



# Harvest House News

A Monthly Newsletter to the Harvest House Ministry

March 2016

*To recognize and **harvest** all the gifts being returned to the parish and diocesan family in love by Catholics during the third stage of their lives for the glory of God and the good of neighbor.*

## *From the coordinator - Catherine Bitting:*



I had a brief moment of being conflicted over either focusing only on Lent in this month's newsletter, and feeling bad about not mentioning Easter (which falls at the end of the month), but I sure didn't want to start shouting out "Happy Easter!" when we still have four full weeks to go! What to do, what to do?? Well, friends, as we still have the bulk of Lent ahead us before the joys promised by the Resurrection, Lent it is! This year, Lent seems a bit harder for me than last year. Maybe that's what I get for chirping about how thrilled I was that it was Lent last year at this time, and how everything looked to be a rosy-colored liturgical violet. I don't know about you, but this year, Lent sure feels like Lent- lots of surly thoughts, failed attempts at holiness, and a lot of time spent wishing there was a typo in Scripture, and that Jesus really meant 'desserts' not 'deserts'. I could handle

40 days of desserts with ease, let me tell you. So- Easter is still weeks away, what must I do to 'gain heaven' in the meanwhile? As usual, I will refer to someone much holier than me; St. John Chrysostom says, "The value of fasting consists not only in avoiding certain foods, but in renouncing all sinful attitudes, thoughts and desires. Those who limit fasting just to food are not taking advantage of the great value it contains. If you fast, let it show in your works! If you see a brother in need, take pity on him. If you see a brother being praised, do not be jealous. In order for fasting to be true, it cannot involve only fasting with the mouth; you must also fast with your eyes, ears, feet, hands and your whole body; your entire interior and exterior." Because after all, says St. John, "What good is it for you to abstain from meat if you devour your brother?"

*Catherine Bitting*

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## *From the Chaplain*

*Fr. Paul Oborny*



What kind of invitation is that? Jesus invites us, his disciples – not to travel the world, not to have a fun time – He invites us to “take up your cross daily and follow me”. Notice, Jesus did not say take up your cross for the rest of your life, He said take up your cross daily – one day at a time. The word

“daily” found in the Lord’s Prayer, became an inspiration to one of our favorite songs, “One day at a time”.

In our golden years it seems that more crosses are added each passing year. Our bodies start shutting down. We get tired of creaking bones and may start to wonder how much longer will this go on. Lord, give us this day our daily bread – one day at a time.

## *“A Passover Seder in the Light of Christ”*

Roy Schoeman, a Jewish convert to Catholicism, and author of many books and articles has authored a fascinating walk through of the Jewish Passover, detailing the rituals and hopes for a savior, and how Christ, our Messiah, fulfills the promises made in the Old Testament. Senior Adult Ministries will be hosting this luncheon on **Wednesday, March 16, at 12:00 p.m. at St. James in Augusta (1012 Belmont Avenue, Augusta, KS 67010)**. Our hope is that in broadening our understanding of the Old Testament prophecies and promises, and how our Catholic faith fulfills these, our experience of Easter will be greatly enriched. There is no cost to attend, but seating is limited, so please call the office at 316-685-5240 to register by **March 8**.

This event takes quite a bit of preparation, and we love to have help! If you are interested in lending a hand, please call the office, and we’ll find a way for you to serve.

## *Lenten Day of Reflection*

I hate to be ambiguous, but ‘tis a difficulty with the timing of our newsletter! If this has reached you before March 2, I want to reiterate our invitation for you to come and join us at our Lenten Day of Reflection! We’ll be at the **Spiritual Life Center on Thursday, March 3**. In addition to our greatly anticipated presentations by Fr. John Lanzrath, Fr. James Weldon, and celebration of the Mass, we will also be offering opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation after our Luncheon. Please take advantage of this wonderful chance to deepen your faith, and participate in the sacraments. We do need to know you’re coming, so give the office a call at 316-685-5240. If the day has passed, then we sure hope your day was filled with grace and many blessings - see you in Advent! (Cost is \$10 per person and includes lunch)

## *Spring Day Trip*

Mark your calendars: **May 4** will be our next Senior Adult Ministries Day Trip! We’ll be boarding a bus and heading to Pilsen, to visit Fr. Emil Kapaun’s former home at St. John Nepomucene Church. A tour, Mass, and luncheon will be part of our day- \$20.00 per person. Our May newsletter will have more details on the day, but seating is limited.

