

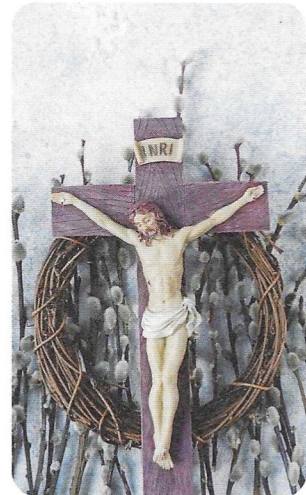
# Dear Padre,

*We're in the middle of home renovations, and the season of Lent is beginning. Everything is in total disarray. Any ideas to help me "keep my religion" at this time?*

"There is...a time to tear down, and a time to build" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 3). During the season of Lent—a word meaning "spring"—we are called to put away the "dead" deeds of winter. It's a time of spiritual "spring cleaning" for the individual and for the faith community. As nature renews herself every spring, so do we. The change of season may even prompt a renovation project—the kind you are now undertaking. The structural changes to a home afford many spiritual parallels—the redoing of your physical home can be a challenge to realign your spiritual home during Lent.

In the Genesis story, God is pleased with the handiwork of his creation. Likewise, our stamina, perseverance, and patience to see a work through to its completion are cause for great satisfaction and celebration. This would remind us that we are made in the same image of God, who took delight in his own work. Lent also can become a time of delighting in ourselves as God's special and ongoing creation.

When your home improvement project is completed, arrange for a blessing of your home. Enthroned a special cross or icon to venerate, light a devotional candle, and use holy water in the area of the home that was improved. At that time, remind yourself again that you and your home belong to the Lord—renewed during the spring cleaning of Lent!



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 19 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Lv 19:1–2, 11–18 Mt 25:31–46	February 20 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Is 55:10–11 Mt 6:7–15	February 21 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jon 3:1–10 Lk 11:29–32	February 22 <i>Chair of St. Peter the Apostle</i> 1 Pt 5:1–4 Mt 16:13–19	February 23 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 18:21–28 Mt 5:20–26	February 24 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dt 26:16–19 Mt 5:43–48	February 25 <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> Gn 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18 Rom 8:31b–34 Mk 9:2–10



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*How do we hear the voice of God? We hear it in his Word. For this reason, it is important to know Scripture, because otherwise we do not know how to react to the snares of the Evil One. And here I would like to return to my advice of reading the Gospel every day....*

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