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# THE SALESIAN

MARCH 1973

CATHOLIC GUILD FOR THE DEAF

Archdiocese of  
BOSTON

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES GUILD FOR THE HARD OF HEARING

MEETINGS: March 11 - 3:00 p.m. - Holy Cross Cathedral, Boston  
March 18 - 3:00 p.m. - Holy Rosary Church, Lawrence

## LENT

Lent is a time designed by the Church, with over 1900 years of practical experience, with the purpose of making us happier, more useful and better persons.

Every Christian in Lent, if he wishes to grow in mind and spirit, should include three useful elements - discipline, devotion and duty.

In years past discipline reminded us of fasting. Fasting is not popular today but it is needed. To give up a bad habit and replace it with a good habit is the most useful form of lenten discipline for many people.

One full meal, two small meals, and not eating between meals is the lenten fast. This is discipline for the body and the soul.

Abstinence from meat (meatless meals) on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday is an obligation of lent. No meat on Fridays is something that we can do for our past sins. The laws have been lessened but the spirit of sorrow should guide us.

Devotion means what it says - spending more time in prayer, attending lenten Masses, religious reading especially the four Gospels, saying the Rosary, making the Way of the Cross.

Duty means to strive harder to be Christ-like, to be kind, to extend ourselves to others. We can visit the sick and the lonely. We can bring a little joy and love into the life of a friend. To do our duty as Christians means to do what Christ would have us do.

Lent is a time to reflect whether we have fulfilled our duties to our families especially, friends, neighbors, parish, diocese, community. To reflect whether we have omitted our duties of justice and charity to the poor, the forgotten, the neglected, the persecuted.

Conscientious observance of Lent through good works, moved by a living faith and love of God, prepares us for a truly joyful Easter with the Risen Christ living in us.

## FOR THE LOVE OF GOD

The relaxation of our former Lenten rules and restrictions does not mean that we have suddenly been freed of sin or the effects of sin or the need for doing penance. No, evil is still around us and growing all the time. The need for the works of Christ's redemption is very important today. Each Christian must use his freedom in taking up his cross and following Christ, in doing battle for His kingdom against the powers of evil, in performing works of penance. The Church has not taken away the obligation of self-denial, of self-control, and of giving ourselves more generously to doing good works.

Lent is like a race. In a race it is important to start right, to run according to the rules, and to persevere to the end with all one's ability and strength. Christ is the great pace-setter, fresh from heaven, with divine and human powers, and He gives us fellowship and sharing in those powers. We have been brought closer to Christ by Baptism and each Communion strengthens and perfects that union in our race and struggle.

Faith tells you that you are not alone in your struggle against sin and Satan. Christ is in you. He is with you. Every word and deed of His counts for your struggle. Fellowship with Him in Communion helps you throughout the week, if you give Him a chance. His victory is your victory.

Know the facts of faith about the beginning of evil, how all men can sin, that the only way out of the world of sin is redemption through Christ: "through one Man's obedience all shall become just."

Know that through your Lenten works you are "purifying the Church." This means that your power for good extends to other people, to all sinners, to the whole world. "For the love of God and neighbor" can be your resolution for Lent. Lent is renewal of yourself. Lent is the race. Easter is the goal. Christ gave the example. Will you be in the race and reach the goal?

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Whether you are rich or poor, learned or ignorant, healthy or ill, a grayheaded old man or a crying baby in arms, whether you live on land or water, in the cold or warm zone, working or unemployed: it is all the same. We all shall die.

"Remember, man, that you are dust and unto dust you shall return," our holy religion says to us on Ash Wednesday, March 7.

This is a painful, upsetting truth, but we cannot change this.

Whether we think of it or not, whether we occupy ourselves with it or not, whether we prepare for it or not - some day the Lord will knock at our door. Life on earth is over and a new life begins.

## SUFFERINGS

It is hard for most people to see the hand of God or the will of God working for our good in the hard things of life. But we can trust where we cannot see. To try to reason why the loss - the pain - the disappointment - the shame - the tears - the humiliation - is to doubt the wisdom and the power of God.

It can only lead the troubled soul to cry out, "I am full of confusion." Faith in God drinks the bitter cup that the hand of love holds to our lips. Faith helps us to accept what God sends our way.

Faith complains not of the steepness of Calvary's hill or the heaviness of the cross on our shoulders, so long as we can see the footsteps of Christ who has gone before us and know that He leads the way.

## A CHRISTIAN

A Christian is meant to be different from other people; he is to have at the heart of his life a quality that comes from his religious faith and shows its effect on his thoughts and actions.

