

# THE VIEW FROM THE HILL

The Parish Newsletter of St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Catholic Church, Boone, NC

Fr. Joe Mulligan, Pastor

Web: [www.stehc.org](http://www.stehc.org)



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## Lent-Weather Permitting

By the time your tender eyes behold these printed words, the church will be sailing along amidst the lengthy season of Lent—weather permitting! By any measurement, parish life along with our ordinary lives has been disrupted by the wild ride associated with Mother Nature. Certainly, by the standard of a Haitian earthquake, the High Country and lives of Saint Elizabeth folks have come through relatively unscratched, but by now Ray's Weather Forecast has supplemented the Vatican in daily importance, at least in a certain weird and controlling manner.

As I look at parish life, may I ask you to be attuned to the following:

Families need to expand extra effort to insure that faith-formation resides in the home in a year when our weekend classes are compromised.

Those "new maintenance" envelopes are all the more timely with almost \$20,000 in heating expenditures added to parish life in 2010; compiled with snow removal costs that are not yet completely totaled.

The parish will seek to enjoy a spiritually rewarding Lent leading up to an Easter Season whereby young and old will be receiving the sacraments of initiation, and we will try to make sure the weather doesn't stand in the way.

This Lent we find the "Why Catholic" process providing yet another session of small faith-sharing groups with the parish. These continue to be moments and opportunities of grace and blessing.

The music program continues to flourish within the strengths of our volunteers under Ricky Kovacs' leadership. On the horizon Ricky will be at graduate school for six (6) weeks at Notre Dame University this summer, so we were discussing some impending adjustments to our summer program. Yes, we would like to have an organist and keyboard player to balance out our musical and liturgical program.

On the drawing board, post Easter is a parish mission. Details will be forthcoming. Through the initiative of Temoc Gonzalez, our Regional Hispanic Coordinator, there is a possibility of inviting a team of priests and sisters, who are bi-lingual, to come and reside in the parish for a few weeks in April. We'll see!

Food for the Poor will be sending a priest, Fr. Hugo Montero, to visit us March 12-13, and his presence will be timely for the *Food for the Poor* have a significant ministry in Haiti.

Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, of Belmont Abbey will celebrate and administer Confirmation this year, April 25. In review, we will have a nice strong list of visiting "dignitaries" to the High Country!

Recently, I reviewed a 2010 plan of the Stewardship Committee for the parish. It was shared with Pastoral Council also as we seek to implement a shared vision on stewardship across the fabric of parish life. Phil Muncy has agreed to Chair the Diocesan Support Appeal for the parish in 2010 for which I am grateful.

Well, there's another strong storm abrewin' so I'm going to have to curtail my ramblings. Lent will soon turn into a glorious Easter here in the High Country. I could say weather permitting, but Jesus will have something to guarantee a successful conclusion. I'm sure!

*Father Joe*

## CALENDER

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17:

- 12:15 Distribution of Ashes
- 5:15 Distribution of Ashes
- 6:30 Distribution of Ashes (Spanish)
- 7:30 Mass & Distribution of Ashes

Lenten Community Service  
Wednesday, Feb 24 at  
12:00. Light lunch follows  
in Pat Jones Hall.

Living Stations .Feb 26th,  
covered meatless supper at  
6 pm followed by Stations  
at 7 pm

Please watch bulletin for  
Holy Week Schedule

## Meet Fr. Augustine!

Please welcome Fr. Augustine George to Boone when you see him next. You may have seen Fr. Augustine as he celebrated or co-celebrated Mass here for the last few snowy weekends. He is here in Boone just for the semester as a guest lecturer in the Computer and Information Science department at ASU. Perhaps more importantly, he is here to help administer his college's international exchange with Appalachian State. Fr. Augustine is one of four administrators from the Kristu Jayanti College in Bangalore, India (<http://www.kristujayanti.com>). The college was established and is run by members of the religious order of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI).



