

gratitude and hospitality continued as we visited the homes of some of the students and most especially at the home of our host family. These are people that have so little in the way of material possessions, but have huge hearts and great hope for their lives. They are so grateful for how the parishioners at Presentation support their children in school. They understand that education can enhance the future success of El Salvador. With our financial and spiritual help, we can give them an opportunity to achieve their goal of a bright future for their country.

*Use this Lenten Calendar and your Blessing Box to pray, fast, learn, and give in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in San Rafael Cedros, making a positive difference in their lives. Use the suggested sacrificial giving within the calendar, or set your own goals for your personal Lenten sacrifices. Our goal for the year is \$27,400 to sponsor our 32 students for another year and to bring a delegation to Our Lady of the Presentation.*

**“What you give up for Lent changes lives!”**

<b>February 18</b> <i>Read and reflect on Genesis 9:13</i>	<b>February 19</b> <i>Read and reflect on Matthew 25: 37, 40</i>	<b>February 20</b> <i>Read and reflect Psalm 34:18</i>	<b>February 21</b> <i>Read and reflect on Jonah 3:1-10</i>	<b>February 22</b> <i>Read and reflect on 1 Peter 5:2-3</i>	<b>February 23</b> <i>Read and reflect on Matthew 5:23-24</i>	<b>February 24</b> <i>Read and reflect Matthew 5:44, 46</i>
<p>“The rainbow is the sign that God gave Noah that he would never again flood the whole earth. God offered it to us so that every time we see a rainbow, we can be reminded of how he loves us. We experience love through touch, smells, sounds and sights.”*</p> <p><b>Give 5¢</b> to your <b>Blessing Box</b> for each sign of love that you see today.</p>	<p>“Have you noticed how it is easier to be nice to some people than others? Jesus says that anytime we are unkind to any of his people (especially the small, the weak, those who are frustrating or annoying) we are unkind to him. God is asking that we stretch our hearts.”*</p> <p><b>Give</b> kindness, patience or generosity to someone who is not kind, patient or generous to you.</p>	<p>“Sometimes, hard and painful things happen to people. We lose a pet, or a family member leaves for awhile, or even forever. Scripture reminds us that God is close to us when we are sad, when we feel broken and angry and alone – even when we do not feel God close to us.”*</p> <p><b>Learn</b> about the struggles of others by reading the stories in the Lenten Calendar each week.</p>	<p>For God we are not numbers, we are important, indeed we are the most important thing to him; even if we are sinners, we are what is closest to his heart. <i>Homily Pope Francis Diving Mercy Sunday 2013</i></p> <p><b>Give 10¢</b> to your <b>Blessing Box</b> for each piece of clothing you have that is indigo or blue.</p>	<p>“God created us in his image to love. This is the privilege of living, that we get to love like God loves. If we all love really well in our own corners of the world, there will be more than enough love to go around.”*</p> <p><b>Pray</b> for those God has placed in your world to love. Take a walk together as a family.</p>	<p>By fasting we prepare our hearts to encounter our God and our neighbor. Today try a meatless recipe from El Salvador.</p> <p><b>Fast</b> in solidarity with those who are hungry by sharing a simple meal with your family today. Place the money you saved in your <b>Blessing Box</b>.</p>	<p>“If we really want to love others, we must first love one another in our home. Love begins at home, and – love will spread to neighbor, in the street and in the town I live, in the whole world.” <i>St. Teresa of Calcutta</i></p> <p><b>Give 15¢</b> to your <b>Blessing Box</b> if you have more than a 3rd grade education.</p>

\*Practicing Love, by Leah and Robyn Perrault