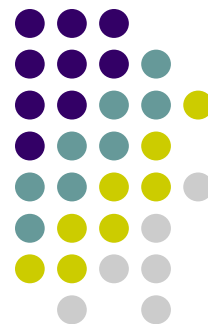


EPHPHATHA

APRIL, 2011

ISSUE 4



APRIL IS DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HOLY EUCHARIST



Dear Friends,

Pushy is the word I would use to describe her. Pushy! Similar to a salesperson who believes in their product, or believes you should buy it so they receive a commission. She was very pushy. Like most people, priests included, I resisted such a sales pitch.

Not many years later, I have bought it. No, not from her. Probably not because of her. But nonetheless, I bought it. What is it? It is understanding the mercy of God through the Divine Mercy devotion. Based on the diary of Saint Sister Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun, whose revelations she received about God's mercy in the 1930's.

It is a simple message that God loves us and no matter how great our sins, wishes to forgive us. This requires our cooperation for we must ask for His mercy, be merciful ourselves, and finally completely trust in Jesus. This is the message of the Gospel. Nothing new. It is the message of Lent and Easter, the message of the Apostles, the message of Jesus Christ.

The image of the Divine Mercy is beautiful, showing the radiant rays of mercy and love coming forth from the heart of Jesus. Recently I purchased a large image of the Divine Mercy for my parish, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. They can be found in many churches. Pope John Paul II had a great devotion to this image and of the understanding of God's mercy.

So what kept me from accepting this devotion in the first place? It wasn't the message, but the messenger. Often times when we come to a great revelation in our spiritual life, we insist everyone else must get on board with us, NOW! We become obnoxious in our fervor. I'll bet Saint Paul was this way!

As we prepare to bring this message of the risen Christ, the good news of God's love for us and His Divine available Mercy, do so with gentleness and the acceptance that not everyone, all of our family members have the same relationship with our Lord. We cannot force the truth of God's love onto others, but rather show it in the manner in which we live our lives. By attending Sunday Mass every Sunday, by going to Confession every month, by our evening and morning prayers, we show our profound trust in Jesus. Then perhaps our family and friends will see what we have and want it!

Peace and may the Mercy of God be with you and your families this glorious season!

Father Ken



Scott Penick

I will be 26 in June. I live in south Wichita with two good friends of mine, great Catholic guys. I work part-time at Johnson’s Garden Center, where I’ve worked all through college. In May I’ll graduate from WSU with my second bachelor’s degree, in Industrial engineering. My first degree was Creative Writing. After graduation I’ll be looking for an engineering (or maybe a writer’s) job and work on the novels I’ve been tinkering with the last few years. I enjoy reading (good fiction and books/articles about the Faith), playing sports (soccer, ultimate Frisbee...) doing things outdoors (swimming, boating, camping, hiking, fishing...), and traveling. I’m a charter member of St. Paul Newman Center’s Knights of Columbus council. We’re a small council, but we still manage to do several fundraisers and service projects throughout the year. My sign language is a bit rusty, and I need to learn more anyway, so I’ve been looking into going to the signed/interpreted Masses. I’d like to get more involved with the Deaf Catholic community, especially since fully Deaf is looming ever closer.



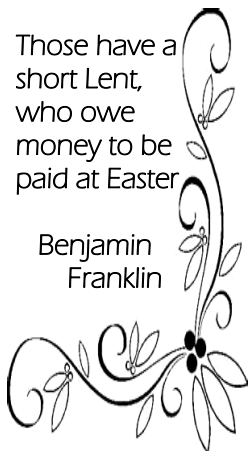
WHAT TO GIVE UP FOR LENT

Give up **resentment** and become more forgiving.
 Give up **hatred** and return good for evil
 Give up **complaining** and be more grateful
 Give up **pessimism** and become more hopeful
 Give up **worry** and become more trusting.
 Give up **anger** and become more patient
 Give up **pettiness** and become more mature
 Give up **gloom** and become more joyful

Give up harsh judgments and think kindly
 Enjoy the beauty that is all around you..
 Give up discouragement—be full of hope
 Give up jealousy and pray for trust
 Give up gossiping and control your tongue
 Give up sin and turn to virtue
 Give up giving up and hang in there!