I was fortunate to share a meal with Fr. Augustine and get to know a bit more about him. This is his first visit to the United States and he is adjusting from life in a large metropolitan area (Bangalore's population is approximately 9 million). Adjusting to the weather has been most difficult, as he dreams of flying back to India where the mercury rarely dips below 60 degrees! Fr. is from a large family with nine siblings. One of his brothers is also a religious priest. Fr. Augustine has been ordained about ten years now. He enjoys sightseeing, trying out the local cuisine and basketball.

During our visit I asked about Fr. Augustine's parish in Bangalore and their Lenten activities. Although Catholics are a minority in India, they are very devout and attend weekly Mass faithfully. Holy Mass is celebrated for students and local communities around Krisut Jayanti College everyday and on Sundays Holy Mass is celebrated in the college auditorium as the attendance for the local language service is typically around 1000. For Lent, many people fast and abstain from eating meat entirely, do penitential works and attend daily Mass. The Stations of the Cross are held every Friday. On Good Friday, the Stations are held at the top of a local mountain and are highly attended.

Fr. Augustine is very happy to assist where appropriate in our parish during his brief stay. We certainly hope that he will enjoy his time in the high country.

Louise Ochoa

## CONSIDERING ONE PERCENT

Have you ever sat down to calculate what one percent of your income is?

On a monthly basis, for example, it may equal:

- One night out for dinner with the family
- A night at the movies with popcorn
- 2 cappuccinos a week

- Half a month of satellite TV
- 2 hours snow tubing
- A tank of gas
- 2 hours of tubing down the New River
- A pair of tennis shoes
- A night out for pizza
- One lunch out a week
- One clearing of a snow covered driveway

But that same one percent also represents:

- A gift to people in need
- An offering of thanksgiving to God for the gifts we receive each and every day
- An act of faith and trust in God.

It's still early enough in the year to take some time to prayerfully determine what charitable giving you will contribute this year. You will be rewarded not only in tax deductions but also in the knowledge that you have reached out to the poor and given back to God from the bounty he has given to you. Think of some of your own examples of small changes you can make to free up some percentage of your income to donate to our parish, local charities, Haiti, cancer research, scholarship funds...whatever is an important cause for you.

One charity to consider is the Diocesan Support Appeal, this year themed *Discovery God's Gifts: Cast your nets into the deep*. Luke 5:1-11.

It may be difficult to feel very committed to the Bishop's appeal, up here in the mountains. We are pretty isolated from the center of the diocese and from other parishes. We tend to take care of our own, as is evidenced by our parish's and parishioners' support of the Hunger and Health Coalition or the Hospitality House, OASIS and other local charities. Perhaps we feel like we don't receive many services from the diocese, here in Boone. Here's a chance to give **out of faith** in God's works.

Think of the good your donation can do. If you cast your net of 1% out "into the deep" of the Bishop's annual appeal, you never know what Jesus may "capture" with your gift of faith and trust. With your net, Jesus can provide housing for the needy, support pregnant women who have chosen to have their unplanned baby, hope for the elderly, preparation for young people getting married, resources for those considering vocations.

Step out in faith this year. Make a commitment to offer a larger percentage of your income back to God. Support our parish with your charitable contributions of faith and thanksgiving. Thank God for his gifts, share his grace, his hope, his love, with those less fortunate. Then wait for your net to fill with what Jesus captures! See what your 1% is really worth.

Sheryl Kane

## To "Go In Peace"

To go in peace literally is an incredible challenge. The words are not just nice to say and hear.

