



THE GREGORIAN

Vol. 1, Issue 1

St. Gregory the Great Church, South Euclid, Ohio

Lent, 2008

OUR BISHOP IS CALLING US TO LIVE A VIBRANT PARISH LIFE.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

"I want to first emphasize that the foundation for the work of all clusters is the Church's essential mission of evangelizing and re-evangelizing.

All that we do must lead to bringing the Gospel message into every human situation and helping people to come to an encounter with the living Christ."

Excerpt from
Bishop Richard Lennon's Letter
Dated May 28, 2007

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PARISH NEWSLETTER ... REEMERGES UNDER NEW BANNER, NEW FORMAT

I am delighted to reintroduce *The Gregorian*, our parish newsletter which some of you may remember from years ago. It is our hope that this quarterly will help get us connected with important events in the life of the parish. We have the weekly bulletin to announce current events. *The Gregorian*, will bring you more in depth stories concerning our parish.

With articles about the spiritual life written by the priests and the various events in the liturgical life of our parish, we hope that you will come to appreciate our Catholic faith even more fully and see how it is being lived right here in South Euclid.

Of particular interest to some will be updates on the happenings of our cluster parishes of Saint Margaret Mary and Holy Rosary. Through this newsletter we hope that you will come to understand and appreciate the things that are happening in our area of the Diocese and how we are striving to live out the Vibrant Parish Life that Bishop Lennon is calling us to live. For others, information from our school, articles submitted by some of the students, the recap-

ping of athletic events, and alumni information will create a greater awareness of our Day School. We will also include things that are happening in PSR as well as our High School Youth Group. Hopefully this newsletter will be a tool to help all of us appreciate the great things that are happening in the lives of our young people.

Finally, we hope that this will be an instrument to reach out to our shut-ins so that they may feel attached to the life of our Parish. Dear friends who are not able to make it to Mass because of your illnesses, know that you are loved and that we remember you in our prayers. We know that you wish that you could be with us every Sunday; know that you are a very important part of our Parish. Your prayers and sacrifices are deeply appreciated.

I pray that you will enjoy our newsletter. If you have any suggestions or thoughts to share, they would be deeply appreciated.

Father Ireland, Pastor

LENT: A SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

BY FATHER IRELAND

Lent: a season of the year when we center on the passion and death of our Lord; 40 days reminiscent of the 40 days of our Lord's unbroken fast in the desert; a time of spiritual preparation for the resurrection of Christ. It is observed as a time of fasting, penance and prayer; a type of retreat for the entire Church. Each day has a special Mass assigned to it where we examine more deeply the life of Christ. These Liturgies date back to the sev-

enth and eighth centuries of the Church. You will note that there are no feasts observed on Sundays, purple vestments are used (except for Laetare Sunday), the Gloria and Alleluias are omitted, and the music takes on a more simple and somber tone.

As we prepare for this Lenten Journey together, please remember the Church's call to fast and abstinence. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

(continued on page 3 ...)

RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS) “BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS ALIVE IN THE MODERN WORLD.”

BY FATHER KEN JAKUBOWSKI

The letters RCIA stand for the RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS, the document flowing from Vatican II which guides the process by which adults are initiated into the Roman Catholic community. The RCIA describes a process in which men and women are guided and cared for as they awaken in faith, and are gradually introduced to the Catholic way of life.

The RCIA process is a series of carefully planned stages, marked by liturgical rites in the presence of the whole community, in which new Catholics embark on and join us in a continuing and deepening conversion into faith and discipleship. The full process consists of four periods of awakening, growth and formation marked by celebration of three major rites:

I. INQUIRY:

Those seeking conversion ask hard questions about Christianity and receive truthful, life-sharing answers from Catholic Christians. As the inquirer desires to continue the journey, she or he is invited to experience the first major rite: The Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, or Preparation for Full Communion in the Church. A

Catechumen is one preparing for baptism; a Candidate for full reception into the Church is one already validly baptized and preparing for the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

II. CATECHUMENATE (or period of preparation for full communion in the Church): This is the time of learning more about the “Catholic way” as well as reflecting deeply on the scriptural call to holiness and discipleship.

This period ends when the catechumen or candidate is ready to begin the third period of the journey. On the First Sunday of Lent, they gather with the Bishop for the Rite of Election and further preparation for full communion and conversion.

