

FROM FATHER BILL: I hope that all of you are into this Great Season of Lent – walking the path with Christ through Calvary to Easter. *We have about 33 more days to pull this off!!!* As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in PRAYER that the ability to work to earn a living is a right of all people. All workers have the right to a fair wage, to organize themselves, and to work in good conditions. May our FASTING keep us mindful of the workers who provide food for their families. May our ALMSGIVING assist Catholic Relief Services as we LEARN about microfinance projects in Egypt. Catholic Relief Services strives to be a responsible steward of creation while pursuing sustainable development. Dirty water, deforestation and pollution don't contribute to a healthier future. ***PLEASE USE YOUR RICE BOWL AND BE VERY GENEROUS TO THE POOR.***

LENT AT OUR PARISHES

Sunday and Daily Mass
Friday Stations of the Cross
Rice Bowl
Daily Spiritual Activities
Sacrifice, Fasting and Praying
Dedication to the “Called To Be Church Implementation Process”
Sacrament of Reconciliation, every Saturday, 3:00 pm at St. Paul’s
Sunday Latin Confessions at St. Peters
Joint Parish Lenten Communal Penance Service, St. Peters, Thurs., April 2. 6:30 pm
Making a WEEKLY Silent Holy Hour at St. Paul’s Adoration Chapel
Loving One Another as Jesus Loves Us

TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOU PARTICIPATING IN OUR PARISH LENTEN PROGRAMS. Hurry up! LENT is almost a week old!!!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

ST. PAUL (ENGLISH) – 3:00 pm - the Fridays of Lent except Good Friday.

ST. PETER (LATIN) – following the NOON Mass each Friday except Good Friday.

RICE BOWLS ARE TO BE FOUND at the entrances of our Church TODAY. Please take one home and instead of having dessert, make an offering to the poor and hungry by placing a donation into the “Bowl” each day of Lent. Rice Bowl returns should be made by EASTER SUNDAY.

SAINT PETER’S CHURCH, TROY, ANNUAL CORNED BEEF DINNER will be held at the LYCEUM (corner of Hutton and 5th Ave.) on THURSDAY, March 12, 2009 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm and from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm, as part of the Parish’s 185th Anniversary Celebration. Adult Dinner - \$8.00; Children 12 and under - \$4.00. Proceeds will be donated to JOSEPH HOUSE, Troy. Tickets are being sold before and after Masses at St. Peter’s. Phone the Rectory, also, to obtain your tickets – 518 272-2750. The General Public is invited. *Please join us for our last Corned Beef Dinner at St. Peter’s!*

A LENTEN PRAYER

Oh loving Lord, during this Lenten Season I lift up my voice to you.
Instill in my heart the desire to hear your voice in the voices of the poor, your people.
May I find in their example the path to my conversion.
Bless my Prayer, Fasting, Learning, and Giving in this season of grace.
May these actions answer the call to transform our world. Amen!!

Catholic Information: 1-800-MY FAITH
Pro-Life Pregnancy Hotline: 1-800-848-LOVE

THE ROSARY is prayed Thursday’s – 8:30 AM - at Planned Parenthood, 200 2nd Street, Monument Square, Troy.

THE WORD LENT is derived from “LENTO”, meaning slow! “Slow up during LENT and think about GOD.”

CALLED TO BE CHURCH – IMPLEMENTATION PHASE PRAYER: *Loving God, you who are present with us in all of life’s moments, make yourself known in these challenging times of parish closure, merger and linkage. Comfort those who mourn. Receive and transform the anger of those who feel powerless. Ease the minds of the fearful. Give wisdom to our leaders and patience and insight to your people. Help us to appreciate the way you are re-creating your*

Church. Make us partners with you in this effort. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who is Lord and brother through the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

WHO BENEFITS FROM THE OPERATION RICE BOWL COLLECTION: 75% of OPERATION RICE BOWL CONTRIBUTIONS are sent to Catholic Relief Services, and help fund development projects overseas that help and increase and maintain communities' access to food. These food security projects include agriculture, water, microfinance, education, mother and child health, and HIV/AIDS projects. 25% of OPERATION RICE BOWL contributions remain in the Albany Diocese and are used to fund local poverty and hunger alleviation programs.

FINAL CALL -CATCHING UP WITH YOUR SACRAMENTS!: Any adult (high-school graduate and up) who wishes to make their First Communion or Confirmation at the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Paul's on Holy Saturday, April 11, 2009 should contact Father Bill by March 1, 2009. Infant, Adult, or people of any age, Baptisms are also celebrated at the Easter Vigil Mass. Any Adult who wishes to convert to or enter into FULL Communion with the Catholic Church/Faith should also contact Father Bill.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

- Suffering is part of the journey to glory. (Luke 24; 26-"Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer?") Suffering is central to our understanding of mortal life and life eternal.
- Sorrow is not our destiny. (John 20:15-"Why are you weeping?") Christ raised from the dead also raises us beyond our sorrow to joy.

LENTEN MEALTIME PRAYER: Lord Jesus, may your holy word and the bounty of this table feed our hearts and bodies and bring us through lent to Easter joy. Amen.

REPEAT REMINDER - WHAT IS FOCA!...FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT

Pro-abortion groups have been trying to pass this Act since 1989. This Act would eliminate all current laws limiting or restricting current abortion practices (including freedom of conscience laws and parental involvement laws). If this Act is passed by Congress and signed by President Obama, for the first time, abortion would become an entitlement the government must- fund and promote. Our Catholic Bishops and all Catholics oppose this Act, I hope.

A LENTEN MEDITATION

WHO ARE THE POOR? WHO ARE THE MOST IN NEED? WHO ARE PUSHED TO THE MARGINS of NEGLECT and POWERLESSNESS? It doesn't take a great social analysis to come up with some immediate answers, locally in our own world and across the globe. Listening to the news is a beginning. Who is suffering? Who is tremendously burdened? Poverty doesn't always make the news, but being sensitive to the stories we hear IS A PLACE TO START!!

TODAY: Black, Native American and Latin American Missions special Second Collection. *Please be generous!*

A SIMPLE PRAYER

"Lord, help us to really mean it and to better understand this simple prayer to you: **THY WILL BE DONE.**"

THE ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY MASS at St. Patrick's Church, Troy, will be celebrated Sunday, March 15th, at 10:30AM. Everyone is invited. A reception will follow.

EVANGELIZATION: Lent lasts Forty Days.....La Cuaresma dura cuarenta dias.