

FROM FR. JOHN

WAR

“Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms” Ezekiel 37:22

Wars, violence and terrorism abound in our world.. We all have our positions on the war and I do not want to get into that. But what is God’s position? When God looks down from heaven on the nations at war, what is He thinking? He must have a sorrowful heart because His children are killing each other because of hatred.

In the Old Testament, there is a strong understanding in the Jewish mind that God was trying to form the Israelites into one special and holy nation, “Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms.” This focus was limited and when Jesus came He expanded the notion of just the Jewish people being one holy and special nation to all people. Through his life, death and resurrection Jesus was calling every person on the face of the earth to be a part of the one holy and special family. So, we move from a limited focus to an unlimited focus. While we war, we need to have this same unlimited focus. We must fully cooperate with Jesus’ plan for the unity of all human beings and we must seek the wisest way to do it as possible.

Obviously our world is full of “us’es” and “thems”. As we face war and terrorism, the gulf between “us” and “them” seems impossible to bridge. We must remember how Jesus taught us to bring peace to this world. He never said it would happen by physically hurting another person. He taught us to communicate to one another in love and seek forgiveness for our sins. Sin is when we separate ourselves from God and each other and clearly we suffer from being greatly separated from one another. There are no sides with Jesus. It is all “us” with Jesus. Knowing the huge gulf of hatred that separates us, how will we use God’s mercy to become friends who love, and not kill, each other? How will we, in all our separation, become “us”?

In many ways I feel helpless in light of all the hatred that separates us in the world. I pray and wish we could all be reconciled through non-violence. This is the way Jesus would have it. The story of the man throwing the starfish one by one back into the ocean comes to mind. Surely, he is not going to save every starfish on every beach in the world but he will do what he can do one by one. I must pray and do what I can do one by one. I must seek to be reconciled with every person in my life- one by one. I must seek to dwell with others in the unity of God. I must shun the separation of hatred and violence.

Wars happen because we are unreconciled to each other. Who do you need to be reconciled to in order to prevent the spread of war?

Do your part,
Fr. John



Fr. John's Lenten Dailies- If you would like to receive a daily reflection from Fr. John each day during Lent, let him know ASAP at urldvfj@aol.com .

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 22, 2010

Communion Service

Tuesday, February 23 2010

Durward Gurusinghe

(Charlotte)

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

+Kathy Alder

(Becky Fletcher)

Thursday, February 25, 2010

+ Blanche Bonneville

(Joe and Joann)

Friday, February 26, 2010

Werson Family

(Becky Fletcher)

Saturday, February 27, 2010

5:00 PM +Vito & Maria Errico

(Their Son)

Sunday, February 21, 2010

8:30 AM– People of the Parish

10:30 AM–Theresa Hollau

(Mom)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, February 21, 2010

9:00 AM–Faith Formation

9:00 AM–Bible Study

11:45 AM– Em/Lector Trng Church

Monday, February 22, 2010

10:00 AM–Bible Study–SR

Tuesday, February 23, 2009

7:00 PM–Choir practice

7:00 PM–Bible Study–Rm. 6

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

10:00 AM–Bible Study–SR

7:30 PM–RCIA—SR

Thursday, February 25, 2010

7:00 PM–BTPN–Ch/S.R. Potluck

7:00 PM–Bible Study–Rm. 4

Friday, February 26, 2010

6:30 PM–Stations of the Cross

Pictorial Directories are available at the Parish Center. Stop by Monday through Thursday to pick up a copy.

Coffee and Donuts are served in the Social Room on Sunday morning after the Masses.

Care Ministry

Lenten Day of Recollection: Is a day of spiritual nourishment especially for our ministers to the sick. Our speaker is Dorothy Coughlin from the Archdiocesan Office of People With Disabilities and is a wonderful speaker. Her topic is: **Searching for Patience and Grace.** It will be on Friday, March 5th from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM here at St. Joseph's. Flyers are in the back of church. Pre-registration is needed in order to know how many lunches to prepare. There is no cost to ministers to the sick in our parish; \$15 to others who wish to attend. Please pre-register by calling Becky or putting the registration in the collection basket.

Stations of the Cross

We will begin Stations of the Cross starting Friday, February 19th at 6:30 PM, followed by humble dinner. Stations of the Cross refers to the depiction of the final hours (or Passion) of Jesus, and the devotion commemorating the Passion. The tradition as chapel devotion began with St. Francis of Assisi and extended throughout the Roman Catholic Church in the medieval period. Please sign up in the Narthex. Deacon Mike (503)761-8710 x 106).

.Parish Mission

We are happy that Fr. Francis Chun has agreed to give us our 2010 Lenten Mission. You are sure to grow in God's grace and wisdom from Fr. Francis. He will be preaching all the masses the weekend of March 6-7 and the Parish Mission will be Monday through Wednesday March 8-10 at 7 PM in the church. Come and grow in the theme: "The Supreme Expression of God's Love for Us and Our Response to His Love". The topics are the Holy Eucharist, Forgiveness, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Month to date: \$ 16,741.41

Year to Date: \$262,994.09

Wows Lunch February 23rd. This is a social activity open to all widows, widowers and those who are single for any reason. We will enjoy a 1:00 lunch at Boccelli's, 246 N Main, Gresham, on the corner of 3rd and Main. We will have the bus, holding the first 14 callers, at the parish ready to leave at 12:30. The Bus ride is \$2.00. For reservations please call Becky at (503) 761-8710 X 105 by Monday the 22nd.

- **Grief Recovery Weekend**

Are you, or someone you love, grieving the end of a marriage from death or divorce? A grief recovery retreat for the widowed, separated and divorced will be held the weekend of March 5th-7th at the Griffin Center in Milwaukie, near Clackamas Town Center. The Cost of the retreat is \$195 which includes lodging for 2 nights in double room, meals and resource materials. Please call Margi Harp (503)390-7971 for more information, or email margi8280@comcast.net. Registration by March 2nd is recommended. More information is available.

www.beginningexperience.org

40 Days of Life is Feb. 17 to March 28th

Parishioners at St. Joseph will be going to pray at the SE 50th and Franklin Planned Parenthood every Wednesday from 9-10 AM. There will also be prayer daily at the new MLK and Beech PP site. For more information please go to www.40daysforlife.org or call Kathi Nordlund at 503-760-8429.

Youth Group

Jr. High

Feb. 21 2:30-4:30 St. Francis Dining Hall

Feb. 28 Mtg 9:00 AM

Sr. High

Feb. 21 Mtg 7:00 PM

Feb. 26-27 30 Hour Famine