



*Diocese of the Holy Trinity
and Great Plains
Newsletter*

Issue 3, Volume 1

March, 2006

LENT

"Remember, O man, that dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return." These words, spoken on the first day of Lent, as ashes are put on our foreheads remind us of our humanness and the frailties of our nature. The ashes, made from burning palms from the preceding Palm Sunday are an outgrowth of the Old Testament use of ashes for sorrow and repentance.

The Season of Lent calls for self-discipline. This is not easy, but it is necessary. The excuse of self-expression is often used to justify the impulsive doing of whatever seems desirable at the moment. Really, that is not self-expression at all, but a surrender to emotion. The will is just as much part of one's self as the emotions, and any true self-expression will include an exercise of will power in restraining and directing emotional reactions. A small child may reach for a sharp object or a hot stove, but experience soon teaches him that he is better off to restrain the impulse and control his actions. This means training and discipline. The Christian learns that there are moral and spiritual controls in which he must school himself. Lent provides us with the opportunity to exercise these controls. It may be difficult to calculate the results of a well-kept Lent, but the benefits of well-kept Lenten discipline over a period of years can hardly be questioned in the building of a Christian life. There may be no particular virtue in giving up something here and there, but there is great virtue in learning to control one's desires and in the exercise of one's spiritual faculties. Lent consists of doing something, not merely of doing without something.

+ *James*

HAPPYEASTER!

From the clergy...

*The continuation of the questions and answers written by Father Cochran, St. James:

Why are there no female clergy or, at least, female acolytes and lay readers?

To answer this question, it is best to look at it from a historical point of view, as in the previous two questions. Therefore, let's ask another question first. Where does *this* question come from? This entire issue comes from our sense of justice. Women can do anything that men can do, so, why not let them be priests, acolytes, or lay readers? This sounds reasonable enough. We live in a nation that is the freest in the world, a place where opportunity abounds for everyone.

However, the first problem with this scenario should be obvious. The Church is not a nation; and the second problem is that our sinful and frail nature obscures our judgment as to exactly what is "Divine Justice."

In all of God's salvation history, there is not one single instance of a female priest of God. Both Christianity and Judaism during biblical times have known of priestesses in pagan religions, yet God, in His Divine Wisdom, has chosen only men to be His iconic representation at the altar.

The Church has never made it a practice to actively recruit men for the priesthood; rather, the Church has gone about this in passive ways. One way in which the Church passively recruits for the priesthood is to invite boys and men to serve at His altar. This is a solemn duty for those who feel called to such a ministry. All understand that this duty of assisting at the altar is not a "show," but it is the serious business of being instruments of God that leads to the edification of souls. We at Saint James are grieved that some have used this issue to be divisive and to vilify God's Holy Church as a patriarchal institution with misogynist intentions. This could not be further from the truth.

Make no mistake about it; women play a vital role in the Church's mission of spreading the Gospel. We invite all, regardless of gender, age, race, and socioeconomic condition, to come to the full realization of God's grace and mercy.

From Sister Clare:

I am a Franciscan.

More than a year after these words became a fact in my life, I am still amazed to say them, or see them, or hear them spoken in my voice.

I am a Franciscan.

I chose to follow a path that has beckoned to me for years, one laid out by St. Francis of Assisi nearly eight hundred years ago in his own attempt to emulate the life of Christ. I am encouraged by this reading from the Holy Rule of our Holy Father: "High Virtue is not a requirement: it is the ideal to be achieved."

I am a Franciscan.

I am Sister Clare. I am also a wife, mother, and grandmother. How can this be? My call to serve God came later in my life, after marriage and motherhood. The Secular Order is St. Francis' great gift to all who are so called. It is the opportunity to be a part of the fabric of our faith, to have a presence in the every day world around us.

I am a Franciscan.

I do not live in a community with other Franciscans, and I do not wear the Scapular, Cord and Veil of the Order every day. Does this mean that my devotion to the Order is also something to be put on and taken off according to convenience? God forbid. Bishop Greeson told me during my Novitiate to view every flat surface as an Altar, and to make all tasks performed upon that surface my offering to God. So I pray as I am ironing or baking or even driving the car (especially while I am driving the car). It makes the task easier, and I believe it makes the biscuits a little lighter.

I am a Franciscan.

I am full of questions and concerns, about the Church and the Order. Our number is small, and we are widely spread. Am I doing everything I should be doing? Undoubtedly not, but I strive to live according to the Holy Rule, and I find comfort and hope in it. "Among the benefits of the Order are, first, its great treasury of spiritual gifts and sacramental blessings, and second, its communication of good works." If you are interested in these benefits, I invite you to contact Bishop Ron Greeson, Fr. Drew Sack, or Fr. Stuart Crawshaw for more information regarding the Third Order of St. Francis. I have less experience in the Order, but I would also welcome your questions and comments. Perhaps God is calling you, as he has called so many others. Perhaps He is calling you, as He called me.

"Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

Oh Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

I am a Franciscan.