If we reflect on what these words mean we come to realize how transforming the Mass is supposed to be. Through our baptism as Christians we are called to be different; to be holy people set apart. As we begin to realize the intention of making peace happen in our personal lives and in the world we realize that "go in peace" means much more than to leave with a good feeling.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2) To "Go in Peace"

The Mass proclaims that we "go in peace to love and serve the Lord." The peacemaking we do is in the name of the Lord. Jesus Christ, who became flesh, lived among us, died for our sins, rose from the dead and opens the gates of heaven for all of us. In the creed our faith proclaims a triune God; a God who created us, a God who lived among us, and redeems us. The God we love, serve and take with us when we leave church is the God in whose name we are sent. We are in relation with God, this is why we are told to "go in peace" and serve the Lord. We know that love is more than words; it should move us to action. The Mass urges us to love God by acting against all the injustices we witness in our world, anything that gets in the way of loving one another. We are responsible for making Jesus present in the world. We go forth to act as prophets, speaking on behalf of the oppressed and to bring hope to those in despair. We go forth recognizing Jesus is present not only in the consecrated bread and wine but also in "the poor, the sick and the imprisoned"(CCC 1373).

We are told to love the Lord but also to "serve the Lord." We are sent forth, with God's blessings to do God's bidding. Shortly before communion we prayed the words, "Thy will be done" in the Lord's Prayer. We need to leave church with an open heart, to serve God. Not an easy task, because serving the Lord means to serve our neighbor. We do this in our homes, neighborhoods and workplaces. To make matters more challenging, God's will quite often runs counter to our human instincts. The will of God may be mysterious; this is where faith comes to play. It takes faith to serve the Lord, and to respond in a way counter to what others expect. We need to always remember we are not alone in this mission. The Mass strengthens our faith by bringing us into communion with Jesus and our brothers and sisters. Jesus Christ walks with us through the Eucharist. All those whom share the sign of peace are fighting the same battles and struggles. The Mass helps us to overcome the feeling of isolation and empowers us to recognize that so many others are fighting with us. And, "If God is for us, who is against us?" (Romans 8:31)

We are sent forth to "go in Peace" to love and share the Lord. Our only response must be "Thanks be to God." We thank God for the faith that brought us to the Mass and for all those whom we have shared that faith with for two thousand years. We are a people of faith that have gathered to celebrate the Eucharist. We are showing gratitude for the trust that God places in us to be Christ's loving presence in the world. We call ourselves Christians, called to love and serve the Lord, our God. "Peace be with you."

*Ellisa Miller*

## Haitian and International Relief Efforts

Our parish will once again be participating in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl. It is a familiar activity for our parish during the Lenten season. Participants in Operation Rice Bowl are encouraged to make small weekly sacrifices and put the money saved into symbolic cardboard bowls. Last year, Operation Rice Bowl raised over \$7 million to fund projects both overseas and in the U.S.

Were you aware that Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the official humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States? They provide assistance to people in need in over 100 countries. Based on Catholic social teaching, they offer assistance without regard to religion, race or nationality. CRS is highly efficient, earning an "A" rating from the American Institute of Philanthropy. A full 93 percent of the money they spend goes directly to programs that benefit the poor. In addition to emergency response services, CRS offers assistance through policy advocacy, education, agricultural and environmental programs, and health and microfinance programs.

CRS has had a presence in Haiti for many years and is naturally highly involved in relief efforts following last month's devastating earthquake. As of Feb 2, CRS has raised more than \$38 million for its emergency relief efforts in Haiti. Some of their activities have been to develop one of the first emergency camps in Port-au-Prince on a local golf course. Within days of the earthquake, they also worked with administrators from the extensively damaged St. Francois de Sales hospital to reestablish operation. Although the hospital was over 70% damaged, they were able to once more accept patients and perform operations during this critical time. CRS has provided food and water to over 100,000 people in Haiti's capital and is working closely with the Catholic Church in Haiti and the Catholic charities, Caritas Haiti and Caritas Internationalis.

The CRS web site ([www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org)) has a wealth of information with program ideas to engage young adults and children. You can also read about its continuing efforts in Haiti and elsewhere.

