



The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick
Bishop

February 2012

The Bible Challenge - February 17, 2012

I invite the Diocese to join me in reading the Bible through in a year beginning on Ash Wednesday. Will you join me in taking The Bible Challenge?

Many vibrant churches share one thing in common - they have a strong commitment to teaching and reading the Bible. There is a vast difference between attending church and listening to a portion of the Bible being read aloud, and actually reading the Bible on your own. Understanding how the entire Word of God coheres and what God is saying to you daily through Holy Scripture can be a transformational experience. It also makes worship come more alive. It is like the difference between riding a car as a passenger and not paying close attention to the route being taken, versus driving the car and learning the roads that get you to your destination.

In the Bible Challenge, I encourage participants to go directly to the source of the Christian faith and see how the Bible coheres. Reading the Bible on a daily basis can inspire people to start new ministries and make important decisions and significant changes in their lives. It will give them strength and comfort as they face major life challenges and allow them to feel truly alive in Christ.

The link below can be shared throughout the Diocese. It is a handout from the Center for Biblical Studies that offers a plan to read the Bible through in one year: **[Lent to Lent Read the Bible in a Year](#)**

I commit myself to the project beginning on Ash Wednesday, and I particularly ask the clergy and wardens to join me. I will keep the Diocese informed of my progress and reflections.

Lenten "fun" - March 15, 2012

I lived too long in Indiana not to know that March is tournament time. I want to call your attention to "Lent Madness". This is a playful Lenten practice. Last week, our own Queen Emma moved past Catharine of Siena in the "saintly sixteen." I think it a source of honor and pride that we help the Queen move along to the Golden Halo. Please follow along through Lent with all the saints -- but particularly our most beneficent benefactress. Vote for blessed Queen Emma of Hawai'i. Please pass the word along in our congregations. It seems fitting that the Golden Halo be passed this year to a Polynesian Lay Woman Saint, the foundress of a hospital, schools and a cathedral (not to mention a diocese), and an advocate for her people in the face of oppression.

For more information on Lent Madness, go to their website, www.lentmadness.org.

