

From the Deacon's Wife

How is your Lent going? Did your resolution go out the window when the Girl Scout cookies arrived? If so, all is not lost. You can start again right now. Put the cookies in the freezer, refocus on your resolution, or make a new one. **Find some way to deny yourself, better yourself, and do something positive for someone else.**

If you haven't already done so, one positive action you could take would be to support our parish school. We have heard Fr. Frank talk about the dire financial situation Holy Name School is facing. We have seen the news reports, and read the newspaper. [You can find more information on the situation at: www.helpholyname.org] Yes, many alumni, parishioners, and friends of Holy Name have responded generously, but we still have a ways to go to make ends meet. One of our fourth graders robbed his piggy bank and donated it to "Bigger than Its Boundaries . . ." Consider making an individual sacrifice, or sacrifice as a family, to help Holy Name. You could give up a night out each week and spend that time at home. The money you don't spend on pizza, a movie, or whatever, you could donate to help the school. This practice would actually go beyond helping Holy Name financially. **The action of making this kind of a sacrifice as a family teaches your children that there are things in life for which you are willing to sacrifice.** Spending the time together, perhaps playing board games and talking to each other will strengthen your family relationships. This is a priceless gift to give your children! Talk to them about why you want to help Holy Name. Talk to them about how important they are to you, how you want them to grow up to know what is right and what is wrong – and that you want them to be willing to sacrifice for, and stand up for, what they believe is worth fighting to save.

Take the remaining weeks of Lent to build character in your children, and to examine your own character. Is it strong? Do you want your children to become just like you, or does your character need some improvement? **Does your faith need some bolstering?** Be willing to invest some time in solitude, pondering what improvements need to be made in your spiritual life. Then look around at the opportunities available to you. The parish mission on March 14th & 15th may be just what you need. Or attending the Stations of the Cross may be the meditation your soul is seeking (2:15 PM on Fridays at Holy Name). Or perhaps just spending a little time in the chapel praying will get your Lent back on track.

Consider making this year's preparation for Easter special by changing what you do during Holy Week. **Choose how you want to participate in the events of that first Holy Week.** Perhaps you could schedule the time to attend more of the Holy Week services, watch the movie "The Passion", or spend time reading one of the Gospel accounts of the events leading up to that first Easter morning. **Put yourself in mind of what Christ suffered for YOU, so that you can truly celebrate your own salvation this Easter.** May God bless your preparations for Easter!

Special Note: Copies of earlier "*From the Deacon's Wife . . .*" columns are available on the parish website at: <http://www.holynameomaha.org/>. (Fr. Frank's recent "Letters from the Pastor" are also available on the website.) I always welcome your comments on these columns and encourage you to contact me if you have questions or topics you would like me to address. You may reach me by phone at 319-8730 or e-mail me through Kevin at: kevinjoyce@holynameomaha.org.