

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

March 2010

March Focus

The first Sunday of March begins the 3rd week of Lent, a good time to think about how our Lenten offerings have been going. The AFFC has planned a DVD presentation that parishioners are invited to attend during this Lent. Let it be an opportunity to increase your Lenten reflection time. See the box below for information on the presentation.

St. Joseph's feast day is March 19th and we have a prayer for priests asking for his intercession for them. However the featured saint of the month in the newsletter is not St. Joseph, but a model for our young parishioners, St. Dominic Savio. Dominic was guided by another saint, St. John Bosco. St. Albert's Lending Library has a video on St. John Bosco—why not check it out and view it with the whole family?

*"Take up your cross, the Savior said, if you would my disciples be;
Deny yourself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me."*

verse text—*Take Up Your Cross, Verse 1*

Upcoming Events

- > **Mar. 12th & 26th—Lenten DVD Presentation**—In the Footprints of God—see box below and Sunday bulletins for more info.
- > **Mar. 28th—Penance Service** — At St. Albert's beginning at 7 PM.
- > **Mar. 28th—Holy Week begins**— see the Sunday Bulletins for the times of Masses, Adoration and Stations of the Cross.

Parenting Tip of the Month

Remember the phrase, "Practice makes perfect"? For anyone who has ever strived for perfection in anything, i.e. sport or musical talent, those words bring back memories — both good and bad. During Lent the phrase can also refer to what we are giving up or doing extra for Lent. If you didn't begin any penitential practice for Lent or haven't asked your children what they are going to give to God for Lent, it's not too late! Make a list of what each family member is giving up and put on top of the list — "Practice make perfect." Have the list in a prominent spot in the house (*the dining table or the bathroom mirror are two good spots*) and review with each other from time to time how everyone is doing. This is a great way to strengthen the domestic church in your home.

Dictionary for the Laity

Prophecy—in its strict sense means the foreknowledge of future events, although it may sometimes apply to past events of which there is no memory, and to present hidden things which cannot be known by the natural light of reason. The knowledge must be supernatural and infused by God because it concerns things beyond the natural power of created intelligence, and the knowledge must be made known either by words or signs. The gift of prophecy is given primarily for the good of others.

Mortification of the flesh—literally means "putting the flesh to death". The term comes from Saint Paul in this quote: "For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live".

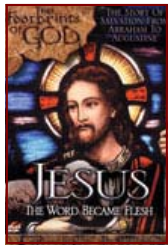
In its simplest form, it can mean merely denying oneself certain pleasures, such as abstaining from alcoholic beverages or certain foods, foregoing pleasurable activities, or denying ourselves what we might consider just everyday conveniences (such as hot water for the shower or turning up the thermostat). It can also be practiced by choosing a simple or even impoverished lifestyle; this is often one reason many religious communities live by vows of poverty.

In some of its more severe forms, it can mean causing self-inflicted pain or harm.

Source —www.newadvent.org

Lenten DVD Presentation

St. Albert's AFFC is providing an opportunity to view two segments of:



**Steve Ray's
In the Footprints of God
Jesus—The Word Became Flesh**

On **March 12th** we will view *Proclaiming the Kingdom* in which Steve will explain and show areas where Jesus preached and proclaimed the Good News.

On **March 26th** we will view *To Pay the Price* in which Steve will take us to sites pertaining to Christ's passion and death.

The half-hour presentation will begin at 6:45 PM in church. Handouts of questions that Steve Ray addresses will also be available. Everyone who comes to view the DVD segments are welcome to stay for Stations that begin at 7:30 PM.

This is a great opportunity to see on big screen some of the places of the Holy Land.

Friendly Defenders

Salvation - *Eternal Security*

Question #3: Once you become a Christian, you can't lose your salvation.

Catholic Response: That's not true. The Bible warns believers many times to persevere in faith and be obedient to the end.

Bible Verse: "Those on rocky ground are ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of trial." *Luke 8:13*

Description: Clearly, believers can fall away.

Related Verses: *Romans 11:22; 1 Corinthians 10:11-12; Galatians 5:4; Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-27; 1 Corinthians 9:27; Philipians 2:12; Ezekiel 18:24*

© 2001 Ascension Press

Pope Benedict XVI March Prayer Intentions

World Economy

General: That the world economy may be managed according to the principles of justice and equity, taking account of the real needs of peoples, especially the poorest.

The Churches in Africa

Missionary: That the Churches in Africa may be signs and instruments of reconciliation and justice in every part of that continent.

