

~ Gospel Thoughts ~

Christ Himself calls His true followers the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world." These are titles of honor, surely, and Christ is putting His true follower on almost a level with Himself. He was the light of the world, He was the salt of the earth. He it was who gave this life its flavor, who gave this life its meaning, its preservation. This every Christian helps to bring to those who are ignorant of it, if he lives his life daily and sincerely. Those who do this are really another Christ. He is the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

In true humility, we can all say that we are far from worthy of such honorable titles. Yet in all sincerity too, many if not the majority among us, are doing their little bit of Christ's work, in cultivating their own small corner of His vineyard. The parents, who teach the Christian way of life to their children by word, and especially by example, the workmen, whether in office or factory, who show that they are Christians by their honesty, charity for their fellow man, their respect for God, and the things of God, in their speech are spreading their faith; all those who show moderation in their personal expenditures, and donate some of their savings to help their brothers, who are in need: these are true disciples of Christ and are cooperating with Him in bringing God's children back to their Father.

Unlike the salt that has lost its flavor, and the light that is kept under the bushel, we who have thus behaved can change attitudes, provided he is aided by God's grace, which is never refused. He can become once more what he ought to be -- a life preserver for his neighbor. Life on earth is short and the demands of our life may not always be easy, but we know that if we live up to them, we are other Christs. We are continuing His great work by our own good example to our neighbor, and we are giving glory to God, and earning the eternal light of heaven.

Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The Gospel challenges us to be a "light" to our family. Parents shine their guiding light, not in front but behind them, inviting their children to follow their "good deeds."

Walton Food Bank

Have a truck and time to help lend a hand? Please call Vabina at 865.5145 to assist in stocking our Food Bank pantry. Requested items:

spaghetti & sauces, tuna, egg noodles, soups: vegetable, chicken noodle, etc., saltines, canned fruit (peaches are a favorite), macaroni 'n cheese, pasta, peanut butter, cold & hot cereal, canned vegetables: corn, peas, green beans, spaghetti foods, Ramen noodle soups, Jell-O and pudding, Knorr rice/noodles, cake/cookie mixes

"Catholics at the Capitol"

On Wednesday, March 19, Catholics throughout New York will join the state's bishops in Albany at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany. Join other Catholics to advocate on behalf of the poor and vulnerable people in our communities in respect to the following five issues:

- 1) support pregnant women and oppose abortion expansion;
- 2) preserve catholic schools (enact education investment tax credit, increase funding levels for mandated services);
- 3) ensure sufficient funding for programs for vulnerable populations;
- 4) support humane treatment for incarcerated individuals; and
- 5) support equitable labor standards for farm workers.

Please register online by February 25:
www.nyscatholic.org

Come and hear from experts on legislation, visit with legislators, and stand together in solidarity!

Marriage Moments by Susan Vogt

Questions for World Marriage Day: what do I like most about you? What is it that most separates us? What most unites us? I specifically need your help in _____. I think I should help you specifically _____ by _____.

Salt and Light

In the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord compares His followers to salt and light. It is important that both elements exist for the sake of something else. In the Jesus' time, salt was used not only to season meat, but above all to preserve it from spoiling. Light as such cannot really be seen. It is appreciated only inasmuch as it illuminates objects in the world. Therefore, both light and salt, we might say, efface themselves for the sake of the other.

What purpose do the followers of Jesus have up and down the ages? It is to season, to illumine, to preserve, and to enhance the wider human family. Just as Israel was not chosen for its own sake, but rather to be a magnet to the rest of the world, so the Church, the new Israel, is set apart for the good of the world. ~ Very Reverend Robert Barron

Interested in Becoming a Catholic?

If you want to learn more about our faith, RCIA class can answer your questions. Call 865.7394.

Retreats

Dominican Retreat Conference Center

518.393.4169

February 21-23: Retreat for men and women: "*Women on the Wall*" ~ a blend of quiet time, input, prayer, discussion and everything is optional. What makes a WOW weekend unique is that the focus for the weekend is the Women on the Wall on the Mural in the Chapel. You will receive a glimpse into the lives of these saints and have time to consider what each of them might mean for you today. This retreat will be guided by the staff of the retreat house and will present the *Women on the Wall*.

