



Partners in Faith & Action

April 2016

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

As we are celebrating our Easter Season, please join in one or more of our School or Sunday celebrations of the Mass.

- April 10th, Family Mass at 9:00 a.m. with a reception following in the Church Hall. The 6th graders will attend the Mass before they leave for Yosemite.
- April 17th, the 4th grade students will be readers and gift bearers at the 9:00 a.m. Mass with a reception following in the Church Hall. This is the Mass in which we thank our coaches for all of their time and effort with our students.
- April 24th, the 2nd grade students will be the readers and gift bearers and will receive their First Communion at the 12:15 p.m. Mass.
- April 29th, the kindergarten students will be readers and gift bearers at the Mass for St. Peter Chanel at 8:30 a.m. in the Church. Archbishop Cordileone will be the principal celebrant.
- May 1st – Archbishop Cordileone will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation at 9:00 a.m. A reception will follow.

ARCHBISHOP CORDILEONE

Archbishop Cordileone is visiting every parish in the Archdiocese. He will celebrate the St. Peter Chanel Mass with our students on April 29th. He will then visit the school; have dinner with representatives of various parish organizations, and culminate his visit by conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 1st. We look forward to his visit.

LENTEN RICE BOWL

We hope that during Lent you were able to use the Lenten calendar in your Rice Bowl to learn more about the people in Rwanda, Honduras, Madagascar, Columbia, and Laos through their stories. The donations from the Rice Bowl will help these people and people in our own community. Please return your Rice Bowls to

the school so that we may send the money to Catholic Relief Services.



EASTER

Remember, Easter is not one day. It is a season. The Easter Season refers to the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. This year Pentecost is on May 15th. Easter is a time of new life. During Lent many of us made Lenten promises which, if we are still keeping them, will lead us to a new and better life.

For most families, including Christians, God gets an hour on Sunday, and we get the rest of the day to hunt eggs and feast on sweets. There's nothing wrong with traditional Easter celebrations; it's just that those in themselves are not enough. The shame isn't that we are celebrating Easter Day; it is that we are missing Easter *Season*. It's like scraping off the icing without realizing you could have had cake too. That may be hard for most of us to comprehend in our culture that prizes a "hurry-up and move-on" attitude. But God, who specifically called his people to times of annual celebration and festival, did so because seasons of celebration accomplish significant things in the lives of His followers. (from focusonthefamily.com)

You might want to pick up *The Little White Book* at NDV Church to spend six minutes a day in prayer during the 50 days of Easter.

EARTH DAY



April 22nd is Earth Day. On April 22, 1970 Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin founded Earth Day.

Care for creation is one of the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Our lives and the lives of future generations depend on the resources of the earth which are entrusted to our care. To go about one's day blind to the precious resources we are wasting is the same as saying

to Jesus, “When did we see you hungry and not feed you?” We can teach our children that taking care of creation is an essential part of loving their neighbor and living the Gospel. (from catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com)

What can we do to help our earth?

- Recycle and compost
- Don't litter and pick up litter you see
- Create a garden. If you have a vegetable garden, perhaps you can share your produce with others.
- Turn off and unplug electronics when not in use.
- Collect your unused toys and clothing and donate them to charities.

Check out the following sites to find out more about Earth Day:

<http://www.earthdaysf.org>

<http://earthday.envirolink.org/>

www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/environmental/earthday/earthday_events.cfm



MARIST WEEK

During the week of April 25th, we learn more about the Marists and their charism. Fr. Rene and Fr. Siffert visit the classrooms to tell the students more about the Marist Order and their history.

The Society of Mary was approved on January 10, 1836 by Pope Gregory XVI. The approval was dependent on the Marists accepting the mission to the Western Pacific. In 1841, Peter Chanel became the first martyr of the Pacific mission.

Peter was born in 1803 in the diocese of Belley, France. At the age of seven, he was a shepherd boy, but the local parish priest, recognizing something unusual in the boy, convinced his parents to let him study, in a little school the priest had started. From there Peter went on to the seminary.

He was ordained a priest and assigned to a parish at Crozet. In three years he had transformed the parish. In 1831, he joined the newly founded Society of Mary, since he had long dreamed of being a missionary; but for five years he was assigned to teach at the seminary in Belley. Finally, in 1836, his dream was realized, and he was sent with other Marists to the islands of the Pacific. He had to suffer great hardships,

disappointments, frustration, and almost complete failure as well as the opposition of the local chieftain. The work seemed hopeless: only a few had been baptized, and the chieftain continued to be suspicious and hostile. Then, when the chief's son asked for baptism, the chief was so angry that he sent warriors to kill the missionary.

Peter's violent death brought about the conversion of the island, and the people of Futuna remain Catholic to this day. Peter Chanel was beatified in 1889 and canonized in 1954.

Thought for the Day: Success or failure is often not completely in our hands, and sometimes we have to face what seems almost certain failure. But success is not required of us, only fidelity. St. Peter Chanel's work ended in his own death in the face of what seemed total failure. Out of that failure, God brought about the success Peter was seeking. (Taken from "The One Year Book of Saints" by Rev. Clifford Stevens published by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., Huntington, IN 46750.)

WORKS OF MERCY

We have just celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday and Pope Francis has declared this an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Mercy is a trait of God but not God alone. He invites us to be like him. In the Gospel, Jesus invites each of us to "be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36)

The Corporal Works of Mercy are acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs.

feed the hungry
give drink to the thirsty
clothe the naked
shelter the homeless
visit the sick
visit the imprisoned
bury the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are acts of compassion, by which we help our neighbors with their emotional and spiritual needs.

counsel the doubtful
instruct the ignorant
admonish sinners
comfort the afflicted
forgive offenses
bear wrongs patiently
pray for the living and the dead