



# I HAVE SEEN THE LORD

**THE MEMO: A GUIDE FOR DUKE CATHOLICS // EASTER 2022**

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*Lessons learned***FROM ASH  
WEDNESDAY  
TO EASTER**

These are hopefully five things we've all learned throughout this lenten season, that we can bring from Ash Wednesday into the Easter season (and beyond!) with us so we may continue to grow in our faith, and grow as disciples of Christ.

*Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but He has been raised.*

**LK 24:1-12**



**The fact that I want to cling tightly to an unhealthy behavior or habit is a sure sign that I need to give it up.**

The beauty of Lent is that I get to decide what level of sacrifice I'm willing to make. I can give up something that won't really be missed, or I can choose something that I will really struggle to do without. In making this decision, I had to ask myself why there were some things that I wasn't willing to sacrifice and if anything should have that kind of power in my life. The answer I found was that the things I was unwilling to let go of had way too much power in my life.

**The ultimate beneficiary of "giving something up" is me.**

Though I have struggled with missing the thing I chose to give up, I have to honestly admit that I have felt so much better without it being part of my daily routine. My hope and prayer is that this time of fasting from something that has had a powerful hold on me for so long will set me up to have a healthier relationship with it into the Easter season and beyond.

**Lent gives me a tremendous opportunity to set a good example for others.**

I am so thankful we are observing Lent as a community. It has provided an avenue for some deep, thoughtful conversations. It has also proved to be a bonding experience as we encourage one another to hold fast to our commitment. It is a powerful reminder of the incredible amount of influence I have in the lives of my friends. I want to grow in respecting that and continue to share with my faith with others.

**Not much has changed since the Garden of Eden.**

As I brooded over all that I would be missing out throughout this lent, I was reminded about the command given in the Garden of Eden. God told Adam and Eve they could have anything but the forbidden fruit. However, instead of focusing on the abundance they had been given, they obsessed about the one thing they could not have. Likewise, I can choose to fixate on the one thing I have promised to avoid, or I can turn my focus to the abundance God has provided.

**I can never sacrifice as much as Christ did for me.**

I can't out sacrifice Jesus. When I contemplate all that He endured for me, I have no right to complain about anything. In fact, my "sacrifice" looks like filthy rags. When I am tempted to cheat or quit altogether, I'm reminded of what Philippians 2:5-8 says. This passage puts everything into perspective for me and reminds me of the amazing love that was poured out for me on the cross. There truly could never be a greater sacrifice.



*The witness of*

# SHARING YOUR FAITH



What does it mean to be a witness? The way we answer this question is important if we wish to live faithful discipleship in Christ.

To the modern world, a “witness” is commonly understood as someone who testifies on behalf of a person or to an event that he or she has seen with their own eyes or for which the person has first-hand knowledge. This is the common understanding of serving as a “witness” in court. Such witness is meant to establish the truth so that a proper judgment can be rendered by the appropriate authority.

As followers of the Lord Jesus, we are called to serve as “witnesses” to our faith. To be a witness to Christ is to demonstrate by our words, actions, and attitude the sacred mystery that we have “seen,” heard, and now believe in our hearts about the Lord who has forgiven us of our sins and offered us eternal life. In contrast to the world, Christian witness is to be offered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

You and I witness to Christ not by giving testimony to facts but to the truth- truth that is not always visible or “provable” by modern standards. We render testimony to what we have “seen” in our hearts, and not necessarily what we have seen with our physical eyes. We testify to our faith more effectively in our actions than in our words, inviting people not simply to understand what we are saying but to meet the Lord, personally and powerfully, through our faith, hope, and love in Him. We witness by our very lives.

Unlike a witness in a courtroom, a witness to Christ serves as His ambassador in the world – effectively making the Lord present to everyone we meet. Like yeast in a dough. In this sense, the Christian’s court is the world and the judge before whom we testify is the Savior of us all.

*Written by the Diocese of Bridgeport*

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# TIME WELL SPENT

Being the Catholic Chaplain of a major University is not easy. But Fr. Mike's done it well, and done it for twelve years. We'll miss hearing his echoing voice in Duke Chapel, his compassion in the sacrament of Reconciliation and, mostly, we'll miss his love for Christ. Fr. Mike has befriended everyone at Duke: each of us students, the DCC staff, student leaders, multiple university presidents, chaplains from the other religious denominations, the Duke football team, and even Coach K. Through his befriending and witness, he's taught each of us what Jesus is really like: one who loves everyone. His witness of this speaks far louder than any homily of his (although, we do love those). Our favorite moments of Fr. Mike vary but what does not vary is our appreciation for him. We're very excited to welcome Fr. Juan José and pray that he will make just as much of an impact over the next twelve years of Dukies as Fr. Mike has over the last twelve years. All Duke students are invited to celebrate Fr. Mike's service on **Sunday, April 24 at noon in the Div Café** for a going-away brunch.

