

The Weave

March 2015

Volume 19 Issue 2

A Newsletter of St. Mary Parish Family, Franklin MA

Disciples in Mission

by Fr. Brian Manning

Our Parish of Saint Mary has joined the Third Phase of the Archdiocesan Plan called "Disciples in Mission." This begins formally this coming June, 2015. Cardinal Sean in consultation with all the various people and leadership groups of our Archdiocese has developed a plan that will help all of our Parishes find new energy and strength as they seek to fulfill our baptismal commitment to live as disciples of Jesus. Hundreds of hours of prayer, thought, reflection and consultation took place for almost two years before this Plan was finalized and begun. We are now part of the third year of its implementation. If you wish to read the plan and know a lot about it, please go to: www.disciplesinmission.com to obtain a copy of the plan and many articles about it.

"What does all this mean for our Parish?" is really the question. Starting formally in June, our Parish Pastoral, Professional and Support Staff will be undergoing educational development and our Parish's Leadership Councils, both Finance and Pastoral Councils,

will be attending development workshops. At these various seminars we will learn how to look at our Parish, understand who we are and what we hope to be and then after prayer reflection and consultation with Parishioners, develop a practical Pastoral Plan that will guide our Parish



Archdiocese of Boston

for the next 3 to 5 years. Cardinal Sean has announced that I will be reappointed as Pastor of Saint Mary's in June, 2015 for another 6 year term. I begin attending Pastoral Development Classes the first week in March.

The goal of all this work and effort and also prayer and discussion is to help our Parish to continue to prosper and grow. Saint Mary's is indeed a vibrant Parish, but we always need help to continue to be a strong parish community of faith. Life is constantly changing for all of us; we need Saint Mary's to be there for us in our present and future needs. All of us know that life moves at unbelievable speed. This coming time of prayer, education, reflection and consultation is a lot of work, but I

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Bedazzled by God's Love

by Joan McGuire

So often in understanding an important event we have to go back and see the happenings that led up to it. From the beginning of His public ministry Jesus was a thorn in the side of those who placed the rules and regulations of the Law above the spirit of the Law. At first it was His popularity with the people and his willingness to listen, console and help them that led to the anger and jealousy of the leaders. Jesus also cured on the Sabbath, ate with sinners and ignored the rules of synagogue etiquette and so "for the good of the people" He had to die. To give a most generous interpretation on the actions of the leaders we may call them misguided. According to several Jewish Biblical scholars everything Jesus did was in keeping with the highest spirit of the Jewish Law.

The Apostles were a different story. Jesus was always with them. He planned to eat the Passover with them. He shared the bread and wine with them giving it the special significance of being His body and blood (Luke 22:19-20) and He washed their feet (John 13:1-30). Their abandoning of Him was cowardly and was an intrinsic part of His suffering. After His Resurrection, Jesus could have been expected to demand justice. But that was not how Jesus behaved. The most remarkable characteristic of Jesus in the gospels is his ability to forgive. He forgave people who didn't deserve it. He forgave immediately. He forgave without asking people to earn it. As

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Prepare!

by John M. Ristaino

Well, Lent has started. Are you celebrating this season of preparation? Yes, Lent is truly a season of preparation. Lent prepares us for Easter. The better we use Lent to prepare ourselves, the more joyous our Easters will be. As I write this article, we are in the depths of winter. Snow storm after snow storm are hitting us. Yet, we prepare for each. We make sure there is enough fuel in the car and in the snow removal machines. Some make sure their alternate generators are fueled as well. Plenty of us prepare for the next storm by stocking up on food and refreshments for our homes. Are you preparing with the same determination during this season of Lent for the arrival of Easter?

Have you started your preparations yet? Did you start preparing and then stop? Are you preparing but want to prepare even more? Here are some thoughts on how each of us might prepare this Lent for the joys of Easter.

Our parish is offering many ways to help us celebrate Lent and prepare for Easter. Each weekday during Lent, Mass is celebrated at 7 AM and 5:15 PM. One way to prepare for Easter is to attend daily Mass during Lent. Maybe you can attend just once. Attending one weekday Mass is preparing you for Easter. The more you can attend, the better prepared you will be. St. Mary Parish is also promoting a website for those who utilize modern technology. The website address is www.TheBestLentEver.com. It is a resource which helps followers to cele-

brate Lent by providing them with daily thoughts and ideas about Lent. This is another way you can prepare for Easter by celebrating Lent.

