



**Remembering Our
Past
Celebrating Our
Present
Honoring Our
Future**

Let us Celebrate...

**WORLD DAY OF
CONSECRATED LIFE**

with

BISHOP GEORGE V. MURRY, S.J.

and

THE RELIGIOUS OF

The Diocese of Youngstown

Sunday, February 3, 2008

St. Columba Cathedral

10:30 A.M. Liturgy

Light refreshments to follow at St. Columba Hall



World Day for Consecrated Life

February 3, 2008

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Presider: Loving God in faith and confidence we approach you, our light.

Response: Christ our light, hear us.

- For our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, our Bishop George Murry and all leaders in the Church that they will continue to guide the Church in love and wisdom, and experience support and appreciation from all the faithful.
- For all consecrated women and men, may they be beacons of hope, and proclaimers of the Word through lives lived in joy and peace.
- For the Church in the Diocese of Youngstown, may all the members seek to be Christ's light to the poor, the sick, the homeless and oppressed.
- That all of our youth will hear God's unique communal life call and respond generously to either marriage or the committed single life, to vowed Consecrated Life or to the Ordained Clergy.
- For all of our deceased, especially the deceased religious who labored in God's vineyard for so many years. That eternal light shine upon them and grant them eternal peace.

Presider: Loving God, hear our prayers. Help us to see the needs of your people and respond. Enkindle our hearts with faith and love to do what we can to make this world a better place. Hear and answer these prayers through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 20, 2008

The universal Church has been celebrating *World Day of Consecrated Life* since 1997 close to the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, February 2. Bishop George Murry, S.J. invites our diocesan church to celebrate the gift of Consecrated Life with him and the religious of our Diocese on Sunday, February 3, 2008 at St. Columba Cathedral at the 10:30 a.m. liturgy. All are welcome. Please mark your calendar.

January 27, 2008

Consecrated persons, particularly religious women and men have and continue to serve this Diocese through their lives of prayer and service to all of God's people. Please come and celebrate the gift of Consecrated Life to the Church with Bishop George Murry, S.J. and the religious of our Diocese next **Sunday, February 3, 2008** at St. Columba Cathedral at the **10:30 a.m.** liturgy. Light refreshments will follow at the cathedral hall. All are welcome.

Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for January & February 2008

January 6, 2008 (Epiphany of the Lord)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today we remember the three wise men from the East who came to pay homage to the infant Jesus bringing Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The gifts we bring – our time and service and some share of what we earn for the work we do – are equally precious in His sight.

January 20, 2008 (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Today's responsorial Psalm is the theme song of the good steward: "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will." May I, too, stand ready to offer myself and my gifts in the service of God.

February 3, 2008 (4th Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Blessed are they who are what they are and do what they do *for the sake of the kingdom!* The Gospel today assures good stewards that their suffering and their service on behalf of the Kingdom *will* be rewarded!

February 17, 2008 (2nd Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"Bear your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God," St. Paul tells Timothy in today's second reading. What sacrifice is asked of me for the sake of the Gospel? How willing am I to bear my share?

January 13, 2008 (Baptism of the Lord)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Our Baptism, like the Lord's, is a consecration to service. The bishops' pastoral on stewardship reminds us that "...there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of baptism that people place their gifts, their resources - their selves – at God's service in and through the Church."

January 27, 2008 (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

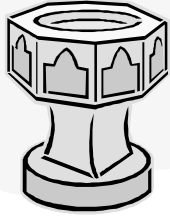
The watchword today is "immediately." Peter Andrew, James, and John all respond *immediately* to the call of Christ. May I be as open to God's call and as ready to use my talents in His service as those first disciples were!

February 10, 2008 (1st Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

What temptations lure us from the path of discipleship? Possessions? Pride? Power? Oh Lord, create for us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us!

February 24, 2008 (3rd Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!



Lent 2008

Resources for Discussion and Reflection

Prepared by the Lutheran-Catholic Covenant Commission of the
Northeastern Ohio Lutheran Synod of the ELCA &
Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown



Fasting

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7), Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

He fasted for forty days and forty nights...”

