



Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity, SFO

Hampton Roads, Virginia

April, 2014

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are halfway through Lent and each Sunday the gospel demonstrates how Christ is becoming more and more well known among the Jewish population. His many miracles and explanations are converting the crowds to His way. However, all of that will change shortly. People who have accepted Him now will reject Him and reject Him with force. We see how fickle humanity is in embracing Jesus one moment and pushing Him away the next. We see our own fickleness in the Gospel. How many times have we embraced Christ with joy and good feeling only to reject him when our choices become difficult? During Holy Week we see all of the darkness of humanity displayed. It is as if the Holy Spirit puts all our weaknesses in one time frame for us to look at! I find it very humbling to put myself in the crowds or with the apostles during Holy Week. When I ask myself how I would have reacted or behaved in the unfolding chaos I am not always happy with the answer.

It is said that Lent and Holy Week are a journey each of us takes to Easter. How we make that journey is determined by our intensely personal relationship with Christ. No two journeys will be the same. Each of us will carry a cross and each of us will climb a Calvary but the promise of Resurrection and salvation is real and Easter joyously celebrates that. The beautiful prayer of St. Francis said at Stations of the Cross, "We adore you O Christ and we bless you because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world" underscores the reality of our own suffering and redemption.

Easter is our hope and our joy. It is the antidote to our suffering and gives meaning to our cross through His cross. The ending phrase of the Exultet, the joyous Easter Proclamation said at the opening of the Easter Vigil service sums this up beautifully:

*May the morning Star which never sets
find this flame still burning:*

*Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead,
and shed his peaceful light on us all,
your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.*

May God grant us a prayerful Holy Week, a joyous Easter and peace on earth.

Chris Wells

Minister

April Meeting:

Our April meeting will be held in the conference room at St. Bede's Church on Ironbound Rd.

This is the main church. **The meeting will start at 3:00 pm.** Our

Inquirers will have a ceremony during the meeting to admit them to Candidacy and we will attend the 5:00 pm Mass afterwards at St. Bede's to celebrate with them and pray for them .

Our rising Candidates are:

Rosemarie Brennan

Terry Carlino

Cindy Holland

Ani Kelly

Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their discernment.

Agenda:

3:00 Opening prayers

3:15 Formation

3:45 Business meeting

4:15 Ceremony of Admission

5:00 Mass

If you are interested in going to dinner after Mass, please let me know.

Saint Reports:

Bea Sanford will speak on Padre Pio as our May saint report..

Welcome Back:

Welcome back from New Zealand to Glen Davis. Thank you to Ed Gerhard for a thought provoking formation while Glen was gone.

Morning of Spirituality:

Our morning of spirituality on March 22 was a very prayerful time for all who were able to attend. Deacon Dominic gave a beautiful presentation on the meaning of Holy Week and how we can enter into that experience. Afterward the discussion continued over lunch at Sal's By Victor.

Thank you to Bea Sanford for her help in inviting Deacon to be our presenter and for allowing us to use the St. Bede facilities.

Food Pantry at St. Olaf's

We will be collecting non-spoilable food and/or paper products for the St. Olaf Food Pantry. By our collecting for the pantry we are helping St. Olaf to devote more funds to their Summer Feeding Program for indigent children.

Council Meeting:

There will not be a Council meeting in April. The next one will be May 10.

Lenten Reconciliation Services:

All parishes will be holding Reconciliation Services to prepare for Easter. Please check your parish bulletin for the Service in your parish and take advantage of this wonderful sacrament.

Weekend of Recollection at St. Joan of Arc:

St. Joan of Arc Parish is hosting a weekend of spirituality on April 4 and 5. The guest speaker will be Ruanda who has also appeared on public television. For more information please contact St. Joan of Arc Parish.

Peninsula Pet Pantry:

The Peninsula Pet Pantry is a nonprofit organization providing temporary pet food, supplies, and veterinarian care to pet owners who are facing financial difficulties. Many of these pet owners are elderly or disabled and their pet is an emotional support to them. If you are interested in donating or volunteering, contact Carol Folsom carolfolsom@cox.net

Prayer List:

Joan Buehler, SFO

Rosemarie Brennan

Marlin Massey and Massey family

Bea Sandford's father

Wyn McPherson and McPherson family

Greta Braswell and Braswell family

Michael R. Wilson

For all travelers

People suffering from the mud slides

Prayer List continued:

Victims and families of Malaysia air disaster
Our rising Candidates
Our Anniversarians
Our fraternity
Our Franciscan family
Those who have no one to pray for them
The unspoken intentions of our hearts

April Dates to Remember:

3 St. Benedict the Black
13 **Palm Sunday**
17 **Holy Thursday**
18 **Good Friday**
19 **Holy Saturday**
20 **Easter Sunday**
21 St. Conrad of Parzhan
23 Blessed Giles of Assisi
24 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen
27 Divine Mercy Sunday
28 Blessed Luchesius
St. Louis de Montfort
29 St. Catherine of Siena
30 Pope Saint Pius V

*Father, how wonderful
your care for us!
How boundless your mer-
ciful love!
To ransom a slave you
gave away your Son.*

~ Exultet ~

(Easter Proclamation)

