

# One Body, One Spirit in Christ

40 + 3 + 50

Lent, the Triduum, and the Great Fifty Days

Written by members of the Diocese of Fond du Lac  
for the members of our Diocesan Family  
that we might be "One Body, One Spirit in Christ."

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## ~ Foreword ~

***“One Body, One Spirit in Christ”*** is Volume IV in the on-going Gulick Series of Devotional Booklets, continuing the spirit of *The Parish Press* which operated from the 1920’s through the 1990’s at “*Your Cathedral*” at St. Paul’s.

This current series was initiated in 2008 by the leadership of “*Your Cathedral*” – with guidance from Bishop Jacobus and Matthew Payne. We welcome and encourage the clergy and laity of the Diocese to continue to participate in this evolving print ministry.

These meditations are written **by** members of the Diocese of Fond du Lac (clergy and lay), and they are offered as an on-going spiritual outreach **to** the members of our Diocesan Family.

Master pages for these booklets are mailed to each congregation in the Diocese, and it is then for each congregation – if they so choose – to see to local duplication, assembly, and distribution to its members.

At this point, it would be helpful for us to know which congregations find it useful, and what feedback those who use it might have for us. We will tailor future issues accordingly.

Were there interest, we are now at the point that we could offer this as a seasonal booklet three times each year:

- *Advent/Christmas/Epiphany*
- *Lent/Easter/Pentecost*
- *Trinity Sunday through Christ King*

If you have feedback to offer, and/or if you are interested in writing a future reflection: Kindly contact me at (920) 921-3363 or at [brianbeno@charter.net](mailto:brianbeno@charter.net).

I contact those who express interest in writing six weeks prior to the distribution date – allowing our authors three weeks to write, one week for me to edit and compile, and congregations two weeks for duplication, assembly, and distribution.

A sincere thank you to: *Bishop Russell Jacobus* and *Matthew Payne* (for direction); *Sr. Charis SHN*, *Mthr. Marie Gray*, *Dcn. Michael Hackbarth*, *Joy Zakerzanski*, *Fr. Joseph Mazza*, *Melanie Woodward*, *Mary Lea Jones*, *David Annis*, *Barb Milligan*, *Thomas P. Ramirez*, *Barbara Drewry-Zimmerman*, *Fr. David Kluterman*, *Jane Carter*, *Susan Reimer*, *Richard Bidwell*, *Cathy McArthur*, *Fr. Charles Daily*, *Jane Johnson*, *Todd Killberg*, and *Dottie Rathjen* (authors); and *Sr. Columba*, *SHN* and *Terry Hansen-Beno* (proof readers).

Above all, we encourage daily prayer **by** all the members of our Diocesan Family **for** all the members of our Diocesan Family – our Bishop, clergy, and the members of all of our congregations – that we may be made ***“One Body, One Spirit in Christ”*** (BCP 372).

Thank you, and many blessings!

~ ***Rev. Brian Beno***

Canon Pastor & Acting Dean, Cathedral of St. Paul, Fond du Lac

## February 17<sup>th</sup> ~ Ash Wednesday

*Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21*

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season, is a day of happiness, a Christian feast. It cannot be otherwise!

- Ash Wednesday begins the church's "holy spring," a season of healing, a forty-day retreat as we follow Christ into the desert by prayer and fasting, a time to re-consecrate our lives to God in Christ.
- The cross of ashes, traced upon our foreheads, is not only a reminder of death, but inevitably a pledge of resurrection. The body of a Christian is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and though it is fated to see death, it will return again to life in glory.
- Today's ashes are not merely a sign of death, but a promise of life. The cross, with which the ashes are traced upon us, is the sign of Christ's victory over death. The cross is a challenge to spiritual combat and a promise that our burial will be "in Christ" that we may rise with Him to "live with God."
- As we receive a smear of ashes on our foreheads, joy and grief go hand in hand, with a sorrow which pierces, which liberates, which gives hope, and therefore joy. It lets *out* our sins, and lets *in* the clean air of God's spring, the sunlight of the days that advance toward Easter.
- Blessed and sanctified by the sign of the cross, the ashes become a health-giving medicine. They bring wholeness and cleanness to the body as well as protection to the soul. They bring a realization of the horror sin, and confidence in God's forgiveness. They bring all the aids necessary for the "holy war of Lent," and they impart a special meaning to our Lenten penances and prayers.
- The ashes themselves are a spiritual medicine. The fruits of these ashes are wonderfully rich. Great is the secret power imparted to them by the influence of the risen body of Christ, who by His victory has become "life-giving Spirit."
- The liturgy of Ash Wednesday is not focused on the sinfulness of the penitent but on the mercy of God. Nowhere will we find more tender expressions of the divine mercy than on this day. The purpose of Lent is above all a preparation to rejoice in His love. The God of Ash Wednesday is like a calm sea of mercy. In Him there is no anger. He is love. Love would never condemn us.
- Today's ashes sign our whole being with the merciful blessing of God. Armed with the grace of this great sacramental, we begin Lent.

May our blessed Lord be with us and grant us all a Holy and Blessed Lent! Amen

~ *Sr. Charis, SHN*

Sisters of the Holy Nativity, Green Lake

# The weekdays following Ash Wednesday

*Acts 14: 22*

Life is a struggle. We never know from one moment to the next what to expect. Of one thing we Christians can be sure, and that is: "*We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God*" (Acts 14: 22).

In this passage, Paul urges believers to brace themselves for the suffering and persecution that come with being a Christian. He speaks utter honesty to the people who have chosen to become Christians. Paul offered no easy way. He acted on the principle that Jesus had come "not to make life easy but to make great men and women." So we ask ourselves, is there hope or reward in our afflictions? Yes – there is hope or reward – because earthly afflictions open the way to heavenly glory.

When I was young and struggling with something in life, I can remember my Mother saying to me, "Marie, just think of the graces you are receiving towards eternal life."

So what does that mean? Well, it means that God's grace is what makes us sing and what helps us get past the pains of life. His grace reminds us that there is nothing we achieve on our own; nothing that is ours if He does not come along beside us. Having experienced such moments of tribulation, we can easily relate to the idea that God's grace pours through our souls and instills grateful harmony within us.

As we look to the future, we must realize that our strength and our hope are entirely dependent on God's grace, the undeserved love he shows us. By grace God has sent his own Son to die for our sins. By grace God has called us into his kingdom. By grace, through faith in Christ, we can look forward to eternal glory.

