

HOLY
COMFORTER-
SAINT CYPRIAN
PARISH

SEASON OF LENT

Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults

- 1st Sunday
Rite of Sending
11 a.m. Mass
- 2nd Sunday
Lenten Family
Retreat Day
- 3rd Sunday
1st Scrutiny
8:00 a.m. Mass
Presentation of
the Creed
- 4th Sunday
2nd Scrutiny
8:00 a.m. Mass
- 5th Sunday
3rd Scrutiny
Presentation of
Lord's Prayer
8 a.m. Mass
- Holy Saturday
Ephphetha Rite
- Easter Vigil
Sacraments of
Initiation

Faith Formation

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

MARCH 2007

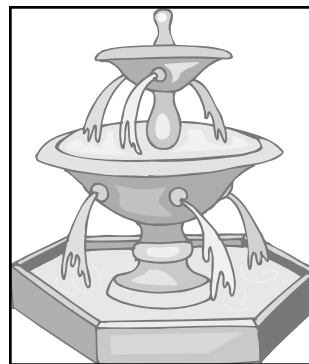
Stages of Discipleship

Sacred Scripture recounts for us a powerful story of Jesus' free, spontaneous and mysterious call to discipleship. This story is one we read every Lent. It is the story of the woman at the well. Jesus meets the Samaritan woman where she is and engages her in dialogue. He acknowledges her thirst and tells her of the reign of God. He promises, "**living water, welling up to eternal life.**" (Jn 4:14). For the Samaritan woman this unexpected encounter with the Lord effects a change of heart and brings her into a relationship with the Messiah.

We are told by the Gospel writer that the woman went in haste to tell the townspeople about her meeting one "who told me all I have ever done" (Jn 4:40). At her insistence the community invites Jesus to stay. After Jesus' two day pastoral visit with the townsfolk, they proclaimed to the woman, "Now we no longer believe because of what you

have told us; we have heard Him ourselves and we know that He really is the Savior of the world." (Jn 4:42)

For the woman this life altering, healing and certainly liberating experience began with the **acceptance of Jesus' invitation** to over-



come fear with trust in his word. Next it lead her to **rejoice in God's love** by repenting and accepting his forgiveness. Finally, she emphatically **embraced the mission** to become an evangelist out of her experience of conversion. These movements of the heart and will are the stages of discipleship.

Does the woman, the people of Samaria and Jesus' ministry have anything to

say to us in the year 2007? In a sense, the realities of it seem so far from our present day realities. But is it?

The life and the purpose of parish and the call to discipleship have a two-fold effect. The first effect is one which touches our heart and soul. We encounter Christ. His Word changes us! **It is the singular duty of a parish to bring Christ to its members**, to make formation personal and immediate for the laity by instructing them to hear the word of God through liturgical and personal prayer.

Faith formation happens as we encounter the word of God, as the priest breaks open the word for us, exhorts us in the way of discipleship, and as we sing from our hearts the prayerfully selected songs of praise and worship. The prayers of the Church are powerful tools for formation, as "**the Church prays that which she professes.**" (CCC)

(continued on page 4)

Stages of Discipleship (cont'd pg. 1)

We receive the Eucharist...we “recognize him in the breaking of the bread.” (Lk 24:23) Yes, we too, like the woman at the well, encounter Jesus. **He quenches the thirst of our soul with the food and drink of his very Body and Blood.**

The second effect that parish life and our call to discipleship should have is service of neighbor both regarding their physical and spiritual needs. The woman at the well, having found “the springs of life-giving water” goes to bring drink to the thirsty in her town. Unabashedly, she proclaims, “he has told me everything I have done.” The Samaritan woman, and then her town-folk, by entering into the dialogue with the Lord, had a lived faith, a faith that was

searching, questioning, and reflecting on questions pertinent to the purpose and ultimate meaning of life. Their faith became an explicit faith rooted in a personal relationship and knowledge of Jesus, “he stayed with them two days” (Jn 4:40).

Though the author of the Gospel does not bring us back to this Samaritan town, we can imagine this new community of disciples flourishing in the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

As I come to know the good people of Holy Comforter-Saint Cyprian parish, it is obvious that the call of discipleship is being heard, received, and accepted. Our vision of being a “*welcoming, embracing, and joyful faith family*” takes

all of us to work, worship, and witness together so that the Lord’s power may be more fully revealed in our midst.

In quiet stillness let us ask: “Do I move through the stages of discipleship in my own life?” **Dialogue** through prayerful reading of the Scriptures. **Accept** Christ’s invitation—serve in a ministry. **Rejoice** in His love—frequent the sacraments of Reconciliation and Communion. **Embrace the mission**—invite someone to attend Mass or a church function with you. Yes, in our discipleship, *we have come this far by faith!* Let us move forward together.

Lisa M. Gulino
Director of Faith Formation

The sowing of the Gospel happens every time people invite others to “come and see” as they worship, pray, study the Word, share faith, and reach out to those in need.