On Ash Wednesday, we hear Jesus speak of the disciplines of Lenten faith: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. In the reading from Matthew, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert and into a time of fasting. Jesus isn't asked by the Spirit to give up something for these forty days, as we frequently do during this season. What is to be gained from giving up something for forty days? Is it soda or television, sweets or cigarettes, meat or shopping for non-essentials? The practice of giving up something that has some measure of control over us leads to a temporary mastery over an object or habit. It can also be felt as an offering to God for God's gifts to us. Jesus, led into the desert, encounters solitude and fasting, prayer and silence. He experiences a deep communion with the Father. This is not a mere mastery of a habit or a break from tempting items. This is a life-altering event. Jesus is given the strength to counter the devil and to hold fast to the kingdom of God. Jesus sends the devil away, empty and unsuccessful.

What if you spent forty days in deeper communion with God?

What would you really have to leave behind in order to enter a desert-like experience?

In your parish/congregation, what are some ways this season of Lent is observed as a desert-dwelling time?

Prayer

Genesis 12:1-4a, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 (2 Timothy 1:8b-10), Matthew 17:1-9

“But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Rise, and do not be afraid.’”

Once again, we see Jesus retreating from the crowds and distractions of the world. In this passage, Jesus and a few of the disciples go up a mountain to encounter God in the event of Transfiguration. So great this encounter, Jesus' face shone like the sun and his clothes became white. Jesus, once again, is spending time in deep communion with his Father. For us deep communion with God is called prayer. The second of three Lenten disciplines prayer is time when we respond to Jesus words, “Do not be afraid.” Peter wanted to build tents for Jesus and the prophets, to remain in God's holy presence. And while we can't always seek out mountains or deserts, we can come before God in times of prayer.

What are your deepest longings that you need to bring before the Father in prayer?

When is it easiest for you to pray? When is it most difficult?

What keeps you from prayer?

In your parish/congregation, what forms of prayer are most meaningful for the community?

Almsgiving (Acts of Mercy)

Exodus 17:1-7 (Exodus 17:3-7), Romans 5:1-11 (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8), John 4:5-42

*“Sir, give me this water, that I may not be thirsty
or have to keep coming here to draw water.”*

A request for water and the Samaritan woman’s act of mercy develops into an encounter with Jesus as living water and into a proclamation of the good news. The third discipline of faith, almsgiving, is not limited to throwing coins into a homeless person’s hat. Almsgiving in a broader sense includes the spiritual practice of giving ourselves in acts of mercy. Jesus asks an outcast woman for a drink of water. Her act of kindness opens her to the possibility of receiving what she needs. This woman needs a life-change found in the mercy of Jesus. This is a holy encounter at its very best. Mercy begets mercy. Like Jesus in the desert or in the mountains, this woman is in a wilderness of her very own. Following her encounter with Jesus, her sins are made whiter than snow. Then she joyfully shares this experience with others.

When have you encountered mercy? What difference did it make in your life?
What acts of mercy are parts of your parish or congregation life?

Seeing God’s Kingdom with New Eyes

1 Samuel 16:1-13 (1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a), Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

*The man born blind said,
“I do believe Lord,” and he worshiped Jesus.*

In John’s account, the man born blind doesn’t ask Jesus to heal him. Yet following this moment with Jesus, the man can see, both physically and spiritually. He proclaims to the world, “I do believe.” We’re well into the forty days of Lent by now. Closer to the emergence from desert or decline from mountain, we meet up with this man born blind. Our Lenten disciplines (fasting, prayer, almsgiving/acts of mercy) not only allow us to encounter God but also God to make his work visible through us. It is the same with the man born blind. He is given new sight for the kingdom and God. God uses him as an instrument to share his gift of sight with the world.

In the midst of fasting, praying, and acting with mercy, do you encounter God and become a vehicle for his works?