N.T. Wright, Bishop of Durham in the Church of England, is a prolific author and noted New Testament scholar. In his "*Acts for Everyone; Part Two*" he states, "Paul meant what he wrote in verse 22: It is through much suffering that we shall enter God's **kingdom**. And sometimes the suffering comes in the form of terrible, church-dividing controversy."

So during this Lenten season, let us take time to meditate on how the grace of God will help us endure the sufferings of this life. For the sufferings of this life will only last a short time when considered in the context of eternity. It maybe a cross for us now, but it will be a crown in the hereafter. The God of all grace promises to guide us safely through to eternal glory; for his grace lasts a lifetime.

~ *Rev. Marie Gray*

Chaplain, Agnesian Health Care, Fond du Lac

## February 21<sup>st</sup> ~ The First Sunday in Lent

*Luke 4: 1-13*

My paternal grandmother (Marie) was a masterful baker. The first smell upon entering the farmhouse on Sunday afternoons was that of freshly baked bread, and a little bit of scouting led to the discovery of her fabulous apple pies! For growing young boys, food (especially pie) is a huge temptation. I was not helped by the urgings of my cousin Bobby (The Tempter) that we should “raid” the pantry.

I can recall having heard sermons as a small boy on Jesus’ temptations. I would think about being hungry for forty days and having Satan say, “Now, if you are the Son of God, turn this stone into a peanut butter sandwich.” I didn’t quite understand how Jesus could resist.

Jesus had just had the experience of having God affirm who He actually was. He was clear about His mission as the Messiah, but now He had to deal with the question of strategy. Being who He was, called to redeem and reconcile a fallen world, how would He go about it? This is the whole focus of the temptations – the how of life. The interesting thing is that during His encounter with the devil, the Scriptures were Jesus’ resource.

We are involved personally and globally in the struggle between the forces of light and darkness. The devil is well aware that God exists, and I don’t think he spends time dissuading us from a belief in God. If we read the biblical record, his basic strategy is to make us believe that God is not trustworthy. Lucifer’s basic lie is that we cannot trust God, for He wants to take all the fun out of life.

The church is a family, a fellowship of strugglers. There is no private faith. We can share with each other our struggles and temptations. We can encourage each other to overcome as Jesus did in his ultimate fight. Verse 13 says the devil departed Jesus to wait for an opportune time. So he does with us. He may seize that opportune time today, or next week. May we find, through the fellowship of believers, the determination to trust God instead?

*~ Rev. Michael Hackbarth*

Deacon, Cathedral of St. Paul, Fond du Lac

# The First Week in Lent

## The Stations of the Cross – Today

In many of our congregations, the “*Stations of the Cross*” are prayed during Lent – some even have fourteen plaques attached to their walls commemorating the holy events. The goal is for us to better understand and more deeply appreciate Jesus’ suffering for our salvation.

Last year, as we looked for connections between “*then*” and “*now*,” a discussion group at St. Paul’s Cathedral considered “locations” in Fond du Lac where Jesus’ suffering continues in our midst today. It seemed, to us, to miss the point of the Stations to think only of the suffering of Christ 2000 years ago and *not* to think of the suffering of Christ-in-others today.

During the weekdays of this Lent, you may wish to similarly consider “the suffering of Christ-in-others today.” We list “locations” in Fond du Lac; where are the locations in your community? We encourage you to consider the “Lessons of Holy Week” whenever you pass those places. You may even be able to develop a walking or driving tour to these locations for your congregation.

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.* (BCP 281)

### I. Jesus is Condemned to Death

Jesus was tried in a court. Our courthouse at 160 S. Macy St. is the symbol of our local law and legal power in our county. If Jesus were condemned here, this is where the trial would take place. Where would it take place in your community?

### II. Jesus Accepts His Cross

Jesus was in some kind of prison before they brought him to Pilate and scourged him. Our jail is located at 63 Western Ave. Yours?

### III. Jesus Falls the First Time

Jesus’ first fall was a “stumble.” Consider this the next time you see a car “pulled over” for speeding.

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Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of this week are the traditional spring Ember Days.

Please consult your “*Book of Common Prayer*,” pages 256-257 for the Days’ prayers:

- For those to be ordained;
- For the choice of fit persons for the ministry;
- For all Christians in their vocation.

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February 27<sup>th</sup> ~ *The Grafton Institute’s* quarterly Study Day, 3:00 - 5:00pm, in the Cathedral’s Office.

Topic: *The Works of Charles Chapman Grafton*, Volume IV, “*A Journey Godward*,” Chapters I-VIII.

Source: Google “*Project Canterbury, Grafton.*”

Click on Charles Chapman Grafton, scroll down, and click on the desired Volume and Chapter.

## February 28<sup>th</sup> ~ The Second Sunday in Lent

*Luke 13: 31-35*

Up to this point in Luke's Gospel, what had Jesus been up to? He began His ministry in a logical place – a Synagogue – where he taught with authority and bantered with the religious elite. That didn't turn out too well, so He ventured outside the Synagogue's walls and walked upon sandy paths spending time along roadsides; He stopped at villages and enjoyed the company of people in their homes. Here he revealed the Kingdom of Heaven with stories and taught them to pray. He released people from the torment of demons; healed their sickness; cured their disease; caused the paralyzed to walk and the dead to rise to life. He rid them of fear and forgave their sins. He touched them and blessed them.

And to what end? Jesus now stands on the outskirts of Jerusalem with a very real death threat hanging over His head. The people to whom He ministered have rejected and rebuffed Him. When caring, well meaning friends advise Him to leave the area and flee for His life, He doesn't walk away. Instead He reasserts His mission of reconciliation and expresses a deep desire to gather up, protect and nurture the very people who have refused Him.

Before we get too critical of the people of Jesus' day, remember we, too, spurn the love He offers us. How often do we fail to acknowledge His presence? We want to do our own thing; go our own way. We can't be bothered. Daily we reject Him. Daily we break His heart.

But this Jesus is the One who forgives too freely and loves too lavishly; who longs to be with us; who desires to love and be loved by us. His is the love that won't let go. His is the love that gathers us up . . . no matter how many times we run away.

*~ Joy Zakrzewski*

St. Luke's, Sister Bay  
Deacon School, 2<sup>nd</sup> year

## The Second Week in Lent

**March 6<sup>th</sup> ~ Vestry School 2010, 9am-3pm, Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Dr., Kimberly Register (\$25 per person) by March 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid the late registration fee (\$35 per person).**

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Continuing the spiritual journey through your community we began last week, during the days of this week consider the following "*Stations of the Cross*" – Christ's then, and his brothers' and sisters' today:

### **IV. Jesus Meets His Mother**

Saint Mary's Church on the corner of Merrill Ave. and Marr St. might be seen to express the wonderful relationship Jesus and Mary had. They were always open to each other. Is there a "Mary/Jesus" connection in your community? (If it isn't a church building, it could be a statue, or even a cemetery marker? You may have to look around for this one; but if you are persistent, you will find an appropriate symbol in your community.)