A Christian should strive to bring the teachings of his faith into his relations with his neighbors and with his fellow employees.

An essential part of the Eucharist - Holy Communion - is that we should be one with Christ not only at the altar, but also in our daily lives all week long.

Christ should live in us and we in Him, and we should reflect something of His goodness, His Patience, His understanding, and His love in the kind of neighbors that we are, and in the way we behave at work.

## THE CENTER OF PEACE

A small number of people prepare and sign a peace treaty. But it takes a very large percentage of all the people in a county to make a lasting peace a reality.

All of us in this country have a part to play in making peace a reality in our national life. Just as it will require a very large percentage of the people in Vietnam, working together to bring peace to that country.

If we Americans want to have peace in our country, we must build peace on a foundation that is solid - on God.

We, who are Catholics, and all who are Christians, have our "road" mapped out for us. In our personal lives and in our public lives, we must take Christ seriously. We must be deeply convinced that Christ's life in this world and His teachings are the only plan or blueprint for our lives. When our lives are lived according to those guidelines, we shall be giving the kind of witness to which we committed ourselves in Baptism. And we shall be contributing in a very positive way to a lasting peace in our country and in the world.

## FAITH

Faith is that characteristic of life that keeps a person going, when stopping would be convenient;

Faith keeps a person looking up, when he feels like looking down;

Faith keeps a person hoping, when despair or hopelessness comes into his heart;

Faith must be the last thing to go, for when Faith is gone, living is useless. No living without FAITH.

## SPIRITUAL BREATHING

Prayer is spiritual breathing, the respiration of the soul. The soul exhales its own nothingness and inhales God.

Prayer is the abandonment of self and a dedication to God.

Prayer is something that we can and should do.

If we would preserve and nourish the life of God which we received in Baptism, then we must breathe forth ourselves into God and inhale the light and power of God.

There is no grace without prayer. Only those who ask shall receive - Christ told us.

FATHER WELSH To contact Father Welsh  
the address is:

Rev. J. David Welsh  
St. Peter's Rectory  
327 Gorham Street  
Lowell, Mass. 01852

The telephone at the Rectory is -  
1-452-1962

MASS FOR DEAF On Sunday, March 11, we  
shall begin our Boston  
meeting with a Mass at 3:00 p.m. Con-  
fessions at 2:30. Those who wish may  
receive Holy Communion at this Mass.  
There will be a Mass on Sunday,  
March 18, at our Lawrence meeting.

I.C.D.A. There will be a meeting of  
MEETING the I.C.D.A. members in the  
Lower Church Hall of the  
Cathedral on Sunday, March 11, at 2:00 p.m.  
We hope for a good attendance to carry  
on some important business and to give  
encouragement to our new officers.

PRAYERS Your prayers are requested for  
Eternal Peace to the souls of  
Miss Beatrice J. Fitzgerald of West  
Roxbury and the Grandson of Mr. and Mrs.  
Richard F. Cronin of Cambridge.

#### CHARITY

Charity has become a word of different  
meanings. But simply, charity still  
expresses the love, understanding and  
sympathy that makes man someone better.

Be charitable with your time. If  
someone needs you in a moment of trouble,  
be there. If someone needs to talk over  
a problem with you, listen.

Be charitable with your affections.  
Let those who you love know that you love  
them and care about their happiness.

Be charitable with your understanding.  
There can be disagreements and lack of  
understanding between people. Do not  
become mad and show resentment. Be fair  
and understanding with others.

Be charitable with your kindness,  
courtesy, and sense of humor. It is easy  
to be polite, to smile, to share a joke,  
to be happy with others.

We receive what we give. That is why  
we say - share with others. What we give  
comes back to us in more ways than we shall  
ever know.

Share your charity! Love one another  
as God loves you!

#### DEAF COMMUNITY CENTER

The address is:

Rev. John P. Fitzpatrick  
Deaf Community Center  
Bethany Road  
Framingham, Mass. 01701

March 2 - First Friday - Mass. COSD Board  
Meeting at 7:30 p.m. All are  
welcome.

March 7 - First Sunday. Mass at the Deaf  
Community Center at 11:00 a.m.  
Coffee, donuts, milk: Families with  
children especially welcome.

March 7 - Ash Wednesday - Mass at 7:30 p.m.  
at DCC in honor of Archbishop  
Medeiros being named a Cardinal by  
Pope Paul VI. Distribution of ashes  
after the Mass for the beginning of  
Lent.

March 14 - Second Wednesday - Meeting of  
of the DCC Advisory Board at  
8:00 p.m.