Children's Corner

On a Sunday morning late in January, the teacher in the 5th and 6th grade Sunday school class taught a lesson about giving up something for Lent. All the kids listened intently, or seemed to be, and Mrs. Johnson thought she had done a good job of explaining the process of making the decisions necessary.

As the children were leaving, two of the girls were discussing the lesson and making plans. "So, what do you think you will give up for Lent, Mary Beth," asked Jennifer.

"I'm not sure yet. I haven't really had time to think about it much. But I can tell you that the first thing that came into my mind was broccoli!"

Jennifer chuckled. "I didn't know you like broccoli."

"I don't," Mary Beth replied. "Mom makes my brother and me eat it every Thursday with dinner. She says it's good for us, but no matter how much butter or cheese she puts on it, it still tastes gross."

Both girls laughed as Jennifer agreed with Mary Beth's assessment. Then she thought out loud, "But, Mary Beth, Mrs. Johnson said it needed to be something you really like. She said that

Jesus gave up His life! If we pick something we know we don't like, then we are not really sacrificing anything. What do you think?"

Mary Beth glanced at her friend with a strange look on her face. "You sure know how to ruin a good fantasy!" Both girls laughed again.

"I guess I'll have to think this over a little longer," said Jennifer. "Maybe Mom could help give me some suggestions. Want her to help you, too, Mary Beth."

"That's okay," Mary Beth sighed. "My Mom would be very happy if I asked her advice about this. She's always saying I don't talk to her enough about important stuff. Hey! Remember what the teacher said about 'one thing you give up and one thing you do? That could be the 'thing' I *do* for Lent! Mom would like that, too." Giggling once again, both girls hit the door running and whooping.

Hopefully, this fictitious story has started you thinking about your choices this Lent. By the time you read this, the season will be under way, but making sure that you are accomplishing a sacrifice is the point.

Parish News...

Holy Trinity, Sheridan, WY



Father Stuart Crawshaw, Priest in Charge at Holy Trinity, Sheridan, Wyoming, displays the new rose chasuble donated to the parish by Father Peter Tomkins, left. Father Tomkins has been a member of the parish since moving to Sheridan three years ago, after his retirement from the Anglican Church in America in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He and his wife, Ann, who passed away last spring, have been active supporters of Holy Trinity. Fr. Peter has been in the priesthood for nearly fifty years.

St. Gabriel's, Greeley, CO

Father Kern summed up the year, 2005, at St. Gabriel: 15 baptisms!

St. Gabriel's continued the tradition of luminaries along the sidewalk for the Christmas season. Dakota Rea was in charge of these. (He proudly became a teenager in January.) Christmas Mass was a midnight Mass preceded by the Lessons and Carols service. Fr. Glenn was celebrant for Christmas Day Mass, which was followed by dinner.

St. Gabriel's parish will continue the Food Shelf mission, partake in a taped study on Sundays following Mass during Lent, and the annual meeting was

scheduled for the second Sunday in February.

Major Van Dyke was recently on TV from his post in Iraq. Former member, Matt Lowin, entered the service upon graduation from UNC, however, his current location is unknown. Fr. Kern says, "[We] wish the best for all serving the nation in various parts of the world. While we know the only peace is in the Lord, it would be great to have some somewhere in the exterior world."

Ft Scott, KS

Franklin Norman, 95, long recognized as one of Nevada, Missouri's leading citizens, passed away on Monday, December 19, 2005, at the Christian Health Care, Nevada, MO, after a brief illness.

Franklin and his wife, Olga, attended the St. Louis Congress in 1977. They were founding members of St. Francis parish in Ft. Scott and later members of St. James, Kansas City, MO.

The Rt. Rev. James R. McNeley officiated at the Burial Office on December 23, at Ferry Funeral Home in Nevada. Interment was in the Newton Burial Park.

Church of the Holy Family Casper, WY

Holy Baptism was given on Jan. 22, to Jacob Nicholas Johnson, son of Benjamin and Hollie Johnson. His godparents are Early Spieles, Mary Jo Johnson, and Stacy Cavendar.

On that same Sunday, a pancake breakfast followed the service for the benefit of the Youth Camp, 2006. The camp committee includes Johnny Becker, Mary Jo Johnson, Gene Green and Deacon Jimmie Dean.

On the first Sunday after the Epiphany, the Church of the Holy Family celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family.

St. James, Kansas City, MO

St. James has a new website if you are not aware of that. The address is www.stjamesanglican.net. You will find many very interesting links and articles, not to mention all the photos of the clergy and parish members. It is wonderful! Congratulations on getting that online.

St. Joseph, Wichita, KS

At the annual meeting for St. Joseph of Glastonbury, all of the missions and special services were approved for continuance through 2006.

However, the biggest news for this parish was the 60th wedding anniversary of Lauren and Dorothy Bigelow. The congregation helped them celebrate with cake and coffee after Sunday service.