Partaking in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is another way you can prepare for Easter by celebrating Lent. St. Mary Parish offers you the opportunity to receive this Sacrament each Saturday from 3–3:45 PM in the upstairs church and during Lent, each Wednesday from 6:30–8 PM. Reconciliation is a conversation which can unburden and lift your heart to better prepare for Easter joy!

St. Mary Parish is always seeking new volunteers in a wide variety of ministries. These volunteers are regular Parishioners who choose to make a difference in our parish and community. In celebrating Lent, you can help prepare for Easter by becoming a volunteer! St. Mary Parish is always welcoming new volunteers such as Mass Ushers/Greeters, Choir Members, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, and Lectors just to name a few. Please reference the weekly bulletin and the parish website, stmarysfranklin.org, for additional volunteer opportunity ideas. Assisting and supporting your parish is a rewarding way to celebrate Lent!

Holy Week is full of ways to prepare for Easter. As Lent comes to an end, Holy Week helps to prepare us by celebrating the traditions and rituals of our Catholic Faith. Have you ever journeyed the Easter Triduum? The Easter Triduum begins Holy Thursday evening. It consists of one service stretched over three evenings. Holy Thursday at 7:30 PM the service celebrates the Lord's Supper. It is a celebration of the unconditional love Jesus has for each of us. The Easter Triduum continues on Friday at 7:30 PM with the solemn remembrance of Christ's crucifixion. The Triduum concludes on Saturday night at 7:30 with a vigil awaiting for, and the celebrating the arrival of Easter. These three nights and this one wonderful service provide us with the final pre-Easter opportunity to prepare. Whether you attend one, two

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Families' Corner

by Katherine Ginnetty

Matthew 28:19 tells us to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Here at St. Mary's there is a baptismal ministry group that follows St. Matthew's admonition, instructing parents who anticipate christening their child at our church. Michele Hardesty is the contact person for that “Time, Talent and Treasure” opportunity, and she invites new members to the group with this information about its parish role.



Fr. Jack baptizing Savannah Hiscoe as her parents, Jennifer and Ken, and big sister Alison look on.

Baptismal ministers welcome parents, godparents and babies to St. Mary's and the sacrament of baptism. More than a “nice” ceremony or just a tradition, baptism is the road through which a person enters the Church and becomes part of the Body of Christ. Every parent who is having a first child baptized needs to take the class offered by this ministry. While not required, attendance by godparents is encouraged. Children presented for baptism can be of any age. The class consists of two parts; the first part is a short DVD explaining Church teaching about the sacrament and the rites. In the second part, members of the ministry share their personal thoughts about the importance of baptism to their families; how the baptism of a child can nurture faith; and how Divine grace, necessary for raising a child with love

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The Weave

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by Saint Mary Parish, Franklin MA



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...Disciples in Mission

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believe that we all seek to help with the "Mission" of spreading the "Good News" of Jesus Christ.

In our next *Weave* I will be able to write more about what will be going on as we join Phase III of the Plan. I will have completed 4 seminars on being a Pastor of a Phase III Collaborative Parish. I look forward to the investment of time and work etc. in these seminars because I hope to gain additional knowledge and insight that will help me lead our parish community.

Our Parish's main purpose is "the praise and worship of our God". How we achieve this and offer holy and

View From the Pew

by Joan McGuire

Endless Gifts of Love

We are born to be conduits of God's messages. We can, if we agree, become messengers of Christ's presence in the mundane moments of each ordinary day. Whether we choose to or not, as we live each day, we always leave footprints. Christ as a parting gift of love promised to send the Paraclete to guide us. As long as I can remember I had devotion to the Paraclete. Possibly because I didn't think it was particularly complimentary to be identified as a bird or a ghost but more probably because I knew I was in constant need of guidance. I recall my mother's constant reminder to me as I was going out the door. "People can't hear what you are saying because what you do is shouting at them."

Native Americans have a practice as winter is coming on. At the feast of the "Hungry Moon" they lay out a blanket and everyone in the tribe puts items that they can share on it. It might be food, clothing, utensils, blankets, toys or a cherished homemade item. Then the members of the tribe choose something that they need to get them through the coming winter. Like this "giving blanket" the Paraclete lays out the gifts we need to get through our daily lives. These gifts are skills that can be perfected by practice. (Watch a young child learning to catch a ball or tie the laces on shoes.) So as we consciously practice the gifts, they become habits that can more easily be used in working as God's instrument.

