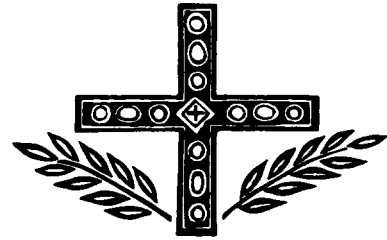


Intercessions for Life

MARCH 2005

March 6th FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

For all expectant mothers:
that the babies in their wombs
might bring us to a greater love
of the precious gift of life;
We pray to the Lord:



March 13th FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

For those who have grown old and weak:
that we might cherish them for their wisdom
and rejoice in the gifts God gives us in them;
We pray to the Lord:

March 20th PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

For all who suffer,
but especially for those in chronic pain:
that they might join their sufferings
to the cross of Christ;
We pray to the Lord:

March 27th EASTER SUNDAY: THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

For the newly baptized:
that the new life they have received in Christ
might make them courageous proclaimers
of the Gospel of Life;
We pray to the Lord:

Mystery of life! What greater aspiration is there in life? Yet *threatening shadows* are hanging over this universal human hope: the shadow of a culture that denies respect for life in all its stages; the shadow of an indifference that relegates countless people to a destiny of hunger and underdevelopment; the shadow of scientific research that is sometimes used to serve the selfishness of the strongest. Dear brothers and sisters, the needs of our many brothers and sisters call us into question. We cannot close our hearts to their pleas for help. Nor can we forget that "one does not live by bread alone" (cf. Mt 4: 4). We are in need of the "living bread which came down from heaven" (Jn 6: 51). Jesus is this bread. Nourishing ourselves on him means welcoming God's life itself (cf. Jn 10: 10) and opening ourselves to the logic of love and sharing.

Pope John Paul II, Homily Opening the Year of the Eucharist, 17 October, 2004

March 2005: Bulletin Briefs
Prepared by the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities

Life is the first gift which God has given us. It is the first resource which man can enjoy. The Church is called to proclaim “the Gospel of Life.” And the State has as its primary task precisely the safeguarding and promotion of human life.

Pope John Paul II, Address to the Diplomatic Corps, January 10, 2005

The challenge to life has grown in scale and urgency in recent years. It has involved particularly the *beginning of human life*, when human beings are at their weakest and most in need of protection ... [Any] form of scientific research which treats the embryo merely as a laboratory specimen is unworthy of man. Scientific research in the field of genetics needs to be encouraged and promoted, but, like every other human activity, it can never be exempt from moral imperatives; research using adult stem cells, moreover, offers the promise of considerable success.

Pope John Paul II, Address to the Diplomatic Corps, January 10, 2005

Thirty-two years later, the evil of *Roe v. Wade* persists, the blood of innocents continues to stain our Constitution, and the loss of more than 40 million unborn children should haunt our national consciousness...

The evil must end! It must end soon! And we are here to affirm that, with God’s grace, we must be instruments of its ending!”

Cardinal William H. Keeler, Homily, Pro-Life Vigil Mass, January 23, 2005

First Step for Change

Parish Participation Form



- Pastors: find a dependable volunteer in your parish whom you trust to see this project through from start to finish. OR, decide to coordinate the project yourself (we've made the process as simple and painless as possible).
- Parish volunteers: make sure that you have your pastor's approval before agreeing to participate in the project.
- *First Step for Change* works a lot like Operation Rice Bowl, only instead of collecting change in a cardboard "rice bowl," you will collect it in a recyclable plastic baby bottle.

Pastor's Name: _____

Name of Parish: _____ City: _____

- * We will participate in *First Step for Change*: _____
Number of bottles needed for the parish: _____

Do you have bottles from last year? If so, reuse them this year and do not count them in the total number of bottles requested above.

- * We will not participate in *First Step for Change*: _____

If your parish will be participating in First Step for Change, please provide the name, address and phone number of the person who will be responsible for coordinating the project at your parish.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Comments: _____

***Please return this form in the enclosed envelope by
April 1, 2005.***

Thank you for your interest in the work of Catholic Charities and for supporting the efforts of the Diocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities!



OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

Suggested Intercessions for the Month of March

March 6 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For Church leaders, that the Lord grant them wisdom when they are called upon to discern vocations, we pray to the Lord.

March 13 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

For those being called to a new way of life, that they come to trust in the Lord's call, we pray to the Lord.

March 20 PALM SUNDAY

For those who have taken the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, that they be inspired and strengthened by Jesus who "emptied himself," and became "obedient to the point of death," we pray to the Lord.

March 27 EASTER SUNDAY

For an increase of witnesses for Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for March / April

March 6, 2005 (4th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

March 20, 2005 (Palm Sunday)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" Shout the crowds in today's Gospel. May we be always ready to share our blessings when we are sent in His name!

April 3, 2005 (2nd Sunday of Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Jesus meets the need of each disciple. To the fearful in the upper room, He speaks words of peace. To doubting Thomas, He provides the tangible proof of His resurrection. What do I need to become His disciple? What do I have to share that might meet someone else's need?

April 17, 2005 (4th Sunday of Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly." Good stewards are grateful for the gift of life and joyfully share their abundance with others.

March 13, 2005 (5th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness is not to end in death; rather it is for God's glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified." Every aspect of our lives-our gifts as well as our sufferings-can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessings for ourselves and others.

March 27, 2005 (Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Very early in the morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with precious oils. The reward of this good and conscientious steward was to be the first to know that Jesus had been raised from the dead! Alleluia!

