

125th Anniversary!



# The Pilgrim



**Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs**

Aurillesville

February, 2010

Volume CXV (115) No. 28

Since 1884 - The Oldest Continually Printed American Publication

Join us in celebrating 125 years of extraordinary blessings,  
bestowed by God's grace,  
through the presence and mission of this Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs.

## Upcoming Events

### Mini Retreats

Saturday, February 20, 2010  
Saturday, March 20, 2010  
10:00 am  
Visitor Center

### Lenten Sunday Masses

beginning March 7, 2010  
11:30 am  
Visitor Center

### Easter Ecumenical Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 4, 2010  
6:30 am  
Visitor Center

### Easter Sunday Mass

Sunday, April 4, 2010  
11:30 am  
Visitor Center

National Shrine of North American Martyrs  
Birthplace of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

### Our Mission

The Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs is a place of natural beauty and spiritual renewal. We are dedicated to the memory of the martyred Jesuits and Blessed Indian maiden who sanctified this hallowed place. Through the example of the missionaries' courageous faith, which provides the bedrock of our devotions here, we strive to strengthen the faith of all who visit us. We will always be guided by our loving Father, so that these historic grounds may be a place of peace, love, prayer, and reconciliation, where each and every pilgrim may be welcomed with joy, and may leave here with a soul refreshed and renewed.

## Marked by Ashes

Ruler of the Night, Guarantor of the day . . .

This day — a gift from you.

This day — like none other you have ever given, or we have ever received.

This Wednesday dazzles us with gift and newness and possibility. This Wednesday burdens us with the tasks of the day, for we are already halfway home

halfway back to committees and memos,  
halfway back to calls and appointments,  
halfway on to next Sunday,  
halfway back, half frazzled, half expectant,  
half turned toward you, half rather not.

This Wednesday is a long way from Ash Wednesday, but all our Wednesdays are marked by ashes — we begin this day with that taste of ash in our mouth:  
of failed hope and broken promises,  
of forgotten children and frightened women,  
we ourselves are ashes to ashes, dust to dust;  
we can taste our mortality as we roll the ash around on our tongues.

We are able to ponder our ashness with some confidence, only because our every Wednesday of ashes anticipates your Easter victory over that dry, flaky taste of death.

On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way to you — you Easter parade of newness. Before the sun sets, take our Wednesday and Easter us, Easter us to joy and energy and courage and freedom; Easter us that we may be fearless for your truth. Come here and Easter our Wednesday with mercy and justice and peace and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One who comes soon.

Walter Brueggemann

### Lenten Masses

Wednesday, February 17-  
Saturday, April 3

Find it in the Gift Shop  
at the Visitor Center

### Easter Novena

Sunday, April 4 -  
Monday, April 12

Intention envelopes are available  
in all the Shrine buildings.

### Visit our Website

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

### Call us

(518) 853-3033

### Email us

[Graphics@MartyrShrine.org](mailto:Graphics@MartyrShrine.org)

# at the Shrine

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## February Mini Retreat

Join Fr. Peter Murray as he presents **St. Ignatius and the Year for Priests** at the next Mini Retreat on Saturday, February 20 from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm in the Visitor Center. St. Ignatius had an interesting and even radical view of the Catholic priesthood. As we move into Lent 2010, Fr. Murray will review Ignatian philosophy which is still relevant today. The day also includes faith sharing, fellowship, pot luck lunch and Mass. Please call Father Murray at 853-3033 ext. 222 for more information.

## Lenten and Palm Sunday Masses

Beginning on Sunday, March 7th, the Shrine will celebrate Sunday Lenten Masses at 11:30 am in the Visitor Center. Come and join other pilgrims in making these services part of your Lenten schedule. Beverages will be available after the Masses.

