



Dear Friends,
LENT 2009

Priest Recently, I saw another article on the so-called religious ignorance of Americans. As with others it pointed out that large percentages of people identifying themselves as Christian know little of even the significant personages of the Bible. On the first three Sundays of this Lent we have heard again portions of three encounters of God with human beings. They are ancient stories told according to the language and culture of the times. The encounters have been presented to us in order that we may understand that Jesus Christ has fulfilled the longings of the ages and that God earnestly desires us to be one in divinity. We heard first of Noah and the tremendous conflict between good and evil; God entered into a covenant with Noah affirming mercy and compassion. We were invited to look upon the rainbow as a sign of that everlasting love. Last week we heard a portion of the life of Abraham whom Jews, Christians and Muslims revere as the father the monotheistic faith. His insight brought many challenges; yet, his fidelity continues to be an example for us all. This weekend we meet Moses and in the commandments are given the basic manner of entering into and sustaining a relationship with God. You might wish to go to the Book of Genesis and the Book of Exodus and so be able to share the stories of these men with others.

Father Joe Ford; email: jfford67@maine.rr.com

MASS INTENTIONS and MASS SCHEDULE

March 14	4:00 PM	James, Mary & Henry York, by Gertrude Young
March 15	8:30 AM	Joan Burns, by Dorothy & Carol Fredriksen
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
March 16	7:30 AM	Thomas Lapointe, by Mary T. & Jim Honan
March 18	7:30 AM	David Valliere, by Mary Ann Anderson
March 19	7:30 AM	Communion Service

Next Weekend Masses

March 21	4:00 PM	Carol Hall, by Norman Hall
March 22	8:30 AM	Robert Dyk, by the family
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your offerings of **\$4,927.00** for last weekend. Our weekly operating expense is \$6,318.00.

In Oromia, Ethiopia, drought has destroyed entire regions of crops, devastating the local agriculture industry and economy. In places like Oromia, where sustainability is based entirely on agriculture, food security is alarmingly low. At a local Catholic church in the Oromia region, hundreds of children are receiving therapeutic milk and medical treatment from **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**. In addition to funding the important international relief work or CRS, the Catholic Relief Services Collection supports legal and resettlement services for refugees, advocacy, and disaster/emergency relief. When you donate to The Catholic Relief Services Collection, you give hope. **Please be generous in next week's Collection.**

Bishop's Mass in Honor of Persons with Disabilities and Their Families - Catholic Charities Maine Family Life Institute Parish Inclusion Ministry invites you to a "Special Mass in Honor of Persons with disabilities, and Their Families". Bishop Richard Malone will celebrate this Mass on **Sunday, March 29th, at 10:30 AM at Notre Dame Church, 112 Silver Street, Waterville**. We extend a special invitation to anyone with physical, emotional, or mental disabilities, their family members, and those who work with them, to attend. For more information, please contact, the Family Life Institute at 1-800-CARE-002, ext. 2672 or e-mail: familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org.

A reminder that Father Ford is usually at Holy Martyrs office all day on Monday and on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. He is usually at St. Gregory's on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Deacon Dennis is usually at Holy Martyrs on Monday morning and on Thursdays and Fridays. He is at St. Gregory's on Monday afternoon and on Wednesday.

Ministers are needed for Palm Sunday and the Triduum: April 4 & 5 Palm Sunday extra lectors; Holy Thursday 5 PM Mass; Good Friday Liturgy 7 PM; Easter Vigil 7pm Saturday, April 11th and Easter Sunday, April 12th 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Mass. If you are attending these celebrations, please help us by signing the sheet in the narthex.

Penance Service – Sunday, March 29th at Sacred Heart Church in Yarmouth from 3:30-4:30 PM.

Operation Rice Bowl – Today we read of Jesus cleansing the Temple. This story has a sense of urgency. It is not about anger; it's about transformation. Jesus is saying: "No more business as usual. There is not much time left. Be converted, be cleansed because the reign of God is at hand."

As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in **prayer** that all humanity has been made in the image of God. Through our actions we must express that each person is precious and that the lives and welfare of all people are priorities. May our **fasting** keep us mindful of the hunger of the people of the world. May our **almsgiving** assist Catholic Relief Services as we learn about programs that care for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Tanzania.

Confirmation sessions for older students: Any student in grades 3 through 12 who has not yet received Confirmation is invited to participate in classes starting in March. Classes continue in the conference room on Sundays from 9:30am to 10:30am on March 15, March 22, and March 29. Confirmation will be held at the Cathedral in Portland on May 2nd. If you are an adult who has never been confirmed, I can also help you. For more information on the Confirmation sessions, please contact Judy Dominick at judy.dominick@portlanddiocese.net or call the rectory at 781-4573.

Veritas, Portland's Young Adult ministry is pleased to spread the word about upcoming events. All area young adults 18-39 welcome!

Youth Ministry - Monday, March 30, 7pm Fr. Bob Vaillancourt joins Veritas, Portland's Young Adult Ministry, to speak about the Shroud of Turin and the Passion of our Lord. All young adults 18-39 are invited to make this Lenten event. Meet at the Chancery, 510 Ocean Ave, Portland, Me 04104. For more information contact Lisa at veritasportland@yahoo.com or Craig at 831-0852.

Disciples in Mission - Veritas is hosting a DIM group for young adults ages 18-39. This scripture based faith sharing group continues to meet weekly for the duration of Lent. For more information contact Becky at veritasportland@yahoo.com

Hour of Power - Praise the Lord with music, worship and Eucharistic Adoration! Veritas, Portland's Young Adult Ministry, invites community members of all ages to this weekly event at St. Peter's Church, 72 Federal St in Portland. The first Wednesday of each month we are "On The Road". For more information, email Lisa at houropowerportland@gmail.com or call Chris at 653-1429.

Reusable Bag Sunday – ANGELS ARE NEEDED to sort the groceries on Sunday evening, March 15 after the 5:30 Mass and to help deliver the groceries on Monday morning at 8:00 AM. Please call me if you can help me with the delivery. Thanks ! Nancy Castonia 829-5803.

Food Pantry Thank You - Thank you to you and your congregation for your support of the Cumberland Food Pantry. The generosity of everyone is helping those in need and your contributions are filling several of the holes on the Food Pantry shelves. With the help of the various churches, schools and community organizations we are keeping our shelves full and helping to ease the pain of need for our clients. Thank you for all your help. Sincerely, *Jean Lamson*

Friendship House Thank You - Many thanks to all those who contributed to the March meal for the men at Friendship House. I had four ample main dishes, several side dishes, fresh produce and paper products. Men new to FH were impressed at the amount of donations and thanked you all profusely through me. I was pleasantly surprised that someone I had not spoken with left some paper napkins and some clementines for me to take. Extra groceries are always welcome, as there are 14 to 18 men in residence at FH at any one time. The date of our next meal for FH is Wednesday, April 1.

-- *Deborah Nicklas@ 781-4362*

Donut Sunday Thank You – Thank you to the Crosby family for hosting and sponsoring Donut Sunday last weekend.

