

# Adult Faith Formation

Committee Members:

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To deepen our understanding of our Faith and increase our Love for God

February 2010

## February Focus

In the midst of February's cold weather, media can occupy much of our free time. In this newsletter we have a couple of items referencing media.

The highlighted priests this month may be the last priests that many of our older lifelong parishioners remember, one was stationed here at St. Albert's for almost 30 years! Ask some older parishioners to tell you stories of Fr. Pothmann or Fr. Meyer. Continue to pray for all priests and seminarians in this year of the priest.

Lastly, ask any of the women or men that were on the CRHP retreats in January and all will tell you of the wonderful experience they had. If you think you would like to participate in a CRHP retreat, watch the bulletins and the newsletters for next year's dates.

*"Help us, O Lord, to live the faith which we proclaim,  
That all our thoughts and words and deeds may glorify your name."*

verse text—*Help Us, O Lord, Verse 2*

## Upcoming Events

- > **Feb. 17th—Lent Begins—**  
Ash Wednesday.  
Mass Times—7AM & 7PM
- > **Feb. 19th—Lenten Fish Fry—**  
4:30PM—7PM—Parish Center.
- > **Feb/Mar - Tentative Lenten DVD Series** — More info. in future Sunday Bulletins and Newsletter.

## Parenting Tip of the Month

*The winter cold has many people staying indoors, having much free time. As Catholic families wouldn't it make sense to have Catholic magazines available. Many of the secular magazines have outrageous articles and/or advertisements that are not family friendly. Why not stop those subscriptions and begin a subscription to a Catholic magazine? Two very good ones are: This Rock, and The Catholic Answer. To subscribe to This Rock, call 1-888-291-8000 or visit the website at [www.catholic.com](http://www.catholic.com). To subscribe to The Catholic Answer, call 1-800-521-0600 or visit the website at [www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com). These magazines will help you and your children learn and appreciate your Catholic faith.*

See the "Q and A for the Laity" for a sample of what's inside This Rock magazine.

## Q and A for the Laity

From a Quick Questions column of This Rock magazine.

**Question**—*Are we supposed to make three crosses on our forehead, lips, and heart right before the priest reads the Gospel passage?*

**Answer**—The General Instruction of the Roman Missal instructs us to do this: "[The Priest] says, A reading from the holy Gospel, making the sign of the cross with his thumb on the book of Gospels and on his forehead, mouth, and breast, which everyone else does as well" (GIRM 134). By this gesture, we are saying, "**May the words of the Gospel be ever in my mind, on my lips and in my heart.**" (bold emphasis added).

Source—*This Rock* magazine, Volume 21, Number 1

## Words of Wisdom

Our saint of the month worked with the saint quoted below. In this day and age of media overload, putting this quote into practice will keep temptation at a distance.

*"Do not argue with perverse thoughts or evil desires, but when they attack you, occupy your mind vigorously with some profitable meditation or plan until they vanish. No thought or intention is ever expelled from the heart except by some other thought or intervention incompatible with it."*

*St. Anselm 1036-1086*

## Friendly Defenders Papacy - Infallibility

**Question #4:** Galatians 2:11-12 says Peter "was clearly in the wrong." He was a hypocrite regarding the Gentiles. Peter was not infallible.

**Catholic Response:** Infallibility doesn't mean that Peter would be perfect or never sin. Jesus knew Peter would sin. Still, Jesus chose Peter to lead the Church and even prayed for him.

**Bible Verse:** "Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers." *Luke 22:31-32*

**Description:** Peter and his ancestors, the popes, are infallible only when they define faith and morals, not in personal conduct, or in predicting the weather, or the winner of the Super Bowl.

**Related Verses:** *John 21:17, Matthew 16:18-19, Acts of the Apostles 2:14*

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## Pope Benedict XVI

### February Prayer Intentions

#### Scholars

**General:** For all scholars and intellectuals, that by means of sincere search for the truth they may arrive at an understanding of the one true God.

#### The Church's Missionary Identity

**Missionary:** That the Church, aware of its own missionary identity, may strive to follow Christ faithfully and to proclaim His Gospel to all peoples.

## St. Peter Damian — February 21st



Peter was the youngest child in a large but impoverished family of local nobility. He became an orphan at a young age, and was sent to live with a brother who mistreated him and forced him to work as a swine-herd. Being a pious boy, Peter was eventually sent to live with another brother, Damian, who was a priest in Ravenna, Italy; Peter was so grateful that he took the name Damian. He became well educated in Ravenna, in Faenza, and in Parma, Italy. As a teacher, he was known for his life of strict austerity.