## Easter Services

The annual Easter Ecumenical Sunrise Service will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 4th at 6:30 am in the Visitor Center. For more information, call Rev. Chris DeGraf at 518 853-1479. The Mass on Easter Sunday will be at 11:30 am also in the Visitor Center. For more information, call Fr. Peter Murray at 518 853-3033 ext 222. Come celebrate Easter with fellow pilgrims at our beautiful Shrine!

## Fr. Bob McGuire

The Shrine family is pleased to report that our beloved Fr. Bob McGuire is now convalescing and is engaged in a rehabilitation program after his hip replacement surgery in December. Fr. Bob continues to contact all his many friends and has many ideas for new activities at the Shrine. We can't wait for his full recovery and return to Auriesville. Please feel free to send Fr. Bob a note or card at his winter residence in New York: Fr. Robert McGuire, S.J., Murray-Weigel, 515 East Fordham Road, Bronx, NY 10458.

## Shrine Information

If you wish to know what's happening at the Shrine at anytime, call the Shrine number, **853-3033**, and choose option **3**. All Shrine events and activities are detailed in a recorded message. You can also check the Shrine website [www.martyrshrine.org](http://www.martyrshrine.org) for events, news and a tour!

## Lenten Thoughts

Lent is an excellent time for all of us ... a season of grace ...a time of fasting and renewal. Lent, which begins in a rather cold wintry time of year and ends in springtime is a season needed by all of us. It's a time to step back, to think about where we have been and where we might be heading. It's a time when we ask God: How can I get closer to you? How can I serve your people better? What might I take out of my life (or put in) that will make me a better disciple?

Lent is also a period to stress themes like forgiveness, healing, reconciling with enemies, and listening to a God whose love is unbounded. These are always part of God's plan and they will always help us on our road to eternal life. That journey begins right here and now, right in our own yard.

Fr. Peter Murray, S.J.

## Preparing for Lent

Anything worth doing is worth preparing for. Just imagine that this Lent is going to be different from every other Lent we've experienced. Imagine that there will be many graces offered me this year. Let's even imagine that God is going to help transform our lives, with greater freedom, greater joy, deeper desires for love and service.

If we want it, we will choose it. Lent will be this wonderful season of grace for us if we give ourselves to it. And, we will give ourselves to it to the degree we really want it badly. So, in these days before Lent, we need to prepare our hearts. We need to prepare by realizing how much we want to grow in freedom, how much we need to lighten our spirits and experience some real joy, and how much some parts of our lives really need changing.

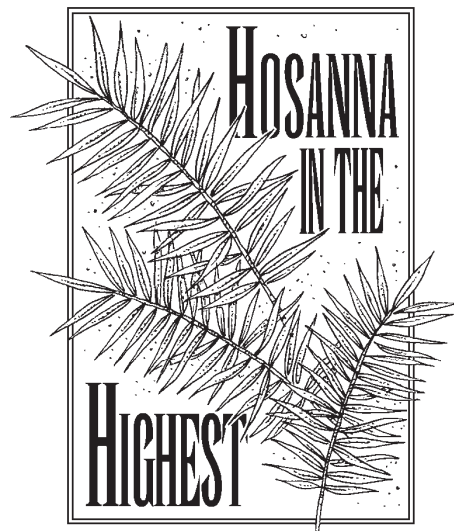
So, preparing our hearts is a process of preparing our desires. This means practicing our sense of anticipation. If I imagine Lent as an "ordeal" or a time I dread in some way, then I've already predisposed myself to not get very much out of it. These days before Lent are a time to start anticipating something wonderful that is about to happen.

Our focus is on what God wants to give us. Our sense of excitement and anticipation will grow more easily if we begin to imagine what God wants to give us. There is really something coming that we can look forward to. If we get too focused on ourselves, and what we are going to do or not do, we could risk missing the gift God wants to give us. We have to keep aware of the fact that grace comes from God. This is about God's great desire to bless us. Then, it is easier for us to imagine that what we really want to do is place ourselves in a space to receive what God wants to give us. ...

Before we get to Ash Wednesday, we should start asking ourselves some questions and we should start with some preparations. "What does God want to give me this year?" This question may require that I slow down a bit and listen to my inner spirit. ...

May our Lord bless us all on this journey ahead.

Creighton University



*Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Give it two wings: fasting and almsgiving.*

Saint Augustine

## See Our Revised Web Site!

The Shrine Staff and webmaster Rich Kosiba have revised and updated the Shrine's web site [www.martyrshrine.org](http://www.martyrshrine.org). In addition to getting information about Shrine activities, you can read historical briefs about the Shrine and the Auriesville saints. A map allows you to click on numbered dots to view a picture and read a description of the chapels, Coliseum, Visitor Center, Welcome Center, museums, statues and other highlights of the Shrine. A Scrapbook page shows pictures of the many Shrine activities of the past year including services, concerts and socials. The online catalogue is available for you to purchase merchandise from the Gift Shop. You can also read testimonials, read the Pilgrim, see Shrine staff and make a donation. Check it out today!



## Lent is...

Lent is the time for trimming the soul and scrapping the sludge off a life turned slipshod. Lent is about taking stock of time, even religious time. Lent is about exercising the control that enables us to say no to ourselves so that when life turns hard of its own accord we have the stamina to yes to its twists and turns with faith and hope.... Lent is the time to make new efforts to be what we say we want to be. **Sr. Joan Chittister**

In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the River Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent forty days asking himself the question of what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves...to answer questions like this is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end. **Frederick Buechner**

## Spiritual Training Camp for Lent

Jesus prepared himself for his ministry by a period of fasting, praying, and strengthening himself against temptation. How will we use the time of Lent for our spiritual training camp? Lent can be a spiritual training camp for us today. It is a time to practice the use of God's word as our defensive weapon against temptation. What spiritual training plans will we put into practice during Lent? Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are traditional. The Ash Wednesday's passage from the gospel might suggest that we spend a few minutes each day in reading Scripture. Are we trying to live by "bread alone?" We might write a plan for each week of Lent. Here are some suggestions to get us started:

- First Week I will . . . spend some time reading the gospels or the psalms.
- Second Week I will . . . fast from foods unhealthy for body and soul.
- Third Week I will . . . volunteer at a soup kitchen, thrift shop, or day care center.
- Fourth Week I will . . . learn a few lines of Scripture by heart.
- Fifth Week I will . . . give clothes, money, or possessions to the poor.
- Sixth Week I will . . . participate in Holy Week liturgies.

## Repentance

It is not repentance that saves me; repentance is the sign that I realize what God has done in Christ Jesus. The danger is to put the emphasis on the effect instead of on the cause. Is it my obedience that puts me right with God? Never! I am put right with God because prior to all else, Christ died. When I turn to God and by belief accept what God reveals, instantly the stupendous atonement of Jesus Christ rushes me into a right relationship with God. By the miracle of God's grace I stand justified, not because of anything I have done, but because of what Jesus has done. The salvation of God does not stand on human logic; it stands on the sacrificial death of Jesus. Sinful men and women can be changed into new creatures by the marvelous work of God in Christ Jesus, which is prior to all experience. **Oswald Chambers**

## Giving Up for Lent

A conversation between a father and his 10-year-old son, reported in the newspaper, illustrates the problem in our attitude toward Lent. The father was attempting to explain to his young son the necessity for giving up something for Lent. In fact, the father went beyond the nondirective method of parenting to suggest that the lad give up candy.

Quizzed by the boy about this kind of religiosity and what it would bring, the father replied that "It will improve your character. You'll be a better person on Easter Sunday if you give up candy. After all, your mother and I have given up liquor for Lent."

The boy then said: "That's funny Dad. I saw you and mother having a drink before dinner last night." The father replied, "That was wine. We gave up hard liquor."

The lad countered, "Oh, that's good. I'll give up hard candy."

## Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to God that made us. It behooves us, then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

President Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation for a National Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, April 30, 1863

## "No Regrets ..."

World citizen and contagious Christian Terry Waite entitled his autobiography *Taken on Trust*. In it he recounts his horrendous experience as a hostage in Beirut prisons for 1,763 days, almost four years of which were in solitary confinement. His first cell, underground, was 7 feet by 10 feet. Because he is 6 feet, 7 inches tall, Waite had difficulty standing erect. He learned to sit in a lotus position. Although living in cramped quarters, he made himself walk; some days he estimated seven miles. Day and night were indistinguishable. He was led to the toilet once a day.

Early in his "detainment" Terry Waite vowed that his captors would not capture his soul. "Whatever is done to my body, I will fight to the end to keep my inner freedom."

He discovered that fasting increased his spiritual strength. His prayer life was consistent and beautiful. From memory, he would go through the communion service as recorded in the *Book of Common Prayer*, without the visible sacrament, of course.

This man, who served as envoy for the archbishop of Canterbury for many years and who had personally negotiated hostage releases for six years, had at last become one himself. Painful as was his condition, he accepted and recited his mantra: "No regrets, no sentimentality, no self-pity."

## No Alms

Tolstoy, the great Russian writer, was passing along a street one day when a beggar stopped him, pleading for alms. The great Russian searched through his pockets for a coin, but finding none, he regretfully said, "Please don't be angry with me, my brother. I have nothing with me. If I did I would gladly give it to you." The beggar's face lit up, and he said, "You have given me more than I asked for. You have called me brother."



*Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.*

The four hardest tasks on earth are neither physical nor intellectual feats, but spiritual ones:

- to return love for hate;
- to include the excluded;
- to forgive without apology, and
- to be able to say 'I was wrong.'

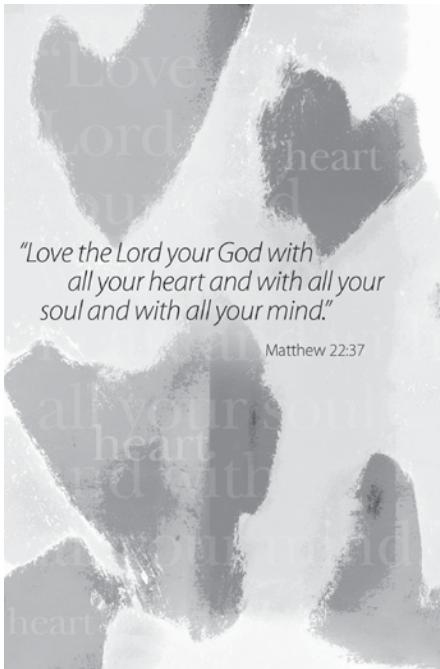
Author Unknown

## Variation on a Theme

On Palm Sunday, my 5-year-old niece, Stephanie, sat on my lap while we listened to the pastor's sermon. He described Jesus' approach to Jerusalem and how the crowds cried, "Hosanna, Hosanna!" At that, Stephanie perked up and began to sing, "Oh, Hosanna, now don't you cry for me!"

Brenda Fossum





***Love is a fruit in season  
at all times, and within  
reach of every hand.***

Mother Teresa

## **I Just Want**

A childless couple wanted to adopt a little boy approximately 6 years old. They had visited several adoption agencies and finally found a child that was a match for their family. As they visited with the child, the wife said, "If you would come and live with us, you could have your own private room, a nice yard with play equipment and all the toys and clothes you could ever want. Would you like to come and live with us?" The little boy hesitated a moment and said, "No, I don't think so." The couple was stunned. They felt that they had offered the child everything a child could want. The husband said to the boy, "We've offered you everything anyone could want. What more do you want?" In words far beyond his years, the child replied, "I just want someone to love me." Leighton Farrell

**6**

## **Love is ...**

Brothers and sisters:

Love is patient, love is kind.  
It is not jealous, it is not pompous,  
it is not inflated, it is not rude,  
it does not seek its own interests,  
it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,  
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.  
It bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing;  
if tongues, they will cease;  
if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.  
For we know partially and we prophesy partially,  
but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.  
When I was a child, I used to talk as a child,  
think as a child, reason as a child;  
when I became a man, I put aside childish things.  
At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror,  
but then face to face.  
At present I know partially;  
then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.  
So faith, hope, love remain, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love.



