



THE GRRRAPEVINE

"I am the Vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:5)

Number 14

Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 2, 2006

PASTORAL TEAM TIDBITS

Richard: Last weekend included the celebration of Installation as Acolyte with Venerando, a board meeting for Shepherd's Corner and Eucharist with the Lay Formation Group. It was a hectic return after the workshop the week before. This weekend has a trip to McBride for Eucharist Saturday evening, Sunday morning celebrations here at St. Mary's and Confirmation/First Communion Sunday afternoon. Meetings, Chrism Mass, Reconciliation services, diocesan budget and administration meetings and Parish Pastoral Council., are all on the agenda in the coming weeks. Should have plenty of spare time for hobbies!

Giselle: The problem with taking time out for a conference is that the work still piles up while you're gone! RCIA, Sacramental Preparation, Vespers, Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Parish Pastoral Council, Liturgy Committee, Chrism Mass, a Lay Led Liturgy and Lay Formation the weekend of April 7-9 are some of things that will keep me busy over the coming weeks. And then there's the usual business of trying to keep the website more or less up-to-date and working on a new edition of this Grrapevine. Sort of feels like we have a tiger by the tail sometimes!

WELCOME TO THE GRRRAPEVINE!

Check out the column on Stewardship which will be a regular feature of the Grrapevine. Also, note the article on special collections. We continue to invite your feedback, suggestions, etc. You can respond on the website, through email, in writing or in person. Let's keep the dialogue going. Once again, a reminder that our parish website address is: <http://www.geocities.com/saintmaryspg/>

ATTENTION ALL GREENTHUMBS!!!



Do you have a greenthumb? Are you blessed with an abundance of plants and/or cuttings? Can't throw those cuttings away? Well... have we got the solution for you!!!!

A parishioner has come up with the bright idea of having a plant sale in late May/early June. The plants would be sold relatively cheaply (\$2 or so) and all the proceeds would go to St. Vincent de Paul. If you've got extra cuttings that you don't know what to do with, or have started your summer garden from seeds and think you'll have extra... bring it on down!! It's a great way to use your gift (because not all of us are greenthumbs), build community (meet greenthumbs & brownthumbs) and reach out to the wider community. More information later... In the meantime... start planting!!

SEMINARIAN TIDBITS

On Sunday, March 26, Venerando was installed in the Ministry of Acolyte at the 11:00 a.m. celebration at St. Mary's. It was a wonderful celebration of one of the steps along the way to priesthood for Venerando. Rectorino and Venerando will be admitted to candidacy for ordination at the Chrism Mass on April 3, 7:30p.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral. All are invited to join in this important diocesan celebration. Rectorino is busy planning his ordination to the diaconate, which will be celebrated this spring. Both will be returning to Manila in the latter part of May to complete their studies and will return to Prince George after Christmas. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (Jn 12:24)

LENTEN ALMSGIVING

St. Vincent de Paul Society seeks to respond to the needs of the poor in our community, but they rely on our help to do so. If you are looking for some practical almsgiving, find the column with the first letter of your surname, and contribute some of the items listed in that column to our food bin. The food bin is the big blue Rubbermaid container at the back of the church.



<u>A-C</u>	<u>D-J</u>	<u>K-N</u>	<u>O-Z</u>
Pasta	Canned Meat	Dry/Canned Soups	Peanut Butter
Canned Fish	Rice	Dry/Canned Stews	Flour
Breakfast cereal	Canned/Powdered Milk	100% Fruit Juice	Canned Fruit/Veggies
Pasta Sauce	Canned/Dry Beans & Peas	Infant Formula	Baby Food
Crackers	Cereal bars	Tea	Hot Chocolate

LENTEN PRAYER

Lent is traditionally a time to practice prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We have a variety of different prayer forms to offer:

Morning Prayer

Weekdays—7:00 a.m.

Eucharist

Weekdays—7:20 a.m.

Mondays—7:00 p.m.

Vespers

Wednesdays— 7:00 p.m.

Chrism Mass—SHC

April 3—7:30 p.m.

Reconciliation

April 5 (IC)—7:00 p.m.

April 6 (COS)—7:00 p.m.

April 11 (SHC)—7:00 p.m.

LENTEN FASTING

One way in which we can help build community and fast during Lent, is by simply turning off our televisions. It's hard, but ultimately very rewarding. What's that old saying... "no pain, no gain". It's a very interesting exercise to count all of the hours that each of our family members watches TV and then see how many hours the family itself does something together...

CHRISM MASS—APRIL 3

This is a wonderful diocesan celebration in which we come together to witness the re-dedication of our pastors to their priestly ministry, and to bless & consecrate the holy oils used throughout the year. Come and celebrate with us at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral

EASTER CUSTOMS

We are looking for Easter customs!! You can send things to us by email, regular mail, the web page or in the collection basket.

CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION—APRIL 2



This Sunday, April 2, at 2:00 p.m. we will celebrate the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion with Bishop Gerry.

The children from the Grade 2 class at St. Mary's School and from the Tuesday evening Religious Education class have been preparing over the last 2 months. They'd love to have you come and celebrate with them!!

In addition, we have several older children and a couple of adults who will be celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation.

A reception (with cake & goodies!) will be held afterwards in the school gymnasium.

This is a great opportunity to welcome our children as they complete their sacraments of initiation. Come, join us!!

SPRING CLEANING... INSIDE & OUTSIDE

It may not feel like it right now (with temperatures of -5 degrees in the mornings) but it's officially spring! This is the time when we begin to notice how dirty our windows are as the sun shines on the windows at funny angles. This is the time when we begin to think about planting our gardens or flower pots. This is the time when we really notice how much stuff we've accumulated!! Spring is traditionally a time for "spring cleaning", on the outside. Lent too, is a time for "spring cleaning", on the inside. Sometimes our urge to "declutter" on the outside is actually an interior urge to divest ourselves of things that bog us down spiritually. So as we tackle our spring-cleaning, perhaps we could do some interior cleaning and de-cluttering as well. Maybe select items or articles of clothing to donate to others. St. Vincent de Paul is always in need of good quality used clothing and household items for others.

EASTER TRIDUUM QUIZ

Here's a pop quiz... what does "Triduum" stand for? Pretty easy question if any of you ever rode a tricycle. But here's a tougher question... if the Triduum is only 3 days, how can it extend from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday (4 calendar days)??

Very good question, with a simple, if slightly ancient and cultural answer. The Jewish liturgical day begins at sundown on the evening before, not at midnight. And, given Christianity's Jewish roots, we follow the same custom. So, the 3 days of the Triduum are:

Day 1: Thursday evening to Friday sundown;

Day 2: Friday evening to Saturday sundown;

Day 3: Saturday evening to Sunday sundown.

Voila... three liturgical days! It also explains why our regular Saturday evening Mass is actually a Sunday liturgy.

Ready for another one?? What celebration marks the high point of the church year? Christmas? New Year's Day? Good Friday? Easter Sunday? Pentecost? Nope... none of those! The high point of the Church year is actually the Easter Vigil celebration. This is the *crème de la crème*. Everything comes to the fore at the Easter Vigil. We have the blessing of the Easter Fire, the blessing of the Easter Water, readings that span the story of salvation history (from Creation to the Resurrection), the initiation rites and the celebration of the Eucharist. It doesn't get more complete than that.

So, the Triduum begins with the celebration of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday and concludes with the celebration of Vespers on Easter Sunday afternoon. This year, why not partake of the whole package deal and experience the Triduum in its entirety?



BUILDING COMMUNITY

One way in which we can build community is by rejoicing with parents when a child is baptized, celebrating with couples when they are married, or mourning with families when a loved one passes on.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Please remember the sick and suffering in our community and families, especially:



- Magdalene Martin
- Marvin Lane
- Joseph & Frances Glasser
(Kathy Labonte's parents)
- Judy Nelson
(Ann Robertson's sister)
- Anne Beaudette
(Fr. Richard's mother)
- Ugo Marotta

REJOICING & REMEMBERING

No baptisms in the past month.

No marriages lately—but lots soon!



In the hope of the resurrection, we bid farewell to:
Joanne Wessel
(daughter of Moe & Shirley Gannon)

GRACE... GRACIAS... GRAZIE... GRATIA... GRATEFUL... GRATITUDE...

In short... Thank you for the grace of your presence and the sharing of your gifts and talents with the community!! Funny isn't it... grace and gratitude come from the same Latin root. God's grace in our lives leads us to offer gratitude and thanksgiving to God. And God's grace in YOUR life leads us to offer gratitude and thanksgiving to God for the gift of YOU!

Who are we talking about? You!!! Yes... YOU!!

Thank you for celebrating Sunday Eucharist with us, gracing the community with the gift of your presence and the gift of your voice and smile.

Thank you for reading the Grapevine and thereby gracing us with your interest in the community. We wouldn't be on Issue 14 if nobody had read Issue 1 and the idea had died stillborn.

Thank you for serving as a lector, gracing the community with the gift of your talent as a proclaimer of the Word.

Thank you for serving as an altar server, gracing the community with your prayerful and youthful presence.

Thank you for serving as a music minister, gracing the community with the gift of your voice and your musical talent.

Thank you for serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Communion, gracing the community with your care and compassion as you distribute Christ to the community, both near and far.

Thank you for serving as a volunteer in our Catholic school, gracing our community with your love and concern for children, the future of our tomorrow.