If you would like to donate to CRS you can place your contributions in the regular Sunday collection, making checks payable to St. Elizabeth and clearly marking the envelope for Haiti relief. To donate directly to CRS several methods are available:

Donate via phone: 1-877-HELP-CRS

Donate via text: Text RELIEF to 25383 to add \$10 to your cell phone bill

Donate online: [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org)

Write a check: Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090  
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-7090

## Prayer in the Presence Update

Looking to beef up your prayer life for Lent? Try Prayer in the Presence. Make a plan to attend one time or once a week. Sign up sheets will be available each week at Mass to commit to your prayer plan.

Prayer in the Presence will continue on Wednesdays, weather permitting. The first Wednesday for Lenten prayer will be February 24th and will run through March 31st. Hours have been modified to 4:30-8:00.

Sign up for a half hour or an hour. Then come and spend quiet time in Jesus' presence. Pray for the parish and for personal prayer intentions. Say a Rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet, read Scripture, preview the readings for the coming Sunday's liturgy, write in a prayer journal, just sit and listen. The time belongs to you and Jesus. Reflect on whether God is calling you to practice this type of prayer over Lent then sign up for this special time at Mass on Sunday. Blessings will abound!

# Youth Pages

## World Awareness Quiz

- A child dies every \_\_\_\_\_ from hunger related causes.  
A) 6 minutes B) 6 seconds C) 6 hours
- How many children in sub-Saharan Africa have been orphaned by the AIDS epidemic?  
A) 12 million B) 20 million C) 7 million
- What percent of the world's population suffers from chronic hunger and malnutrition?  
A) 10 percent B) 2 percent C) 15 percent
- Worldwide, how many children of primary school age are not enrolled in school?  
A) 101 million B) 45 million C) 153 million
- How many people in the U.S. live below the federal poverty level?  
A) 39.8 million B) 23.2 million C) 60.7 million

Answers are on page 6



### First Eucharist Class of 2010

Our First Eucharist class of eleven children will be welcomed at the table on May 2 at the 11:00 Mass. The celebrant will be Father Joseph Mulligan.

Please keep these children in your prayers:

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Justin Boczon   | Tessa Trate      |
| Laura Elias     | Emma Schneider   |
| Ryan Gosky      | Andrew Cole      |
| Calvin Huelsman | Selah Washburn   |
| Ben Mellon      | Margaret Quigley |
| Lily Suyao      |                  |

Our dedicated catechists are Mrs. Judy Haas and Mrs. Tina Hogan. Thank you!

### Play a Game, Feed the Hungry

Try the free rice game:  
<http://www.freerice.com>

It is an online quiz game which donates 10 grains of rice for every correct answer to the U.N. World Food Programme to help end hunger. You may even learn something!

## SOLIDARITY ACTIVITIES

We are continually exposed to news of human suffering in the world via television, the internet, reading and even social networking. This continual bombardment makes it all too easy to become apathetic and desensitized to the plight of our global brothers and sisters. You may feel as though there is little that you can do to make a difference in the lives of those suffering from poverty, natural disaster or war. This is an excellent season to become re-sensitized by imagining what it might be like to walk in someone else's shoes for a day or even just an hour.

Catholic Relief Services offers suggestions to explore what it might be like to live like many of our global neighbors. Why don't you try some of these solidarity activities to experience some of the hardships they have and deepen your awareness of, and empathy towards your neighbor.

- Shower by using a bucket: Use a cup to pour water over you. Many people lack access to clean water which contributes to millions of deaths from preventable water related disease. Americans average 24 gallons of water per shower while using a bucket uses only about 2 gallons.
- Sleep on the floor: Many people in developing countries do not have the luxury of a bed or the privacy of their own bedroom. Sleeping on the floor in your home will still be more luxurious than the conditions in which many people live.
- Turn off the heat or A/C: How easy it is for us to become annoyed when our surroundings are too hot or too cold! Turn it off for a few hours to appreciate what we normally take for granted. Think about how much money and energy we spend on these services that others do not have.
- Go vegetarian for a week. For those living in poverty, having meat for a meal is a true luxury. Research healthy meatless options and eat simpler meals to remind you of how many of the world's poor eat.
- Fast from technology: Turn off your computers, TV, cell phones and other technical devices. This is the reality of life for many around the world. Use time found to reconnect with friends and family members by talking, praying or playing games. Control technology rather than letting it control you.
- Turn off the lights: Schools and homes in developing countries may not have glass windows due to the high cost. Instead they may have small openings in the walls covered with slats to keep the rain out or sit outside for lessons where natural light is available. How easy is it to work with lighting; do you always need the lights you turn on?

