



THE CRUX

THE NEWSLETTER OF HOLY CROSS PARISH,
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PEORIA



May-June 2015

The Healing Power of the Eucharist and the Rosary

By Father Dave Sajdak

Anna Paradise was at the funeral home wake service for her mother, when an old gentleman friend came up to her to express his sympathy, and pay his respects to Anna's mother.

The old gentleman said that when he was a young man he became involved with a woman who was not his wife. One evening he was having dinner with his mistress in a restaurant when Anna's mother and father walked in. They pretended not to recognize each other, but the next day the man received a call from Anna's mother inviting him to her home for a piece of pie.

The man said that he went because no one ever refused Anna's mother's pie, but he also realized that the invitation was really an order. He arrived at the designated time and enjoyed a big piece of freshly baked pie. Then Anna's mother told him that she saw him at the restaurant with that other woman. The man denied it, but no

matter how often or how vehemently he denied it, Anna's mother would not back down.

Finally she said: "Do you remember when you were out of work for several months, and I fed you and your family for all of that time?" The man said

"Yes" he did remember.

Anna's mother then said: "I want to be repaid." The man immediately took out his wallet, but Anna's mother said: "No, I don't want any money. I want a favor." "Yes" said the man, "Anything."

Anna's mother went over to the end table and picked up a rosary. She placed it in the man's hand and told him to go to Mass every day for a week and to pray the rosary every day either right before or right after the Mass. And, on every bead, as he prayed, to think of something good about his wife and his children and their life together.

Then she told him: "If at the end of the week you think this woman is better for you than your wife, just put the rosary in my mailbox, and I will never speak of this again, to either you or your wife. However, if you decide to go back to your wife, please keep the rosary with my blessing."

At this point of telling his story to Anna, the man opened his hand to reveal a well prayed rosary. He told Anna: "This is the rosary your mother gave me so many years ago. My wife and I have prayed it every day since then."

There is POWER in the Eucharist and in the Rosary. In many ways, they go together. The prayers of the rosary lead to the Eucharist. And, the Eucharist is the culmination of the mysteries of the rosary.

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Food, Fellowship and Families

Fish Fry @ Holy Cross

Photos by David Devall



Family Formation—Praying the Rosary with Fr. Dave

Photos by Sharon Kristovich



Holy Thursday

Photos by David Devall



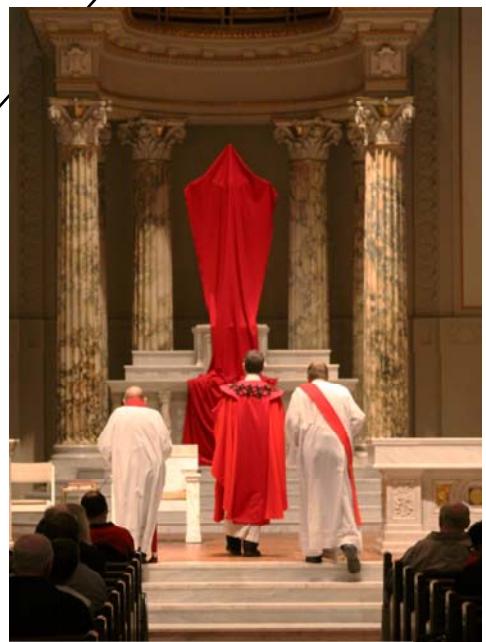
Holy Cross Tabernacle
adorned for Holy Thurs-
day. Fr. Dave serving
Mass.



Washing of
Feet of Holy
Cross Parish-
ioners (right).
Palms adorn the
Church after
Palm Sunday
(below).



Commemorating
the death of Jesus
Christ on the
Cross .



Good Friday

Photos by David Devall

*Editors' note: We would like to feature your parish ministry in a future issue!
If you are involved with a ministry, please contact us at: cruxathc@gmail.com*

We Are The CHurch (WATCH)

By

Cheri Rakers, WATCH Board

A nice crowd gathered for “movie and a meal” on Palm Sunday. It was an event sponsored by WATCH and the 40 Days for Life organization. The WATCH board would like to thank those WATCH alumni who provided the soup and bread and assistance that evening.

