



St. Therese Parish BULLETIN

Issue No. 04-09

APRIL 2009



Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving

Excerpts from FAQs about Lent (www.catholic.org)

THE THREE TRADITIONAL pillars of Lenten observance are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The key to renewed appropriation of these practices is to see their link to baptismal renewal.

Prayer: More time given to prayer during Lent should draw us closer to the Lord. We might pray especially for the grace to live out our baptismal promises more fully. We might pray for the elect who will be baptized at Easter and support their conversion journey by our prayer. We might pray for all those who will celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation with us during Lent that they will be truly renewed in their baptismal commitment.

Fasting: Fasting is one of the most ancient practices linked to Lent. In fact, the paschal fast predates Lent as we know it. The early Church fasted intensely for two days before the celebration of the Easter Vigil. This fast was later extended and became a 40-day period of fasting leading up to Easter. Vatican II called us to renew the observance of the ancient paschal fast: "...let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind" (Liturgy, # 110).

Fasting is more than a means of developing self-control. It is often an aid to prayer, as the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. The first reading on the Friday after Ash Wednesday points out another important dimension of fasting. The prophet Isaiah insists that fasting without changing our behavior is not pleasing to God. "This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own" (Is 58:6-7).



Source: fatherandall.wordpress.com

Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection may be attained with uplifted and clear mind"

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Prayer, Fasting... (cont'd.)

Fasting should be linked to our concern for those who are forced to fast by their poverty, those who suffer from the injustices of our economic and political structures, those who are in need for any reason. Thus fasting, too, is linked to living out our baptismal promises. By our Baptism, we are charged with the responsibility of showing Christ's love to the world, especially to those in need. Fasting can help us realize the suffering that so many people in our world experience every day, and it should lead us to greater efforts to alleviate that suffering.

Abstaining from meat traditionally also linked us to the poor, who could seldom afford meat for their meals. It can do the same today if we remember the purpose of abstinence and embrace it as a spiritual link to those whose diets are sparse and simple. That should be the goal we set for ourselves—a sparse and simple meal. Avoiding meat while eating lobster misses the whole point!

Almsgiving: It should be obvious at this point that almsgiving, the third traditional pillar, is linked to our baptismal commitment in the same way. It is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given to us. Works of charity and the promotion of justice are integral elements of the Christian way of life we began when we were baptized. ■



On this greatest day of the year, all fasting and somber thoughts are banished. As St. John Chrysostom announces in this famous Easter sermon, all are invited to the feast: "Let all then enter the joy of Our Lord!

Both the first and the last, and those who come after, enjoy your reward!

Rich and poor, dance with one another, sober and slothful, celebrate the day.

Those who have kept the fast and those who have not, rejoice today, for the table is richly spread.

Fare royally upon it—the calf is a fattened one.

Let no one go away hungry.

All of you, enjoy the banquet of faith!

All enjoy the riches of His goodness.

Let no one cry over his poverty, for the universal Kingdom has appeared!

Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again, for forgiveness has risen from the grave.

Let none fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free.

He has destroyed it by enduring it.

He spoiled the power of hell when he descended thereto.

Isaiah foretold this when he cried, 'Death has been frustrated in meeting him below!'

It is frustrated, for it is destroyed.

It is frustrated, for it is annihilated.

It is frustrated, for now it is made captive.

For it grabbed a body and discovered God.

It took earth and behold! It encountered Heaven.

It took what was visible, and was overcome by what was invisible.

O Death, where is your sting?

O Death, where is your victory?

Christ is risen, and the demons are cast down.

Christ is risen, and life is set free.

Christ is risen, and the tomb is emptied of the dead.

For Christ, having risen from the dead, is become the first-fruits for those who sleep.

to Him be glory and power forever and ever!

Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"

Be Transformed by Easter

Source: www.catholic.org/clife/lent

The Cross and Forgiveness

It was very strange, you know, what happened in the desert. The Israelites spoke against God and Moses, complaining that there was no food and water and that they were going to die in the wilderness. And God sent poisonous serpents who bit them so that so many died. (Num 21: 5-6)

Why is that, my dear chap?

