



The Anchor



Bishop Edward A. Fitzgerald Assembly 548

Vol. 2 No. 7

March 2010

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January Meeting: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at St. Francis. For meal reservations call Tim or Mary White @ 282 - 4298 by March 14, 2010

March Meal Team

*Tim & Mary White	282-4298
Art & Helen Mueller	289-3517
Jeff & Pam Bagniewski	289-3145
Jim & Dorothy Arendt	280-7823



Please check out the Meal Teams Link on the website to see what month you have been assigned to a meal team. If you are unable or unwilling to fulfill this obligation, please contact Berry Hobbs as soon as possible!

Bishop Fitzgerald Officer Contacts

Faithful Navigator:	Berry Hobbs
b.hobbs@charter.net	(507) 529-9059
Faithful Comptroller:	Jim Decker
j.bdecker@earthlink.net	(507) 282-5227
District Deputy:	Jeffery Bagniewski
jpbags@charter.net	(507) 289-3145

A complete listing of officers is available on our website: www.KofCAssembly548.org.

Anchors Aweigh by Berry Hobbs, FN

Top of the morning everyone, and Happy St. Patrick's Day to one and all.

Reading about the life and the times of our founder, Fr. Michael McGivney, I discovered that certain groups, like the Irish Catholics, were not appreciated, and life for many of them was very difficult. Fr. Michael McGivney reached out to the needy and suffering with love and gave them what he could in the way of material and moral support.

Like Fr. McGivney, we have so many opportunities to reach out to others with our love and support. There are so many opportunities at hand.

We have read the devastating news about the recent earthquakes in both Haiti and Chile. Seeing how these nations were ravaged by this great force of nature, we are called upon to support these people both prayerfully and materially.

On page four of this newsletter is an article that lists twenty-three meetings and events that need our support. Among these are the local council meeting, the assembly meeting, fish fry dinners, fish bake dinners, chili dinners, spaghetti dinners, and the traditional pancake breakfast. Revenues from these events are returned to groups or individuals who are in need.

On March 21st, a major degree will be held at Lourdes High School. Candidates from across this area will be exemplified. One of the degree's most important features will be the support shown to these new members. By our presence we support them on this important day in their life.

A Story of Prayer

A man's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her father. When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit.

"I guess you were expecting me," he said.

"No, who are you?" said the father.

The minister told him his name and then remarked, "I saw the empty chair and I figured you knew I was going to show up."

"Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?"

Puzzled, the minister shut the door.

"I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man, "but all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head. I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day four years ago, my best friend said to me, 'Johnny, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest. Sit down in a chair, place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised to be with us always. Then just speak to him in the same way you're doing with me right now.'"

So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church.

Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon.

"Did he die in peace?" he asked.

"Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?"

The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that."

Prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive.

I asked God for water, He gave me an ocean.
I asked God for a flower, He gave me a garden
I asked God for a friend, He gave me all of you
.If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God
Painful moments, trust God
Every moment, thank God.



Prayer Requests

- ✝ For the earthquake victims of Haiti and Chile.
- ✝ For Lady Kate Messmer recovering from a stroke.
- ✝ Fr. Don Connelly for his personal intentions.
- ✝ For SK Father Paul W. Surprenant recovering from a stroke.
- ✝ For Brother Albert Zangs, father of SK Mark Zangs.
- ✝ For Dorothy Mulholland, wife of Brother Scott Mulholland.
- ✝ Ed Maloney who suffers from a blood disorder.
- ✝ SK John Konkel whose mother, Marcella, recently passed away.
- ✝ SK Rich Siglow's father, Al, who is battling MS, and his cousin, Ace, who because of a tumor recently had one of his lungs removed.
- ✝ Darlene Ahlstrom, wife of SK Don Ahlstrom, who is recovering from a neck injury.
- ✝ For our journey through the holy season of Lent.
- ✝ For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.
- ✝ In gratitude for all of our priest and religious.

St. Patrick

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn, and he almost didn't get the job of bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship. Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he



considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God.

He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain for twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity.

His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the native pagans to Christianity. But his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. But two years later, Palladius transferred to Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as second bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity. His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.

Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated. Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were ever native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. And this stems from an Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in this country, in Boston.



Rediscovering CATHOLICISM

by
Matthew Kelly

A few weeks ago, SK Alan Peterson suggested that we participate in a program that allows us to order copies of Mr. Kelly's book free of charge; we only pay for shipping. If you are interested in a copy, please contact Alan or me.

Born in Sydney Australia on July 12, 1973, Mr. Kelly dedicated his entire adult life to speaking and writing. His goal is to inspire people to explore the vision that God has for their lives.

Mr. Kelly states that he is simply trying to share with others what he has witnessed, learned, discovered, and experienced about Catholicism. He goes on to mention that Catholicism is a program of life, a lifestyle, that encourages all who embrace it to become the-best-version-of themselves.



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Fr. William Kulas	02
Robert Robak	04
Richard Tarara	05
Michael Kieffer	14
Kevin Mulligan	19
Steven Freese	20
Kenneth White	20
Russell Wyant	21
Paul Leska	25
Richard Hamann	29



Meeting and Events

- 01 – Byron/Kasson Co. 14460 Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 01 – Plainview Co. 1781 Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 05 - St. John’s Co. 1013 Fish Bake, 5 – 7 p.m.
- 07 – Pancake breakfast @ Resurrection Co. 13027 after all Sunday Masses.
- 08 – St. John’s Co. 1013 Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 09 – Pax Christi Co. 14145 Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 09 – St. Francis Co. 14170 Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 11 – Holy Spirit Co. 11460 Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 12 - St. John’s Co. 1013 Fish Bake, 5 – 7 p.m.
- 14 – Regional Free Throw, Lourdes HS, 12 noon.
- 16 – B. Fitzgerald Assem. 548 @ St. Francis 6:30 p.m.**
- 17 – Resurrection Co. 13027 Rosary @ 7:30 p.m.
- 18 – Holy Spirit Co. 11460 Open House @ Valentino’s, 6 p.m.
- 19 – St. John’s Co. 1013 Fish Bake, 5 – 7 p.m.
- 21 – Major Degree, Lourdes HS, 1st Deg. @ 9:30 a.m.**
- 21 - Holy Spirit Co. 11460 Pancake Breakfast after morning masses.
- 22 – Spring Valley Co. 13609 Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 23 – Resurrection Co. 13027 Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 25 – St. Pius X Co. 14574 Meeting @ 7 p.m.
- 25 – Resurrection Co. 13027, Prayer Serv. for life @ 7 p.m.
- 26 - St. John’s Co. 1013 Fish Bake, 5 – 7 p.m.
- 27 – Pax Christi Co. 14145 Spaghetti Dinner following 5:15 p.m. mass.
- 28 – Byron/Kasson Co. 14460 Chili Dinner @ Holy Family, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Assembly Jackets

The assembly jackets are here. SK Ed Robinet has picked them up, and flags are being attached to the right sleeve. These jackets are very attractive, and the embroidery work is exceptional. Those of you who purchased one will be very proud of it. Ed will be bringing them to our next meeting, and those of you who purchased one may pick it up then. The price of the coats depended on the size. Listed below is the price of the jackets.

Med, Lg, XL	76.00
XXL	80.00
XXL Tall	85.00
XXXL Tall	89.00