March 18 - Third Sunday - Mass at 11:00  
a.m. at DCC.

March 20 - Tuesday - Meeting at 8:00 p.m.  
at DCC of the Mass. Parents  
Association for the Deaf and  
Hard of Hearing.

March 28 - Wednesday - 8:00 p.m. at DCC.  
Jonathan Livingston Seagull:

An open discussion of this best-selling  
book; read the book (available at book  
stores for \$1.50 and at DCC also) and  
come share your thoughts and ideas on  
the "Jonathan" that lives within us all.  
A 30 minute movie "Why Man Creates"  
exploring man's creativity will be  
shown. All are welcome - deaf and  
hearing. - interpreter provided for the  
deaf. No charge.

March 25 - Fourth Sunday - Mass at 3:00  
p.m. of the DCC at the Boston  
School for the Deaf in Randolph.

April 1 - First Sunday - Mass at 11:00 a.m.  
at DCC. Everyone welcome -  
families, children, friends.

#### SAINT PATRICK

We must never forget that St. Patrick  
came to Ireland as a missionary. He did  
not come to "Ireland of the Wemcomes" or  
to a "friendly Catholic people"! He came  
to a people who worshipped idols because of  
his love for Christ and their need.

He brought Christ's message and converted  
many people. The gift of Faith he planted  
deep in their hearts and souls. May the  
love and spirit of St. Patrick live on!

## SAINT JOSEPH

On March 19, we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph. He was the most blessed among men yet the most common of men. Quietly, without response, he accepted the great wishes of God laid upon his shoulders.

The eternal plans of God for the salvation of the world, the coming of God among us in human flesh were accomplished in his home. Yet he remained simple, truly human, without anything to say.

When Christ, his Foster-Son, later in His life surprised people with His preaching and His power, the people asked, maybe in criticism - "Is not this the son of the carpenter?"

Joseph placed himself completely in God's hands. He listened to God's help and instruction. He knew the ways of God. He trusted in them with all his heart. He knew the work that he had to do. It was not easy, but it was his - so he did it. He used a God-given power that we could all use more - common sense. With care and holiness, he watched over Jesus and Mary. He worked for them in the best way that he knew, and showed them a holy, gentle, manly love.

What Joseph could not understand, he accepted trustfully, resigning himself to the wisdom, power and direction of God. From this he received his strength and calmness. He gave an example to all of us for all times.

Holiness for each of us comes from our doing ordinary, everyday, things well for the honor of God. Salvation, through Christ, comes from our works of daily living. Thus we must use our faith, our hope, our love, our adoration of God - as Joseph did.

## DEATH

Death is only a transition or passing from one form of existence, one life, to another, when we cast off one worn garment and put on a new garment - "that that which is mortal may be swallowed up by life." 2 Corinthians 5/4

Death is not a sinking into nothingness, but the beginning of a real life.

Here we walk in shadow, there in sunshine;

here in struggle, there in God's peace;  
here in a foreign land, there in the Father's house;

here we believe, there we know.  
Through death we come to God.

## UNIVERSAL CHURCH

The new people of God, the Christians, called their Church the Catholic Church.

As early as 110 A.D., we find St. Ignatius, the Bishop of Antioch, calling the Christian family the Catholic Church: "Where Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church."

In the fourth century, St. Cyril, a bishop, said of the Church: "She is called Catholic, because she alone has the privilege of being known in the whole world (the universe), and having people in all places of the world."

St. Augustine explains why the ancient Church is called the Catholic Church: "The Church is called Catholic by all her enemies, as well as by her own people. The enemies can call the Church by no other name than Catholic, for they would not be understood unless they use the name by which the Church is known to the whole world (the universe)."

## REWARD OF HEAVEN

From the New Testament of the Bible we read:

"Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is very great in heaven." Matthew 5/12

"Be you faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." Apoc. 2/10

"My sheep hear my voice; and I know them, and they follow Me. And I will give them everlasting life." John 10/27

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. From henceforth now, says the Spirit, let them rest from their labors, for their works follow them." Apocalypse 14/13

"God will wipe away all tears from their eyes; and death shall be no more, no mourning, nor crying, nor sorrow shall be any more, for the former things are passed away." Apocalypse 21/4

"They shall no more hunger nor thirst, neither shall the sun fall on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb (Christ), which is in the midst of the throne, shall rule them, and shall lead them to the Fountain of the Waters of Life, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Apoc. 7/16

"We know that if our earthly house of this habitation (our body on earth) is dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in heaven." 2 Corinthians 5/1

"Only one life will soon be past.

Only what is done for Christ will last."