



# HUMILITAS

Promoting Lives of Virtue, Inspired by the Humility of  
our Patron St. Charles Borromeo.



ISSUE 10, Lenten Edition

[www.stcharlesperu.org](http://www.stcharlesperu.org)

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## The Good Works of Lent

The only thing I remember about Lent as a child was the idea that I had to give up something. I disliked giving up things, because it was often something I enjoyed. I can even remember the look on my mother's face when I told her I was "*giving up giving up things.*" I tried to convince her that I really enjoyed the penitential nature of Lent, and that by not giving up anything would in itself be a true sacrifice. She didn't buy it for a minute. I cannot remember what I gave up that year, but I'm sure it was something she thought would help me to be a better son, student, or Christian.

The point is, even growing up in a Catholic home, with parents who were both involved with the Church, somehow I missed the point of why I had to give something up. I always saw it as a negative. Only later in seminary would I come to appreciate the fact that it was not simply a choice to give up something (negative), because every choice against something is also a choice for something (positive)!

By emptying ourselves, but denying ourselves, we hopefully are also making positive choices to love God and to love our neighbor (Cf. Matthew 22:36-40). I shouldn't simply give up eating meat on Friday because that is a rule of the Church, it should go beyond a legalistic adherence to ecclesiastical rules. Take the following example.

A friend of mine REALLY enjoys going to the movie theatre. As you know movies are pretty expensive these days, and so during Lent he chooses to "give up" going to the movies. That would satisfy the letter of the law, but would it satisfy the intention or idea of denying oneself a morally acceptable good? No, and that is why he doesn't end there. Every Lent he dedicates more time to studying the Scriptures and to prayer. Where does he find the time? By not going to the movies he gives up a lesser good and chooses a greater good. And so too it is with the money he saves (because he really likes popcorn and the gigantic fountain drink that's probably not very good for him anyways) as he buys groceries for the local homeless shelter.

As you can see, Lent is not just about giving up something. Hopefully our fasting leads us to love of God and to love of our neighbor. Those are the "*Good Works*" of Lent, or the "*Bona Opera*" as I learned about them in the monastery. Lent is a time when we let go of the lesser goods and focus on the greater goods. It is a time of renewal when we should strive to imitate Christ who said, "*Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends*" (John 15:13).

I would encourage you all to read through Matthew, Chapter 6, a part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In this short chapter we hear Jesus' teaching on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Certainly they go hand in hand. As Jesus said, "*If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me*" (Luke 9:23).

Fr. Adam





## Why ADORATION?

The Second Vatican Council proclaimed that the Eucharistic sacrifice is “the source and summit of the Christian life.” St. John Paul II reiterated and expounded on this in his encyclical *On the Eucharist* (2003). There

have been many books and articles written, CDs made, and talks given by popes, priests, Catholic theologians, and laity over the centuries that further enlighten our understanding of the Eucharist. It IS the summit of who we are as Catholics. Plain and simple, Jesus is truly present, body, blood, soul, and divinity. The accidentals (looks and taste) remain the same, yet Jesus Christ, second person of the Triune God, is fully present. When we receive Him at Mass, it is the closest to heaven that we will come in this life.

If Jesus was to return to earth for the next three years and during that time visit Catholic churches, I dare say, when He visited St. Charles Borromeo here in our small town, the church would be totally packed. People would be crowded in the pews, standing in the aisles, lined up outside the church, in hopes to get a glimpse of Him in the flesh. The motivations might be very diverse...everything from curiosity to real devotion, hopes of forgiveness or healing, to a burning desire to hear Him speak.

Jesus actually gives us that opportunity. He knew He would be leaving us. He knew the faith of some would be weak (after all, it was so even during His earthly life). He knew we would need Him and He wanted to be with us to the end of time. So He gave us the gift of Himself, true God and true man, when he instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper. Body. Blood. Soul. Divinity. This is what is meant by Real Presence: the actual physical presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

During adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus is calling us to faith. It is our sacred duty and great honor to adore Him, to sit in His holy presence, to gaze upon Him with love and let Him gaze upon us. It is an immeasurable source of grace.

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## TRUE STORY OF FORGIVENESS

I'd been mad at my cousin Jackie since I was a child. I was mad at her for 50 years, but in all that time I don't think she even knew. It wasn't a great burning hatred. I didn't want something bad to happen to her. I just didn't like her and told myself I would be perfectly happy if I never saw her again. When I was growing up, our family and my aunt's family (my mother's sister Maxine) were close. I remember being so happy when the cousins were coming to visit or when we went to see them.

After a while I wasn't so happy. Jackie was mean to me. I remember little things like playing jump rope together. My sister Carol and I turned the rope while Jackie jumped and Jackie and I turned the rope while Carol jumped, but when it was my turn to jump, Jackie was ready to move on to something else. Jackie made it clear she preferred my sister to me, causing bad feelings. It was like this every time we got together, and often I was completely left out. Sometimes Jackie acted like she wanted a hug and I was so happy, but at the last minute she would say or do something hurtful and, of course, no hug. I always wondered why she was so mean to me.

Last fall I made a trip to San Antonio to visit my Aunt Maxine who was 94 years old. She had been diagnosed with heart problems and had sent me a card saying she wanted me to come visit her. So I did.

