

AD LUCEM!



INSTITUTE FOR
DIACONAL STUDIES

FEBRUARY 2016

TO: INSTITUTE FOR DIACONAL STUDIES COMMUNITY

FROM: DEACON BOB PUHALA, DIRECTOR



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a 40-day period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Falling within this Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us enter even more deeply into the graced season of Lent so that we will welcome God's ocean flood of mercy that is showered down upon us.

A Lenten Reflection

- **Opening Prayer**

God, Father of us all, open our eyes so that we might see those around us who are suffering or in need because of our sins. Grant us the competency to see and the courage to act to help establish your peaceable Kingdom of love, justice and mercy, where Jesus is Lord forever and ever.

All: Amen.

- **Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 8b-10**

... bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Jesus Christ before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

- **Prayerful Intentions**

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

That you will come into our hearts with all your transforming love so that our actions toward others will be pleasing to you, we pray ...

That we will have the strength to change and heal the inequities and injustices of the world, we pray ...

That Lent will become a time of renewal for our families so that the life they choose to live will make room for those who are without love, support and care, we pray ...

That we will be given the vision to honor all you have created and live responsibly, we pray ...

That we will keep your teachings as we encounter your image in the faces of all we meet each day, we pray ...

- **Our Father:** Let us pray as Jesus taught us ...

- **Closing Prayer**

God of love and compassion, help us to walk in your ways. Guide us as we proclaim your gospel of love and mercy to a world still in need of salvation. Have mercy on us when we fail.

We ask this in Your Son's name.

All: Amen

Rev. Bernard Kennedy, OFM

February 14 – Feast of SS. Cyril & Methodius

Cyril and Methodius, brothers and residents of 9th c. Thessaloniki, are well known as the apostles to the Slavs. Belonging to a Christian family of high social status, they received an excellent education. Cyril became a philosophy professor and Methodius a civil official. Ultimately the brothers renounced their secular positions, received holy orders, and retired to a monastery. Their considerable intellectual gifts – philosophy, rhetoric, and linguistics – and administrative skills made them ideal candidates to be sent on mission.

Despite obstacles including language and cultural barriers, political turmoil, criticism, and opposition, the missionary brothers made a lasting impact on the Slavic nations. Their success can be attributed to perseverance and lifelong dedication, but also to their application of the eastern custom of translating the liturgy into the vernacular. The brothers developed a script for the Slavonic language and translated the liturgy, rendering it accessible and understandable to the majority who did not know Greek or Latin. As missionaries from the east to the west, Cyril and Methodius remain powerful models of both evangelization and unity. Like the brothers, modern day missionaries and evangelists can become more effective by understanding and loving the culture in which they work and preach and by translating the good news into the language of today's generations.



Around IDS

Courses

Spring Semester courses continue:

- Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Aspirancy)
- New Testament (Year 1)
- Ecclesiology & Mariology (Years 1 & 2)
- Homiletics III (Year 2)
- Moral Theology (Years 2 & 3)
- Presiding at the Rites II (Year 3)

Special Formation Sessions

- Feb. 5-6 – Celibates Retreat (Years 1 & 2)
- Feb. 6-7 – Couples Retreat (Years 1 & 2)
- Feb. 6 – Presiding at the Rites practicum (Year 3)
- Feb. 13 – Lenten Day of Reflection (Years 1, 2, 3)
- Feb. 27 – Year 3 Wives’ Day of Recollection
- Feb. 27 – Presiding at the Rites practicum (Year 3)

The Mid-Semester Break takes place the week of Monday, February 15. Classes resume on Monday, February 22.

Exploring the Diaconate

IDS offers two *Exploring* sessions in February and one at the beginning of March:

- Thursday, February 4, University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein (Prist Center, Bldg. 201P), 7:30pm – 8:30pm
- Saturday, February 6, St. Ailbe (Parish Meeting Room), Chicago, Vicariate VI, 1:00pm – 2:00pm
- Thursday, March 3, University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein (Prist Center, Bldg. 201P), 7:30pm – 8:30pm

These sessions are intended to raise vocation awareness of potential applicants who would begin formation in August 2016. All are invited to attend. No preregistration is required. For more information, contact Deacon Bob Puhala, bpuhala@usml.edu, 847.837.4564.

IDS February Birthdays

Prayers for a special blessing on these folks who celebrate birthdays this month:

2/5 – Chris Fisher; 2/8 – Tom Donegan; 2/16 – Gina Buckley; 2/18 – David Pham; 2/25 – Karen Mutnansky & Patty Powers

Let Us Remember in Prayer Those Entrusted to Our Care

Pray for our beloved who have passed from this life to the next: Johnny Miller, Bridget Lenihan, Ann Chester, Elizabeth Ruth Lynch, Dr. Gerry Girdaukas, Maria Carmen Woodard, Kathy O’Brien, Robert Kunkel, Rev. Richard Mueller, Rev. Luc Tran, Tom Tricarico

Pray in a particular way for all of our sick: Stanislaw Ciomek, Marites Negrón, Catherine O’Hearn, Rita Farina, Justin Souta, Tom Seehausen, Yuki Birck, Lorraine Olley, Barbara Kupsak