Lisa M. Gulino

Spiritual Resources

Book: From Slave to Priest: The Inspirational Story of Fr. Augustine Tolton by Sr. Caroline Hemesath, SSF

This new edition published by Ignatius Press reacquaints today’s readers with this great priest, and details the incredible struggle for equality and acceptance faced by black Catholics in the mid 19th century. Includes a moving foreword by acclaimed Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, who hosts the EWTN series on male spirituality, “Behold the Man.”

A few copies are available for purchase in the Candle Light Store.

Websites

<http://www.nbccongress.org/black-catholic-news/>

The National Black Catholic Conference website features important news, spiritual resources, interesting articles.

Period of Purification and Enlightenment

RCIA News

The parish family of Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Roman Catholic Church will be sending to the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion three youth. Sister and brother *Jacquesia Mason and I'Yrell Mason* are the children of Rennetta Mason. Our catechumens, Jacquesia and I'Yrell, will celebrate the Rite of Election with Archbishop Donald Wuerl on Sunday, February 25, 2007 at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Terry Chase, the son of Mr. Terence Chase, Sr. seeks full initiation into the Catholic faith and will celebrate the Call to Continuing Conversion on Sunday, February 25, 2007 at the Shrine with Archbishop Wuerl.

Please pray for Jacquesia, I'Yrell and Terry as they journey closer to God during this season of Lent.

Lenten Family Day

LENTEN DAY OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Sunday, March 4, 2007

1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. @ the School



Lunch will be served so please we need a count as to how many people plan to attend.

Please return registration form found in bulletin and return to Rectory by March 1

Lent:

A Journey of Conversion to Love

Up Coming Events

*Each Friday in Lent
You are invited to attend*

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

With Eucharistic Adoration

7:00-8:00 PM

*Can you not spend an hour of prayer with me?
Jesus asked his disciples. He invites us to do the same during this sacred season of Lent.*



LENTEN SOUP & SCRIPTURE SERIES

Mondays at 6:30PM

Rectory Basement
Lisa Gulino
Director of Faith Formation

Scripture: God's Dialogue of Love.

We will explore key scriptures in the light of Archbishop Bruno Forte's new letter on Scripture. Come and enjoy a simple and delicious meal with studying the scripture with fellow parishioners.

**Beginning Monday,
February 26th.**

FAITH & REASON BOOK CLUB

With Fr. Peter

Wednesday, March 21st.

Meets once a month

Faith and reason, science and religion; how are these principles or pursuits related to one another? Are they in opposition, mutually reinforcing, or disconnected? The question has been posed throughout the history of theology in the Catholic tradition and is once again a topic of concern in society. **Our first topic is evolution** and we will begin with John Haught's book God after Darwin: A Theology of Evolution.

Reflecting on God's Revelation

Question of the Week written by Lisa M. Gulino

To help us as a community to prayerfully reflect on the Word of God, we would encourage you individually, as a family, with friends or at the beginning of your meetings to read the appropriate Scriptures and then reflect upon the Word in light of these questions.

Sunday, March 4 2nd Sunday of Lent **Gen 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-41; Lk 9:28-36**

From Philippians we read: *"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body.."*. And from Luke's Gospel: *"This is my chosen Son: listen to him"* What difference does it make in our daily life to await our Savior, to know that our destiny is Heaven? How does the voice of God come to me in my daily life?

Sunday, March 11 3rd Sunday of Lent **Ex 3:1-8, 13-15, 1 Corth 1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9**

"I have come in search of fruit on it but have found none...Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it: it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down." Am I, my family, my parish organization bearing the fruit of the Lord in our lives, work and ministry? What might we do to yield a larger harvest? How is my Lenten journey going?

Sunday, March 18 4th Sunday of Lent **1Sam 16:1-7, 10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41**

The blind man is asked *"what would you say about him who cured you?"* How do you answer this question? Who is Jesus for you and what does faith mean in your daily life?

Sunday, March 25 5th Sunday of Lent **Ez 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45**

Spirit and Resurrection...What does the faith tell you about the Holy Spirit? How do I, my family, my parish group open ourselves to the Spirit and profess believe in the Resurrection?

Only God
could break the
silence of the
heavens and irrupt
the silence of the
heart.
Only he could
speak to us – as
no other – Words
of love.

Archbishop
Bruno Forte

Notices

On-Going Faith Formation

Religious Education: Sundays @
Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian School
9:45 a.m. until 10:45 a.m.

If children are not enrolled in Catholic Schools, they should attend Sunday religious education. Grades PreK through 12.

R.C.I.A 1st, 3rd, & 5th Thursdays of the Month @ **HCSC SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

6:30–8:30 p.m. (please note change of location)
Are you interested in coming to the Faith or wish to inquire about the Catholic Church? Please join us on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Thursdays of each month.

Marriage Retreat

"Living in Love"

Saturday, March 10 and
Sunday, March 11, 2007

Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian School

This day and a half parish based event provides the inspiration and insight that enables each couple to create the lifestyle and marriage they have always dreamed of living. Whether a newly wed or veteran in marriage take time to spend together in prayer and reflection

Please call Rectory at 202 546 1885 to register.

FAITH FORMATION

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