

The Mustard Seed The Mustard Seed

March, 2011

Grace and peace be yours,

Looking out the window one might be tempted to think the earth is dead. Trees are bare. Piles of dirty snow cover the ground at this writing. But life continues below the surface and in a few short weeks we'll see the results. Similarly, one might conclude that we are all huddled in our cocoons, trying to stay warm until more friendly weather arrives.

But we must be hardy souls because the level of activity at the parish continues unabated. This newsletter includes news of a new faith-sharing group just begun. Another SCC has chosen to attend together the Bible Study, "Women and Scripture: The Liberating Word" taught by Diana Culbertson and offered here at the parish. A new resource is being tested and enjoyed by another SCC. The learning and growing continues.

As we near Lent, consider incorporating some of the parish offerings in your SCC life. You might attend the Wednesday Lenten soup suppers together and stay for evening prayer and the Church in the City presentation. Bishop Pilla opens the series on March 19.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday. Have you been to this traditional Lenten devotion in recent years? Consider attending as a group and then reflecting together on the mystery of our salvation in Christ.

Of course, our Palm Sunday evening of Sacred Music, Dance and Drama and the "high holy days" of our Triduum, (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil) will bring to conclusion this holy season.

Again this year the parish has ordered Little Black Books, available at the literature racks just before Lent. Like the Little Blue Books of Advent, these booklets offer day by day inspiration for the season.

Many years ago, as I left the parish for a week's retreat, Fr. Koegel wished me a "profitable" retreat. Wise words. A retreat, like Lent, offers some challenging moments, calls to conversion we might like to avoid, yet ultimately stretching and healthy. May you have a "profitable" Lent.

Love,
Pat

Announcing: A New SCC !

Another new Small Christian Community began regular gatherings in February. The group includes **Karin Jackoboice-Lesneski, Barbara Colonna, Judy Holder, Sr. Kathy McIntyre, Karen Moran, Sharon Ross and Elaine Sisler**. They plan to meet monthly for now with an option to gather more frequently later on. Since their individual schedules will permit it, the group will meet on Tuesday afternoon. After reviewing several resources, this SCC chose "Making Connections", from the new series, Gathered in His Name, offered by St. Anthony Messenger Press. "Making Connections" is especially designed for faith communities just getting started and provides materials for six sessions: opening and closing prayer, discussion questions, and even action suggestions for connecting faith and life between meetings. Keep this new faith-sharing group in your prayers as they begin "making connections" together.

New in the Resource Center

Why Be Catholic?: Understanding Our Experience and Tradition, by Richard Rohr and Joseph Martos, two popular authors, is not for the faint-hearted, but worth the effort. The one hundred and fifty pages are divided into only four chapters, each with its own set of discussion questions. The book aims to stake out the broad middle ground between those who believe the post-Vatican II church changed too much and those who believe it did not change enough. Given the number of pages in each chapter, this book is ideal for a SCC that meets monthly, allowing reading time between sessions. St. Anthony Messenger Press publishes this resource, also.

Resource Report

Carol Simpson, contact for her SCC, reports that they are loving the resource they began last month. What Must I Do?: Morality and the Challenge of God's Word, written by Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk in 1986 strikes a cord with Catholics today. Though this book is hard to find, Pilarczyk has written a similar book exploring Catholic principles and moral issues, Twelve Tough Issues: What the Church Teaches and Why. It has been updated and is more readily available. Both books cover each timely topic in a short chapter and follow that with several discussion questions. Warning: Don't choose these resources unless your SCC can handle spirited discussions!

SCC News

"Thank you" to **Mary Kaye Jeanmaire** for many years of faithful service as contact person-facilitator of her SCC.

And "Welcome" to **Janice Meyer** to graciously volunteered to pick up the reins for this Monday night group. With some changes in membership over time, this SCC has met for over twenty years! Congratulations!

