

FROM FR. JOHN

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“I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth” Isaiah 49:6

Around the time of the depression a door-to-door shoe salesman was making his rounds in the country. He came to one house where the father said he did not have the money to buy shoes for his kids. The shoe salesman quit trying to sell but ended up talking about a different kind of “soles” than that of our shoes; i.e. the “souls” that each one of has. The shoe salesman ended up sharing that our salvation was in Christ and in order to have that salvation we had to open our hearts in faith and receive the gift. This father was very moved by what the salesman shared and right then and there he accepted Christ into his life in a deliberate and personal way for the first time. This father, in turn, led his whole family to Christ. One of his kids felt the calling to ministry growing up and he became a preacher. His name? Billy Graham.

Our words of scripture today are from one of the four “Servant-of-the-Lord” oracles found in Isaiah. They talk about the Servant being made ready to preach God’s salvation. Originally, the Servant was seen as Israel and then Christian tradition saw the prophecy of this Servant fulfilled in Jesus. At the end of Matthew’s gospel in a post-resurrection appearance, Jesus gives us all the commission through the disciples to preach the “good news” of salvation to the world. We are disciples in mission. Pope Paul the IV said that the reason the church exists is to evangelize. To “evangelize” means sharing the “good news” of salvation with others. The reason we exist is to gather all people into the family of God forever.

Perhaps you have heard the saying that as Christians we are to preach the gospel always and use words when necessary. There is no doubt that how we live as Christians will be our strongest form of preaching and people will decide on if this salvation in Jesus is real or not based on how we act. Someone may have great words about love but I watch to see if they love. Knowing this, we can let ourselves off the hook and say that all we have to do is act like Christians and we will be fulfilling God’s will. But God wants words to accompany our deeds.

What if the shoe salesman did not take the time to tell the poor father in the country about Jesus? We might not have Billy Graham who has touched literally millions of people with the light of God’s salvation. The challenge to accept Jesus’ free gift of salvation through faith was given and the father accepted. A whole eternal destiny for millions was set in motion. Brothers and sisters, those are the high stakes of our words about Christ. Eternal life for millions of people can depend on whether you share Christ with people or not.

Actions do speak louder than words but where are our words? Who have you shared Jesus Christ with through your words? That is why you exist. Don’t cop out by saying; “I am not holy enough”, “That is the priest’s/minister’s job”, “I don’t know how to do it”, “I don’t want to be holier than thou or pushing Jesus into someone’s faith.” Just RISK and share how Jesus has saved and is saving you in His love. Remember how a shoe salesman affected millions of people for all eternity because he shared Jesus with Billy Graham’s father. You can do the same. This is our vocation in life; it is our calling.

Let God be your Father.

Soon in heaven(ask me what this means if you have questions),
Fr. John



MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Mar 7, 2010

8:30 AM– Jean Bruck

(Jim Bruck)

10:30 AM– People of the Parrish

Monday, March 8, 2010

Communion Service

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

+Catherine Schneider

(Don and Kathy Kreisman)

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

+Catherine Schneider

(Don and Kathy Kreisman)

Thursday, March 11, 2010

+ Catherine Schneider

(Don and Kathy Kreisman)

Friday, March 12, 2010

+Catherine Schneider

(Don and Kathy Kreisman)

Saturday, March 13, 2010

5:00 PM +James Murphy

(Patty Murphy)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 7, 2010

9:00 AM-Faith Formation

9:00 AM-Bible Study

9:00 AM-K of C Pancake Breakfast

7:00 PM–Jr. High Youth Mtg.

Monday, March 8, 2010

10:00 AM-Bible Study-SR

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

10:00 AM Alter Guild

7:00 PM-Bible Study Rm 6

7:00 PM-K of C Mtg SR

7:00 PM-Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

10:00 AM-Bible Study-SR

7:00 PM-RCIA—SR

Thursday, March 11, 2010

7:00 PM-Confirmation—SR

7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 4

Friday, March 12, 2010

4:00 PM– Homeless Outreach

6:30 PM-Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 13, 2010

10:00 Lenten Reconciliation

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

. 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.

B Forgiven! Come join Heaven's Victory Cheer as we are forgiven our sins at our community Reconciliation Service Saturday, March 13th at 10 AM in the church...Sinners welcome!!

Alter Guild Memo Please join us March 9th at 10:00 in the Social Room for our meeting. We will be voting on new officers and discussing our annual Ladies Night Out in June. Come make new friends and be part of the fun!

Homeless Outreach: On Fri. Mar. 12th we will host the dinner served at the Sunnyside Coffee House. We feed around 200 people and will need volunteers to prepare dinner and serve the guests. We start preparing food at 4:00pm and serve at 6:00pm. The soup kitchen is located at SE 35th and Yamhill. Call Jan at 503-254-2212 for more information.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Budget amount: \$ 7,032.00

Amount collected: \$ 7,874.29

Over/under: + 842.29

Youth Group cans and bottle recycling this Weekend

Homeless Outreach cont:

Homeless outreach during the season of lent—we will be collecting socks, new or slightly used for men and women. A marked box will be in the Narthex.

Eucharistic Minister and Lector

Training: Training for Eucharistic Ministers and lectors is Sunday, March 21 at 11:45am in the church. Deacon Mike (503) 761-8710 X106)

St Henry's will be hosting the movie The 13th Day and a Soup Supper, March 13 at 6:00pm in the McMahon Room. The critically acclaimed movie, the 13th Day is presented by the World Apostolate of Fatima. The movie will be shown after the Soup Supper, following the Vigil Mass at about 6:30pm. There is no charge for the movie. A free will offering will be taken to help cover expenses. Seating may be limited. Pre-registration is recommended. Register on-line at www.wafpdx.org or call Rich DeVitis at (503) 788-2266). St Henry is at 346 NW First St, Gresham

The Marian Prayer Center at 4370 SE King Rd in Milwaukie invites you to visit their center for a wealth of Lenten devotional materials in used and new books as well as free holy cards and booklets. The new books will be on sale throughout Lent at 25% off. There is also a beautiful and inspirational DVD's, videos and books to borrow in our Lending Library. For more information and hours we are open call 503 786-9600