Those have a short Lent, who owe money to be paid at Easter

Benjamin Franklin



Special Days in April

- 04—St. Isidore
- 05—St. Vincent Ferrer
- 07 —St. John Baptist de la Salle
- 11—St. Stanislaus
- 17—Palm Sunday
- 18-20—Holy Week
- 21—Holy Thursday
- 22—Good Friday
- 23—Holy Saturday
- 24—EASTER SUNDAY

Happy Birthday

02—Luke Sanders
 03—Anna Willis
 25—Benjamin Weber

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Joseph & Nel Clark



YOU TOOK MY PARKING SPACE AT CHURCH

One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver, got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!"

The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing.

Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you? the visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, **"I took your place."**

THIS SHOULD WAKE US UP!



St. Isidore has become the patron of farmers and the National Rural Conference in the United States. When he was barely old enough to wield a hoe he was in the service of a wealthy landowner. He rose early in the morning to go to church. His devotion seemed to be a problem for his fellow workers and they sometimes complained that he often showed up late for work because he stayed too long in church. Upon investigation, so the legend runs, the master found Isidore at prayer while an angel was doing the plowing for him. Even at one time the master saw an angel on either side of Isidore thus doing the work of three. He was known for his love for the poor. He had a great concern for the proper treatment of animals.

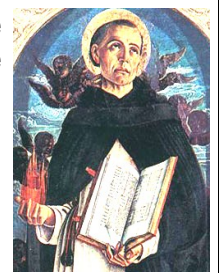
With the lack of moisture and the fate of farmers being in danger, it is a good time to keep the success of farmers in our daily prayers. Maybe, since this is Lent it would be a good practice to offer some mortification for them.

St. Vincent Ferrer is the patron of builders because of his fame for "building up" and strengthening the Church. Legend has it that his father was told in a dream that his son would be famous throughout the world. He would fast on Wednesdays and Fridays and he loved the Passion of Christ very much.

After entering the Dominican Order he prayed and practice penance. For a period of 3 years he read solely Sacred Scripture and eventually committed it to memory.

Vincent is said to be responsible for the conversion of many Jews to Catholicism

Vincent died on April 5th and canonized on June 3, 1455



St. Stanislaus was born in Poland. He soon became noted for his preaching. He was sought after as a spiritual advisor. He was successful in his reforming efforts. When King Boleslaus kidnapped the wife of a nobleman he excommunicated him. Boleslaus himself killed Stanislaus while he was saying Mass. Stanislaus has been the symbol of Polish nationhood. He is the patron of Cracow, Poland.



St John Baptist de La Salle was a priest, educational reformer and founder of Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools also known as the De La Salle Brothers or, most commonly in the United States, the *Christian Brothers*. They are sometimes confused with a different congregation of the same name founded by Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice in Ireland, who are known in the U.S. as the Irish Christian Brothers.

He dedicated much of his life for the education of poor children of France, and in doing so, started many lasting educational practices in France. Many other people today follow in the path of education created by St. John Baptist, He is considered the founder of the first Catholic schools.

He was canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1900. He was proclaimed as the patron Saint of Teachers on May 15, 1950 by Pope Pius XII.

Teachers have a difficult task. Let us remember to pray for all teachers especially on April 7th.



Palm Sunday begins Holy Week leading to Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem where people put palms down in front of his path.

On this day, palms are distributed in church and blessed during Mass. People take these home and place them around religious pictures, statues or other objects. They remain there for a year until the next Palm Sunday when they are replaced by newly blessed Palms.

When discarding old palms, remember it is a blessed religious object and should be burned or buried.

EARLY BIRD ALERT

Please mark your calendars in big red letters to reserve October 22 for RETREAT. This is early but we are paying big bucks to get a priest here and we would like good attendance. When it gets closer to time you will receive more details, but just for now mark, your calendars. Thank you!



“The great gift of Easter is hope—Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.”

Basil C Hume