III. PURIFICATION & ENLIGHTENMENT: This is during the season of Lent, a period of prayer, fasting, and reflection, not only for the Catechumens and Candidates, but for the entire community of faith. During this time, the Elect (Candidates for Baptism) and Candidates for full communion in the Church experience the scrutiny rites, which seal their break with evil in

preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation.

IV. THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

The Candidates and Elect are initiated through the third and consummating rite of the RCIA process, the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. On that night, the Elect culminated their long journey to initiation in the waters of Baptism. Then, with the Candidates, they are sealed with the Sacred Chrism (oil) and share the food of Holy Eucharist as full members of the Roman Catholic community. From that day forward, they open their hearts and minds to the great mystery of God’s love and salvation, a continuing conversion in full communion with the rest of the community of faith.

I have the awesome responsibility of coordinating this effort at the Church of Saint Gregory the Great. With the help of God and a wonderful and dedicated team of parishioners, I continue to grow in my own faith. Please keep us in your prayers, and especially pray for and be good examples of discipleship to our present Catechumens who will join us fully at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 22 ...

**DAISY SCHWARZ,
TIMOTHY BENNETT
SHAWN INMON**



DEVOTIONS, LITURGIES & SPECIAL EVENTS DURING LENT

Stations of the Cross with Benediction
every Friday throughout the Season of Lent in the Church beginning at 7 p.m.

Confessions:

Cluster Communal Penance
(with individual confession of sins)
Monday, March 17
In the Church at 7 pm.
Confessors from Holy Rosary,
St. Margaret Mary and St. Gregory the Great

Confessions (continued):

Saturday, March 15 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday, March 17 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Communal Penance at 7p.m.
Wednesday, March 19 3 to 4:30 p.m.
After Tenebrae until 9 p.m.
Thursday, March 20 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Holy Week Services:

Wednesday, March 19 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae
Holy Thursday, March 20 Mass of the Last Supper 7:30 p.m.

Holy Week Services (continued):

Good Friday, March 21
The Lord’s Passion 12:10 p.m.
Stations 3:00 p.m.
Living Stations 7:30 p.m.
Holy Saturday, March 22
Blessing of Food 2:00 p.m.
Vigil Mass 9:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday Masses, March 23
8, 10, and 11:30 a.m. ONLY.

NO 5 p.m. MASS TODAY

LENT: A SPIRITUAL PREPARATION ...CONTINUED ...

are days of fast and abstinence. Fasting means Catholics age 18 years until 59 years are called to eat only one major meal. Abstinence means that Catholics who are 14 years and older (**NO UPPER LIMIT**) are called to refrain from eating any meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent. These small sacrifices help us remember Christ's great Sacrifice for us.

The Second Vatican Council declared, "The Lenten season has a twofold character: (1) it recalls baptism or prepares for it; (2) it stresses a penitential spirit. By these means especially, Lent readies the faithful for celebrating the paschal mystery after a period of closer attention to the Word of God, and more ardent prayer. In the liturgy itself, and in the

liturgy-centered instruction, these baptismal and penitential themes should be more pronounced."

May Lent be a time for you to grow more deeply in your spiritual life. Really enter this time and you will see the grace of God come alive in your heart. Find some extra act of penance and sacrifice.

Perhaps you might attend an extra Mass during the week, offer extra prayers at home, attend Stations of the Cross or a Penance Service, help in the Catholic Relief Service through the use of the rice bowl, give up something that is really a sacrifice for you, or fast to name just a few.

Maybe you could experience one or more of the opportunities for spiritual growth we already offer here:

Bible Study on Monday mornings, the Rosary for World Peace on Wednesdays before the 12:10 Mass, Coffee House Theology and the Spanish Rosary on Wednesday evenings, The Marian Movement for Priests on Thursday evenings, or the Men's Fellowship Breakfast Meetings the first and third Saturdays of every month. Also, there are many fine programs offered by EWTN.

For more information on any of these, you may call Clare Schuele at 216.382.0561 or the Parish Office at 216.382.7601.

Please pray for those preparing to be received into the Church this Easter.

To our shut-ins: you bring a special gift to our community, your gift of time for prayer. Please pray for our parish.

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE ...

BY FR. KEN JAKUBOWSKI

On January 21 and 22, a bus load of our parishioners joined nearly 300,000 people from across the United States in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., an event which marks the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in these United States. We, of course, denounce that decision, so we march in peaceful protest to show our government, the nation and the world that we who believe in the sacredness of life from the very beginning cannot accept a law which denigrates the most defenseless human beings. A number of our young people participated, which gives me hope for the ongoing promotion of life issues. They indeed are a great inspiration to me.