Well, for one, Moses interceded for them, and God told him to make a serpent and to mount it on a pole and everyone who would look at that serpent will live! And he did as he was told, and so it happened that any man who was bitten would need only to look at the bronze serpent he made and he will not die. He punishes them for their sins and saves them when they repented.

You are right there but what is stranger is that that whole thing was a prefiguration of what was going to happen to our Lord.

What to you mean?

Look it up. It is in John 3:14-15. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that all who believe may have eternal life in him. You see, sin is like the bite of a snake. It kills us. And Jesus Christ dies on the cross in order to save us from that poisonous snake bite.

Wow! I know what comes after. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that all who believe in him will not perish but have everlasting life! God loves us so much, he saves us from death. We were bitten by snakes and he heals us.

More. The love of God is more than that. Much, much more. According to St. Paul, Because of his great love for us he brought us to life with Christ when we were dead in sin. (Eph 2:4) And then, listen to this, St. Paul continues, he raised us up and gave us a place in the heavens!

Yes. Yes. It is unimaginable how God loves us.

It is unthinkable. A love so great as that can only be God's. He was suffering excruciating pain. He was now dying on the cross. And you know what? He was thinking of a way how his Father will forgive us. He should have been angry at what we have done. He should have cried to the heavens for his Father to punish us! Instead he cries out to his Father, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing!"



Source: www.theroadtogodministry.com

He was suffering excruciating pain. He was now dying on the cross. And you know what? He was thinking of a way how his Father will forgive us.

It is true what they say, when you are truly in love, you do not think of your own good but you think of the good of your beloved. His body is bruised all over, brutalized, a crown of thorns on his head, nails piercing his hands and feet, and yet he was not thinking for his self. He was thinking what was good for us, so that we will not be punished for what we have done!"

Because, you see, if we knew what we were doing, that we were crucifying the Son of God, we would not have done what we have done.

So right you are. Many of us do not know anymore the gravity of sin. Many of us do not understand its consequences. And so Jesus

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Christ, with so much compassion for us, cries out to his Father, Forgive them, please forgive them. I suffer, yes, but I ask you, to forgive them.

What he is trying to say to his Father is that because we are ignorant we are forgivable.

Many times it is like that. Remorse comes only after the fact. It is like when the criminal is caught and put to jail that he realizes the wrong that he has committed or a young woman becomes pregnant that she says to herself I shouldn't have entered into that relationship.

"Precisely. Deny yourself," Jesus Christ tells us. "If you want to follow me, deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow me."

Because it is impossible to follow him without self-denial.

Nothing can be so right, my dear friend. And so he tells us, The man who loves his life, loses it, while the man who loses his life in this world preserves it to life eternal.

He loves us so much he tells us the way for us to be able to follow him.

Nope. It is not just about following him. It is really about serving him. He tells us, "If anyone would serve me, let him follow me. Where I am there will my servant be."

Picture it this way. You believe in him. You know who you are following. You are his servant and he is your Lord. And you see him now, hanging on the cross. His eyes looking straight at you. And then he tells you, "I want you to be where I am now.

God wants me to follow him up to the cross?

More than that. He wants you to follow him much, much more than that. He wants you to have a forgiving heart like his. Forgive those who have sinned against you, those who are crucifying you even, because they do not know the gravity and the consequences of their sins."

I get it now. Much much more than that does he want me to follow him. Not just in the crucifixion. Not just in the forgiving. Not just in self-denial. He wants me to follow him into the greatest achievement that we can ever attain- to dwell in the house of the Lord forever!

And to have his joy in us for all eternity! ■

Blessedness in

The Catholic place of worship is known for its grandeur, beautiful edifice, marble tiles, granite columns, big statues of saints. It is simply made beautiful because it is the house of God, the house of worship for the faithful.

Sometimes, one thing that adds beauty to the faith is the festivities and celebrations especially we, Filipinos, are much inclined to fiestas and merriment.

And who can't admire a dashing, debonair and very well-versed priest that we don't even want to miss attending any of his masses as well as a very kind and amiable priest who also inspires us to join in the work of evangelization and be a member in a religious organization.

The foregoing is one big factor why a lay person becomes actively involved in parish activities.

