

# Adult Faith Formation

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

February 2009

## February Focus



The snow and cold continue to chill us this winter. Looking on the brighter side we can tell ourselves we're getting closer to a new season. It's a mixed bag again of information in the newsletter, we hope you find it informative. Lent starts February 25th and we invite everyone in the parish to come and listen to Fr. Peter Laird speak about God's Love, especially appropriate for us to remember during our Lenten journey.

*"Blest are the pure in heart,  
For they shall see our God;  
The secret of the Lord is theirs,  
Their soul is Christ's abode."*

verse text — *Blest Are the Pure in Heart, verse 1*

## Dictionary for the Laity

**Evangelization**—The proclamation of Christ and his Gospels (*Greek: evangelion*) by word and the testimony of life, in fulfillment of Christ's command.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

## Upcoming Events

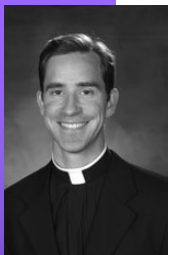
- > Fr. Peter Laird to speak — Friday, February 27th—6:30 PM in Church. See the box for more details.
- > Stations of the Cross—7:30 PM, Fridays beginning February 27th.

## Parenting Tip of the Month

Below are some excerpts from the book—The Little Catechism of the Cure' of Ars.

"Nothing is so beautiful as a pure soul. . . . Purity comes from Heaven; we must ask for it from God. If we ask for it, we shall attain it. . . . Three things are wanted to preserve purity—the presence of God, prayer, and the Sacraments. Another means is the reading of holy books, which nourishes the soul. . . . A pure soul is the admiration of the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity. The Father contemplates His work: There is My creature! . . . The Son the price of His Blood: the beauty of an object is shown by the price it has cost. . . . The Holy Spirit dwells in it, as in a temple. . . . A pure soul with God is like a child with its mother. It caresses her, it embraces her, and its mother returns its caresses and embraces."

During this month pray for purity for yourselves and your children.



**Fr. Peter Laird**  
**Vice Rector and Assistant Professor**  
**of Moral Theology at The Saint Paul Seminary**

**Will speak at**  
**St. Albert's Church**  
**Friday, February 27th at 6:30 PM**

*~Understanding the Love of God~*

*"The root reason for human dignity lies in man's call to communion with God. From the very circumstance of his origin man is already invited to converse with God. For man would not exist were he not created by God's love and constantly preserved by it; and he cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and devotes himself to His Creator."*

*GAUDIUM ET SPES (ON THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD)*

## Stations of the Cross to follow talk at 7:30 PM

Our own Archdiocesan Cathedral—the Cathedral of St. Paul—has an honorary place for the February saints featured in this newsletter. The honorary place is one of the six chapels that make up the Shrine of Nations. See the backside of the newsletter for all the saints in the Shrine of Nations.

*"At first glance the Shrine of the Nations appears to be a tribute to the national and ethnic identities and to the particular devotions and histories of the different peoples who, through immigration, made significant contributions to the Catholic settlement of Minnesota."*

*"The individual chapels which make up the Shrine of Nations each have a lesson to teach about evangelization that is relevant to the "new evangelization" spoken of in the Church today."*

quote source—Stone & Glass, The meaning of the Cathedral of Saint Paul by Dia Boyle

## Pope Benedict XVI

### February Prayer Intentions

**General:** That the Pastors of the Church may always be docile to the action of the Holy Spirit in their teaching and in their service to God's people.

**Mission:** That the Church in Africa may find adequate ways and means to promote reconciliation, justice and peace efficaciously, according to the indications of the Synod of the Bishops' Special Assembly for Africa.

To all our ancestors here at St. Albert's, the ancestors who built the Cathedral of St. Paul and the ancestors of the Catholic Faith who carried the faith down through the ages, we thank you and pray that God grant you eternal rest.

## Friendly Defenders

### Tradition—Tradition, Bible, or Both?

**Question #3:** You have man-made traditions.

Colossians 2:8 says not to follow "the traditions of men."

**Catholic Response:** Christians don't have to follow man-made traditions, but the Bible says we are to follow apostolic, or sacred, Tradition.

**Bible Verse:** "I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold fast to the traditions, just as I handed them on to you."

*1 Corinthians 11:2*

**Description:** This Sacred Tradition came from Jesus to the Apostles for the whole Church. Guided by the Holy Spirit, under the leadership of the pope and bishops, the Church lives, preserves and passes on Sacred Tradition.

**Related Verses:** *2 Thessalonians 2:15, Acts of the Apostles 20:35, Matthew 28:19-20*

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## The Cathedral of St. Paul—Shrine of the Nations

### St. Anthony of Padua—Patron of Italy

"Entering the Shrine of the Nations from the south side, the first chapel is dedicated to Saint Anthony of Padua, depicted in this chapel as a gentle man dressed in the simple habit of a Franciscan and carrying the Gospels."