### **V. Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross**

Our Fire Department is an example of people helping their neighbor in need. Whenever they respond from 815 S. Main Street, they are strictly helping somebody in trouble. Where are "First Responders" located in your community?

### **VI. Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus**

The staff at St. Agnes Hospital help their patients in many different ways. As legend tells of the image of the face of Jesus rubbing off on Veronica's veil, so may the goodness of health care workers rub off on us all.

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Almighty God, whose most dear son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your son our Lord. Amen. (BCP 99)

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**March 6<sup>th</sup> ~ Vestry School 2010, 9am-3pm, Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower Dr., Kimberly Continental breakfast begins at 8:30am.**

## March 7<sup>th</sup> ~ The Third Sunday in Lent

*Luke 13: 1-9*

It is not so far past that we do not remember the horrors of this past January, when an earthquake struck an impoverished Haiti with incalculable devastation and death. The shock of it woke even a jaded world's dulled senses to the enormity of the suffering. But the question on so many minds is why such horror is still unanswerable, as it was in our Lord's day?

There were those -- then as now -- who peevishly saw it as penalty for sin, divine retribution for sacrilegious past. That was what was whispered when Pilate defied the purity laws and mingled the blood of some Galileans with their sacrifices -- a reference to an event lost to history. The death of eighteen victims when a tower -- probably from faulty construction -- fell on them is understandable. But the reaction posed to Jesus, which persists for us in the events in Haiti remains: Why? Why disaster? Why suffering?

Jesus does not answer our question. He tells us that these people did not die because they were sinners, or had defiled sacred precincts. Instead, and with a response that is still somewhat cryptic, he bluntly replies that this is a sign that we must change our hearts. Not 'Why' disaster, but 'How do we respond' when disaster happens? It is an invitation to nothing less than change and growth -- action that transforms who we are.

And what that may mean for you and me is for us to decide. Must it take a disaster? The message in Jesus' parable about the fig tree makes it clear, the time to decide is now. Yet this also is always true: to decide for change is to know the grace of God as our aid. And what could be better?

*~ Very Rev. Joseph Mazza*

Dean, Green Bay Deanery

# The Third Week in Lent

We continue our spiritual journey through our communities – thinking, walking, driving, praying:

## VII. Jesus Falls the Second Time

Jesus' second fall was harder. Consider it with each vacant store you see that may have a "For Rent" sign in its window, or, worse yet, is boarded up. The second fall symbolized shattered dreams – yet there is still hope!

## VIII. Jesus Meets the Weeping Women

A place women congregate? A Laundromat? A craft store? An old fashioned beauty shop? Jesus might have stopped and talked to the women at Sunbrite Laundromat at 360 S. Main St. Where might he still stop in your community?

## IX. Jesus Falls the Third Time

Jesus' third fall was crushing. Consider vacant homes that have burnt or have been condemned. Boarded up *homes* are now just *houses*; where once a family lived and loved; now only an empty shell remains. There are two such houses at 20 and 30 Sophia St. in Fond du Lac. In your town?

+ + +

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor your Name. Amen. (BCP 101)

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March 13<sup>th</sup> ~ "Spring Craft & Bake Sale," 10:00am-2:00pm at Your Cathedral.

## March 14<sup>th</sup> ~ The Fourth Sunday in Lent

*Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32*

In the parable of the Prodigal Son we hear about a family who forgives. I have had a similar situation in my life – one that has not turned out quite as well as in this parable.

About 10 years or so ago, I did something that my family disapproved. They told me that if I did this that they would no longer want to have anything to do with me. I would be the Prodigal. I did what I set out to do, words were exchanged, feelings were hurt and my life moved on without this portion of my family.

Who now is my family? Well, I still have my immediate family of course. They stood by me, and for that I'm thankful. I have found a new family. I have family in my Parish. The older members of my Parish are my new Aunts and Uncles. I have a new Brother and Sister in my Priest and his wife. The best part of having this kind of family is that I got to pick them. I feel loved and fulfilled, and I am certain that I chose my new family wisely. I have surrounded myself with people who I know will support me. I am very blessed.

But still, the parable of the Prodigal Son haunts me. Perhaps one day I will make a few phone calls. Perhaps one day I will run into some of the family who couldn't stand by me. Maybe one day amends will be made and things will be right.

I can't think of anyone as lucky as this son – this Prodigal who came back and was greeted with love by his Father – for he was dead and is alive again, was lost and now is found!

*~ Melanie Woodward*

Cathedral of St. Paul, Fond du Lac

## The Fourth Week in Lent

You have the idea of the *then* and the *now*. If these thought joggers have prompted your Lenten reflection, then let's continue our journey with open eyes, open minds, and open hearts:

### **X. Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes**

Consider how Christ's body continues to be degraded in the bodies of others when you pass a "dirty book store" or a so-called "Gentlemen's Club." In what other locations are people – that is, Christ – degraded and treated with little dignity?

### **XI. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross**

Anything a person gets "hung up on" is kind of like being "nailed" to it. Consider the places we get whiskey, beer, cigarettes, lottery tickets, etc.

### **XII. Jesus Dies on the Cross**

According to legend: The cross was made from a dogwood tree. This distressed the tree very much. Jesus, sensing its pity, declared that never again would it grow large enough to be used for crucifixion, but its blossoms would be in the form of a cross. The outer edge of each petal would contain nail prints, and the center would be stained as if by a crown of thorns. Consider this when you see a dogwood this spring.

+ + +

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BCP 252)

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**March 17<sup>th</sup> ~ "St. Patrick's Day Dinner," 11am-1pm and 5-7pm, at Your Cathedral.**

## March 21<sup>st</sup> ~ The Fifth Sunday in Lent

*John 12: 1-8*

Lazarus was watching. Judas was watching. Jesus was watching. My kids were watching. Lazarus saw Mary pour precious scented ointment on Jesus. A beautiful gift for Him. Nothing would be too much for Jesus, Lazarus reflected. I am alive because of Jesus. Truly life is fragile, I should know. No gift would ever be enough. Judas saw the outpouring of precious perfume and nard. It represented a whole week's salary, more money than he had seen in a long time. He inwardly groaned over the buying power of such treasure being wasted before his very eyes, dumped in one big emotional display.