But, what if the beautiful edifice is gone from our sight wherein fiestas and celebrations are not that festive anymore? What if the church is not well ventilated and lighted as well as the sound system as not that audible? What if the parish priest is not as accommodating as everybody expects, and what more if moral issues crop up making his fidelity questionable? What if St. Therese Parish is under construction?

As faithfuls, are we still the same? Or would you rather say 'I am not in the mood to serve' because of things I see and hear in the church? It must be our faith that keeps us going. The church needs faithful servants, faithful even when things get rough, especially when things get rough.

Just like the life of Christ. Everyone wanted to listen to Him when He was so profound. When He entered into the Holy City of Jerusalem they treated him like a King. But when His face was disfigured and full of blood, nailed and dying on the cross, how many stood by Him?

Would you choose to be the few who stayed with Christ until His last breath? As we know, it is in the time of testing



Suffering

that the our faith is measured just as the fidelity of Jesus to his Father was shown in his death on the cross. "He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him, and bestowed upon him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..." (Phil 2: 8-11)

We love being a Catholic. And it is during the time of 'disfigurement' that we should love being a Catholic more like, of course, the example of the martyrs and the saints. Christ is the center of our faith. Our church, undergoing construction now, may be in a state of 'disfigurement' at this point in time. But it is our church and we need to stand by it through thick and thin. Not just by praying but by generously serving, and searching for very much-needed benefactors to help in our on-going project.

We are calling on all parishioners, devotees of St. Therese and people with a big heart to continue helping and serving our church 'disfigured' knowing that it will not be long when our hopes and dreams will come true. As Jesus rose from his disfigurement into glory, so will a metamorphosis transpire, from a disfigured house of prayer to a brand-new St. Therese Parish Church. It is truly edifying to work for the glory of God. Amen.

By Lorina Lepon

The Child Who Brought Me One Small Rose

by Jessa Charisma C. Tecson

I taught him how to write his name,
Some nursery rhymes, A children's game.
And when he brought me one small rose
He brought more heaven than he knows.
For woven with the rose's scent
His wordless love was eloquent.
And he skipped away. But for awhile
I could not stir, nor could I say
How LOVE possessed me all that day.

Legion of Mary... (cont'd.)

sin over and over again, that sin will seem not to be a sin anymore. Some people pray lesser and lesser. Others do not pray at all. Some Catholics neglect the sacraments. Time is running out. We have an apostolate to do," he continued.

We are encouraging all practising Catholics, especially our parishioners, regardless of age, who are willing and able to work for Mary and Jesus to be part of this mission. Please feel free to visit us during any Legion of Mary meeting in the parish:

Senior Praesidium (18 years old and above)

- ❖ Praesidium Mystical Rose: Saturdays, 7 pm
- ❖ Praesidium Birhen sa Santos nga Rosaryo: Sundays, 4 pm

(Note: Mystical Rose is on its new schedule to be able to spend more time visiting the groups in mountain barangays.)

Junior Praesidium (17 years old and below)

- ❖ Praesidium Stella Maris: Sundays, 3:30 pm
- ❖ Praesidium Queen of Angels: Sundays 2:30 pm

And for those who wish to support the legion yet hindered by time and sickness, please inform us and we will rank you as an auxiliary. (Auxiliary is a praying member, but receives the same grace that active members have.)

Ave Maria! ■

By Sarah Cañete



Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for April 2009

General: That the Lord may bless the farmers with an abundant harvest and sensitise the richer populations to the drama of hunger in the world.

Mission: That the Christians who work in areas where the conditions of the poor, the weak and the women and children are most tragic, may be signs of hope, thanks to their courageous testimony to the Gospel of solidarity and love.



New Set of Sto. Niño Chapel (Anapog) Officers Inducted

Once again the rising youth of Anapog together with the senior officers gathered together for their induction ceremony last March 7, 2009. Formally installing them as the new set of Sto. Niño Chapel Officers was Fr. John Jonah Orat after a Thanksgiving Mass celebration. "The chapel is part of and an extension of our Church," he emphasized. "Chapel officers are not civil servants but servants of the Church. That being so, induction should be made before the parish priest or representative of the Church and not any public official. These chapel officers will be the people who will lead others to pray. It is their responsibility to attend in the monthly chapel leaders' meeting every first Sunday of the month so that they will be updated with parish developments and activities." "Care should be taken," he added, "that

chapels will not be identified with any politician because that be will be divisive of the community."

