

Adult Faith Formation

Committee Members:

Sue Berning, Chris Heuring, Beth Praught, Bill & Lois Roden, Jeanne Vetsch, Mike Welter

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

January 2010

January Focus

The New Year is here, and with it a new decade! It presents for us yet another opportunity to make a fresh start, especially in our spiritual lives. May we all embrace this gift of time by reflecting on what it means to be a child of God, by a willingness to change whatever needs changing in our lives, and by accepting God's will in all circumstances.

Simply remembering to open and close our day with prayer can be one way of discerning God's will. Another way might be listening to or seeking the advice of others. Think about either joining us for the Parish Mission or signing up for the CRHP Retreat—both mentioned in this flyer.

May all St. Albert parishioners have a happy and healthy new year!

*"Come thou almighty King, Help us thy name to sing; Help us to praise;
Father all glorious, O'er all victorious, Come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days."*

verse text—Come, Thou Almighty King, Verse 1

Upcoming Events

- > **Jan. 10-11th - Parish Mission.**
See info below
- > **Jan. 23-24th - Women's CRHP**
- > **Jan. 30-31st - Men's CRHP**
Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP),
See the info. below.
- > **Mar. 5th - Tentative Lenten Speaker** — Fr. Peter Laird.
More Info. in future newsletters.

Parenting Tip of the Month

Even in the cold and snowy months of winter, nature abounds with God's beauty. The glistening snow, with every snowflake having their own shape, could start a conversation about how God creates each of us with our own identity. When having fun in the snow make snow angels and ask your children to name them. It might prompt them to ask more questions about God's creatures, the angels, and about their own Guardian Angels. You might also put out seed for the birds and explain how we are to care for all God's creatures — great and small.

Dictionary for the Laity

From the story of our saint of the month, a word not often heard.

(From the Latin tertarius, the relative adjective of tertius, third.)

Tertiaries—what is known as "Third Orders", are those lay persons who live according to the Third Rule of religious orders, either outside of a monastery in the world, or in a religious community. They may or may not wear the habit, but they do participate in the good works of some great order. The idea which forms the basis of this institute is in general this, that persons who on account of certain circumstances cannot enter a religious order, nevertheless as far as possible enjoy the advantages and privileges of religious orders. This is most clearly expressed in the Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis which, although not the oldest, has, become the model for the rule of almost all other Third Orders.

Source—New Advent.org

*Mary,
Model
of
Faith,
Hope
and
Love*

How has Mary touched your life?

Come and hear how she can be a model to grow in faith, hope and love of Jesus.



St. Max's Catholic Book Store of Elk River will have religious items on sale both evenings of the Parish Mission.

Bring your shopping list!

St. Albert's Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)

Women's retreat
January 23rd and 24th

Men's retreat
January 30th and 31st

Sign-up boards and informational flyers are in back of church.

If unable to attend yourself, please keep those participating in your prayers.

Pope Benedict XVI December Prayer Intentions

Young people and Social Communications Media

General: That young people may learn to use modern means of social communication for their personal growth and to better prepare themselves to serve society.

Christian Unity

Missionary: That every believer in Christ may be conscious that unity among all Christians is a condition for more effective proclamation of the Gospel.

*St. Albert
Parish Mission
January 10th and 11th
7:00 p.m. in Church*



*Speaker:
Fr. Michael Therese
of
The Community of St. John
Laredo, Texas*

Adoration and Confessions available both evenings

St. Angela Merici — January 27th

When she was 56, Angela Merici said "No" to the Pope. She was aware that Clement VII was offering her a great honor and a great opportunity to serve when he asked her to take charge of a religious order of nursing sisters. But Angela knew that nursing was not what God had called her to do with her life.

She had just returned from a trip to the Holy Land. On the way there she had fallen ill and become blind. Nevertheless, she insisted on continuing her pilgrimage and toured the holy sites with the devotion of her heart rather than her eyes. On the way back she recovered her sight. But this must have been a reminder to her not to shut her eyes to the needs she saw around her, not to shut her heart to God's call.

All around her hometown she saw poor girls with no education and no hope. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries that Angela lived in, education for women was for the rich or for nuns. Angela herself had learned everything on her own. Her parents had died when she was ten and she had gone to live with an uncle. She was deeply disturbed when her sister died without receiving the sacraments. A vision reassured her that her sister was safe in God's care -- and also prompted her to dedicate her life to God.