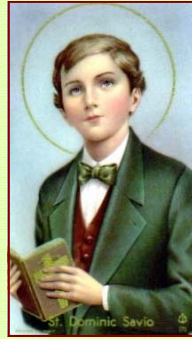
St. Dominic Savio — March 9th

Dominic was born in Riva, Piedmont, Italy, in 1842. Dominic was one of ten children of a peasant blacksmith and a seamstress. He grew up with a desire to be a priest. When St. John Bosco began to train youths to assist him to help in the care for neglected boys at Turin, Dominic was recommended to St. John Bosco by his parish priest. St. John Bosco would eventually write Dominic's biography, as he was impressed upon meeting him and knowing him during Dominic's short life on earth.

In October 1854, at the age of twelve, Dominic became a student at St. John Bosco's Oratory of St. Francis de Sales in Turin. The group, called the Company of the Immaculate Conception, was known for its devotional measures and taking special care of boys who were misfits.

Early in his stay at the oratory, Dominic halted a fight with stones between two boys. Holding a crucifix between them he said, "Before you fight, look at this, both of you, and say 'Jesus Christ was sinless, and He died forgiving His executioners; I am going to outrage Him by being deliberately revengeful.' Then you can start - and throw your first stone at me."

He scrupulously followed the discipline of the house, incurring resentment from some other boys from whom he expected the same behavior. Nevertheless, he never repaid ill-treatment in kind. St. John Bosco's guidance probably curbed Dominic from becoming a young fanatic. He forbade Dominic to perform bodily mortifi-



cation without his permission, believing that with ". . . heat, cold, sickness (and) the tiresome ways of other people--there is quite enough mortification for boys in school life itself."

He found Dominic shivering in bed one cold night with only a thin sheet. "Don't be crazy. You'll get pneumonia," he said. "Why should I?" replied Dominic. "Our Lord didn't get pneumonia in the stable at Bethlehem."

On one occasion when Dominic was missing from morning until after dinner, St. John Bosco found him in the choir of the church, standing in a cramped position by the lectern, deep in prayer. He had been there for six hours, yet he thought that early Mass was not yet over. Dominic referred to these times of intense prayer as "my distractions."

Dominic became known for his cheerfulness, friendliness, careful observation, and good advice. Though only a boy, he was blessed with spiritual gifts far beyond his age--knowledge of people in need, knowledge of the spiritual needs of those around him, and the ability to prophesy. Dominic's fragile health worsened, and in 1857, he was sent home to Mondonio for a change of air. He was diagnosed with tuberculosis, and was bled, which probably hastened his death on March 9, 1857. He was beatified in 1950 and canonized in 1954.

Dominic Savio is the patron saint of cantors, choirs, choirboys, boys, and juvenile delinquents.

Source—saints.sqpn.com

A Prayer for Priests

O illustrious patriarch St. Joseph, who carried the Infant Jesus in your blessed arms and who, during the space of thirty years, lived in the most intimate familiarity with Him, take under your powerful protection those whom He has clothed with His authority and honored with the dignity of His priesthood, whom He has charged to continue His Mission, to preach His Gospel, and to dispense everywhere His graces and blessings. Sustain them in their fatigues and labors; console them in their pains; fortify them in their combats; but above all, keep far from them all the evils of sin.

Obtain for them the humility of St. John the Baptist, the faith of St. Peter, the zeal and charity of St. Paul, the purity of St. John, and the spirit of prayer and recollection which you, my dear Saint, are the model, so that, after having been on earth the faithful dispensers of the Mysteries of your foster Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, they may in Heaven receive the recompense promised to pastors according to the Heart of God. Amen.

- 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

"The priest is not a priest for himself; he does not give himself absolution; he does not administer the Sacraments to himself. He is not for himself, he is for you. After God, the priest is everything. Leave a parish twenty years without priests; they will worship beasts. If the missionary Father and I were to go away, you would say, 'What can we do in this church?' there is no Mass; Our Lord is no longer there: we may as well pray at home.' When people wish to destroy religion, they begin by attacking the priest, because where there is no longer any priest there is no sacrifice, and where there is no longer any sacrifice there is no religion."

Source—The Little Catechism of the Cure of Ars

With Grateful Thanks!



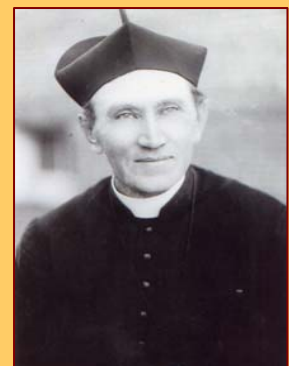
Fr. John B. Schulte, OMI

Born: 1/1/1876-Died: 2/3/1953

Ordained: 1901

**Served at St. Albert's from
1926 to 1931**

With Grateful Thanks!



Fr. Joseph Schuster, OMI

Born: 2/10/1882-Died 8/3/1945

Ordained: 1908

**Served at St. Albert's from
1931 to 1934**