### St. John the Baptist—Patron of French Canada

"The dedication of a chapel in the Shrine to Saint John the Baptist was a recognition both of the immigrants in Minnesota from French-speaking Canada and of the fact that the first hundred years of the region's Christian history took place under the rule and influence of New France."

### St. Patrick—Apostle to Ireland

"In a Cathedral built by an archbishop named Ireland, who immigrated to Minnesota from Ireland, and a large portion of whose flock had ties to Ireland, a chapel dedicated to Ireland could hardly be omitted."

### St. Boniface—Apostle to Germany

"Saint Boniface whose stern and recollected figure forms the centerpiece of the German chapel, was a scholarly English monk who, in the early eighth century, heard God calling him to bring the Gospel to northern Europe, a region still largely pagan."

### Sts. Cyril & Methodius—Apostle to the Slavs

"A statue of Saints Cyril and Methodius stands above the altar in the chapel dedicated to the Slavs, who are, very generally speaking, the peoples of Eastern Europe and Russia."

### St. Therese—Patroness of All Missions

"In the last chapel of the Shrine of the Nations stands a statue of a tall and slender Saint Therese of Lisieux. This idealized portrayal of Saint Therese, whose small stature and round face are now well-known from photographs, captures perhaps more of her spiritual stature than her actual physical appearance."

quote source—Stone & Glass, The meaning of the Cathedral of Saint Paul by Dia Boyle

## Sts. Cyril & Methodius — February 14th



Cyril was born in Thessalonica, north-east of Greece, and educated in Constantinople. He and his brother Methodius belonged to a senatorial family of Thessalonica, but their mother was probably a Slav.

Cyril was ordained a priest in Constantinople. He taught philosophy at the university and defended the Gospel of Christ.

The older brother, Methodius, after being governor of one of the Slavic colonies, became the abbot of a monastery in Greece.

A decisive change in their lives occurred when in 862, Ratislav, the Duke of Moravia, asked the Easter Emperor,

Michael III, to send him Christian missionaries to teach his people in their own language. Moravia is present day Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia. He wanted political independence from German rule and ecclesiastical autonomy, that is, for Moravia to have its own clergy and liturgy. Cyril and Methodius undertook the missionary task.

### The Two Brothers Become Missionaries

The two brothers were sent to the court of Ratislav at Velehrad. They both prepared Slavic liturgical texts in what would subsequently be known as the Cyrillic alphabet. It was formed from Greek capital letters. Together they translated the Gospels, the Psalter, Saint Paul, and the liturgical books into Slavic and composed the Old Slavonic liturgy.

That, and their free use of their native language in preaching, led to opposition from the German clergy. The bishop refused to ordain Slavic bishops and priests, and Cyril was forced to appeal to Rome. On the visit to Rome, they had the joy of seeing their new liturgy approved by Pope Adrian II.

### Cyril's Death

Cyril, long an invalid, died in Rome fifty days after taking the monastic habit.

An Old-Slavonic writing of Cyril's life described his death in these words, "When the moment for rest had come, and the time to emigrate to the eternal dwelling, he raised his hands toward God and praying and weeping cried out: 'Lord, my God, You created the angelic orders and incorporeal spirits. You stretched out the heavens, made the earth firm and called all things into being out of nothingness. You always hear those who do Your will and bear witness to You and observe Your precepts. Hear my prayer and keep in the faith Your flock over which You placed me, Your unworthy and unsuitable servant.

Deliver them from the impious and pagan malice of those who curse You, and let Your Church increase in number and gather all into one. Render Your people, the elect, harmonious in Your true faith and in the right confession, and inspire in their hearts the word of Your doctrine. For it is Your gift that chose us to preach the Gospel of Your Christ, to inspire good works and accomplish what is pleasing to You.

What You have given me I give back to You as Yours. Guide it with Your strong right hand, protect it in the shadow of Your wings so that all may praise and glorify Your Name of Father and Son and Holy Spirit. Amen"

Then after giving everyone a holy kiss, he said: "Blessed be God who has not given us as food to the teeth of our invisible adversaries but has broken their snare and saved us from perdition." Then at forty-two years of age he fell asleep in the Lord.

### Methodius Continues

Methodius continued mission work for sixteen more years. He was papal legate for the Slavic peoples, ordained bishop, and then given an ancient see in present Yugoslavia. Though suffering much from detractors, he received assistance from Pope John VIII. He defended himself against charges of heresy and upheld his use of the Slavic liturgy. He was again vindicated. Methodius died in Moravia, April 6, 885.

Saints Cyril and Methodius are honored as the apostles of the Slav. On their feast day the Church prays: "Merciful God, You have enlightened the Slavonic nations by the teaching of the brothers Cyril and Methodius. Help us to assimilate the teaching of Your doctrine and perfect us as a people united in the true faith and its expansion."

Source—Best - Loved Saints by Fr. L. G. Lovasik, S.V.D.