Around 1035, Peter gave up teaching to retire from the world and to become a Benedictine monk. His health suffered, especially when he tried to replace sleep with prayer. He was forced to spend time in recovery; he used it to study Scripture, and when he was healthy, he was assigned to teach his brother monks and then the public. At the Benedictine monastery Economus of Fonte-Avellana he became prior of the house in 1043, a post in which he served for the rest of his life. He expanded the monastery, greatly improved its library, and also founded many sister hermitages.

Peter Damian was a friend of the future Pope St. Gregory VII. When he attended a synod in Rome in 1047, he encouraged Pope Gregory VI to support a revitalization of Church zeal and clerical discipline. Peter Damian wrote *Liber Gomorrhianus*, which described the vices of priests, mainly in their concern with worldly matters, with money, and the evil of simony. He tried to restore primitive discipline among priests and religious who were becoming more and more worldly. He worked with St. Ariald the Deacon and St. Anselm of Lucca.

A prolific correspondent, he also wrote dozens of sermons, seven biographies, and poetry, including some of the best Latin of the time. He tried to retire to live as a simple monk, but was routinely recalled as papal legate, called upon to make peace between arguing monastic houses, clergymen, and government officials, etc. Peter Damian was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1828.

He died February 22, 1072, at Ravenna, Italy, while surrounded by brother monks reciting the Divine Office. He was immediately buried in the monastery church, as there were concerns that others would try to obtain his relics. His relics were moved several times, and since 1898 his relics have been in the Chapel of St. Peter Damian in the cathedral of Faenza, Italy.

*Source—saints.sqpn.com*

**“Let us faithfully transmit to posterity the example of virtue which we have received from our forefathers.”**

*St. Peter Damian*

**What is Simony?** - The buying or selling of spiritual things, which have God alone as their owner and master. *CCC glossary*

**What is a Legate?** - In its broad significance, it means that person who is sent by another for some representative office. In the ecclesiastical sense it means one whom the pope sends to sovereigns or governments or to the members of the episcopate and faithful of a country, as his representative, to treat church matters or as a mission of honor. *www.newadvent.org*

### A Prayer for Priests

*O Jesus, Eternal Priest, keep all Thy priests within the shelter of Thy Sacred Heart, where none may harm them.*

*Keep unstained their anointed hands which daily touch Thy Sacred Body. Keep unsullied their lips purpled with Thy Precious Blood.*

*Keep pure and unearthly their hearts, sealed with the sublime marks of Thy glorious priesthood.*

*Let Thy holy love surround them and shield them from the world's contagion.*

*Bless their labors with abundant fruit, and may the souls to whom they have ministered be here below their joy and consolation and in Heaven their beautiful and everlasting crown. Amen.*

*O Mary, Queen of the clergy, pray for us; obtain for us a number of holy priests.*

*- the following is another excerpt to reflect on as we acknowledge Pope Benedict XVI's "Year of the Priest" -*

### Reflections on the Priesthood

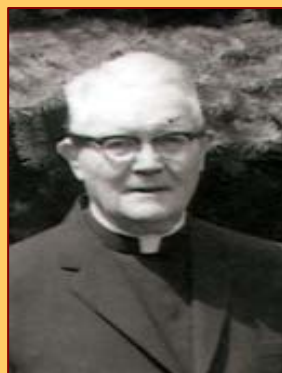
**by St. John Vianney**

“When the priest remits sins, he does not say, “God pardons you”; he says, “I absolve you.” At the Consecration, he does not say, “This is the Body of Our Lord,” he says, “This is My Body.”

St. Bernard tells us that everything has come to us through Mary; and we may also say that everything has come to us through the priest; yes, all happiness, all graces, all heavenly gifts.”

*Source—The Little Catechism of the Cure of Ars*

### With Grateful Thanks!



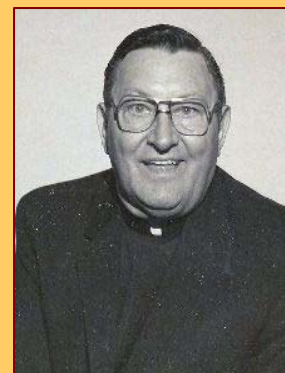
**Fr. Joseph Pothmann, OMI**

**Born: 09/28/1881-Died: 5/07/1968**

**Ordained: 1907**

**Served St. Albert's from  
1934 to 1963**

### With Grateful Thanks!



**Fr. Carl Meyer, OMI**

**Born: 11/29/1914 -Died 04/21/1990**

**Ordained: 1942**

**Served at St. Albert's from  
1963 to 1967**