Like the man born blind, how have you been gifted by God even when you have not asked?

How can God use your parish or congregation?

When has your parish or congregation seen a situation with new eyes?

When has God used your parish or congregation for his good works?

With the texts of Ash Wednesday and the disciplines of Lent in mind, we hope this resource will be helpful in your Lenten journey. Whether you use this for personal devotion or in a combined group from a neighboring Lutheran congregation and Catholic parish,
we wish you a blessed and thoughtful Lent.

January 2008
USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities

January 6th Epiphany of the Lord

Studies published ... in the journals *Cell* and *Science* offer new hope for advancing stem cell research and therapies while fully respecting the dignity of human life.

Scientists in Japan and Wisconsin used four genes to “reprogram” ordinary adult human cells, creating “induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells). ...

Thus the goal sought for years through failed attempts at human cloning – the production of “pluripotent” stem cells that are an exact match to a patient – has been brought within reach by an ethical procedure. The technology avoids the ethical landmines associated with embryonic stem cell research: it does not clone or destroy human embryos, [and] does not harm or exploit women for their eggs. ...

This advance reminds us once again that medical progress and respect for human life are not in conflict....

Cardinal Justin Rigali, Statement on Stem Cell Breakthrough, Nov. 20, 2007

January 13th Baptism of the Lord

The Church is not trying to impose Catholic doctrine on the world, but we are trying to invite our people to take seriously their obligation to vote in a way that respects the moral law, the natural law, and takes into account the common good, care for the poor, and particularly the Gospel of Life, which is always at the center of Catholic social teaching.

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, commenting on "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," Nov. 15, 2007

January 20th Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Unfortunately, politics in our country often can be a contest of powerful interests, partisan attacks, sound bites, and media hype. The Church calls for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable. The Catholic call to faithful citizenship affirms the importance of political participation and insists that public service is a worthy vocation.

"Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," (no. 14), USCCB, Nov. 14, 2007

January 27th Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who takes a position in favor of an intrinsic evil, such as abortion or racism, if the voter's intent is to support that position. In such cases a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. At the same time, a voter should not use a candidate's opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues involving human life and dignity.

"Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," (no. 34), USCCB, Nov. 14, 2007

Diocese of Youngstown
Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family

January 6th Epiphany of the Lord

Catholic marriage -- exactly like Jesus Himself -- is not about scarcity but abundance. It's not about sterility, but rather the fruitfulness which flows from unitive, procreative love. Catholic married love always implies the possibility of new life; and because it does, it drives out loneliness and affirms the future. And because it affirms the future, it becomes a furnace of hope in a world prone to despair.

Archbishop of Denver Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. Pastoral Letter "Of Human Life" July 22, 1998

January 13th Baptism of the Lord

Why isn't every married couple learning and using Natural Family Planning? Good question. Perhaps it is because too many people simply don't know the truth about it. NFP is not a repackaged version of the old calendar-based "rhythm method"-a misconception even doctors have today. Unfortunately, medical training in this area, in most cases, is often nonexistent or inadequate.

Jose R. Fernandez, MD

January 20th Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

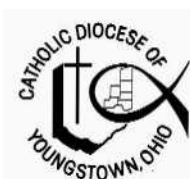
Hormonal methods such as the Pill may work in several ways. They can suppress ovulation or alter cervical mucus to prevent fertilization, and thus act contraceptively. But they may at times have other effects, such as changes to the lining of the uterus. If the contraceptive action fails and fertilization takes place, these hormonal methods may make it impossible for a newly conceived life to implant and survive. That would be a very early abortion.

"Married Love and the Gift of Life" US Conference of Catholic Bishops, November 14, 2006

January 27th Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

NFP has a number of benefits: It is scientifically sound, it involves no harmful side effects, and it entails no cost after the initial fee for materials. Studies have shown that NFP, when accurately followed, can be 99% effective in postponing pregnancy. Best of all, while complying with God's will, husband and wife discover the beautifully designed functions of their fertility, enhance their intimacy, and deepen their love for each other.

