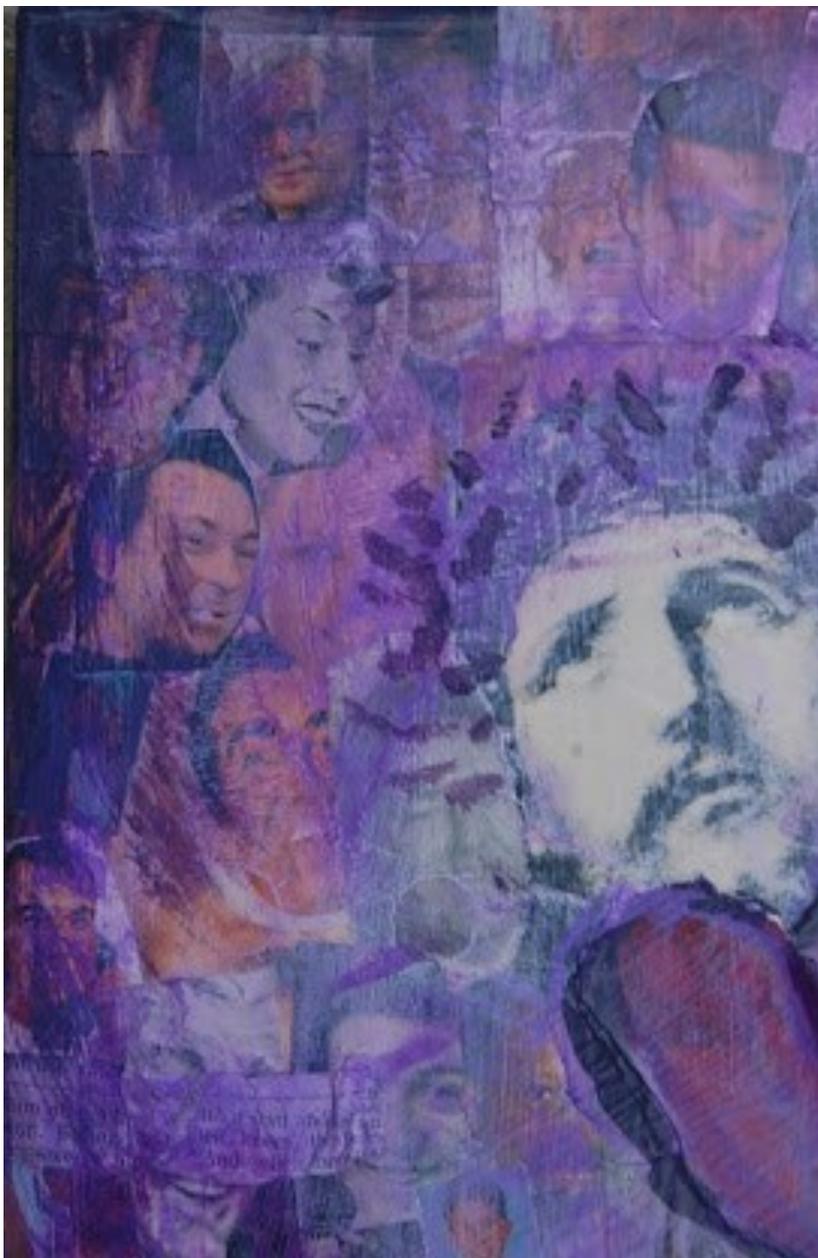


Lengthening Days That Point to Easter

With the lengthening of winter's days we find ourselves contemplating the journey through Lent to Easter. The growing hours of daylight remind us of the resurrection's light, tasted at Baptism and in further sacramental encounters with our crucified and risen Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 51)

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; According to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. **R**

For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned. And done what is evil in your sight. **R**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And put a new and right spirit with in me. Do not cast me away from your presence, And do not take your holy spirit from me. **R**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, And sustain in me a willing spirit. O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth will declare your praise. **R**

CLOSING PRAYER Let us pray: Merciful God, You created us from the dust of the earth, and breathed your own life into our very being. You recreated us in Christ through the waters of Baptism, That we might share as a people your fullness of life. As we prepare to enter these forty days, May our fasting strengthen us to seek your justice, May our prayer lead us to become makers of peace, And may our sharing quicken the seeds of your Reign, Present in all human hearts, and growing in mystery, As we await with joyful anticipation, the resurrection of Jesus your Son. We make this prayer to you in his name. Amen.