My kids saw the open check-book and ledger on the table. "Mom, you didn't!" "You guys didn't really give a thousand dollars to that Chinese Mission." "You were so duped, they did such a number on you! How could you do this to our family?"

Jesus smiled at his friend Lazarus. What a witness to God's love and power. Once dead and now enjoying a feast and fellowship with friends. Perhaps Jesus reflected on this symbol of His own frail life so soon to end. Perhaps it served as a dim reminder of the heavenly banquet and His future life in glory.

Jesus looked at Judas. How painful the price of betrayal. Greedy Judas resenting this loving outpouring by Mary. Yet this gift of love, though bright and beautiful is dimmed. It speaks of death and burial spices. It speaks of betrayal by a friend. It is a reminder that indeed the hour is very near.

Jesus looks at the outrageously generous donation. This gift will bless those in poverty and need. It will provide food for bodies and Bibles in Chinese to spread His Word.

Within a week an envelope arrives. It is from an investment we had written off as a mistake, a bad choice, a dud. That investment had paid off and provided its one and only dividend check in the amount of one thousand, five hundred dollars! We showed the check to our kids who now saw first hand that God cannot be outdone in generosity. That gift was given in 1990 when our finances were much less secure than they are today. Now God is using the writing of this meditation to reawaken me. He is calling me to respond today to His grace and generosity in the spirit of loving-abandon reflected by Mary. The message is very clear.

Prayer: Jesus, Lord, let me learn from Mary to pour out my love generously and without reserve. Help me to move forward trusting in You. Open my eyes to see You in the poor, the needy, and those You have destined for me to help. Open my heart and my hands as I walk with you this 5th week in Lent knowing that *"It is in giving that we receive; . . . and it is in dying (to self) that we are born to eternal life"* (BCP 833). Amen.

~ *Mary Lea Jones*  
Blessed Sacrament, Green Bay

## The Fifth Week in Lent

When our “Station Keeping” ends with the Fourteenth Station, we’ve kept a worthwhile Lenten devotion. Some churches also have a “*Fifteenth Station: The Resurrection.*” Come to think of it, *ALL* of our churches do: the Altar where we encounter our Risen Lord, that we may be “*made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him*” (BCP 336).

Let’s continue our spiritual journey:

### **XIII. Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross**

The Cathedral has a reputation for helping people who are down by showing them compassion and assistance. I trust your congregation does as well. Consider the many outreach efforts throughout our diocese to relieve the suffering of Christ in others! Although there are physical locations to which we can point, perhaps it’s best seen in the eyes and faces of the people we have helped in the Name of Christ.

### **XIV. Jesus is Laid in the Tomb**

A funeral home is where we would take Jesus today. Consider his Death – and his promise of Resurrection – as you pass a funeral home.

### **XV. Jesus is Raised from the Dead**

If you have discovered physical locations that have served your journey with the Lord this Lent, kindly share them with me at [brianbeno@charter.net](mailto:brianbeno@charter.net) – next Lent we may refer to those locations in these meditation starters.

Now, having considered the “*Stations of the Cross*” during the weekdays of this Lent, know that we will also have the opportunity to consider the “*Stations of the Resurrection*” during the weekdays of Easter – reflecting on the Lord’s “Resurrection appearances” and re-discovering Easter in everyday life!

*We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;  
for by virtue of your cross  
joy has come to the whole world* (BCP 281).

+ + +

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen. (BCP 244)

# March 28<sup>th</sup> ~ The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

*Luke 19: 28-40*

“Ride on, ride on in majesty”.

We don't often get to stand in the presence of “majesty.” Some people live their whole lives without the experience of “majesty.” A blessed few have the opportunity to serve someone whose character can only be described as majestic.

How do we recognize “majesty” when we come near to it? Unlike many characteristics of a person, this one is not a single, simple attribute. Real majesty is power and authority, wrapped in humility and gentleness. We see it in the Prince of Peace, riding on a colt. When “majesty” comes near to us, we react more from our feelings than from our intellect. The truly majestic personality lifts up everyone He comes near.

How do we respond to “majesty”? Those who have recognized true majesty will rejoice, give themselves over to join in the majestic parade, call their friends to follow. There are some, though, who cannot recognize majesty; some who cannot see over the walls that surround their lives. They will try to still the celebration of a majesty they can't accept for themselves. It doesn't matter, though. Majesty does not require celebration. True majesty causes a celebration.

“... if these were quiet, the very stones would cry out!”

~ *David Annis*

St. Anne's, DePere

You are warmly invited to join  
Bishop Jacobus and your Diocesan Family

for our Bishop's annual

“**Chrism Mass**”

Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am  
at Your Cathedral in Fond du Lac.

## April 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Maundy Thursday

*John 13: 1-17, 31b-35*

At age twelve and preparing for Confirmation, I was a most holy little cheese, I virtually lived at St. Paul's Cathedral.

The highlight of my Easter preparations came on Maundy Thursday, when I kept my watch in St. Augustine's Chapel. To me it was peaceful and beautiful, the most sanctified hideaway in the whole church. First I prayed, then I sat, reflecting and admiring. St. Augustine's was also repository for the Easter flowers – largesse from a generous parishioner – that were given to all the kids after Mass on Easter morning. Clouds of potted hyacinths gave off fragrant aroma, and turned St. Augustine's into a true Gethsemane.

I thought holy and reverent thoughts; I strove to imagine myself – as Sister Alicia had taught us – kneeling beside Christ in those final moments of His passion. My kid heart went out to Him, and I agonized over the ghastly suffering He would face within a few short hours.

My father was the first to tell me about the Centurion chopping off Peter's ear [*sic*] and how Christ healed and replaced it. I discounted it as another of his mangled Bible tales. Upon learning that it was true, it added to my dismay (disgust) that Peter later thrice denied Jesus.

The fact that Jesus' disciples – the lazy slackers – could not watch with Him for one measly hour, served to magnify my sorrow.

I *lived* Jesus' despair and disappointment. And I was glad/proud that little Thomas (though he did doze off a bit at the end) did not completely fail Him.

Is there a lesson? Perhaps. I felt so close to Jesus back then, my faith was so strong. Would that I could go back – shaking off today's worldly, adult clamor – and relive those innocent, loving and peaceful moments again.

*~ Thomas P. Ramirez*

Cathedral of St. Paul, Fond du Lac

## April 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Good Friday

*John 18: 1 – 19: 42*

A phrase of Jesus jumped out at me when I read through the assignment several times. In 18: 11b Jesus says to Peter, “Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

What cups do each of us have to bear at this time?