Our Holy Cross WATCH database needs to be updated. If you’ve previously attended a WATCH weekend, you may be contacted over the next few months to correct the phone numbers and email ad-

dresses we have. Even better, you can email me with that information. Please send to: crakers@comcast.net.

Again, we hope you enjoyed the “movie and a meal” evening. *Crux* newsletters and church bulletins will announce future activities and WATCH retreat weekends. Remember, WE ARE THE CHURCH.

Summer Saints?

Summer brings many joys—warm days, green prairies, swimming, no homework. Many of our Saints are patrons of summer’s traditions!

St. John Gualbert

(985-1073) Patron Saint of Parks

St. Isidore the Farmer

(1070-1130) Patron Saint of Farmers

St. Fiacre

(7th Century) Patron Saint of Gardeners

St. Andrew

(brother of St. Peter) Patron Saint of Fishermen

St. Francis of Assisi

(1182-1226) Patron Saint of Animals

St. Nicholas

(d. circa 350) Patron Saint of Brides and Grooms

St. Joseph

(Husband of Mary) Patron Saint of Travelers

St. Adjutor

(d. 1131) Patron Saint of Swimmers, Boaters

Holy Cross' Mission Statement

The mission of the Catholic Community of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is to provide a home for all who wish to join our spiritual family and share our Catholic beliefs and values. We are here to continue the life-giving works of Jesus Christ, to make His name known and loved, and to live our lives according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, under the leadership of the Bishop of the Peoria Diocese.

A Word from Joy...

By Joy Pace

Being Satisfied – and How that Helps the Poor

Living a Christ-centered life helps everything: marriages, families, church communities, relationships, the poor, our budget and finances, the earth, our work, etc.

Wait a minute. Were “the budget and finances” in there? Yep, you read it right.

What does our budget have to do with living a Christ-centered life? Why do we have to help the poor?

If we are living a Christ-centered life, then we know that God has abundantly blessed us – beyond measure. Even if we have fallen on hard times, we are living a very luxurious life in comparison with others in 3rd world countries. Indeed, we may be living a luxurious life in comparison with others who are really struggling financially here in this country, and in Champaign-Urbana.

We know that everything we have is from God – our very breadth, our very heartbeat. If we have a roof over our heads, food on the table, clothes on our back, and some family or friends, then we are richly blessed... beyond measure. God has graced us with so much.

So what does this have to do with finances? If everything we have is from God, then how are we doing in giving back to Him? Yes, I know, the ADA request is here. And there are weekly and monthly Church collections. And there may be school tuition (but that is not a donation!). But honestly – How much are we giving back to our Church, in response to everything God has given to us?

In the Old Testament, we are encouraged to give a tithe. Generally that is seen as a 10th of one’s income. In the New Testament, tithing is not the only thing – we realize that God’s saving grace has given us everything – and that we in turn need to give back – to the Church and to others – in time, talent and treasure. In essence – we can give EVERYTHING back to him – so tithing is not only 10%.

Let’s talk numbers (this is for the math-geeks): Are we only giving \$1 a week to our church? In a year’s time, that comes to \$ 52 a year. Does \$ 52

sound like even a tithe (10%)? Honestly – it’s a tithe only if one made \$ 520 in an entire year. Even people on a fixed income make more than \$ 520 a year. How much is communion worth? Baptism? Anointing of the Sick? Reconciliation? Daily and weekly Masses. Marriages blessed by God? Funerals? ***Honestly – all these gifts from God are priceless, and are given freely here at Church. What is salvation worth?***

I know that families fall on hard times. I know there is disability, layoffs, accidents, down-sizing and mental illness, crushing medical debt, tuition etc. Honestly – even with all that, if a family is spending more on prepared meals, pizza, fast food or coffee, more than what is given to the Church—our priorities are out-of-whack.

So it’s time to do some serious reflection – How much does grace and salvation mean to us? And don’t we want to help the Church to continue to help others – in their salvation and in their need?

