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Christ the Servant Catholic Church

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Dear Parishioners,

No doubt many of you saw the ads on television around the Christmas season about “Catholics Come Home.” Our Joliet diocese, along with the Chicago archdiocese and the Rockford diocese, presented those commercials to encourage non-active Catholics to come back to their spiritual home.

Though the ads are no longer broadcast on TV, that does not mean that we have stopped encouraging Catholics to come home, just as we have never stopped welcoming those who come home frequently. The Church gives us the season of Lent to encourage us to return to the Lord through active participation in the Church. A very popular hymn which we sing during Lent, “Hosea,” includes the following words, “*Come back to me, with all your heart. Don’t let fear keep us apart.*” Those words are for *all* members of our Church, words to encourage all of us to keep our hearts open to God’s loving invitation to continue our journey with Him through active participation in His Church on our way to His kingdom.

I look at this year’s Lenten mission titled “What Does It Mean to be Catholic?” as a help for all of us to keep our hearts open to God’s never ending call to follow Him through our active participation in the Catholic Church. Augustinian Father Tom McCarthy, the president/principal of St. Rita High School in Chicago and who was here four years ago when he led our mission about sacraments, will talk about Catholic saints, ways to pray and service to others. There is more information about our Lenten mission included with this letter. ***Please note that our Lenten Reconciliation Service will take place during the second night of the mission, Monday, March 1. There will be other priests present for the sacrament.*** (For those who are unable to participate on March 1, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered every Saturday, except April 3—Holy Saturday, from 4:00-4:30.)

May this Lent be a start to a never-ending time of renewal in our faithful love and service to God who never ceases calling us to active participation in His Church.

In the Word,

Rev. Philip M. Danaher