



*I tell you,
there will be rejoicing
among the angels
of God over one
sinner who repents.”*

Luke 15:16

Lent, 2014

Dear Friends of the Augustinian Missions:

As we begin the Season of Lent, we encounter the powerful theme of temptation, as Jesus enters into the desert to be tempted by the devil. A natural reaction might be, why did Jesus even follow the devil into the desert, why did he have to do it? I think the question provides the answer: Jesus did not have to follow the devil into the desert, he did so of his own free will. He did not avoid the devil; he journeyed with the devil for a reason.

By confronting the devil in his life Jesus came to know himself better. It was only when he faced the devil in the desert that he was able to reject the devil and then be free to be the messenger, the presence of God to others. He emerged from that desert stronger in his faith and understanding of who God was calling him to be and what God was calling him to do.

Lent is the time for us to face the devils in our own life. Like Jesus, we must enter into our own “desert” to face those areas of our life that the devil controls. It is only by facing our own devils that we might hear the call from God for conversion in our life.

Do we truly enter into the forty days and nights of this Lenten desert? Lent is a time of prayer, penance and alms giving. Will we embrace and live this Lent in the true spirit of the Season?

Our missionary friars throughout the world will be journeying with the people they serve in this Lenten Season. Will you offer your almsgiving this Lent to help them in their service?

May the Season of Lent lead you to the fullness of Easter.

In St. Augustine,

Father Anthony Burrascano, OSA
Director of Foreign Missions