Pick one from the list below, define it and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit watch it bloom in your daily life.

Holy Spirit's Giving Blanket (gifts and fruits)

love	peace
joy	patience
kindness	goodness
faithfulness	gentleness
self-control	prudence
fortitude	wisdom
understanding	knowledge
counsel	strength
piety	fear of the Lord

graced services to our parishioners is complicated. We have one clear goal for mission, but we have many, many different interpretations of how this should be and the support activities for it. We are also composed of many, many people who have different hopes and dreams for their lives and for how Saint Mary's should be part of their lives.

Saint Mary's is a wonderful parish because we believe and we care. Our future will be filled with light because we have hope and dreams in our God and seek to live them as best as possible.

The Promise of Easter

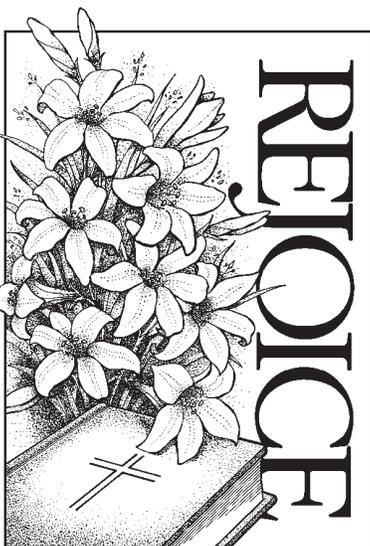


...Prepare

(Continued from page 2)

or all three evenings, the Easter Triduum is a service which will certainly brighten your Easter!

Life requires us to prepare for many events and tasks. We prepare to submit our tax forms prior to April 15th each year. We prepare for our vacations by researching, reserving, purchasing and packing. We prepare each year for the arrival of Christmas with gifts, foods and merriment. As students, we prepare to take exams, quizzes and tests and then prepare to graduate. Preparation makes us more ready to complete the task and to enjoy the following accomplishment. Take time to celebrate Lent and prepare for Easter. It's never too late to begin to prepare!



Bereavement Support Group to begin

A seven week Bereavement Support Group will begin on Wednesday, April 23, 2015 at 7pm in St Mary's lower church. This faith based group is offered to anyone who has experienced a recent loss. For additional information or to register, please call Nan Rafta at 508-528-0020. Space is limited.



Mark Your Parish Calendar

- Mar. 20** Stations of the Cross, 5:45pm
- Mar. 21** Respect Life Baby Shower
- Mar. 22** Respect Life Baby Shower
- Mar. 22** Baptisms
- Mar. 24** Mass at nursing home
- Mar. 25** Confessions, 6:30-8pm
- Mar. 27** Stations of the Cross, 5:45pm
- Mar. 28** Electronic & Appliance Recycling, school parking lot 9am-2pm
- Mar. 29 Palm Sunday**
- Apr. 1** Mass at the Estate
- Apr. 1** Confessions, 6:30-8pm
- Apr. 2 Holy Thursday**
Morning Prayer, 7am
Mass at 7:30pm
- Apr. 3 Good Friday**
Morning Prayer, 7am
Cross Walk Around the Common, noon
Stations of the Cross, 3pm
Good Friday Service, 7:30pm
- Apr. 4 Holy Saturday**
Morning Prayer, 7am
Confessions, 3-5pm
Easter Vigil, 7:30pm
- Apr. 5 Easter**
Masses: 7:30am, 9am (2), 10:30am (2), Noon,
No 5pm Mass
- Apr. 8** Mass at Forge Hill
- Apr. 11** Anointing Mass at Central Park Terrace, 10:30am
- Apr. 12** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30pm
- Apr. 12** Baptisms
- Apr. 13** Rocco Meeting, 7pm
- Apr. 19** Baptisms
- Apr. 23** Bereavement Support Group begins
- Apr. 25 First Communion, 10am**
- Apr. 26** Baptisms
- Apr. 28** Mass at nursing home
- May 1 First Friday**
Adoration, 7:30am
Benediction, 8:45am
- May 2 First Communion 10am and Noon**
- May 3** Baptisms
- May 3** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- May 6** Mass at The Estate
- May 10** Baptisms
- May 13** Mass at Forge Hill
- May 13 Vigil Mass for Ascension Thursday, 4pm**
- May 14 Ascension Thursday**
Masses: 7am, 9am, 7:30pm
- May 17** Baptisms
- May 17** Last 5pm Mass until Sept.

