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As we enter into the holy season of Lent in preparation for the great Feast of Easter, we recall Jesus' forty days in the desert. The number forty carries great significance in salvation history, including the forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert, the forty days and nights of the Great Flood, the forty days and nights Moses spent on Mount Sinai. In each case, we see long periods of testing and trial, of hardship, even impatience with God. In each case, we find that doing God's will is not always easy. However, we also see that God does not abandon His people when they remain faithful, prayerful and patient.

In this sense, the "40 Days for Life" campaign is appropriately named, for we surely have experienced great challenges in our effort to give witness to the dignity and value of human life. These challenges naturally test our patience and commitment. We may hunger for quicker progress and tire of the journey. Yet, recalling God's fidelity, and strengthened by His grace, we do not grow discouraged or weary, but carry on with quiet humility and prayerful perseverance. In this spirit, may the "40 Days for Life" campaign open the hearts and minds of people everywhere so that there is a growing and deepening appreciation for the dignity of human life and the need to protect it from conception to natural death.

May God continue to bless you and guide you.

Fraternally,

Most Reverend Joseph A. Galante, D.D., J.C.D.  
Bishop of Camden