Think of some more ways that you can reflect and live in solidarity with the poor this Lent. Then you will be energized to go out and do something for those in need, whether they be around the block or around the world. There are a number of suggestions in this newsletter but I'm sure you can think of many more!

## Our 2010 Confirmandi

A number of our parish's youth are now preparing to become adults in the Church. This is an important time for them and we ask that you continue to pray for these youth over the coming weeks. A few of our candidates provided information for *The View* about their chosen saint's names and Lenten plans. We hope you will enjoy a brief glimpse into our candidates this year.

*Tripp Taylor:* Tripp has chosen St. Thomas Aquinas for his confirmation name. St. Thomas was brave enough at the age of 17 to become a priest and follow the Lord's call, even though it was not the popular thing to do. He persevered even though his family did not support his dream. It is ironic that he was nicknamed the "dumb ox" because of his silent attitude and huge size but he was a master theologian and wrote many books. Many Catholic Schools are named after him as he is the patron saint of education and students.

During Lent our family reads a devotion every evening at dinner. We talk about ways we can be proactive to help others by praying and other means. We often send a card to family members who are far away or aging just to let them know how much we think of them. If there is a parishioner hospitalized, we make a visit or send notes. This year we will begin the tradition of watching *The Passion of the Christ* during Holy Week.

*Jessica Simon:* I have selected Elizabeth Ann from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton who is my role model. She is a great role model for doing so many things in her life such as establishing the first free Catholic school in America and two orphanages. That is amazing and probably required so much effort. In spite of family tragedies she made a big impact on her society. Both Elizabeth and Ann are also family names. My mom's middle name is Elizabeth and my Grandmother's confirmation name is Ann. So the name is not only special to me because of the saint but it also reminds me of two other loving role models in my life. I don't remember doing anything particular for Lent but after becoming more involved in my church I have decide to start. I will pray more and read the Bible, and also give something up. Making my confirmation has inspired me to become more involved.

*Ryan Hellenbrand:* I have chosen Christopher as my confirmation saint/name. He is the patron saint of travelers and I love to travel. The story of Christopher carrying Christ across the river appeals to me. I try to help other people just like St. Christopher and I believe that I could persevere like him and carry the burden across the water despite it getting heavier and harder. For Lent, our family abstains from eating meat on Fridays. Especially during the last couple of years we have started discussing the information in the Little Black Book. I have not always been consistent in "giving something up" for Lent. I like an idea I heard last year to use this time to make a positive impact on the community and the world.

*John Fensterle:* I have chosen St. Gabriel the Archangel as my confirmation saint. Our family's usual Lenten traditions are giving up meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays. In addition, we also give up something that we enjoy doing like TV or video games. We try to support each person in the family with what they have selected to give up.

## Confirmation Candidates

Noah Becker	Kurt Fensterle
Nolan Burlison	Brian Greer
John Paul Fensterle	Dustin Hickernell
Ryan Hellenbrand	Francesca Mancini
Sebastian Ivory	Alaura Morris
Lydia Mauney	Jessica Simon
Maura Shawn Scanlin	Evan Williams
Tripp Taylor	Lily Smith
Edgar Morales	
Cheyenne Bryant	

Mr. Charles Ochoa, Miss Nadia Rubio, and Mr. George Hosfield are our dedicated Confirmation catechists.