When her uncle died, she returned to her hometown and began to notice how little education the girls had. But who would teach them? Times were much different then. Women weren't allowed to be teachers and unmarried women were not supposed to go out by themselves -- even to serve others. Nuns were the best educated women but they weren't allowed to leave their cloisters. There were no teaching orders of sisters like we have today.

But in the meantime, these girls grew up without an education in religion or anything at all.

These girls weren't being helped by the old ways, so Angela invented a new way. She brought together a group of unmarried women, fellow Franciscan tertiaries and other friends, who went out



into the streets to gather up the girls they saw and teach them. These women had little money and no power, but were bound together by their dedication to education and commitment to Christ. Living in their own homes, they met for prayer and classes, where Angela reminded them, "Reflect that in reality you have a greater need to serve [the poor] than they have of your service." They were so successful in their service that Angela was asked to bring her innovative approach to education to other cities, and impressed many people, including the pope.

Though she turned him down, perhaps the pope's request gave her the inspiration or the push to make her little group more formal. Although it was never a religious order in her lifetime, Angela's Company of Saint Ursula, or the Ursulines, was the first group of women religious to work outside the cloister and the first teaching order of women.

It took many years of frustration before Angela's radical ideas of education for all, and unmarried women in service, were accepted. They are commonplace to us now because people like Angela wanted to help others no matter what the cost. Angela reminds us of her approach to change: "Beware of trying to accomplish anything by force, for God has given every single person free will and desires to constrain none; he merely shows them the way, invites them and counsels them."

Saint Angela Merici reassured her Sisters who were afraid to lose her in death: "I shall continue to be more alive than I was in this life, and I shall see you better and shall love more the good deeds which I shall see you doing continually, and I shall be able to help you more." She died in 1540, at about seventy years old.

Prayer:

Saint Angela, you were not afraid of change. You did not let stereotypes keep you from serving. Help us to overcome our fear of change in order to follow God's call and allow others to follow theirs. Amen

Source—<http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php? saint>

A Prayer for Priests

*Keep them, I pray Thee, dearest Lord,
Keep them, for they are Thine.
Thy priests whose lives burn out before
Thy consecrated shrine.
Keep them, for they are in the world,
Though, from the world apart;
When earthly pleasures tempt or allure,
Shelter them in Thy heart.
Keep them, and comfort them
In hours of loneliness and pain,
When all their life of sacrifice
For souls seems but in vain.
Keep them, and O remember, Lord,
They have no one but Thee,
Yet they have only human hearts,
With human frailty.
Keep them as spotless as the Host,
That daily they caress;
Their every thought, word and deed,
Deign, dearest Lord, to bless.*

Amen

Continue with:

*One Our Father
One Hail Mary*

Conclude with:

*Mary Queen of Clergy, pray for them.
"Jesus, Mary, I love you, Save Souls."*

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

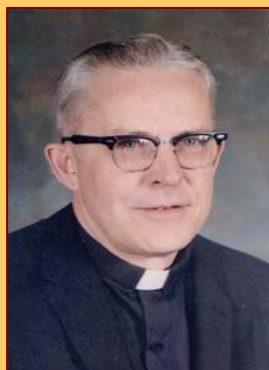
Reflections on the Priesthood

by St. John Vianney

"If someone were to ask you, pointing to the Tabernacle, "What is that golden door?" "That is our storehouse, where the true Food of our souls is kept." "Who has the key? Who lays in the provisions? Who makes ready the feast, and who serves the table?" "The priest."

Source—The Little Catechism of the Cure of Ars

With Grateful Thanks!



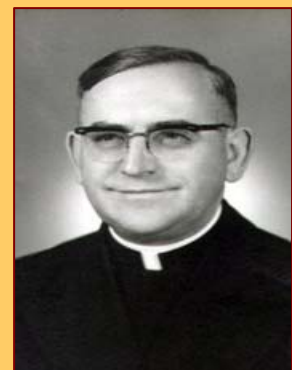
Fr. John F. Louis, OMI

Born: 08/15/1916

Ordained: 1943

**Served St. Albert's from
1967 to 1968**

With Grateful Thanks!



Fr. Paul Latusek, OMI

Born: 01/06/1916

Ordained: 1942—Died: 08/09/1980

**Served at St. Albert's from
1968 to 1978**