

Lent One, February 7, 2008  
Bishop's Message to the Diocese of Chicago

## Life in Christ: Thank You

Q: Who do you seek?  
A: Life in Christ

So begins a rite in The Book of Occasional Services to mark the admission of Catechumens, adults who are preparing for Baptism at Easter. It is a powerful moment when it is used in a congregation of people who are willing to accompany new Christians publicly in their journey to the font. Here are the origins of Lent. The candidates for baptism, their sponsors, and the whole congregation moving deeper and deeper into the Mystery of Christ's dying and rising for us and in us for the sake of the world.



There are too many people to thank here individually for the spectacular celebrations last weekend. We can all take pride in the wonderful hospitality, worship and dedication of the Diocese of Chicago. I could not be more delighted to be your bishop, and I thank you all for your prayers, your hard work, and your welcome. It has been an interesting shift to come away from the festivities of the ordination and seating so quickly into the contrasting austerity of Ash Wednesday and on into Lent. But I am grateful for it. In season and out, in good times and bad, in times of joy and in times of sorrow, we are all committed to seeking the one thing most important: Life in Christ.

Sister and brothers, I wish you a holy Lent. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus Christ. Seek life in Christ with all your heart. Let your prayer, your fasting and your works of mercy all be signs of your intention to follow Christ. I rejoice to be here with you, walking the way of the cross. It is none other than the way of life and peace.

Faithfully,

Jeffrey D. Lee  
Bishop of Chicago