Make no mistake - salvation is not for sale. An honest response to all of God’s goodness to us and our families can be reflected in how we give to others, including Church. Love and charity are a natural outpouring of God’s grace. If a family makes \$ 65,000 a year, then a tithe would be \$ 6,500 donated- half to Church and half to other charities. Maybe some people are being that generous. I bet, though, that most families are just scraping by from paycheck to paycheck, and much of their hard-earned money is being spent on items that will not bring everlasting happiness.

Maybe it’s time to re-think our family’s spending priorities. If our family spends more money on entertainment (cable/movies), data plans, sports, porn, alcohol, meals out, smoking, clothes, the latest gadgets, fancy-car payments, luxurious vacations, etc. and does not help the Church and others, then it’s time for a priority-check.

How about asking God what he wants us to do with our money? Let’s start with 1% and work our way up. Let’s think about changing our buying habits and instead buying more stuff, we can save money for an emergency fund and funding the Church and other worth-while causes.

Using our God-given resources in proper form is freeing! Being satisfied is wonderful. Being generous helps our Church, the poor and creates a lasting legacy of love. And that is a great way to live a Christ-centered life.

Healing Power (continued from page 1)

Anna's story reinforces the power of the Eucharist and Mary in our lives. The Eucharist and the Blessed Mother keep families together.

We have to realize that the family is the basic fundamental "cell" of society. Good families will lead to good societies. The family unit is meant to be the environment where holiness is grown—where God is praised by the love shared within the family—where the young hear God's call to His service—and where the young get the guidance to hear God's call and to follow it.

Satan is working overtime to destroy our families by breaking them down. Satan is trying to create strife, division, and disrespect within the family. In doing so, Satan weakens the very fabric of our society, and robs families of the peace they are meant to experience from God.

It was Fr. Patrick Payton, back in 1942, who popularized the saying "The family that prays together stays together". It was part of the Roman Catholic Family Rosary Crusade. Many Catholic families took Fr. Payton's advice and grew closer together in love and in their faith.

The Rosary is an excellent way for a family to pray together. It combines many types of prayer, and is simple enough for even the youngest member of a family to join in. Families are meant to pray together somehow, some way.

We have to remember, it was God Himself who instituted the human family. The Christian family is called the "domestic sanctuary" by our Catholic Church. Holiness is meant to be grown within the family. To grow holiness, the awareness of God's presence must be keen among family members, and communication with the Lord God must be a regular experience as a family. This communication with God is called prayer. The family that prays together stays together.

The Rosary is an excellent prayer for the family; it has been a strong Catholic devotion for centuries. It has helped millions to grow deeper into the mysteries of our faith. The rosary is the "school of Mary," it is the "compendium of the Gospel," it is holding all the essential Christian beliefs in our hands. The rosary, and all prayer,

is meant to lead us to the main pillar of our faith, to the celebration of the Eucharist.

Celebrating the Eucharist weekly is a law of the Church. Why? Because of the nourishment we receive from the Eucharist. It would be wrong to physically starve yourself of good nutritious food and harm your body. These bodies are the "temple of the Holy Spirit."

So, too, it is wrong to starve yourself spiritually by being absent from the community celebration of the Eucharist. "Jesus said: *"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give him is my flesh, which I give so that the world may live... Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him to life on the last day."*" (Jn 6:51-54)

Individuals need to be nourished by participation in the Holy Eucharist. And the community is nourished by the active presence of the individual at the community celebration.

Just as we come together as a Church family, as sisters and brothers in the Lord, to celebrate the Eucharist, it should be easily seen, then, the value for the individual family to participate in the same Eucharistic celebration. There is grace in coming to Church as a family to join their larger Christian family to worship and be fed.

The Holy Eucharist "teamed up" with the rosary to heal and restore the family life of that gentleman in Anna Paradise's story of her mother. And, the Holy Eucharist (the celebration of the Mass) and the Rosary can help strengthen your family too.