(photo below)



The Bigelow's joined St. Joseph very close to it's opening in 1987. On Easter Day of that year, Dorothy played the organ for the service and has been playing beautiful music here ever since. For those of you who remember the Bigelows, Lauren and Dorothy have two children, Cynthia and Mark, and three grandchildren, Sarah, Rebecca, and Adrienne. Celebrations included treats and coffee with the usual coffee crowd and a private dinner for the couple. Congratulations to them!

NOTE TO ALL PARISH

TREASURERS: Please send all correspondence to Lynn Baxter. She is the diocesan treasurer. Her address is 2415 Applegrove St. NE, Canton, OH, 44721. Thank you.

A Few Final Thoughts:

From Father Werner

(reprinted from St. John's Newsletter)

Do you believe in God? Can He exert power here on earth? I have heard people say that they believe in God, but he doesn't cause things to happen. They don't believe that the flood in Noah's day was God-caused. It was just a coincidence that the first rain to ever fall on the earth came at a time when Noah was building a boat. They give no credence to the fact of the ten plagues that were inflicted on the Egyptians before the release of the Israelites.

There are even some who doubt the power of God to inflict the sentence of death on Adam as a result of his sinful behavior. Adam himself may have had such doubts, or he could be alive today.

We can rest assured that Almighty God has the power to do what he wishes. Evidence is in the creation of the word and all that is in it: the flood in Noah's day; the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; the coming of the Messiah and His death and resurrection.

Coincidence? I don't think so! We can see by the Scripture that when God makes a promise, it is fulfilled: Adam's death because of sin; Sodom's destruction because of sin; the coming of a Messiah, a Savior to redeem mankind and give the opportunity for everlasting life.

All of these things were predicted and came to pass...not by chance, but because of God's power and His infinite ability to apply that power to keep promises. If all of these things sound too fantastic to be possible, remember what Jesus told the crowd that was listening to Him teach; it is reported in Luke 18:27. "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

So, let us make the effort to participate in the promises that He has made. Let us avoid the sin that brings death, as it did to Adam, and make every effort to obey the commands that lead to life, as explained by Jesus to the rich young man in that 18th chapter of the Gospel as written by St. Luke: "If we believe, if we have faith, we can look forward to a long and carefree life in God's Kingdom!"

Other Items of Anglican Interest...

From Bishop Kinner (edited):

We enter the New Year of the Lord's Grace with many hopes and dreams.... Fathers and mothers of young children and youth have the joyous responsibility of guiding their offspring into their "discoveries" of the great plans of God for them.... Grown sons and daughters will respect and desire parental advice when it is offered in the "right way...." The key to constructive family life is [to] train children to make responsible decisions and when parents do this, their adult offspring will see themselves as free individuals who desire to continue to learn from the wisdom that was exemplified when they were growing up.... A dysfunctional marriage actually "cripples" the children's intellects...they act out the unsuccessful behaviors of their parents.... The point of being a disciple of Jesus Christ and a member of His Body by Baptism is to learn His will....Then Holy Matrimony does make sense because the man and woman are offering individual lives into a unified life for the benefit of mankind and the Glory of God.

Wind River Reservation Ethete, WY

(reprinted in part, with permission, from US Anglican, Advent/Christmas Issue, 2004):

To this date 120 children have been baptized and 52 confirmed in the twenty year old congregation and several more baptisms and confirmations will be held in the next few weeks. The parish was founded by Bishop Kenneth H. Kinner, when he was a priest, and he is assisted by the Rev. Arthur Werner in nearby Lander. The work of the Church on this Reservation was begun by The Rev. John Roberts in 1883, who with his wife, Laura, worked amongst all the people of the area sixty-six years until his homeward journey in 1949.

Fr. Roberts and the Indian People of the original St. John's Church – including Chief Washakie – were devout believers in the Holy Faith and staunch defenders of Indian traditions in the face of pervasive efforts to suppress all Native cultural expression. These people were “way ahead of their time” in understanding that Plains Indian religious thought paralleled the Old Testament Church as a preparation for the Christian Revelation. This respect for Holy Truth, conveyed in long tradition, led to the formation of the present congregation dedicated to Jesus, the Morning Star.



(bottom, left) Taken recently, this photo shows the altar at the Church of the Morning Star on the Wind River Reservation. Through the window, the distant mountains of Wyoming can be seen.

Pictured below is the Holy Baptism of Twinny Latigo Washakie at the Church of the Morning. She is held by her mother, Shawna Rose. Just out of the picture are her father, Jeremy Washakie, and godparents, Alice Haukaas and Jared Little Crow.



On January 21, Brad and Gabrielle Bearsheart, members of the Church of the Holy Family, Casper, delivered a semi load of goods to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The Church of the Sun Star serves some of the poorest people in the nation. The goods delivered included new beds, box springs, and mattresses, ten boxes of new blankets, new and used clothing, new washers and dryers, and ten pallets of food.

As we approach Easter and leave another Lenten season behind, give this a thought:

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers