



Holy Cross

Connections

REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL

By Fr. Jerry Stluka

After a winter of record breaking cold, ice and snow, I'm ready for spring! Lent, the spring time of the Church, is a season of new life, healing and forgiveness – a good time to focus on the sacraments of healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.

Frequently people ask me: “Why should I confess my sins to a priest?” I often respond with another question: “Why did God become human?” Could our compassionate God be wanting us to experience forgiveness and healing in a very personal and powerful way? Could our sins provide the opportunity to receive and celebrate God's healing, forgiving presence in our lives? Could our sickness be the occasion for our spiritual and physical healing?

I recall the first time I heard someone's confession.

The penitent was a young girl with a serious speech impediment who was anxiously making her first confession. I'm not sure who was more nervous! I couldn't understand a word she said!

I learned a very important lesson that day. It was her faith in our forgiving God that was most important. Her sin provided the opportunity to receive and celebrate God's merciful forgiveness.

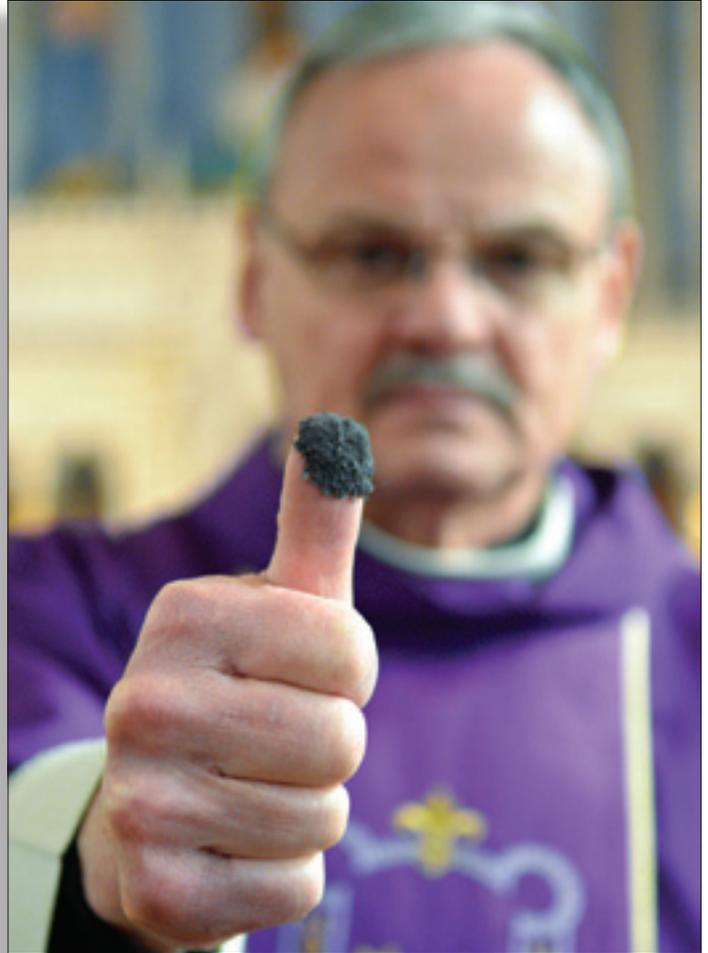
Sometimes when I offer to anoint a patient in the hospital, I receive a very anxious response: “I'm not dying!” With a caring smile I re-assure them that I am NOT the angel of death but rather a minister of healing and new life. After being anointed the patient will usually express with heartfelt gratitude: “I feel better already!”

During this springtime of the Church, we will have the opportunity to celebrate these sacraments of healing:

RECONCILIATION: Sunday March 30, 4:00 p.m.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Sunday April 27, during both Masses.

During these springtime seasons of Lent and Easter, may we all experience the joy of God's healing presence in our lives.





Lay Ministry, a way to allow Light to Shine...Salt to Enhance

By Sr. Anne Keenan

“Jesus said to his disciples: “You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world...that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

There are many ways for us to live out this exhortation offered to us by Jesus, but I would like to apply this gospel quote to those who are called to serve as liturgical ministers in the Church.

All liturgical ministers are, first and foremost, members of the Body of Christ. Through their baptism they are a “holy people and a royal priesthood” whose right and privilege it is to participate in the ministry of Christ.

How the lay faithful exercise this ministry varies depending on the gifts each one possesses. Some have a voice and presence that commands the attention of the listener as he or she proclaims God’s Word. Others have a heightened sense of hospitality which allows them to be excellent greeters and ushers. They let their light shine. No matter how we minister we realize serving as a liturgical minister is both an honor and a responsibility, and those who commit to it need nurturing and support.