1 Corinthians 13:4-13

## **The Love for ...**

The love for equals is a human thing ... of friend for friend, brother for brother. It is to love what is loving and lovely. The world smiles.

The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing ... the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor, the sick, the failures, the unlovely. This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world.

The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing ... to love those who succeed where we fail, to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice, the love of the poor for the rich, of the black man for the white man. The world is bewildered by its saints.

And then there is the love for the enemy ... love for the one who does not love you but mocks, threatens, and inflicts pain. The tortured's love for the torturer.

This is God's love. It conquers the World.

Frederick Buechner

Peace often must begin with ourselves: "Love is not a vague feeling or an abstract idea. When I love someone, I seek what is best for them. If I begin to take the love of Christ seriously, then I will work toward what is best for my neighbor. I will seek to bind up the wounds and bring about healing, no matter what the cost may be." Billy Graham

## How Well Do I Live? How Much Do You Love?

For the more we give to love,  
the more we have to give.  
And when we have given all we have,  
and there is nothing left but love,  
what then is left to be taken from me?  
If you ask yourself, "How well do I live?"  
the answer comes, "How much do you love?"

James Dillet Freeman



*one another,  
for love comes*

*from God*



*1 John 4:7*

## A Home for the Heart

One of my favorite phrases from one of the dances of universal peace is "God is love, lover and Beloved." If we break "Beloved" in two, we have "be loved": Be loved by spirit, be loved by yourself, be loved by others. If we remove the last letter of "Beloved," we have "be love." Don't seek love or lover, simply be love. Be at peace with All That Is, and know you are the Beloved.

And when you find a lover, know that the journey is to dance together in the circle of love, growing, playing, struggling and accepting with a smile the incredible predicament of being human.

When we can do this, even for a few moments, we will feel a flow of energy like the current of a river dissolving our separateness and bringing us to greater unity.

Charlotte Sophia Kasl

## Churches Ought to Be

If Christ is God's love in person on earth, churches ought to be God's love in an organization on earth. If love is what it's all about, where are we going to celebrate this love unless in community with loving people? Essentially what a church or temple ought to be is a community of loving people who believe that our lives consist of an abundance of love - not of an abundance of possessions.

William Sloane Coffin

## I Love

Every human heart has a deep need to love--to be in love, really, with all of life....In this sense, Romeo and Juliet are in preschool as far as love goes. Men and women like Francis of Assisi and Teresa of Avila have taken their doctorates and become fully tenured professors. They are the ones who truly know what love means....

When I travel on the freeways, I see stickers that say, "I love my dog," "I love my cat," or "I love New York." If I were ever to put a sticker on my car, it would just say, "I love." This is our human legacy, and we claim our legacy when the mind is stilled. This is what the Bible means when it says, "Be still and know I am God."

Ek Nath Easwaran

## The Lord's House and Ours

On TV, a reporter was interviewing a heroic mother who had single-handedly raised a large family. In spite of all the frustrations, disappointments and obstacles, she had persevered and every one of her children had made remarkable achievements, not only in their schooling but also in their vocation. It was an inspiring story worth celebrating, for it revealed the heights and depths of human greatness. During the interview, the mother was asked her secret by the reporter who said, "I suppose you loved all your children equally, making sure that all got the same treatment?"

The mother replied, "I loved them. I loved them all, each one of them, but not equally. I loved the one the most that was down until he was up. I loved the one the most that was weak until she was strong. I loved the one the most that was hurt until he was healed. I loved the one the most that was lost until she was found."

Donald J. Shelby

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