## Where Do Your Food Donations Go?

### The Hunger and Health Coalition

Parishioners at St. Elizabeth's know that the first Sunday of every month is food donation Sunday. Your donations go to a local agency called The Hunger and Health Coalition which serves Watauga, Ashe and Avery counties. They serve as an emergency resource that provides not only food but medicine and referrals to other community resources to those in need. They also offer support services such as a professional clothes closet and free wood for home heating use. In December their food pantry fed over 1400 persons.

The Hunger and Health Coalition has year round need for donations but the winter months are particularly difficult. Families are struggling to pay for home heating costs placing an even greater strain on their budgets. The Hunger and Health Coalition accepts food donations from individuals and local grocery stores and restaurants where they repack them into boxes of food which are distributed to those in need. They also take already prepared food donated from restaurants and prepare frozen meals for their food recovery program. Snacks and healthy food for the weekends are also made available to Head Start programs in Watauga and Avery counties. In addition to food donations, monetary donations are always welcome. A donation of \$100 will feed about 30 people. Monetary donations are especially critical to the success of their pharmacy assistance program. Rising costs of prescriptions and lack of insurance contribute to increasing needs for pharmacy assistance. In addition to donations, volunteers are always welcome.

Thanks to all of our parishioners for your continued support of this worthy charity. If you'd like to volunteer or drop off donations The Hunger and Health Coalition is located off Bamboo Rd. at 141 Health Center Drive.



**New Parishioners:**

Brook & Courtney Beyer joined the church in December. They have a weekend home here and live in Charlotte.

Donald & Lucia Carter

**The Easter Vigil 2010**

This Easter St. Elizabeth will welcome one unbaptized catechumen and two baptized candidates into our worshipping community.

RON GREENE, who works with ASU housing, is married to Teresa Greene, a long-time parishioner. Ron is a former Marine major who was present during the terrorist attack on the American embassy in Beirut in 1986. His sponsor is Dick Rupp.

BILL ELLIS is married to Teresa, a longtime Catholic. The Eliss family moved to Boone from Florida. Bill is a contractor with Naval roots; his father was an admiral. Sponsoring Bill will be Ray Miller.

STEPHANIE JAMES, a senior ASU history major, will also be coming into the Church at the Easter Vigil Service. Her sponsor is Anthony Otranto, a cradle Catholic and a fellow student.

A number of people are assisting in the RCIA ministry this year. Ray and Jessica Miller, Phil and Pam Muncy, Carol Brown, George Hosfield, and Dick Rupp complete the ministry team.

The Millers will be taking the candidates to meet Bishop Jugis on the First Sunday of Lent. Please encourage our incoming Catholics and welcome them to our faith community.

*Dick Rupp*

**World Awareness Quiz Answers**

1. B)-According to the United Nations, a child dies every 6 seconds from hunger related diseases.
2. A) 12 million -according to the 2008 UNAIDS Global Report on the AIDS Epidemic.
3. C) 15 percent-according to the United Nations. This is greater than the populations of the US, Canada and the European Union.
4. A) 101 million-according to UNICEF.
5. A) 39.8 million-according to the U.S. Census Bureau

**REFLECTIONS FOR LENT**

Lent, the forty days beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter Sunday is fast approaching; Ash Wednesday this year is February 17. Growing up in the late 60's & 70's, I recall going to Stations of the Cross, family & parish rosaries, Confession and fish (or mac & cheese) on Fridays. And of course, the question we all asked each other: "What did you give up for Lent?" Actually that is an important question that we'll come back to.

In the early church, Lent was a time for the catechumenates to prepare for becoming Christians through Baptism, and the renewal of Baptism for the faithful. The process of initiating new Christians was a community shared responsibility. In the middle ages, with the disappearance of the catechumenate, the Church emphasized more the passion and death of Jesus, more of an image of a suffering Christ. Also Christians focused on the shared guilt for the sins that led to the passion and death of Jesus, so the fasting and praying was for forgiveness. Finally, following Vatican II, the emphasis shifted back to preparation for and renewal for Baptism, and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) was instituted. Now fasting and praying are offerings in support of the catechumenates, and preparing for our own renewal of baptism.

