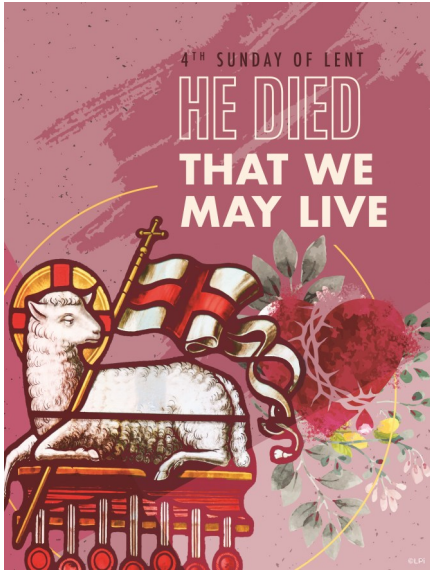


## FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend, you might notice at the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday that Cardinal Tobin is wearing... pink? Yes, the color is technically “rose,” but you can be forgiven for not noticing the difference. So what’s going on? Here’s what you need to know:

- 1) This Sunday is about halfway through Lent
- 2) The “rose” color is meant to be encouraging - Lent is long and penitential. Since this Sunday is about halfway, the Church tries to give people encouragement to make it through the rest of Lent. The use of the rose color, rather than the normal violet for Lent, is brighter and is supposed to be a happy difference during Lent.
- 3) “Laetare” comes from the Latin introit - This Sunday is often called “Laetare Sunday” since “laetare,” which means “rejoice,” is the first word in the Latin version of the introit, or a short Psalm that can be read at the beginning of Mass. The introit begins, “*Laetare Jerusalem: et conventum facite omnes qui diligitis eam,*” which is

translated, “Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her...” This comes from Isaiah 66.10.

4) This Sunday has all sorts of other names - These include: Refreshment Sunday, Rose Sunday, Mid-Lent Sunday, Sunday of the Five Loaves, and even Mothering Sunday.

5) “Mothering Sunday” comes from an ancient practice - There used to be a tradition that Christians would give an offering to their mother church, or cathedral church, on this Sunday.

6) “Rose Sunday” comes from an old custom from the popes - You might think the term “Rose Sunday” comes from the use of the rose color on this Sunday, and that might be part of the reason. But another reason is that there was medieval custom that on this Sunday the Pope would bless an assortment of roses made of gold, which he would then send as gifts to Catholic rulers and churches as gifts. Have a happy and holy Laetare Sunday!

Here is a question: do you find yourself in a battle against pride during these 40 days? Regarding pride, St. Augustine once said, “There never can have been, and never can be, and there never shall be any sin without pride.” Check out this ‘Litany of Humility’ by Rafael Cardinal Merry del Val who was the Secretary of State for Pope Saint Pius X (read down the two columns, starting on the left).

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, Hear me.

From the desire of being esteemed,

**Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the desire of being loved...

From the desire of being extolled...

From the desire of being honored...

From the desire of being praised...

From the desire of being preferred to others...

From the desire of being consulted...

From the desire of being approved...

From the fear of being humiliated...

From the fear of being despised...

From the fear of suffering rebukes...

From the fear of being calumniated...

From the fear of being forgotten...

From the fear of being ridiculed...

From the fear of being wronged...

From the fear of being suspected...

That others may be loved more than I,

**Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.**

That other may be esteemed more than I...

That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease...

That others may be chosen and I set aside...

That others may be praised and I unnoticed...

That others may be preferred to me in everything...

That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should...

Sometimes it is hard to believe how pride touches so many aspects of our life. Lord, have mercy.

Peace,