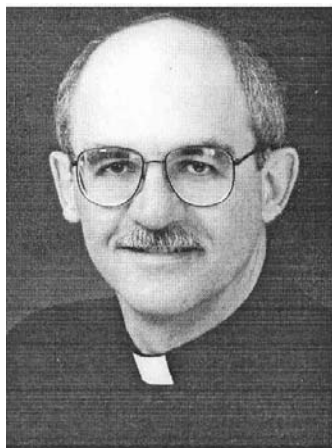
April 10, 2005 (3rd Sunday of Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The disciples on the road to Emmaus walked and talked with Jesus all day long, but it was not until they offered Him hospitality and He blessed and broke bread that they recognized Him. Simple acts of loving kindness *still* reveal the presence of God in our midst.

April 24, 2005 (5th Sunday of Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

"The one who has faith in me will do the works I do, and far greater than these," Jesus tells his disciples. That's quite an assignment for us as Christian stewards!

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS INSTITUTE FOR MINISTRY



presents an international teleconference

“A Faith Working for Justice in a Troubled World”

Presenter: The Rev. Fred Kammer, S.J.

March 5, 2005

Date: Saturday, March 5, 2005

Time: 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Registration
1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Teleconference

Place: NOLA Conference and
Training Center
4445 Mahoning Avenue NW
Champion Plaza
Warren, OH 44483
See reverse side for directions.

As the world becomes increasingly consumeristic, and the divide between rich and poor individuals and nations becomes more pronounced and dramatic, the Roman Catholic Church of the 20th and 21st centuries has talked more and more about justice being at the “heart” of our faith tradition. The consequences of such a position are critical: one cannot follow Christ without having a commitment to a faith that does justice.

How has the Church moved toward a discussion of faith that seems complicated by local, national, and international social and political issues? Is a faith that does justice a departure from the Church’s two founts of revelation: Scripture and Tradition? Or, is it truly at the very core of Christian faith?

This international teleconferencing presentation, which will link Loyola University New Orleans students and alumni worldwide for the first time, will explore the foundation of the Catholic concern for inspiring believers to a “faith-that-does-justice” by looking at basic themes of the Jewish Scriptures. The presentation will center on a contemporary spiritual awareness of “faithjustice,” a perspective on faith and justice that is described in the presenter’s two popular books, *Doing FaithJustice* and *Salted with Fire: Spirituality for the FaithJustice Journey*. After the initial presentation – via teleconferencing from the Monroe Library at Loyola University New Orleans – participating sites will have an opportunity for an interactive and international dialogue.

About the Presenter: The Reverend Fred Kammer S.J. is a former president of Catholic Charities USA, the largest voluntary social service network in the United States. He currently serves as the provincial director for the Southern Province of Jesuits. Kammer earned a master of divinity (M.Div.) degree from Loyola University Chicago, and a juris doctor (J.D.) from Yale University, where he was a classmate of former President Bill Clinton and his wife Hilary Clinton. He is mentioned twice in Clinton’s recent memoir. A former legal services attorney, social service director, and public policy advocate, Kammer has been an influential force behind and consultant for many political, social, and economic decisions made in Washington, D.C., especially those dealing with the poor. His most recent book, *Doing FaithJustice*, was published in 2003 by Paulist Press.



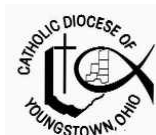
Co-sponsored by the Diocese of Youngstown Office of Religious Education and the Department of Catholic Charities
Funded in part by a grant from the DOY Catholic Campaign for Human Development and by the Annual Bishop’s Appeal

Space is limited. Reservations are required. Registration fee: \$5.00

Fill out the form on the reverse side and mail to:

Office of Religious Education
225 Elm Street, Youngstown OH 44503
Phone: 330-744-8451, Fax: 330-744-5899
E-mail: sgreco@youngstowndiocese.org

Check payable to the Office of Religious Education



Directions to NOLA Regional Library System

**NOLA Conference & Training Center
4445 Mahoning Avenue NW
Champion Plaza
Warren, Ohio 44483
1-800-589-6652 or (330) 847-7744**

The NOLA Regional Library System Conference & Training Center is located just North of the Route 5 & 82 Warren Bypass at the Mahoning Avenue/Route 45 Exit.

As you pass Kent State University's Trumbull Campus, continue North to the next traffic light, which is directly across from Educational Boulevard and the entrance to the Trumbull County Joint Vocational School. At this traffic light (just after the Shell Gas Station), turn left into the Champion Plaza.

From the North:

Take Route 11 South to Route 82 West (turns into 5/82 bypass). Exit at Mahoning Avenue/Route 45 Exit.

From the South:

Take Route 11 North to Route 82 West (turns into 5/82 bypass). Exit at Mahoning Avenue/Route 45 Exit.

From the West:

Ohio Turnpike to Exit 14. Follow 5/82 bypass East to Mahoning Avenue/Route 45 Exit.

For more information visit www.nolanet.org and click on "About NOLA" then "Maps and Directions."

✂ (Detach and mail)

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS INSTITUTE FOR MINISTRY TELECONFERENCE – MARCH 5, 2005

Please reserve a space for me at the Teleconference. My \$5.00 registration fee is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIPCODE _____

PARISH _____

PHONE _____

Please make the check payable and mail to:
Office of Religious Education, 225 Elm Street, Youngstown, OH 44503