Lenten and Easter Liturgical Celebrations

Daily Mass
Mon. - Fri. 7am, 5:15pm
Saturday 8am

Confession
Wednesdays in Lent
6:30-8pm

Stations of the Cross
Fridays after the 5:15pm Mass

Holy Thursday
April 17th
Morning Prayer at 7am
Mass at 7:30pm

Good Friday
April 18th
Morning Prayer at 7am
Cross Walk on the Common, noon
Stations of the Cross at 3pm
Good Friday Service at 7:30pm

Holy Saturday
April 19th
Morning Prayer at 7am
Easter Vigil at 7:30pm

Easter Sunday
April 20th
Masses:
7:30am, 9am,
10:30am, 12 noon

- May 24** Baptisms
- May 25 Memorial Day**
No 7am Mass
Mass at the Cemetery at 9am
- May 26** Mass at nursing home
- May 31 Baccalaureate Mass,**
10:30am
- June 5 First Friday**
Adoration, 7:30am
Benediction, 8:45am
- June 7** Baptisms
- June 10** Mass at Forge Hill
- June 14** Baptisms
- June 14** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- June 23** Mass at Nursing Home
- June 27** Food Collection
- June 28** Food Collection

...Families Corner

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and patience, is made available through the regular reception of the sacraments of Eucharist and Penance. In Michelle's words, the class "helps parents to understand the wonderful gift they are giving their child in baptism, and how to nurture that gift in the years to come."

Father Jack is the spiritual mentor of the team that includes Michele and her husband, Doug, team leaders for the past five years. Other presenters are couples with children of their own. The presenters receive formation training and commit to presenting twice a year, on Sunday from 1:30 to 2:30 in Sacred Heart Hall (under the main church.) While new parents have the opportunity through these classes to meet with and learn from other lay parishioners, presenters, in Michelle's words, have their own rewards: "Everyone is very receptive, and it is such a joy to see the beautiful, well-loved babies!"

Presenters should be married parishioners who have received the sacraments of initiation, the sacraments of penance and marriage and who regularly attend mass. If you would enjoy being the face of welcome to new families and are comfortable talking with small groups about faith, perhaps this is a time, treasure and talent opportunity waiting for you! Please contact Michele Hardesty for more information at 508 528 0664 or hardesty99@gmail.com.



- June 28** Baptisms
- July 1** Mass at The Estate
- July 3 First Friday**
Adoration, 7:30am
Benediction, 8:45am
- July 5 No Noon Mass**
- July 8** Mass at Forge Hill
- July 12** Baptisms
- July 12** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- July 19** Baptisms



by Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

Taking Care

At the Interfaith Thanksgiving service this past November, the choir sang the beautiful song... "*Because We Have Been Given Much.*" Many of us have been blessed with so many things. Unfortunately many of our "things" can cause us stress, whether it be clutter or the need to have more of the latest multi-media, technical equipment that "helps" us to have more free time when in fact we have less and it can cause us to be distracted and not care for all that we have been truly blessed with.

Why not use this season to re-evaluate your lifestyle. Lent is a time for fasting; Easter is a time of renewal and new beginnings. Take some time to identify some of the ways that you can become more caring... caring for yourself, for others, for your home, and your world. "*God created the heavens and the earth; man and woman...and said that was good.*" (Genesis chapter 1)

Caring for you: This is a time for reflection and for giving. Why not give yourself the gift of quiet. Take several times

throughout your day to sit quietly for 5 minutes to breathe and pray. Set your alarm so you will be reminded to spend some precious time with God and care for yourself. Eating more fish in Lent can be healthy and may improve your cholesterol. Eating less meat is not only a health benefit and the money you save can be donated to someone in need. Try a new vegetable. Learn to say "no." Breathe! Learn how to balance life's demands.

Caring for others: Is there someone that you know who needs extra attention or care? A child, a spouse or maybe a relative or neighbor. Care about the things that are important to your child. Live a life in mutual respect. Take the time to re-evaluate your relationships and then decide how you will reach and help this person. It might be spending time helping with a project, playing a game or setting a time for "date night." It might be calling someone or sending a card to a lonely relative or neighbor. Why not become a volunteer at your child's school, food pantry or senior center. There are many caring groups in town who help others such as the St. Vincent

de Paul Society, Friends of Franklin, Neighborhood Brigade, FISH of Franklin and Random Smile Projects who need volunteers. Remember to keep a healthy balance in your life. However, when you help others, you care for your kind spirit.