In a conference with Chapel President Ricardo Tecson, Jr., Fr. John reminded him what every chapel officer should know about: The Archdiocesan Guidelines regarding parish chapels. "Chapels exist primarily to help people grow in their spirituality and prayer life. Games, discos and other forms of merrymaking are only accidents. They do not form the substance why chapels exist."

Consequently, encouraging people and sacrificing their time and effort, chapel officers will perform the obligations of stewardship that they have vowed to fulfill with the help of God. After the mass, talented Anapog children entertained

the congregation with dance sports and ballet presentations to everyone's delight. Last March 29, the officers held a special meeting to discuss the church Lenten and fundraising activities.

All these for the glory of God!

By **Jessa Charisma C. Tecson**



(Top) Youth officers Ariel Ompad, Jessa Tecson, Joy Pedrosa and Joan Alcaria. (Bottom) Senior officers Ricardo Tecson, Jr., Fe Pedrosa, Rubie Cuevas Ulanda Tanael and Paketo Lasel.



Legion of Mary spreads its wings

We rejoice with the Blessed Virgin Mary and we magnify the Lord! The Legion of Mary have created new praesidia in Lubris, near the old Sibugay Barangay Hall and in Sitio Panas, a remote area, near Camp Marina last year in addition to the branches in the mountain barangays of Malubog and Lamac, Sibugay. The STP Legion officers continue to monitor, strengthen and assist these new praesidia. They also revive, guide and follow up the old ones in

Kiosko, Malubog and Camagong, Lahug.

The legionaries in our parish have existed since the 1970s, working as an extended arm of the parish priests. Their activities include bringing our brothers and sisters back to the sacraments, visiting homes, hospitals, jails, orphanages, and homes for the sick and the aged. It is a Marian organization of lay people, affiliated in the parishes worldwide. Legionaries meet weekly for prayer and

planning, as well as doing apostolate work supervised by their Spiritual Director, Fr. John Jonah A. Orat.

During the curia meeting, Fr. Orat stated, "It is true. The Lord is so powerful, with just a click of his fingers, he can change the world. But God wants us to be his instruments of change. People need people, in order to change. And thus, the work of the Legion of Mary becomes very relevant today." "Evil is spreading. When you continue to commit the same

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ST. TERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS PARISH

Lahug, Cebu City, Philippines

HOLY WEEK 2009 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

APRIL 5 (PALM SUNDAY)

5:00 AM Opening Liturgy / Blessing of Palm Fronds (*Pino* parking area fronting church convent)

5:30 AM Holy Mass (Cebuano)

Regular Sunday Mass schedules follow at 7AM, 9AM, 10:30AM, 4PM, 5:30PM & 7PM
(Blessing of palm fronds before every mass)

APRIL 6 (HOLY MONDAY)

Confessions will be made *upon request*.

7:30 - 9:30 PM Lenten Recollection by Fr. Mhar Balili

Theme: Pastoral Thrust of the Cebu Archdiocese

APRIL 7 (HOLY TUESDAY)

Confessions will be made *upon request*.

APRIL 8 (HOLY WEDNESDAY)

Confessions will be made upon request.

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Station 1	Front of Church	Zone 1 (c/o UCMA)
Station 2	Old Mortuary	c/o STP Catechists
Station 3	Smile Again	Zone 9 (c/o Nonette Olitres/Bro. Frank)
Station 4	USP Nursing	Zone 5 (Camagong- San Roque)
Station 5	USP Grounds	Zone 4 (c/o Villa Family)
Station 6	Bayanihan	Zone 4 (c/o Bong Patentes)
Station 7	M. de los Santos	Zone 3 (c/o Brg. Captain Mary Ann de los Santos)
Station 8	San Miguel Chapel	Zone 3 (San Miguel – c/o Marissa Javelosa)
Station 9	Cambridge	Zone 6 (c/o Grace of Lower Betania)
Station 10	St. Therese Corner	c/o CCRM & Couples for Christ
Station 11	Cerilo Residence	Zone 2 (c/o Veneranda Mahusay)
Station 12	Viajar Residence	Zone 2 (c/o Mrs. Viajar)
Station 13	Café Laguna	Zone 9 (c/o Peping Babarin)
Station 14	Anita's	Zone 1 (A. Cabinian, Pangutana, Purok 6, U. Don Bosco)