So what are you giving up for Lent? Or, another wording is: what are you giving up to God for Lent? This wording helps us to remember that Lent is not just about a mindless prayer or sacrifice, but a purposeful action that results in a specific outcome. During Lent we are called to *metanoia*, a conversion of heart and mind. So we want to give God ourselves, with a new heart and mind. How can we do this? Traditionally there have been several ways:

**Prayer**-we can improve our prayer lives, one suggestion is to pray morning and night, simply have a chat with God every morning and evening. Or a more formal and popular prayer is the Rosary. This can be a private or family or parish prayer, and of course in Lent, we can also pray the Stations of the Cross. Finally, many people attend daily Mass during Lent as an element of the prayer life.

**Penance & Sacrifice**-this is essentially making some sacrifice with the right attitude. For example if you give up candy for Lent, then don't do it with a suffering or resentful attitude, rather focus on the strengthening spiritual discipline you are gaining to help you control things rather than things controlling you. Of course, candy can represent anything.

**Good Works**-focus on the good of your family and community rather than solely focusing inward balances the conversion. Putting prayer and sacrifice to action for the benefit of others completes the metanoia. You are then the answer to the question; "what would Jesus do?" Ideas are working in a Soup Kitchen, volunteering in shelters, care for the elderly, even the small contributions of a soup bowl project; all are significant. So, the question for each of us is: What are you giving up to God for Lent?

*C.F. Ochoa*

## The Divine Mercy Chaplet

The practice of the Divine Mercy Chaplet originated in 1931, when Sr. Faustina, a poor, uneducated Polish nun, experienced visions of Jesus. This simple nun performed the humblest of tasks in her convent, working in the kitchen or the garden. She went on to write, at the suggestion of her spiritual director, 600 pages in her diary about the revelations Jesus gave to her. Jesus directed her to "paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: *Jesus, I trust in You.*"

Perhaps you have seen the image: Jesus is wearing a white robe and with his right hand raised in blessing his left hand is touching his chest. From an opening in the robe, two rays shine forth from Jesus' chest, one red and one white. Jesus later explained the rays to St. Faustina, as reported in her diary:

*"The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous; the red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My most tender Mercy at that time when My agonizing Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross...Fortunate is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him."*

This trust in Jesus' protection is at the heart of Divine Mercy. Of course, the mercy of God is not a new concept. Jesus, and the Church, have always taught God's mercy and forgiveness and that we are to live according to that example. Just as God is merciful, so are we to be merciful. God loves us no matter what our sins and he expects the love that flows into us from Him, in spite of our sins, will flow out of us to those around us.

This message can be summed up by ABC:

- A: Ask for his mercy.
- B: Be merciful.
- C: Completely trust in Jesus.

**The Devotion:** St. Faustina laid out the Divine Mercy Devotion in her diary, a devotion that is in keeping with the Gospel message and the teachings of the Church.

Jesus promised Sister Faustina:

*"Say unceasingly this chaplet that I have taught you. Anyone who says it will receive great Mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as the last hope. Even the most hardened sinner, if he recites this Chaplet even once, will receive grace from My Infinite Mercy. I want the whole world to know My Infinite Mercy. I want to give unimaginable graces to those who trust in My Mercy.... When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person not as the just judge but as the Merciful Savior."*

We can see from these promises, again, how Jesus is the savior of the whole world. This devotion is indeed a powerful prayer practice.