Caring for your home: Increase your awareness of the chemical content in the products you buy. Become a label reader: cleaning products, toiletries and beauty products. Turn down your thermostat: every degree above 68 increases fuel consumption by as much as 3 percent. Check doors and windows for leaks (which is a real problem this winter!) Turn off electronic devices such as DVD players and computers and lowering your hot water heater from 130 to 120 degrees can provide considerable savings.

Caring for the environment: Make choices that are environmentally conscious. Walk more, take public transportation, carpool, and consolidate your errands to reduce multiple trips in the car. Eating locally grown food is healthy and beneficial for the environment. Locally grown food requires fewer miles to transport and supports local farmers and businesses. When you are on your walk, why not bring along a bag and pick up the trash along on your way, providing care for your world.

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

PARISH COMMUNICATION

This parish is very large and active. It is important for us to be able to give you accurate information and for you to be able to contact us as needed. If you wish to contact anyone at the rectory we can be reached by phone, 508-528-0020; Fax, 508-528-1641; or email. Here are email addresses for the clergy, Religious Education and rectory staff:

Father Brian Manning: bmannings@stmarysfranklin.org

Father Jack Sullivan: jsullivan@stmarysfranklin.org

Father Anthony Le: ale@stmarysfranklin.org

Karen Ackles: reled.grades1-6@stmarysfranklin.org

Liz Bertoni: reled.secretary@stmarysfranklin.org

Patricia Murphy: reled.registration@stmarysfranklin.org

Paula Coughlin: parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

Claire Perry: cperry@stmarysfranklin.org

Paulette Thomas: pthomas@stmarysfranklin.org

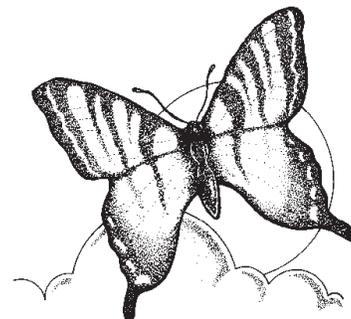
Nan Rafter: nrafter@stmarysfranklin.org

Terry Kerr, Music Director: terry.kerr@att.net 508-541-3286

If your parish group or organization would like to place a notice in the bulletin, we must receive it **in writing (email is preferred)** by 5pm Sunday afternoon for the following weekend. Information can also be submitted for inclusion on the parish website at any time. Bulletin or website information can be emailed to parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

If your organization is planning to use any parish facilities, such as the church, church hall, lower church meeting rooms or the school, for your meetings, events, etc. it is **necessary** that you call and reserve the time and place that you want. This is the **only** way that you can be assured of having your activity at the desired location.

CHECK OUT OUR PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarysfranklin.org. There is a wealth of information available there.





St. Mary's Music Notes!!

by Terry Kerr

Adult Choir: The St. Mary Adult Choir provided the parish with joy-filled music during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The Adult Choir also led us in song for a "Festival of Lessons and Carols" on Sunday, December 14, 2014 – hopefully a new "annual" tradition at St. Mary's!

The Adult Choir has already started for 2015. The Adult Choir is always happy to welcome new faces and voices. The Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday Evenings in the Upper Church Choir Loft from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Why not take a STAB at it? STAB, of course, means...

- S oprano
- T enor
- A lto
- B ass

We are just getting ready for preparations for the upcoming Easter Season!

Children's Choir: The St. Mary Children's Choir continues to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. It is these young voices that lead us in song and inspires us to sing songs of praise during our Sunday liturgies! The Children's Choir sang at the "Festival of Lessons and Carols" on December 14, 2014.

If you are interested in having your child participate in the St. Mary Children's Choir Program, please come to rehearsals at St. Mary Church on Thursday afternoons in the Upper Church from 5:15 p.m. – 6p.m. The St. Mary Children's Choir sings on the first Sunday of each month at the 9a.m. Mass and various other parish liturgical celebrations throughout the year!



