
St. Paul's Red Door Chronicle

Volume 13, Issue 3

March 2010

From the Priest-in-Charge:

*The glory of these forty days
We celebrate with songs of praise;
For Christ, through whom all things were made,
Himself has fasted and has prayed.*
-6th Century Latin Hymn

We had a much beloved professor of church history in seminary, with whom it was *usually* a pleasure to share lunch in our refectory (a churchy word for “dining hall”). I say “usually” because one had to be careful sharing a table with said professor on Fridays. The good Father was an Anglo-Catholic of the “old school”, and if he spotted a bit of meat or (God forbid) a dessert on a student’s plate he would exclaim loudly enough for nearby tables to hear “AND ON A FRIDAY...” punctuated with a hearty “HARRUMPH!!!” One dared not question him as to why he had a large piece of roast beef or three lemon bars on his plate, as he was—or so he claimed—past the age of obligatory fasting. Neither was it any good to claim that the seminary itself was at fault for leading us into temptation by providing the opportunity to indulge on a Friday.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola wrote about a sin to which the pious faithful were particularly prone: *scrupulosity*. Scrupulosity is a legalistic or obsessive attention to perceived spiritual obligations. In other words, it’s “going overboard”. The danger in scrupulosity is not that we can get so holy that we float away or that we’ll waste away if we don’t permit ourselves a cheeseburger on a Friday. Rather, the danger is that we may cease to see fasting and prayer as a means to grow closer to God. Fasting and prayer can become just one more obligation, just another rule, instead of a powerful reminder of God’s power and presence.

The line between sacrifice and scrupulosity is rather subjective. It depends on how practiced each of us is in piety, what kind of lifestyle each of us already leads, and what each of us believes is a good balance. Jesus ate nothing and prayed constantly for forty days and nights, but I suspect none of us is yet capable of that degree of commitment. Our professor was probably right to remind us of the efficacy of the Friday fast, all of us being seminarians in a quasi-monastic setting, but for others it might have been a bit much. Most of us could benefit from sacrificing an hour of television a day in order to pray and read the bible. To neglect genuine family obligations to do so would be scrupulosity.

In the end, a realistic goal for our Lenten observances will help each of us stay on track and grow in the faith. If your Lenten discipline is already becoming “just another rule”, give it a little more time, but then (and here’s a radical suggestion) amend it. If you start to resent God rather than love Him more, try something else. I’m not usually a great fan of sports metaphors, but there is one that I find helpful: Lent is a marathon not a sprint. If you’ve worn yourself out and don’t see the second wind coming anytime soon, slow down a little and reevaluate your strategy. The important thing is to keep running. Do *something*—pray more or fast from something—but don’t feel the need to do *everything*. God understands our limits and appreciates our efforts. It’s up to each of us to determine what we’re capable of, where the line between sacrifice and scrupulosity is for each of us.

Yours in service to the Gospel,
John+

KEEP US INFORMED

So that we can keep our records up to date, please continue to notify us of errors or changes. Don't forget, email address changes as well as all others can be sent to us at stpaulsbatesville@att.net.



DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 14TH

HOW ARE WE DOING?

**Average Cost Per Week
to Operate St. Paul's: \$3747.03**

Pledge/Plate Giving Per Week:
Jan 31-Feb 6.....\$4153.82
Feb 7-13\$4607.22
Feb 14-20\$4593.72

Average Giving Per Week: \$4451.58

PALM CROSSES

We will gather on Saturday morning, **March 27** at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall to make palm crosses. **Mark your calendars, because we need YOU** to help us make 150 crosses for Palm Sunday. **All ages, male and female, are invited and welcome.** We guarantee you will have a lot of good laughs as well as contributing to the beauty of the Palm Sunday

USHER SCHEDULE

March 2010

7- Jim Cargill & David Wade
14- Tim Dunlap & Paul Hance
21- Lee Conditt & Anthony Milam
28- Gary & Alex Perkey

CAMP MITCHELL 2010 SCHEDULE

Applications for Camp Mitchell are available on the diocesan website and in the parish office. We have budgeted funds for Camp Scholarships.

May 29-June 2	Staff Training
June 6-11	Sr. High Camp (grades 9-12)
June 13-18	Primary Camp
June 20-24	Robert R. Brown Camp I
July 4-9	Middler I (grades 3-5)
July 11-16	Jr. High Camp I (grades 6-9)
July 18-23	Dick Johnston Camp
July 25-30	Jr. High Camp II
Aug 1-6	Middler II
Aug 8-12	Robert R. Brown Camp II

LENTEN FOOD OFFERING

Our Lenten food collection continues. Please bring staple food items (especially canned fruit), paper products, and/or disposable diapers, and place them at the front of the church. After Palm Sunday, we will take these to Help and Hope. Our contributions to Help and Hope are greatly appreciated.

FAMILY VIOLENCE DINNER

Family Violence Prevention will be hosting "Silent No more...Dine to End Domestic Abuse" on Friday, April 9th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The event will include a five-course dinner prepared by Eric Isaac, Batesville native and co-owner and chef at Ristorante Capeo in North Little Rock. Proceeds will go to Family Violence Prevention, which is a non-profit organization that assists individuals and families experiencing domestic and/or sexual violence crisis in their lives. Tickets are \$60 per person before 3/22/10 and \$75 per person after that date. If you are interested in volunteering or attending the event, speak with Kristi Ketz (262-7755).

Easter Memorials

The deadline for inclusion of memorials in the Easter Bulletin is Friday, March 19. Your help in returning the following form on time is greatly appreciated.

Persons memorialized:

Donor:

Some prefer their gifts to be designated as a thank offering; please include those here.

Thank offering for:

Donor:



Please mail these to the church office at P.O. Box 2255 or place them in the alms basin. Please denote on your check "Easter Memorial."