This nurturing occurs by the support we receive from being with others who minister, as well as with those in the Church who have come to worship. Together our prayer and presence for, and with one another, helps us move closer toward the Lord.

All are present to work out our salvation and reach out to others. Specifically, as liturgical ministers we are to be humble, and all our words and actions lead one another to God. We are the salt that flavors and enhances the world around us.



Dates to Remember



- March 2.....Burning of Palms after 9:00 a.m. Mass
Pancake Breakfast after both Masses
- Mon. March 17.....St. Patrick’s Day Mass 9:30 a.m. – Holy Cross
- Sun. March 30Reconciliation Service for our Deanery 4:00 p.m. at **Holy Cross**
- April 13**Palm Sunday**, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Masses
- April 17**Holy Thursday**, 6:00 p.m. Liturgy followed by Adoration until 11:00 p.m.
- April 18**Good Friday** Stations, 1:00 p.m., Liturgy 2:00 p.m.
- April 19**Easter Vigil**, 8:30 p.m.
- April 20**Easter Sunday**, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Masses
- April 27Anointing of Sick during both Masses
- May 4.....May Crowning 9:00 a.m. Mass
- May 11First Holy Communion 11:00 a.m. Mass

A Capsule History of Holy Cross Parish

By Raymond Kiersh

Summarized from Historical Notes by Msgr. Joseph Hakel

Installment 2



Following the dedication of Holy Cross Church on January 16, 1848 the parish continued to grow. One year to the day (Jan 16, 1849) Fr. William Schonat, the first resident pastor of Holy Cross Parish, sang his

last High Mass in Holy Cross Church. Fr. Schonat was promoted to Holy Trinity Parish in Cincinnati. Fr. Caspar Borgess was named pastor of Holy Cross in January 1849, a position he held for ten years. The constant influx of German and Irish immigrants as well as the natural increase in local population caused overcrowding in the church. To meet language demands of the parishioners, two separate services were scheduled; one in German and a second for the English speaking members. It became evident that the parish needed to be divided. In 1851 an Irish priest, Fr. John Furlong, received permission from Archbishop John Baptiste Purcell to form St. Patrick Parish. The Irish continued to attend Holy Cross during the next two years while St. Patrick Church was built. Archbishop Purcell laid the cornerstone on Sunday May 5, 1852 and on September 25, 1853 St Patrick Church, at the corner of Grant and Naghten Streets was dedicated. The Holy Cross Choir sang at the solemn High Mass dedication exemplifying the happy and peaceful division of the parishes.

With the continuing growth of Columbus, Holy Cross purchased land on South Third Street. German immigrants who settled on farm lands south of Holy Cross

then formed St. Mary Parish on this land after 1863. And this is why Holy Cross has been referred to as the mother Church of Columbus.

Another highlight of Fr Borgess' pastorate was the construction of the steeple. The brick work for the steeple had been laid with the church walls but only to the level of the roof. The base was raised to thirty feet above roof level and construction of the steeple, in the shape of an octagon was begun. Members of the congregation cut trees, hauled the lumber some seven miles to the church, where it was cut and dressed. The wooden structure was then covered with heavy sheet tin painted slate gray. The top was surmounted by a gilt crown and a gilt cross twelve feet high. The height of the steeple rose 183 feet from the ground making Holy Cross the largest and tallest church in Columbus, an honor it maintained for many years. The exact date

of completion of the steeple was not mentioned but the installation of three chime bells was noted as being added in 1855. The three bells weighed 170 pounds, 1480 pounds and 2860 pounds. It is important to note here that all the work

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– Raymond Kiersh

involved in the construction of the steeple and installation of the bells was completed without the use of modern equipment; the work was done by hand, using ropes, pulleys, ladders and scaffolding. The tower has three levels: the first in the choir loft, the second near the roof top and the third at the top of the tower with access to the steeple, bells and clock. The tower and steeple were finished at a cost of \$7,000.00; the bells were added at a cost of \$1,500.00. I recall the first time we attended Mass at Holy Cross, seeing the steeple as we drove west on Rich Street. Even with the tall buildings that surround it, Holy Cross is easily seen and identified by its beautiful steeple.

NEXT: The Civil War Years





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Parish Staff

Reverend Father Jerome D. Stulka, Pastor
 Rev. Fr. Ramon Owera, in residence
 Rev. Fr. Jose Manickathan, in residence
 Sister Anne Keenan, OP, Pastoral Associate
 Deborah L. Matthews, Coordinator of Religious Education
 Kelly Doman, Music Director

Liturgy Schedule

Sunday: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
 11:30 a.m. Tuesday - Saturday

Reconciliation

Every Friday: 1:00 a.m.
 Every Sunday: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.