"...a second Adam...to the rescue"

by Father Jack Sullivan

An advertisement for New York City's Metropolitan Museum displayed this headline: Tullio Lombardo's Adam: a masterpiece restored. This fifteenth century Venetian marble sculpture of Adam is now at last restored. In October 2002 the statue had been broken in a fall from its display platform. The museum's report on the achievement of the restorers of Tullio Lombardo's Adam gives us a fresh way to imagine and visualize the saving work of Jesus Christ. As a result of the saving work of Jesus Christ, we confess together: "...we have been restored..." (Roman Missal Preface 7, ordinary time). The Church says to God in prayer – you "restore human nature to yet greater dignity than at its beginnings" (Easter 4, Thursday) and "...may the whole world know and see that what was cast down is raised up...all things are restored to integrity through Christ..." (Easter Vigil prayer, n. 30).

When Saint Paul reflected upon the biblical story of Adam's fall in Genesis 3, he looked ahead to Jesus Christ

by regarding Adam as "the type of the one who was to come" (Romans 5:14). The Catechism guides our understanding of the restoring and saving work of Jesus Christ. "We must know Christ as the source of grace in order to know Adam as the source of sin" (CCC, 388). Saint Paul compares and contrasts Adam and Jesus Christ in unfolding the mystery of human redemption in Christ. "...just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous" (Romans 5:18-19).

The lyrics of Blessed John Cardinal Newman's hymn "Praise to the Holiest in the height" refer to Jesus as "a second Adam."

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
a second Adam to the fight
and to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive afresh against the foe,
should strive, and should prevail;

At the Easter Vigil, the Easter proclamation rejoices that Jesus has prevailed and has won the great victory over sin and death. Looking first at Jesus and then back at Adam, the cantor sings: "This is the night, when Christ broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious from the underworld. Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed. O wonder of your humble care for us! O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son! O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!"

"The doctrine of original sin is, so to speak, the 'reverse side' of the Good News that Jesus is the Savior of all men [and women], that all need salvation, and that salvation is offered to all through Christ" (CCC, 389).

Alleluia!
HE IS ALIVE!

Healing Mass

There will be a healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 10:30 AM. This special Mass will take place at the community hall at Central Park Terrace (off of Wachusett Street.)

A light lunch will be served following the Mass. This Mass is sponsored by St Mary's Health Ministry and the Legion of Mary.

For information, please call Nan Rafter at 508-528-0020.

The Challenge of Mission Today... Oh! How it is changed!!!!

by Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x.

Anniversaries are always wonderful times to celebrate where we have been and where we are going. Whether it is a wedding, a country or a document, it is a moment to stop, look back to see why this occasion happened and give a word of thanks for the present moment and for what will come to be. In 1965 the Vatican Council was coming to an end. For four years, bishops and church experts of every stripe had gathered in Rome for this historic meeting. In December of 1965 a number of the documents that they had worked on, debated, wrote and rewrote were finally brought to a vote and passed. One such document was called *Ad Gentes*, Latin for "To the ends of the earth." This was the official statement of the Council on the Universal Mission of our Church. Together with many of the other major documents such as the Pastoral Constitution on the Church as well as Church in the Modern World, *Ad Gentes* challenged our sense of who we were as Church and who we were to be for the world. I can remember hearing and saying that it may take 50 years to implement these new perceptions of Church and Mission. And now that we are here, 50 years later, I wonder if even more time and engagement is needed to understand the difference that is there and make that difference happen.

What was it like back then in the 1960's? We were a different people, a different Church and we thought we had a different Mission. We were just coming out of the World War II experience, in the midst of a new Cold War. There was great fear of nuclear disaster. We as Catholics were beginning to come of age. We had a Catholic president for the first time in our US history. Many of us were educated as never before, some due to the GI Bill,

others due to the proliferation of Catholic Schools in the new suburbs. I hail from Norwood where St. Catherine's School was the largest in all of New England in 1967. We believed that Mission was bringing the faith to others, mostly in faraway lands, and mostly done by priests and religious sisters and brothers, not the ordinary Christian.

Change was beginning to come, even before the Council. Church growth happened from the 1930s in ways that it had never before. Africa and Asia were beginning to have their own priests, sisters and Bishops, sons and daughters of the soil as we often say in Africa. Former colonies were now independent. Trade was becoming globalized and relationships between peoples and countries looked very different. The United Nations was born in the late 1940's, calling for a new international accountability and responsibility that could lead to peaceful, global citizenship.

