



Lent

A man was bitten by a rabid dog, and it looked like he was going to die from rabies. The doctor told him to put his final affairs in order. So the man took pen and paper, and began writing furiously. In fact he wrote and wrote and wrote. Finally the doctor said, "That sure is a long will you're making." He snorted, "Will? No way! I'm making a list of all the people I'm going to bite!"

In today's Gospel St. Mark tells "and the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on Him." Jesus went to the desert before beginning his public life. This was not the only time Jesus sought the desert. From time to time we see him withdraw to find relief from crowds and to refresh His spirit in solitude.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a day which we have the ritual of putting ashes on our forehead, and fasting; accompanying with the words "Repent and believe in the Good News." Repent calls us to renew ourselves, renew our actions, words and be conscious of our sinfulness. Fasting is not simply to abstain from eating meat and consuming less food, but it reminds us of our need for God, the need to deepen our Spiritual life. While we are fasting, we also spend a few minutes a day to deepen our relationship with God and others. Furthermore, we are called to do some charitable work, helping those who are hungry,



*"The Kingdom of God
is close at hand.
Repent, and believe
the Good News."*