When Jesus tells Peter that it is His cup to drink, it was a very unique cup to drink. My cup was a father who sexually abused each of his four daughters. He was narcissist and could only see his own need. I had much anger in my 20's and early 30's. Then one weekend, I went to a retreat house. I was alone in a quiet room and I asked God how I forgive my father. A voice came back – I don't know if it was aloud or in my head – but I heard “he was a sick man.”

It took some time and thought in that room, but I did forgive my father. With the help of Jesus, I recognized my father's alcoholism and his narcissism, and I knew that my father could not see what he was doing to us. Based on this, I could forgive.

I think Jesus tells us to live the life we have been given, the best that we can. God doesn't promise us that we won't have challenges to carry (“cups”); but Jesus promises to always be with us, to guide and support us.

On this Good Friday, we can remember the cup that Jesus had to bear and ask for His strength to bear our own cups. Jesus had to be crucified and to die on the cross. Fortunately, we of this time and age know that Easter Sunday comes soon after this quiet, reflective day.

*~ Barb Milligan*

Cathedral of St. Paul, Fond du Lac

# April 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Holy Saturday

*Matthew 27: 57-66*

Joseph of Arimathea provided a new tomb for Jesus' body after the crucifixion. How do we prepare our hearts for receiving Jesus?

- Do we offer a heart that has been made clean by removing all the sin and bondages that would block the way?
- Do we spend the time that it takes to examine ourselves and prepare ourselves for receiving His body each time we receive Holy Communion?

Joseph had studied Jesus, learned about Him, and accepted him as the Messiah.

- Do we spend time learning more about this man Jesus or are we too busy (being under Satan's yoke) to learn more, so we can accept Him more fully each time we receive him?

Over the years I have learned so much about Jesus from my own and group studies, and this learning makes me realize how much more I do not know. Jesus spent most of his time on earth teaching his disciples and I yearn for some of that knowledge.

- I want to be like that open tomb ready to receive Him, and know that I have to continue to examine myself and ask if I am leading a life that shows I am His follower.
- I want to love each individual as Jesus would love him or her.
- As I love people more, I find that Jesus' love deeper in my soul.
- I find the joy that comes from knowing Him and opening my heart to Him each and every minute of each and every day.
- I continually strive to have that cleaned out heart that every time I receive Him, Jesus can continue to change me to become the person He wants me to be.

It takes time and it takes hard work, but what else are we here for?

*~ Barbara Drewry-Zimmerman*

St. Paul's, Plymouth

# April 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Easter Day

*John 20: 1-18*

It sounds like the opening of a CSI case: "The Case of the Missing Body."

First discovered by Mary Magdalene, and then confirmed by Simon Peter and the "the disciple whom Jesus loved." First conclusion – some unknown person or persons have taken the body and they don't know where. But when Simon Peter and the beloved disciple arrive, they examine the scene. Linen cloths lying on the ground, but the linen that had covered his head was not with the other linens, it was rolled up and in a place by itself. Maybe the initial conclusion that the body had been stolen or moved was not correct. But then, what were the options?

The disciple whom Jesus loved went in, looked at everything, and believed. That is all that is written. He believed. In those moments, everything must have come together for him. The words of Jesus that he must suffer, die, and then be raised from the dead. The scriptures, and most especially the words of the prophets. And now this moment. At that moment, the disciple could answer Jesus' question: "Who do you say that I am?" He knew, and in that knowledge, his love suddenly changed. The promises were real, his life had hope, and while he and the others would return home, he knew where home really was – in life with God through Jesus.

Moments of great clarity are rare in life, at least for me. Generally, I muddle through the day, attempting to pull things together in trying to make sense of stuff. But always there is the question before me and before us: "Who do you say that I am?" I suspect the signs are all around us that would help us answer that question, and in the process help give meaning and direction to our lives.

Lord, open my eyes, my ears, my heart to the signs of your presence. Be patient with me for I am sometimes slow in such matters. Give me grace, when I am standing in the moment of choice, not to back down, but rather to declare who Jesus is to me.

*~ Rev. David Kluttermann*  
Rector, St. John the Baptist, Wausau

# Easter Week

I come to our printing deadline stumped. Numerous versions of the “*Stations of the Cross*” have been published over the years. I am aware of only two published versions of the “*Stations of the Resurrection*.” What follows comes from neither.

The ideas suggested in the “*Stations of the Cross*” during Lent were original ideas that came from a discussion group at St. Paul’s Cathedral. The “*Stations of the Resurrection*” that follow are not original with me. They have been in my computer for a decade or so, and I do not remember their source. I respect “intellectual property,” but am unfortunately unable to “give credit where credit is due.” My hunch is that I originally found these reflections somewhere on the internet, copied them, and did not think I would ever “use them” and need to give “credit.” My advance apologies. Should the author become known, I will certainly give proper credit in the future.

Meanwhile, I hope it’s sufficient to say these reflections are intended to carry the forty days of our Lenten fervor into the Fifty Great Days of our Easter celebration!

## The Stations of the Resurrection

### I. Jesus Rises from the Dead

*Matthew 28: 5b-6a*

On the first day of the week, at the dawning of the new creation, Jesus arose from the dead. No one saw the event, yet like the apostles, we are called to be witnesses of this central faith event. The light and power of Christ’s death and resurrection have become the pattern for our living. May we recognize Christ’s dying and rising in our midst – in others, in our very selves.

### II. The Disciples Discover the Empty Tomb

*John 20: 8*

The empty tomb was not a proof of the resurrection, but rather a silent witness to the greatest event of our faith. Seeing the empty tomb, the disciples were motivated to seek the Risen Lord at work in their midst. They saw and believed in the continuing presence of the Lord of love. All the empty and lonely places of human life are precisely where the Lord wishes to work and be revealed – today.

### III. The Risen Lord Appears to Mary Magdalen, the “Apostle to the Apostles”

*John 20: 14b-18*

In the fourth gospel, Mary Magdalen is given the mission to carry the Good News of the resurrection to the apostles and the disciples. Mary had been in the company of Jesus and His followers, and is given the privilege to announce the hope of new life. She is known over the centuries as “The Apostle to the Apostles.” Jesus called her by name, gave her the eyes of faith, and called her to give a unique personal witness to her friends in the faith community.

April 11<sup>th</sup> ~ “Blue Grass” Eucharist, 10:00am at Your Cathedral.