## *Catholic Divorce Survival Guide*

St. Catherine of Siena will be hosting the Catholic Divorce Survival Guide Program on **Monday evenings 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. March 7 - May 23**. Please call St. Catherine's church at 316-425-0595 to register. The cost is \$35 for 12 weeks. Please share this information with individuals who may benefit from learning more about the Catholic church's teaching on divorce, as well as benefitting from an experience of healing.

## *Spring Caregiver Event*

Catholic Care Center invites you to the annual Spring Caregiver Education Event **Thursday, March 10 from 9:00-2:00 at the Bel Aire City Building**. This year's event is titled "The Ever-changing Game of Caregiving," and will provide valuable information on new approaches to dementia care and how to deal with the grief and loss that comes from having a loved one with dementia.

This year's presenters are Dr. Stephen Benson, a highly regarded licensed clinical psychologist. He specializes in providing care and support to older adults, caregivers, and people with Alzheimer's and dementia. He will shine new light on these devastating diseases and help provide understanding for caregivers. Also presenting this year is Rev. Tal Tittsworth, a local grief counselor. Rev. Tittsworth's compassion for those grieving the loss or perceived loss of a loved one with memory loss is unsurpassed. He will share tips for overcoming these feelings and helping caregivers come to terms with the realities of these diseases.

Catholic Care Center is the only community in Kansas to be accredited by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America as a Program of Distinction for Excellence in Dementia. We have earned this accreditation because of the stimulating, wellness focused programming and environment that we offer within our Memory Care residence. Catholic Care Center also offers one of the area's few Adult Day Programs which is an opportunity for people living in the community with Alzheimer's or dementia to come enjoy the excellent opportunities offered in Memory Care for either full or half day sessions. It is a great chance for caregivers to have time to themselves and the person they are caring for to enjoy getting out of the house and having a change of scenery!

The Ever-changing Game of Caregiving

Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

9:00am-2:00pm

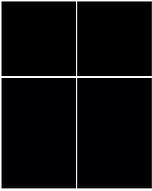
Bel Aire City Building: 7651 E. Central Park Ave.

Event is FREE! Complimentary lunch provided.

Call Jennifer at 771-6593 to RSVP

Please remember to send or call the office with your monthly meeting information if you would like to have it included in the newsletter. Information must be received by the 15th of the month for the next month's bulletin.

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**Harvest House Ministry**  
**Office of Marriage and Family Life**  

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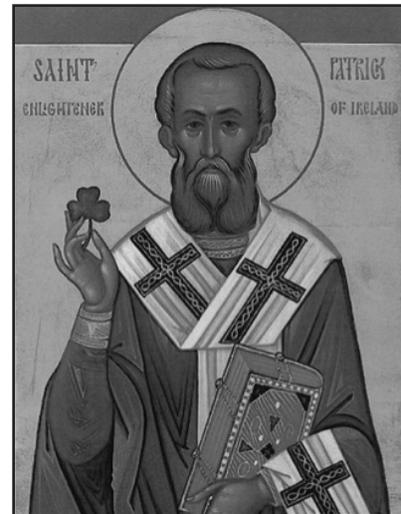
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March 19



March 17

*Happy Feast Day!*

March is one of my favorite months for Saint's days! Our family is both Irish and Italian, so we tend to go a little crazy when we're able to celebrate some of our favorite patrons, St. Joseph, and St. Patrick. My kitchen goes overboard baking treats and goodies, and the kids love it. What a joy that our Mother Church allows us this ray of joy in the midst of our Lenten Journey.