To say the Divine Chaplet, use a rosary to help focus and count your prayers:

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross, then recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary and The Apostles Creed.
- Then on the Our Father beads, say the following:  
*Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.*

- On the ten Hail Mary Beads say the following:  
*For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*
- Repeat steps 2 and 3 for all five decades.
- Conclude with (three times)  
*Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*
- Many people conclude the Divine Mercy Chaplet by reverently chanting 10 times: *Jesus, I trust in you.*

**The Novena and Divine Mercy Sunday:** Pope John Paul II advanced the cause of this devotion and also began the canonization process for Sr. Faustina. She was canonized on April 30, 2000, the same day that Pope John Paul II granted the Divine Mercy Feast Day for the Universal Church. He endorsed a yearly novena to the Divine Mercy, following instructions Jesus gave to St. Faustina. The Novena begins on Good Friday and ends on Easter Saturday, immediately followed by Divine Mercy Sunday, the first Sunday after Easter. The readings on this Sunday have always been about the institution of the sacrament of Penance and therefore are directly related to Divine Mercy.

Many churches organize a structured novena at 3:00 on each day of the Novena. 3:00 pm is traditionally associated with Divine Mercy, as it is the hour that Jesus died. Different souls are prayed for on each day of the novena.

- [DAY 1 \(Good Friday\)](#) - All mankind, especially sinners
- [DAY 2 \(Holy Saturday\)](#) - The souls of priests and religious
- [DAY 3 \(Easter Sunday\)](#) - All devout and faithful souls
- [DAY 4 \(Easter Monday\)](#) - Those who do not believe in Jesus and those who do not yet know Him
- [DAY 5 \(Easter Tuesday\)](#) - The souls of separated brethren
- [DAY 6 \(Easter Wednesday\)](#) - The meek and humble souls and the souls of children
- [DAY 7 \(Easter Thursday\)](#) - The souls who especially venerate and glorify Jesus' mercy
- [DAY 8 \(Easter Friday\)](#) - The souls who are detained in purgatory;
- [DAY 9 \(Easter Saturday\)](#) - The souls who have become lukewarm.

In 1933, St. Faustina wrote:

*"I saw a great light, with God the Father in the midst of it. Between this light and the earth I saw Jesus nailed to the Cross and in such a way that God, wanting to look upon the earth, had to look through Our Lord's wounds and I understood that God blessed the earth for the sake of Jesus."*

Jesus is indeed our savior and intermediary, granting his mercy to each of us eternally. This devotion is one way to get in touch with Jesus' mercy and to begin living a life of mercy. For information on the plenary indulgences related to the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday see the web site below:

*Information compiled by Sheryl Kane  
from <http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy>*

## Local Volunteer Opportunity

Rotary Clubs in western North Carolina, including the Rotaract Club at Appalachian State University and the Interact Club at Watauga High School, are partnering with Stop Hunger Now to send food to the disaster area in Haiti. Stop Hunger Now, a Raleigh-based relief organization, packages high protein, highly nutritious, dehydrated meals for use in crisis situations.

Area Rotarians are planning a community packaging event to prepare meals for Haiti. The event will be held all day on Saturday March 27 at the Holmes Convocation Center. The event is open to businesses, church groups, civic clubs, student organizations and individuals. Each meal costs \$2.25 and the Rotary Clubs hope to raise \$25,000 to pay for the 100,000 meals. Donations are especially needed. Volunteers from 7 to 97 are also needed to package these meals. To make a donation, volunteer, or for more information, you may contact Phil Muncy at [phil@muncywinds.com](mailto:phil@muncywinds.com) or by calling (828) 963-7083 Ext 225.

## List serve Instructions

Winter has struck with a vengeance this year and there have been many Sunday mornings when you've wondered if Mass or Faith Formation events are going to occur that day. Now more than ever is the time to join the St. Elizabeth's list serve. Several times a month, reminder e-mails are sent out about what is happening at Church, from reminders about First Sunday and changes in scheduling, to Commission meetings. It's simple to join; just send an e-mail to:

[stelizabethffsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:stelizabethffsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

or log in at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stelizabethff/>.

Once a member, you will receive these e-mail reminders and will be able to send e-mails to others in the group, such as prayer requests. And you will know as soon as possible if you can go back to sleep on that snowy Sunday morning. Any questions? Let Amber Mellon know at 355-5222.

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