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## April 11<sup>th</sup> ~ The Second Sunday of Easter

*John 20: 19-31*

I've always thought Thomas got a bad rap. Here he was, out getting groceries, and when he comes home the rest of the boys tell him this super-fantastic story about how Jesus came into the Upper Room through the wall, in a different form, and showed them the wounds in His hands and side. They were probably all jabbering at once relating this sci-fi story. And Thomas didn't believe them. Would you?

Thomas was probably a little hurt as well. He had ventured out of the room, at the threat of death, and that's when Jesus shows up, talks to the Apostles, and leaves. Wouldn't it have been much more considerate of Him to have waited for Thomas? Imagine Thomas' feelings during the following week until Jesus appeared again. No doubt he wondered whether he would get a chance to see the Risen Lord.

When Jesus did appear the second time in the Upper Room, and Thomas was there, Jesus knew all Thomas' thoughts. He showed Thomas the wounds and spoke very powerful words to him: “Blessed are they who have not seen yet believe.”

I've always wondered if there is a lesson in this story about how to evangelize. The story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is surely fantastic. And if we who believe relate it as an unbelievable fairy tale, who will believe from our telling? But if we instead relate it as a wonderful, awesome love story, something that illustrates the love and mercy of God, many more will believe the story we relate.

I imagine all the Apostles learned how to tell the story of Jesus much more clearly and believably from this story of the first appearance of Jesus to the Apostles. How very blessed we all are that they did!

~ *Jane Carter*

Cathedral of St. Paul, Fond du Lac

## The Second Week of Easter

### **IV. The Risen Lord Appears on the Road to Emmaus**

*Luke 24: 15, 25-27*

The Emmaus road is the story of the Christian life. These disciples were walking *away* from Jerusalem and the apostolic faith community in defeat and dejection. They had lost hope. We too, have moments of despair and desolation. But the Risen Lord Jesus accompanies us along the road, even when we are moving in the wrong direction. Only the Lord can "break open" the Word in order to help us understand the stories of our lives, especially suffering, and read them in harmony with the pattern of the Scriptures. Only the Lord can rekindle our energy and our resolve to devote ourselves to what is most important in life.

### **V. The Risen Lord is Recognized in the Breaking of the Bread**

*Luke 24: 29-32*

The encounter on the road leads to the table, the breaking of the bread and the total gift of self. Recognition of the Risen Lord is always linked with the Eucharist. At the heart of our Christian life is this meal of Word and Sacrament. The Risen Lord presides over all our journeys, wishing to set our hearts on fire in generous service to all people in need, near and far. The gift we have received is the gift we are to share. Humbly, we set out on the various roads of our lives to respond to all the hungers of the human family.

### **VI. The Risen Lord Appears to the Disciples**

*Luke 24: 38-40*

The disciples on the road to Emmaus quickly returned to the other disciples in Jerusalem with "burning hearts." Their despair had been reversed, and they were eager to convince the others that Jesus was alive. Jesus the Christ is always eager to gather the community of disciples at the table of faith and to show them that He has risen with His wounds glorified. All our wounds will one day be glorified. We seek to understand how the Risen Lord invites us to be "wounded healers," recognizing now that the Lord desires us to be ambassadors of reconciliation, while we ourselves are still being forgiven and healed.

## April 18<sup>th</sup> ~ The Third Sunday of Easter

*John 21: 1-19*

In this passage, Simon Peter – who had previously professed his love for Jesus, only to deny him three times before the crucifixion – is now asked three times by Jesus if he loves Him. To each of Jesus' questions, Peter tells Him he loves Him, and finally says, "Lord, You know everything, You know that I love You." Jesus tells Peter, "If you love Me, feed My sheep."

In Appleton, where I live, this charge is being lived out every day by volunteers with the Fox Valley Warming Shelter. The premise of this rotating shelter is that no one can do everything to try to provide shelter to the homeless, but we all can do a little. Area churches each take one week during the winter to provide a safe, warm place for people to sleep, and their volunteers cook and serve a nutritious evening meal. Other volunteers are evening hosts. Because of various personal problems, these men and women are not qualified to stay at other area shelters. But without the generosity of others, they would have nowhere to turn. Each weekday evening, after a cold day out on the street, the love of Jesus Christ is demonstrated to them. The volunteers are truly tending to our Lord's sheep.

For their part, the people who receive the gift of food and shelter are unfailingly courteous, and very, very appreciative. One gets the feeling that some will be able to pass this gift on to others.

Like Peter, our Lord knows we love Him; He doesn't have to ask. But He was clear in His charge to Peter, and to us. Let us show our love for Him by caring for His sheep, wherever we find them.

*~ Susan Reimer*

All Saints', Appleton  
Deacon School, 2nd year

# The Third Week of Easter

## **VII. The Risen Lord Breathes Peace and Gives Power to Forgive**

*John 20: 19b, 20b-23*

Even though the doors of the Upper Room were bolted shut, the Risen Lord pierced through all fear and united the hearts of the disciples with the gift of peace. Deep inner peace is the root and source of the peace and joy that the world cannot give. The Risen Lord calls us to seek peace always through a non-violent commitment to conflict resolution, and thus transform the world – relationship by relationship.

## **VIII. The Risen Lord Strengthens the Faith of Thomas**

*John 20: 24-29*

The story of Thomas is important because it is through Thomas' example that we realize doubt can be a part of faith. Too easily we call him "Doubting Thomas," forgetting that after examining the nail marks, he fully embraced the Risen One as his Lord and Savior. Thomas' doubt was transformed into a lively faith. We too, are called to believe, knowing full well that our faith may be tested by doubt and fear. As disciples who desire an ever-deeper faith, we are patient and understanding with those who are struggling, searching, and seeking like Thomas.

## **IX. The Risen Lord Eats with the Disciples on the Shore of Tiberias**

*John 21: 10-12*

After the crucifixion, the apostles returned to their former way of life. On the familiar Sea of Galilee, these expert fishers find themselves ineffective and baffled because not even a single fish was caught. From the shore, the Risen Lord guides them and directs their nets until they are filled to overflowing. As He prepares breakfast for them, He nourishes their hearts and promises them that they can also be fed by making disciples in His name. He calls them to an entirely new way of fishing – fishing for people.

## April 25<sup>th</sup> ~ The Fourth Sunday of Easter

*John 10: 22-30*

“How much longer are you going to keep us in suspense?”

The pious Jews wanted to know. Are you or aren't you? Are you the one? Don't keep us in suspense. Tell us plainly!