When my sisters and I arrived at our Aunt's little apartment, my cousin Jackie came to greet us as we got out of the car. I thought to myself, “I was hoping she wouldn't be here.” She was slim. I am not. She was beautiful. I am not. She was dressed perfectly. I was feeling pretty dumpy. She was much the same as I remembered her. Very smiley. I'd forgotten about the dimples in her cheeks. She was bouncing around, talking fast. Same old Jackie.

We went inside. I sat on the couch next to Aunt Maxine and had just started talking to her when Jackie proceeded to tell everyone goodbye. She told her mother she would be back later. Impulsively, I said, “Wait! I'll walk out with you.”

When we got outside I said, “Please don't leave. I haven't seen you in so long.” She said she had a few minutes to talk. I asked about her Mom. She updated me on what was going on. I said, “How are your girls?” She was happy to tell me. I asked if

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## True Story of Forgiveness, continued from page 2

she had any grandchildren. She showed me pictures on her phone. I was thinking, "Same old Jackie. She hasn't asked about me or my family."

Then she looked at me with a bit of seriousness on her face. I had a moment of concern, but then she reached up and took a few wayward strands of hair that had fallen across my face and tucked them behind my ear and she smiled her beautiful smile. As it was happening I remember thinking, "This is it! This is all I ever wanted!" And at that moment all the bad feelings flew out of my heart and I loved her. I didn't realize how much these feelings had been bothering me all these years, but in one second my heart flooded with love and forgiveness. Gone! Gone! All gone! What a joyful holy experience!

Maybe this story should have ended differently. My cousin and I might have done some sharing. Maybe I should have told her how I felt all these years and given her the opportunity to say she was sorry. But no. Things don't always work the way we think they should. But I'm certain it happened exactly as God planned.



Remember this: Jesus asks the Father to forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Saint Teresa of Avila tells us to look closer at this. Is Jesus telling us to forgive others? No! In this perfect prayer, Jesus is assuming that we already have forgiven those who hurt us. Forgiven them unconditionally.

*Katherine Lamb*

## Lenten Opportunities

**Ash Wednesday, February 18**

—8:00 a.m. Mass with ashes

—7:00 p.m. Mass with ashes

**Parish Fish Fry, Friday, February**

20th sponsored by the Knights of

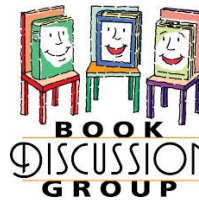
Columbus from 3:30 p.m. to

7:00 p.m.



**Mission of Mary Prayer Group:** Join Mission of Mary Prayer group on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office.

## Lenten Opportunities Continued



**Monday Night Book Club and Discussion Group** meets every Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. in school room 8.

**Daily Rosary, Monday thru Friday** at 12:00 p.m. in the church.



**Parish Mission: Welcome Leighton Drake of Drawn to Life**

**Ministries** for "Wholly His: The Call to Fullness of Life." a three night Lenten Mission. A unique ministry of Evangelization through WORD and ART. Join us on February 22-24 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. in the church.



**Stations of the Cross** in the church every Friday at 7:00 p.m. from February 20th thru Good Friday, April 3rd.

**Reconciliation** is every Friday following Stations of the Cross and every Saturday at 3:45 p.m.

**Parish Lenten Penance Service,** March 19th at 7:00 p.m.

**Divine Mercy Chaplet** is every Friday at 3:00 p.m. in the church.

**F.I.R.E. Course, "Overview of the Liturgy"** Fr. Adam will facilitate this course on Wednesday, February 25th in school room 8.

**F.I.R.E. Course, "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us"** Dr. Anne Roat will facilitate this course on Wednesdays, March 18th and March 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in school room 8. Reservations requested.

**Chrism Mass** is held on the Tuesday evening of Holy Week in our Diocese. During this Mass, the priests and deacons of our diocesan community gather around Bishop Doherty, who blesses the Holy Oils for use in the coming Year. These oils are: Oil of the Sick, Oil of Catechumens, and Sacred Chrism. At the end of the Chrism Mass, the Holy Oils are brought back to the parishes in the Diocese.

Our **Chrism Mass is Tuesday, March 31st, 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral in Lafayette**



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During a Holy Hour our love for Jesus becomes more intimate, our love for each other more understanding, and our love for the poor more compassionate (Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta). It is the best way to grow spiritually outside of Mass (Pope Paul VI). He is there in the Blessed Sacrament for you, and you alone. He burns with the desire to come into your heart (St. Therese of Lisieux). In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked for one thing from His apostles: their presence, their companionship. Jesus asks the same from us.

Eucharistic Adoration is every Sunday from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m., and on the Tuesday following the second Monday from Mass until 8:00 p.m. Jesus wants to be with you. He is beckoning you. Can you spend an hour with Him?

*Rita Cook*

## Mass Times to Remember

**April 2nd:**

**Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 p.m.**

**Washing of the feet**

**Adoration until midnight**

**April 3rd:**

**Good Friday Passion Service at 1:00 p.m.**

**Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.**

**EASTER**

**THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

**Saturday, April 4th:**

**Vigil Mass at 8:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, April 5th:**

**Masses at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.**

The Little Lenten Black Books  
will be in the main vestibule of the church  
on Ash Wednesday.