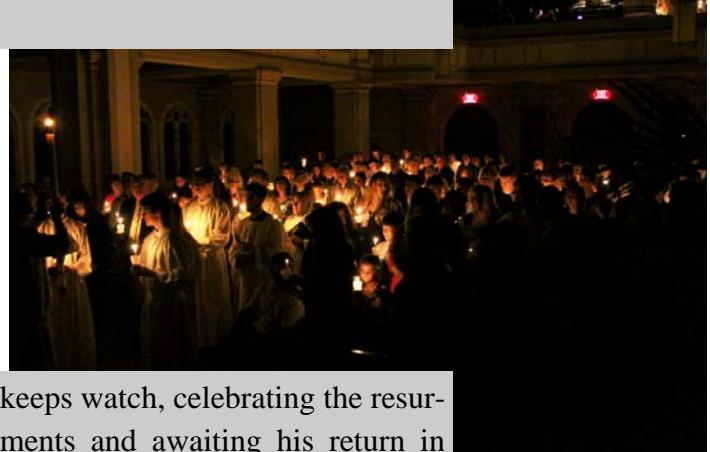
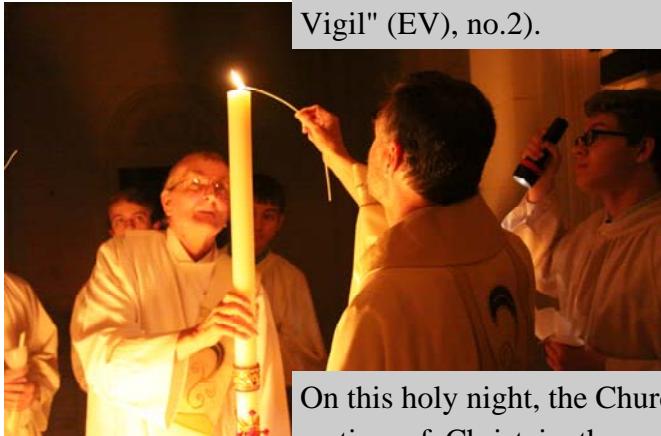


Easter Vigil Mass

Photos by David Devall



The rubrics of the Missale Romanum remind us that this "mother of all vigils" is the "greatest and most noble of all solemnities and it is to be unique in every single Church" (Missale Romanum, "Rubrics for the Easter Vigil" (EV), no.2).



On this holy night, the Church keeps watch, celebrating the resurrection of Christ in the sacraments and awaiting his return in glory. It is the turning point of the Triduum, the Passover of the new covenant, which marks Christ's passage from death to life.



Therefore, the Easter Vigil does not correspond to the usual Saturday evening Mass and its character is unique in the cycle of the liturgical year.

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "The Roman Missal And The Easter Vigil", <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/triduum/roman-missal-and-the-easter-vigil.cfm>, 2015.



Thank You To This Year's Crux Contributors!

Did you know that more than 14 contributors (see list at left) provided articles, photos, ideas, or helped proof-read the 2014-2015 *Crux* newsletters?

We would like to say "Thank you" to all of them for their gifts of time and talent.

We greatly welcome your ideas for upcoming *Crux* issues. Even more so, we welcome your words and photos! Contact us at: **CruxatHC@gmail.com**!

-Dave and Sharon Kristovich (editors)

John Bruns	Nancy O'Dell
Rosemary Coffey	Joy Pace
Father Dave Sajdak	Audrey Plisch
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Tracy Duchinsky	Cheri Rakers
Christina Ellis	Katie Schroeder
Victoria Fitzgerald	Paul Sefranek
Elaine Hershbarger	Jola Swiech
Jessica McMahon	All those who provided "Spiritual Resolutions"

SAVE THESE DATES!

11th Annual COHF Garage Sale

The High School of St. Thomas More, Champaign, IL

Friday, July 17th , 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Early Bird Sale, \$2 admission)

Saturday, July 18th, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Items for sale will be collected Monday, July 13th through Thursday, July 16th at rear entrance of the school. We need volunteers both prior to and during the sale, and we also need cookie/brownie bakers!

Arts & Crafts Bazaar 2015

Holy Cross Parish Center, Champaign, IL

Saturday, October 24th, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 25th, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

For more information about these events, or to volunteer, please contact Tracy Duchinsky at (217) 721-2524 or tded@sbcglobal.net



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The deadline for the September-October issue of *The Crux* is August 15th.

Please send your submissions or suggestions to:
cruxathc@gmail.com

May you and yours have a blessed, fun, and safe Summer!

-The Editors