Talking isn't always the answer. Isn't it true, sometimes we need to find out for ourselves? I tend to learn better from experience. Reading directions has never been my forte. Some of the worst experiences of my life have been on Christmas morning after the kids had opened the box with the fateful words, “Some assembly required.”

No matter how clear the directions seem to others, inserting tab “A” into slot “B” never made much sense to me. I was one of those guys who tossed the instructions aside and tried it on my own.

Don't keep us in suspense. Are you or aren't you? Jesus replied, “I told you, but you didn't get it.”

Sometimes we just don't get it. No matter how many times we hear it, it just doesn't sink in.

“I know my sheep. Jesus says. They follow me. I give them eternal life.” There comes a point in life when we learn to follow.

We may not always understand, but the shepherd walks out in front. Follow him. He is the one. The suspense is over. The reward is eternal life.

*~ Richard Bidwell*

St. Mark's, Waupaca

## The Fourth Week of Easter

### **X. The Risen Lord Forgives Peter and Entrusts Him to Feed His Sheep**

*John 21: 15, 17b, 19b*

The Risen Lord directs His attention to Peter whose embarrassing three-fold denial was still ringing in his heart. The questions posed by Jesus help Peter to find reconciliation and to embrace his new mission to tend and feed the sheep. Their encounter reminds us that forgiveness is always available, even for the most serious of mistakes we can make. This warm embrace of forgiveness strengthens our resolve to be reconcilers and healers in the Spirit of Jesus. Only love can overcome guilt and deception. Only love and forgiveness can make us whole.

### **XI. The Risen Lord Sends the Disciples into the World**

*Matthew 28: 19-20*

From the mountaintop, the Risen Lord gives the "Great Commission" to the disciples to reach out to the ends of the earth. We realize that we are the recipients of this faith-filled mission: our ancestors embraced the faith of the apostles, who were the original witnesses of the resurrection. The greatest response we can give to such a legacy is our dedication to evangelization in our contemporary culture. We must allow the Risen Lord to reinvigorate our whole way of living, helping us to re-evaluate every aspect of our lives with the values of the Kingdom of God.

### **Twelfth Station ~ The Risen Lord Ascends into Heaven**

*Mark 16: 19-20*

The Scriptures do not portray the Ascension as a day of sadness. While still looking up at the skies, the disciples were consoled by the continuing presence of the Lord. They return to the familiar surroundings of the Upper Room, with Mary, the mother of the Lord, to pray in anticipation of their mission. And now *we* continue to implore the Risen Lord to be the center of *our* lives, and to keep *us* focused as a jubilant pilgrim people.

# May 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ The Fifth Sunday of Easter

*John 13: 31-35*

## Today I Become an Episcopalian

After much praying I have decided to continue my faith journey as an Episcopalian and a member of St. Paul's Cathedral.

After my husband Lee died four years ago, my life changed. He faithfully attended church with me, and because of that it became difficult for me to attend my previous church alone.

Brought up Lutheran, I have been the Dean's secretary at St. Paul's for seven years. This year I am attending our "*Know Your Faith*" afternoon discussion group's meetings and am also receiving some private instruction . . . And this is where I want to be.

I have made so many friends at St. Paul's that it has now become home to me. I am proud to say that St. Paul's is now *my* church!

From John 13: 34, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another."

I do love St. Paul's, and all the people that attend. My Baptism is now recorded at St. Paul's, and today at our 10:00am Eucharist, Bishop Jacobus will officially "Receive" me into the Episcopal Church as I eagerly embrace it and *our* Baptismal Covenant.

The Cathedral Chapter (vestry) was very affirming, and they even broke into applause when I made my announcement to them! I sincerely thank them and all who have brought me to this day.

Today I am honored and proud to continue my faith journey as an Episcopalian!

~ *Cathy McArthur*

Cathedral of St. Paul, Fond du Lac

# The Fifth Week of Easter

## **XIII. The Disciples Keep Vigil in the Upper Room for the Spirit's Advent**

*Acts 1: 13a, 14*

Throughout the history of the Church, there have been apostolic movements dedicated to prayerful contemplation, and others resulting in transforming action. Having crossed the threshold into a new millennium, we look to the Upper Room as a symbolic place where we return over and over again, so that we can become "contemplatives in action." As persons who are both prayerful and energetic in service to the Gospel, we must always keep vigil for the advent of the Risen Lord, with the flame of faith alive in our hearts. Only the Lord can refresh our spirits and renew us in the ministries that flow from our Baptism.

## **XIV. The Risen Lord Sends the Holy Spirit**

*Acts 2: 2-4*

The power of the Holy Spirit drives the disciples from the Upper Room into the streets and marketplace. The Spirit compels them to take the message everywhere, in places familiar and unfamiliar, not stopping until they reach the ends of the world. We have been clothed with the same Spirit. We are called to be evangelizers and witnesses, near and far, wherever we go. The Spirit always goes before us, preparing the way and strengthening our hearts to be generous servants of the Risen Lord who ever guides us. Pentecost is an enduring and continuing event. We implore the Holy Spirit to renew the face of the earth by renewing us.

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross – and glorious resurrection – you have redeemed the world.*

# May 9<sup>th</sup> ~ The Sixth Sunday of Easter

*John 14: 23-29*

Our Gospel reading for today is taken from Jesus' "Farewell Discourse" to his friend Judas (not Iscariot) and his followers, and all those who love him. He told them that he was no longer going to be with them and that he would no longer be able to be seen by them, nor touched by them, or hear the sound of his voice. Jesus would not "be there" to answer their questions as they had become accustomed during his time with them. But Jesus reassured them and us that they, and we, would not be alone. He would send them a helper, who would be with them, and this Holy Spirit would remind them of all that he had said and instructed them. This is a gift of continued revelation.

This is "peace giving." This is "real presence." This is God's dwelling among us. We have new problems that were not experienced or directly addressed by Jesus and not recorded in the Holy Scriptures. We have to discern the will of God, and we have the very presence of the teaching and wisdom of the Holy Spirit to guide us. It is given to us, the church, forever, if we will love him. The Holy Spirit will guide our minds, hearts, and prayers.

Our church is challenged by voices that we may label as "conservative" or "liberal," calling for a faithful response. The conservative voices call for fidelity to tradition, and the liberal voices call for a new response; and we may find that both contain elements of truth and faithfulness to God. We may find that the "via media" (middle way) is the "new" shared response to the Lord. This has been our future in the past, and both will make a better church. Our leaders will have both elements; and, in their wisdom, a balance will give direction to the future. We need each other. Deep down we desire the same . . . a relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We all desire love of God and eternal life. Maybe God is leading us, in light of the Resurrection, to a renewed path to the Kingdom beginning here on earth.