"Marriage: A Communion of Life and Love", Bishop Victor Galeone, July 10, 2003



Office of Pro-Life, Marriage & Family
Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

invites you & your parish/school teens to the
2008 Youth Rally
for Peace, Life & Justice

Power of Praise

Power of Praise, a talented local Catholic Band, will provide live entertainment & lead us in song.

Join in fun, interactive games and community builders.

Fun! Games!

Mass for Life
Mass for Life

Join Bishop Murry and hundreds of fellow Catholics in praying for a greater respect for all human life at the Annual Mass for Life.

Saturday, January 19

10:00 am - 1:30 pm

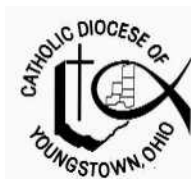
St. Dominic's Church, Youngstown

Refreshments provided at 10:00 a.m. Lunch provided following the Mass for Life.

Due to the generosity of St. Dominic's parish, the Knights of Columbus, and the members of Power of Praise, this youth rally is FREE for all participants.

Pre-registration through a parish youth leader who is in full compliance with the Diocese of Youngstown Child Protection Policy is required!

For More Information, call 330-744-8451



2008 Youth Rally for Peace, Life & Justice Youth Ministry Leader Response Form

(check one)

_____ Yes, we will participate. Please send me the details and permission forms.

Approximate number of students attending _____

_____ Not sure at this time. Please contact me with more information.

_____ Sorry, we will be unable to participate.

Name _____

Title _____

Parish _____ City _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Return by January 10 to:



Office of Pro-Life, Marriage & Family
144 West Wood Street
Youngstown, OH 44503

HUMAN TRAFFICKING -1

WHAT IS IT?

Human trafficking has been dubbed modern-day slavery. Victims of human trafficking are young children, teenagers, men and women. The US Department of State estimates that between 800,000 and 900,000 victims are annually trafficked across international borders, and nearly 20,000 of those victims are trafficked in our country. Victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Human trafficking is a human rights issue.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING-2

HOW ARE VICTIMS TRAFFICKED?

Force: Rape, beatings, constraint, confinement

Fraud: Includes false & deceptive offers of employment, marriage, better life

Coercion: Includes force and fraud.

Many trafficking victims are forced into prostitution and the sex entertainment industry while others are forced into situations that approximate involuntary servitude, such as domestic servitude, restaurant work, janitorial work, sweatshop factory work and migrant agricultural work. *The US Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration* reaffirms the commitment of the US Catholic Bishops to end this abominable practice: "The Catholic Church, in the United States stands ready to work with our government to end this scourge. We cannot rest until trafficking in human persons is eliminated from the globe."

HUMAN TRAFFICKING-3

"Human trafficking is a horrific crime against the basic dignity and rights of the human person and all efforts must be expended to end it. In the end, we must work together....church, state, and community.... to eliminate the root causes and markets that permit traffickers to flourish; to make whole the survivors of this crime; and to ensure that one day soon trafficking in human persons vanishes from the face of the earth."

Most Reverend Bishop Gerald Barnes, Chair of the USCCB Bishops' Committee 9-12-07

HUMAN TRAFFICKING-4

"We call upon all Catholics to seek ways to assist dioceses and local governments in helping survivors. Catholics also can help educate fellow Catholics and others about the human consequences of this crime."

Most Reverend Bishop Gerald Barnes, Chair of the USCCB Bishops' Committee 9-12-07

WHY LEARN ABOUT IT?

"The trade in human persons constitutes a shocking offense against human dignity and a grave violation of fundamental human rights." *Pope John Paul II*

After drug dealing, trafficking of humans tied with arms dealing as the second largest criminal industry in the world, and is the fastest growing criminal industry.

HOW TO LEARN MORE

Any parish, school or group interested in knowing more information or would like to have a program or presentation on Human Trafficking may contact Sister Marcella Houdek, HM at 330-649-9324 or Brian Corbin at 330-744-8451.