Thank you for serving as a catechist or teacher of our youngsters, gracing these young members of our community with your love of God.

Thank you for serving as a volunteer at any of our Catholic service organizations... St. Vincent de Paul, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, gracing our wider community with your gift of service and charity.

Thank you for serving on parish, finance and school councils, gracing the community with your talents as leaders and administrators.

Thank you for being you!
Thank you for sharing your gifts & talents with all of us.

LISTENING CENTRES

Several of the Listening Centres that began with the OMI Mission in November are still meeting on a regular basis. They would welcome interested participants! Listed below are the active Listening Centres for St. Mary's Parish:

Suzanne Lefebvre	964-9580	College Hts.
Terry Bopp	564-2635	Westwood
Janice Haddock	563-0159	Ospika & Massey
Tom Makowsky	564-3838	Spruceland
Paul Laliberte	563-8465	Tabor & 1 st Ave
Angie Hoksbergen	562-9844	10 th & Freeman
Dorothy Reimer	562-3749	Central
Tony Cue	962-8680	Hart Hwy.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

During the season of Lent, we have been celebrating Vespers (evening prayer) every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. We've had a fairly good turnout, and now, as Lent is drawing to a close, we're wondering: Should we continue to celebrate weekday Vespers during the Easter Season? We will continue to celebrate Vespers on the third Sunday of the month, but what about the weekday celebrations.

We want to hear from YOU!!! We had two responses to our last questionnaire, so we could use a few more this time around. Your opinion counts! So, cast your vote and fill out the reverse of this section to let us know what you think... Maybe you think we should do something different! This is your chance to speak...

STEWARDSHIP

Last week, we were presented with the introduction to the Pastoral Letter of the U.S. Bishops. The introduction gave three convictions that underlie the content of the letter. This week, we might ask ourselves some questions based on those convictions. We do this to accomplish two things - to ascertain whether or not we agree with those convictions and to help us recognize how we are living stewardship already in our lives.

1. Mature disciples...decision to be followers of Jesus.

Do I see myself as a disciple, a follower of Jesus? What are the signs in my life that show me to be a follower? The bishops put a condition on this discipleship - no matter the cost - do I consider the cost of following Jesus before I make certain decisions?

2. Beginning in conversion ...an entire way of life ... committing one's very self to the Lord.

Is discipleship, following Jesus, an entire way of life, or part of my way of life? What do I need to change in the way I understand my discipleship?

What are the barriers to a full giving of self to following Jesus?

3. ...expression of discipleship...recognize God as the origin and giver of all gifts ... grateful for all they have received.

Do I see God as the origin of all that I have and am? Do I attribute some to myself, my own efforts alone, or do I see myself as cooperating, utilizing the gifts that God has given to provide for myself and for others? Am I grateful for all that I have and am? How do I express that gratitude to God?

FINANCES, MAINTENANCE, ETC.

A quick look at the financial report shows us that there was some unusual activity in our account in March! Donations were very high, due to a major contribution from a parishioner. Administration expenses were also very high. This was due to a catch-up at the Diocesan Payroll Services Office. We paid two months payroll invoices in March. The billing had been a month behind, and the system is caught up, so we are current. Luckily, we had the money in the bank to pay the extra invoice, and to still have a small balance in our account at the end of the month.

This month we also received a couple of grants from the Religious Education Trust Fund to help cover the costs of the Stewardship Institute and a Youth Ministry Conference.

The financial health of the parish is totally dependent on the members of the parish, and you are to be commended for responding so generously to that responsibility. The Finance Council, Pastoral Council and parish staff try to manage the resources you give as well as possible to provide for all our needs and not overspend those resources.

As spring progresses, the maintenance costs will rise, as there will be spring maintenance, cleanup after winter and repairs to some of the buildings. One project that will need attention soon is the flat roof on the rectory. There had been a leak during the winter, and the assessment was that the roof needs replacement.

MARCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below is the synopsis of the March financial statement. The detailed financial statement is posted on the bulletin boards for your information.

Bank Balance:	443.41
DDF Balance:	170689.17
<u>Accts Receivable:</u>	<u>949.52</u>
Total Assets	172082.10



I N C O M E		E X P E N S E S	
Donations	20717.87	Admin	22972.84
Fees	425.00	Programs	388.31
Programs	1957.50	Oper./Maint.	2832.63
Other	105.00	Rental Oper.	1534.51
<u>Rentals</u>	<u>3725.00</u>		
Total Income	26930.37		
Total Expense	27728.29		
		Net Income	797.92

QUESTION OF THE MONTH: WEEKDAY VESPERS

(circle one answer for each question please!)

I attended weekday Vespers during Lent never once or twice almost every time

I think we should have weekday Vespers during the Easter Season yes no maybe

If I could change anything about Evening Vespers, I would: _____