

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

June 2010

June Focus

The June newsletter highlights the final pair of priests who have served St. Albert's (actually they were our first priests). We also included Fr. Xavier, who, in this modern day and age, has a website of his own—check it out at—www.xavierthelakkatt.webs.com.

During the month of June we celebrate the solemnities of Corpus Christi and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. All three are moveable dates depending on when Easter is celebrated. While gathering information for these celebrations an interesting saint was brought to light—and the saint's feast day is in June. We hope you enjoy her story and investigate her a little more with the link provided (at one time she fasted for a time only drinking and eating beer and bread).

May all St. Albert's parishioners, even during this busy month, draw closer to the Sacred Heart Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

*"Dear Jesus, victim blest, What else but love divine,
Could Thee persuade to sacrifice, That Sacred Heart of Thine."*

verse text—To Christ, the Prince of Peace,, Verse 3

Upcoming Events

> **June 6th—Corpus Christi Procession**—Following 10 a.m. Mass. Join other parishioners in a public witness to Jesus truly present in the Holy Eucharist.

> **June 11-12-13th—Friendly City Days**—Various church organizations participate—Knights of Columbus Beer Garden, Catholic Aid Bingo, and the Prolife Float in the Parade.

> **June 20th—Father's Day and Closing of the "Year of the Priest"** Remember to bring your cards of appreciation for the St. Albert priests and place in the box provided in the back of church. Remember to continue to pray for all priests.

Dictionary for the Laity

What is special about first Fridays and First Saturdays?

Question 207 in the Catholic Answer Book by Rev. J. Trigilio and Rev. K Brighenti

Something uniquely Catholic are the First Friday and First Saturday devotions. Going to Church on Sunday is definitely a Christian tradition shared by Catholics, Protestants, and Eastern Orthodox believers. Going to Mass on the first Friday and the first Saturday of the month, however, is distinct to Roman Catholicism. It is not a custom of the Byzantine Catholic Church, but is found in the Western (Latin) tradition.



First Fridays

originate with St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), a French nun, who had experienced apparitions of the Sacred

Heart of Jesus. Our Divine Lord asked her to promote devotion among the faithful to his Sacred Heart, to display a picture or statue of the Sacred Heart in the home, and told her that for those who receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of the month for nine consecutive months, these promises would be fulfilled:

- ◆ "I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life."
- ◆ "I will establish peace in their homes."
- ◆ "I will comfort them in their afflictions."
- ◆ "I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all in death."

- ◆ "I will bestow a large blessing upon all their undertakings."
- ◆ "Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy."
- ◆ "Tepid souls shall grow fervent."
- ◆ "Fervent souls, shall quickly mount to high perfection."
- ◆ "I will bless every place where a picture of My Heart shall be set up and honored."
- ◆ "I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts."
- ◆ "Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be blotted out."
- ◆ "I promise thee in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all powerful love will grant to all those who communicate on the First Friday in nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving the Sacraments; My Divine heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment."



First Saturday

devotions originated with the apparitions of the Virgin Mary at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917 to three children, Appearing to the children, Jacinta, Francisco, and Lucia, Our Lady said:

- ◆ "I promise to help at the hour of death, with the graces needed for salvation, whoever on the first Saturday of five consecutive months shall:
- ◆ 'Confess and receive Holy Communion.'
- ◆ 'Recite five decades of the Holy Rosary.'
- ◆ 'Keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.'"

Parenting Tip of the Month

June is the month we celebrate Fathers. Do you remember the dialogue in the movie "White Christmas" about spending at least 5 minutes of time with each child? It was a comical reference about marriage and time management, but may be one that all fathers should think about. The state of the family would benefit greatly if every father would spend just 5 minutes a day or week with each one of his children in a loving and meaningful way.

During this baseball season—
Why not take a swing at it?

God Bless all Fathers!
St. Joseph pray for them!

Pope Benedict XVI June Prayer Intentions

Respect for Human Life

General: That every national and transnational institution may strive to guarantee respect for human life from conception to natural death.

The Churches in Asia

Missionary: That the Churches in Asia, which constitute a "little flock" among non-Christian populations, may know how to communicate the Gospel and give joyful witness to their adherence to Christ.

Happy
Father's Day
to all fathers

Sunday
June 20, 2010

In June the Catholic Church celebrates:

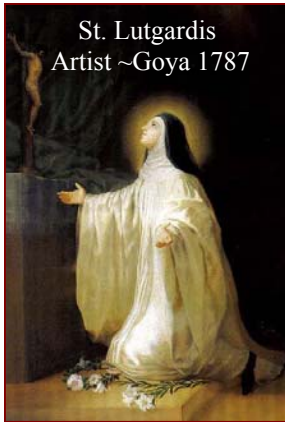
- ◆ Corpus Christi (The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ) - June 6th
- ◆ The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus—June 11th
- ◆ The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary—June 12th

Below are three short prayers, easily memorized that can help us remember the 2 solemnities and the feast.

