

MOUNT CARMEL ACADEMY



March 9, 2007

Dear Parents and Girls:

Lent is in place for us now and we either have become accustomed to what we said we would do during Lent to become closer to Jesus, or we have failed a few times and wonder why. Perhaps we may have really done well so far. Regardless of what happened in the past, the true message is there for us. The past is forgiven, we just give it to God. Thank God for the graces we have, ask forgiveness, and continue our journey doing the best that we can.

There are many devotions in our Church to help us relate to God in a deeply personal, prayerful manner. During Lent, we have the opportunity to unite our suffering to Jesus' suffering and find meaning as we participate in Jesus' passion and death, and look forward to our Resurrection. The devotions remind us of what the gift of a free will means to us. We can choose to love and care or we can choose not to love and care. We pray to make the right choices.

We are posting on the web site the Stations of the Cross and the meditation on the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the cross. The stations tell the story of Jesus' journey to Calvary, His death and Resurrection, and what meaning it has for our lives when we give ourselves the gift of time to pray and reflect. The Seven Last Words are, for me, related to the fact that we should live each day of our lives as though it were the last.

These were Jesus' last words. If this were our last day, what will those words mean? Will we be able to be forgiving? Will we be ready to hear that we will be with Jesus in paradise? Will we have taken care of our relationships so there are no loved ones without care? Will we be faithful through a sense of abandonment? Will we express our thirst for God? Will we say it is finished and be at peace? Will we give ourselves to our God?

Let us give ourselves the gift of time, even if it is only minutes a day, to reflect on our deepest beliefs. Do not take the time, give yourself the gift of time. We spend so much of our lives taking—taking a break, taking a vacation, taking a trip, taking numerous things. Let us learn to give ourselves these things because God wants to give us life so we can enjoy them.

Happy Lent! May you experience the new life of spring in nature and in your souls as you renew your love for God, thank God for our Redeemer, Jesus the Christ, and call upon the Holy Spirit to guide us in our daily living. Let us pray for one another.

Sincerely and lovingly,

Sister Camille Anne

Sister Camille Anne Campbell, O.Carm.
President/Principal