Please pray for our country, all expectant parents, and especially those who feel trapped in a pregnancy. Our prayer can help them see that there is no situation too great, no situation without viable and morally good options.

The Respect Life Committee is very active in conscience raising initiatives. Participation in the March for Life is one;

the Stand for Life on Respect Life Sunday (the first Sunday in October) is another. We join life groups throughout the nation on that day to spread the word about our opposition to abortion on demand and we pray for those who are considering ending a human life through the evil and sin of abortion. Lay leaders of the Committee are Rita Krebs, Barbara Latini and Mary Ellen Satava.

Here's what our young people who were winners in a recent Respect Life Essay Contest had to say:

...Rachel Novinc, 1st Place, Gr.6 ...

"I have 5 adopted cousins. If their birth moms chose abortion, I wouldn't have the fun and wacky holidays that I'm blessed to have. I couldn't imagine my life without them."

...Joanna Hallisy, 1st Place, Gr. 7 ...

"Abortion only dims the light of our future. We need to make it shine brighter by ending abortion so we can all live out God's plan for us."

...Jon Medovich, 1st Place, Gr. 8 ...

"If God gives you children, treasure your

gift. Do not harm it; rather give it a future. Children in a family are like flowers in a bouquet ... how would the missing child have brought joy to their family?"

...Connor Withrow, 1st Place, Gr. 8 PSR

I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord ... "It's amazing how much influence a simple quote can have. If more people would just listen to God's words then maybe these babies would at least have a fighting chance. I know God wants this. All life is sacred in the eyes of God, and all life is sacred in my eyes as well. I wish the world would open up its eyes and realize what is wrong. Abortion is plain wrong."

Other winners were:

Grade 8: 2nd Place, Kelsey Kotik
3rd Place, Owen Reilly

Grade 7: 2nd Place, Rajan Khosla, Jr.
3rd Place, William Woodson

Grade 6: 2nd Place, Jonathan Loya
3rd Place, Mitchell Clifford

Grade 8 PSR:

2nd Place, Elysse Alioto
3rd Place, Austin Angelotti

SAINT GREGORY SCORES HIGH ON OUTREACH TO THE POOR ...

We are one of 20 parishes from the eastern and northeastern sections of the diocese who were invited to join the Father Michael Wittman Ozanam Center ("Center") at Christ the King Parish in East Cleveland as a participating parish. The Center was named in honor of the late Father Michael Wittman, pastor of Christ the King, and Frederick Ozanam, the founder of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The Center serves the poor in Cleveland, East Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, South Euclid and Richmond Heights.

Since its opening in 2006, the Center has served the poor in a multitude of ways. Each of the 20 parishes provides volunteers to run the programs and physical support in the form of donated grocery items and used clothing, as well as financial support to purchase groceries and cover overhead costs. There are no personnel expenses associated with the Center. All funds are used to operate and maintain the facilities and support programs provided.

If you are a statistics buff, here are some figures that should both impress you and make you proud:

Food Distribution Program

- 880 households were served in the 4th quarter, 2007. Approximately 2,279 individuals are associated with these households
- 617 households (70%) were from the 44112 (East Cleveland) zip code
- 1,380 bags of groceries were distributed
- 236 were first-time households registering at the Center

Clothing Distribution Program:

- 544 households served during the quarter, of them 344 (63%) were from East Cleveland
- Approximately 4,042 articles of clothing were distributed (a limit of ten items per person, per six-month period was established)

The Clothing Bank is self-sustaining meaning that enough clothing is being

received from random individual contributions, special collections by participating parishes to maintain an adequate stock.

The Center is a wonderful example of hands-on ministry: the Church actively working in the urban community (Church in the City) and as an example of collaboration among parishes (Vibrant Parish Life). New volunteers are always welcome!!

During the last quarter 198 different individuals served in the food and clothing distribution programs as volunteers. In addition, parishes are making payments to the Center to support its activities and assist in the periodic purchase of groceries.

"Thank You" to all who have contributed in many ways to the successes of the Center.

Please keep the Center, and all its volunteers, and all its good works in your prayers. Several recent break-ins and senseless acts of vandalism have shrouded the goodness that emanates from that holy ground. We ask God's protection upon the Center.

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