A last thought: Jesus said that he was leaving his "peace," and how may we receive that "peace"? One suggestion that gives me peace is knowing that God is among us and whatever I experience, he experiences with me – I am never alone. Further, his comprehension of my situation is that of a "divine perspective." He can see the totality of the experience, and will make it perfect in his plan for me. He says, does, and determines "last things," and I can will it be so . . . by giving it to him . . . that I may have peace.

Think about it! Live as an "Easter People" in light of his Resurrection!

~ *Rev. Charles Daily*

Vicar, St. John's, Shawano

## The Sixth Week of Easter

Note: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week are the traditional Rogation Days. Please consult your "Book of Common Prayer," pages 258-259, for the Days' prayers:

- For fruitful seasons
- For commerce and industry
- For stewardship of creation.

### May 13<sup>th</sup> ~ Ascension Day

*Luke 24: 44-53*

This portion of the Gospel contains Jesus' last words and his ascension to the right hand of the Father. And our Lord gives us our mission: ". . . that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations . . ." (24: 47) This is a message of communal salvation.

Yes, we are to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, but we do not have a personal salvation. Jesus didn't come to earth to save you or to save me. Jesus came to save us. At his ascension, and through our baptism, we become the embodiment of Christ on this earth – incarnation. And through the power of the Holy Spirit we are called to fulfill God's promises. But not as mere human beings. No, that can not be done. So then, how? How is that possible?

It is possible only by living as sacramental beings who are obedient to our Baptismal Covenant (BCP 304):

- Continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.
- Persevere in resisting evil, and whenever we fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.
- Proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.
- Seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves.
- Strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

The mission of the Church, as stated in the Catechism in our Prayer Book is to: "restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ" (BCP 855). Restoration requires forgiveness and repentance, and these are no light things.

- They require that we are fed: through the Eucharist, through fellowship, through study.
- They require that we are reoriented to God.
- They require that we are reoriented to each other.

Christ has given us this mission of restoration. Of forgiveness. Of repentance. We who love and adore him must step forward and fulfill God's mission in the world. We must step forward and proclaim: "I will, with God's help."

*~ Jane Johnson*

Middler, School of Theology, University of the South (Sewanee)

## May 16<sup>th</sup> ~ The Seventh Sunday of Easter

*John 17: 20-26*

Most of us have been Christians all our life, part of God's family since Baptism. We don't remember being part of that world that doesn't know Jesus, that world that doesn't even care to know God. But we know Him, through Jesus, who is One with Him. Since we know Jesus, we know what God the Father wants for us, that is, to be with Him in heaven. And Jesus wants everyone to be with Him there to see His glory, be in the glory He had even before the world was made.

But it doesn't just happen. We had to be told.

In the text Jesus prays for His disciples, the disciples of His disciples, and all future believers who have heard the good word of God and the story of His Son Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and who, believe. Jesus wants everyone to believe and to be there, to be of one heart and one mind, through Him, with God the Father, who proved His love to us by sending Him to us.

People come to faith, one by one, by the Holy Spirit through God's Word and our testimony of what Jesus does in our life and has done for all of us. We can be the channel of God's love to the world through our daily contacts. God's love, through Jesus, through us. It's that simple.

It's hard to believe anybody could turn down the invitation from Jesus, our own Brother, Who laid down His life for us. Paraphrasing: "Be with Me forever. Know God; know love."

We pray to let those who see us and hear us know that we are Christians by the ways we love one another. Bring them to faith by the Holy Spirit, one by one, through our words and actions in our own place, here on earth, so that we all may be one with Jesus and God the Father, forever, in heaven. Amen

*~ Todd Killberg*

Christ Cathedral, Eau Claire

## The Seventh Week of Easter

### **Prayer for Revival**

O God, you have called the people of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, to be the Body of Christ in this place, and witnesses of your presence in the world. Fill us with your Holy Spirit. Send down the fire of your Love upon us, that we might draw others to you, as you have sent us to do. Anoint us with a deep compassion for those who do not know your love. Send revival on your church in this place, that all may come to know Jesus as their Savior and Lord, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

*All members of the Diocese are asked to offer this prayer daily,  
as we continue to try to live into being a*

***"Community of disciples enthusiastically leading all people to transformation in Jesus."***

# May 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday

*John 14: 8-17*

Jesus assures his disciples with these words, “You know the Spirit, because the Spirit abides with you, and will be in you.” Do you know that the Spirit of God abides and dwells in you? Do you truly know it? In this passage, Philip says to Jesus (in essence) “we don’t get it.” “Show us the Father.” Jesus knows that they don’t and cannot get it until they look back and understand the meaning of their experience with Him in light of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit enables us to make sense of God in our life, when life seems a string of meaningless events and moments. Health issues, bankruptcy, unemployment: a string of personal events. The truth is that life can be hard.

- I want to know that life matters, that I am part of something that lasts and is greater than myself.
- I need to know that I am not simply a piece of dust floating through history.
- I need a relationship with the divine to feel significant.

The Spirit helps us make sense of what is beyond sense, in light of God’s purpose for our lives.

- I have spent years looking for God, only to realize that the Spirit is here, dwelling in me, nurtured in prayer.
- It is in prayer that I become aware of the relationship with the Spirit of God, enfolded in His presence and the blessings of life and peace.
- When we don’t understand all this “God stuff,” when faith doesn’t make sense; if we continue to tread (albeit wearily) the path of faith, we do so trusting in the power that enables us to see patterns of grace in our lives – and remembering how God has been with us for every step of the journey, and will be, for every step to come.

In the words of the spiritual I learned in college, “Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.” May it be so.

*~ Dottie Rathjen*

St. John the Baptist, Wausau

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May 24<sup>th</sup> ~ The Anniversary of the Rt. Rev. Russell E. Jacobus’  
1994 Consecration as the Seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Fond du Lac.

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May 29<sup>th</sup> ~ *The Grafton Institute’s* quarterly Study Day, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, in the Cathedral’s Office.  
Topic: *The Works of Charles Chapman Grafton*, Volume IV, “*A Journey Godward*,” Chapters IX-XV  
Source: Google “*Project Canterbury, Grafton*”  
Click on Charles Chapman Grafton, scroll down, and click on the desired Volume and Chapter.

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June 5<sup>th</sup> ~ You are warmly invited to join  
Bishop Jacobus and your Diocesan Family  
for our annual

## “Eucharistic Festival”

11:00am, at Your Cathedral in Fond du Lac.