

He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

—Mark 1:13

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

We know Jesus spent forty days in the desert in fasting and solitude. In today's world, what a concept that would be and believe me, there are times I think how tempting that sounds.

Life as I know it has changed in my fifty-plus years (very low on the plus I might add!). The stresses of our day-to-day lives can take a toll on us and make us want to escape, but forty days might be a bit too long. Scholars tell us that it was when Jesus rejoined civilization that his ministry began.

Not being around family, friends and work colleagues to occupy our time for that period could no doubt take a toll on mind and soul. Being with others hones our human qualities of love, compassion, hope, respect and yes, even forgiveness – all traits that Jesus exemplified in his teachings during his short time on this earth.

How will you enter into your ministry this Lent?

—Mary Carr