APRIL 9 (HOLY THURSDAY)

Confessions: 9am – 11:30am & 1pm - 3pm

4:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Last Supper

7:00 PM Visita Iglesia (c/o Parish Youth Coordinating Council)

7PM - 12:00 Midnight Solemn Vigil (Vigil schedules will be posted at the church)

APRIL 10 (GOOD FRIDAY)

8-11AM Confessions

12NN - 3PM Airing of Siete Palabras at STP

3:00 PM Commemoration of the Lord's Passion.

Procession of the Santo Entierro (after the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion)

Dolorosa Procession (30 minutes after the arrival of the Santo Entierro procession)

APRIL 11 (BLACK SATURDAY)

General Cleaning of the church and perimeter

10:00 PM Easter Vigil with Blessing of new fire and water (Please bring candles & water)

APRIL 12 (EASTER SUNDAY)

Sugat Procession Assembly (right after the Easter Vigil):

a) All Male (with the Risen Christ) – assembly at Anita's (will pass at back gate of USP)

b) All Female (with Mama Mary) – assembly at JCA (will pass at USP front gate)

1:00 AM *Sugat* at USP Grounds

Mass of the Lord's Resurrection right after the *Sugat*

Note: NO 5:30 AM Easter Sunday Mass at St. Therese Church

Regular Sunday Mass schedules follow at 7AM, 9AM, 10:30AM, 4PM, 5:30PM & 7PM

May He bless you with all the joy and happiness life has to offer...

Happy Easter!



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From the St. Therese Parish TEAM OF PASTORS and PAROCHIAL VICAR

Donations

List of donors are posted at the parish bulletin board. For your donations, please drop them inside designated boxes or you may give donations at our PARISH OFFICE.

Do pray **1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...** each day at 8:00 in the evening for our church construction project.

CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Mass

Weekdays:

6:00 am Cebuano
12:00 nn English (except Saturday)
6:00 pm English

Sundays:

5:30 am Cebuano
7:00 am English
9:00 am English
10:30 am Cebuano (with baptism)
4:00 pm English
5:30 pm Cebuano
7:00 pm Cebuano

Special Services

Pre-Jordan Seminar Sunday morning
Pre-Cana Seminar 3rd Sunday 8:30 am
Eucharistic Vigil 1st Friday
Dawn Mass 1st Saturday 4:30 am
General Bible Study/ 1st, 2nd, & 3rd
Prayer Meeting Monday, 8 pm
Healing Mass Last Monday, 8 pm
Feeding Program Last Sunday
Bible Study with Friday, 7:30 pm
Msgr. Dakay

STP Bulletin Available Online

If you want to receive the monthly STP Bulletin online, send your e-mail address to our Parish Office or to sarahcanete2004@yahoo.com. Salamat.

FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE CHURCH PROJECT

(As of March 26, 2009)

Estimated project cost P43,000,000.00
Total cash donations received
(1/22/09) 14,219,726.51

**Amount needed to complete
the construction P28,780.273.09**

Donations can be given to the parish office or deposited at our Chinabank Account No. 279-040901-6. Please make checks payable to St. Therese Parish Foundation, Inc.

Official Receipts will be given.



St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish

Pasteur cor. Edison Sts., Lahug, Cebu City Tel. nos.: 233-4964 / 231-4380
Office hours: Monday thru Sunday 8am-5:30 pm
Website: www.sttherese.org.ph

STP Bulletin staff: Lorina Lepon, Clyde Rose Pios, and Sarah Cañete.

Contributing writers: Fr. Jacinto Rama, Jr., Fr. Jonie Tupas, Jr. and Fr. Rolando Manayon.

Spiritual adviser: Fr. John Jonah Orat.

The St. Therese Parish Bulletin is the official monthly publication of St. Therese Parish. It aims to foster unity and love among parishioners by providing schedules of services as well as articles that may upbuild the church through testimonies as well as other stories.

For comments and/or suggestions, please feel free to call the parish office at 231-4380 and look for Jeanna Villarante or Euvy Bascon Bucio during office hours.