These new beginnings blossomed into many changes over these 50 years. The movement of peoples now is like never before due to the facility of air, sea and land travel. The world has become a village. Wars motivate many to relocate for safety and economic opportunities. Many of our countries are quilt-like centers of diversity, both of cultures and of faith traditions, often stymied in fear and misunderstandings of one another, seeing "others" as threats. We as Church in the USA look very different. Gone are many of the national parishes, but membership of our parishes reflect this diversity. By way of example, St. Mary's Parish in Lynn has 22 national flags that grace the back of the worship space, acknowledging the rich diversity in that community's membership. There are well over 30 languages used in various churches each Sunday throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. There are 900 African priests and 1,600 African Sisters serving in our US Church. The same can be said for those from India or Philippines. Who is missioning to whom? And the number of laity who serve our church as administrators, DREs, Pastoral Associates and more is significant. Just look at who works at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Center. That was not the picture in 1960. And much of this change is due to a theological shift that Vatican II encouraged: the insight that all of us who share the grace of baptism are engaged in Mission, local and global. All are called to be intentional disciples, called to serve, called to form a new community of love.

So, the whole sense of Mission is changed.

All are engaged in it. Membership in the "mission communities of men and women" such as mine may be down, but 50% of those who leave the USA to serve overseas are laity. It is now not a call to "bring the faith" beyond, but to share the faith that we find there which often times preceded our arrival (God got there first! And may look different!) and witness the care and compassion of Jesus to all. We even have a Pope who comes from the Southern Hemisphere. He calls us to Mission in Joy, even when things don't look that joyful. Our concern for justice is seen as a constitutive aspect of the Gospel message, front and center, at its core. Charity AND Justice go hand in hand. Outreach to those marginalized and looking at the issue of systemic change of those situations that cause injustice, pain and suffering is to be on everyone's agenda. Our diversity is a call to be about interfaith and intercultural dialogue, not so much an intellectual dialogue that helps us know the unique differences of various faith traditions, but a dialogue of life that brings us together in our differences around common challenges of life and society. Faith is a partnership with all believers of all faiths, together searching for truth and common ground that can aid us in discovering the good that our Creator God blessed us with at Creation. Our witness and service is exercised in mutuality, giving and receiving, no longer just one directional. Our call to be in solidarity with one another goes beyond "I am Charlie" to "I am Brother and Sister to all."

Over these 50 years the church has given us directives and tools to ready us for the changes mentioned above and even more. To help celebrate this anniversary and to help everyone "review" both the changes, challenges and calls to engagements in Mission today, the Xaverian Missionaries at Fatima Shrine in Holliston offer a monthly retreat on the second Sunday of each month, looking each month at one of the many aspects of Mission.

So, Happy Anniversary!

For more information on these monthly retreats, call 508 429 2144.

Fr. Rocco Puopolo, s.x. is a Xaverian Missionary, from Norwood MA, who served 12 years in Sierra Leone West Africa in youth outreach and school administration, 15 years in the Midwest in Seminary Training, 5 years in Washington as an Advocate for Justice in Africa and now is the co-director of the GYM, a resource service for Youth and Young Adults out of the Fatima Shrine in Holliston.

...Bedazzled

(Continued from page 1)

He appeared to his apostles in the upper room He greeted them with "Peace I give you." Jesus' words were a soothing balm for the apostles who desperately needed forgiveness. He spoke to them of their mission. He showed His confidence in them. Forgiveness was to be characteristic of His followers and He gave the example.

As we celebrate the Paschal mystery, we have received the spirit of Jesus and with it the ability to forgive as He did. We have only to fully accept this gift.

Winter Musings

by Karen Ackles

As we sat in our office canceling Religious Education class after Religious Education class because of the weather, this little poem came across our desk:

Trinity Snowman



**When you see a snowman
Three snowballs round,
He is reminding you
That in God, Three in One are Found.**

**The bottom reminds us of God the Father,
Our strong rock and foundation
The Creator of all living things,
People, tribes and nations.**

**The middle shows us God the Son
With His arms spread open wide.
Who died on the cross for each of us
Our sins Jesus's blood did hide.**

**The head reminds us of God the Holy Spirit
Who is our counselor and friend,
He speaks to our hearts and minds
Transforming us in the likeness of Him.**

**So when you see a snowman
In the midst of all the wintertime fun,
Listen carefully and he'll tell you,
"Remember God is Three in One."**

Used with permission

Hopefully by the time you read this poem, the snowman will have melted but his message will be one that will stay with us for a long time.

Have a wonderful Easter!



The Weave

St. Mary Parish Family
One Church Square
Franklin MA 02038

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