- ~ *Most Precious Blood of Jesus, cleanse us from our sins.*
- ~ *Sweet Heart of Jesus, I implore that I may love you more and more.*
- ~ *Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation.*

St. Lutgardis—June 16th

Lutgardis was a pretty girl with a fondness for clothes and no apparent religious vocation. Her family lost her dowry in a failed business venture, and therefore she had little chance for a life as a normal, married lay woman. Thus at the age of 12, Lutgardis was sent to the Black Benedictine convent near Saint Trond. In her late teens Lutgardis received a vision of Christ showing her His wounds, and in 1194 at age 20 she became a Benedictine nun with a true vocation. She had visions of Christ while in prayer, experienced ecstasies, levitated, and dripped blood from her forehead and hair when enraptured by



St. Lutgardis
Artist ~Goya 1787

the Passion. Chosen as prioress of her community in 1205, she repeatedly refused the position.

The Benedictine order was not strict enough for Lutgardis however, and on the advice of her friend Saint Christina the Astonishing, in 1208 she joined the Cistercians at Aywieres (near Brussels in modern Belgium) where she lived for her remaining 30 years. She displayed the gifts of healing, prophecy, spiritual wisdom, and was an inspired teacher on the Gospels. Blind for the last eleven years of her life, she treated the affliction as a gift—

it reduced the distraction of the outside world. In one of her last visions, Christ told her when she was to die; she spent the time remaining in prayer for the conversion of sinners. Lutgardis died June 16, 1246 and is the patron saint of blindness, childbirth, and physically challenged people. She also is the patron saint of Flanders, Belgium.

For a more detailed explanation of St. Lutgardis' life go to— saints.sqpn.com then search St. Lutgardis and click on Vultus Christi under Additional Information.

Source— sqpn.com

With Grateful Thanks!



Fr. Xavier Thelakkatt
Born: 03/09/1954
Ordained: 12/19/1980
Served St. Albert's from 2009 to Present

**Friendly Defenders
Holy Orders - Priesthood**

Question #1: Why do you have priests? All Christians are priests. In 1 Peter 2:9, it says, "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood."

Catholic Response: The Jews were also a "nation of priests," yet they still had a *ministerial*/priesthood. The early Christians followed the same pattern.

Bible Verse: "So I exhort the presbyters among you, as a fellow presbyter and witness to the sufferings of Christ...Tend the flock of God in your midst..." *1 Peter 5:1-2*

Description: Priests, or "presbyters," minister to the Church through preaching and offering the sacraments.

Related Verses: *Leviticus 21:10-12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts of the Apostles 6:6, 13:3, 20:28; John 21:15-17; Titus 1:5*

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A Prayer for Our Priest

You came from among us to be, for us, one who serves. We thank you for ministering Christ to us and helping us minister Christ to each other.

We are grateful for the many gifts you bring to our community:

- For drawing us together in worship,*
- For visiting us in our homes,*
- For comforting us in sickness,*
- For showing us compassion,*
- For blessing our marriage,*
- For baptizing our children,*
- For confirming us in our calling,*
- For supporting us in bereavement,*
- For helping us to grow in faith,*
- For encouraging us to take the initiative,*

For helping the whole community realize God's presence among us.

For our part, we pray that we may always be attentive to your needs and never take you for granted. You like us need friendship and love, welcome and a sense of belonging, kind words and acts of thoughtfulness.

We pray also for the priests who have wounded priesthood, may we be willing to forgive and may they be open to healing. Let us support one another during times of crisis.

God, Our Father, we ask you to bless our priests and confirm them in their calling. Give them the gifts they need to respond with generosity and a joyful heart.

We offer this prayer for our priests, who are our brothers and friends.

Amen

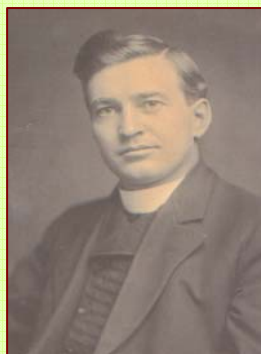
Knights of Columbus Council 13144

- the following is the final excerpt to reflect on as we close Pope Benedict XVI's "Year of the Priest" -
Reflections on the Priesthood
by St. John Vianney

"... the fingers of the priest, that have touched the adorable Flesh of Jesus Christ, that have been plunged into the chalice which contained His Blood, into the pyx where His Body has lain, are they not still more precious? The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus. When you see the priest, think of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

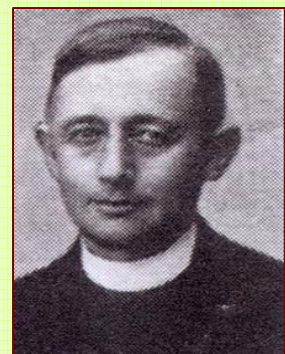
Source—The Little Catechism of the Cure of Ars

With Grateful Thanks!



Fr. William H. Blum
Born: Unknown
Ordained: 09/24/1902
Died: 07/27/1931
Served St. Albert's from 1903-1904

With Grateful Thanks!



Fr. Anton Miks
Born: 01/06/1871
Ordained: 12/28/1895
Died: 12/21/1937
Served St. Albert's from 1904-1906