March 7-9: *What's in Your Spiritual Toolbox?* Come and find out how the ordinary tools of life instruct us in our faith journey. Come join us as we open our spiritual toolbox to explore what needs to be cleaned, sharpened, filed, and polished. Open yourself to the wonders of God in the ordinariness of life.

Directors: Sister Betsy Van Deusen and Sister Susan Zemgulis

Weekend retreats: \$195 (age 65 & over--\$180)

Pilgrimage with Family Rosary to Sainthood Candidate Father Patrick Peyton's Ireland - Sept. 13 – 22, 2014. Don't just visit Ireland ... go on Pilgrimage for an unforgettable journey. Join Father John Phalen, CSC, on a meaningful Pilgrimage through Ireland, including Mass and Rosary daily. Pilgrimage will visit Killarney, the Dingle Peninsula, Aran Islands, Achill Island Tour: visits to Cliffs of Moher, Galway highlights, Museum of Country Life, Passage on the Tarbert Ferry, Knock Shrine, and a special visit to the Father Peyton Centre. For complete details: www.FamilyRosary.org/Events or call/email Ann Melanson of Holy Cross Family Ministries at 508-238-4095 / amelanson@hcfm.org

Resolve to Make Good GREAT!

Start on this Marriage Encounter weekend: March 22 to 23. For more information, please call 518.279.3243 or visit www.albanyme.org.

Looking for Refreshments ...

to offer at St. Peter's monthly coffee hours. Looking for donations: donuts, muffins, cookies, fruit, cheese 'n crackers, etc. If you would like to donate and drop off before Mass, Please call May Falknor, 746.6394. Also looking for volunteers to set the coffee before Mass.

Warm Weather Thoughts ...

Start saving your unwanted items for our 2014 lawn sale to be held at St. Peter's Church on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 24. This sale is being held for the benefit of our Church to help fund improvements and updates. Any questions call Joe at 746.7554. Start saving and sorting through your stuff!

Camp Veritas

Join Camp Veritas for a week-long "play and pray" sleep-away Catholic youth summer camp for seventh to twelfth graders! Week 1: July 20-26 at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh and Week 2: August 17-23 at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro. Cost for week 1: \$350 (early bird until 4.1); for week 2: \$370 (both weeks \$400 after 4.1). Online enrollment is now open. Information about enrolling or volunteering: www.campveritas.com.

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Book Club This Monday

Anyone interested in joining the Book Club is welcome to our next meeting on Monday, March 3, at 3:30 pm. We are beginning a Lenten devotional.

Faith Formation

Religious Education:

RCIA: If you are interested in becoming a Catholic and want to learn more about our faith, RCIA class can answer your questions. Call the office.

Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive

Food donations may be dropped off at Holy Family for the Colchester Food Bank. Items needed: cans of pasta, tuna, stew, chili, pasta sauce, fruit; jelly, graham crackers, spaghetti, peanut butter; boxes of mashed potatoes, stuffing; soap, toilet paper, personal care items. Thank you for your continued support.

Delhi Food Bank

Open Mondays, Thursdays from 1-3 pm at United Ministry. Items needed: powdered milk, condiments, canned meats, biscuit mix, dried herbs/seasonings, spaghetti sauce, tuna, cereal, soup, crackers, canned fruit and vegetables, macaroni 'n cheese, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, Jello, pudding, rice, flour, sugar.

Co-Chairperson Needed

Looking for someone to assist Joe Caso as Chairperson of St. Peter's Lawn Sale Committee (sale on May 24). If you are able to help Joe out, please call him at 746.7554.

“God and the Mystery of Human Suffering”

The Sisters of St. Joseph invite you to a presentation entitled: “God and the Mystery of Human Suffering.” The presenter is Father Robin Ryan, CP, Ph.D., a Passionist priest whose ministry is in retreat work, teaching, and formation.

The event is at St. Joseph's Provincial House, Latham, on Saturday, March 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$35 (lunch included). Send name, address, phone number and check made payable to *Sisters of St. Joseph* by March 1 to Sister Nancy Gregg, 44B Swayze Drive, Latham, NY 12110. Information on www.csjalbany.org.

Home, Nursing Home, or Hospital Visits

Is there a Catholic friend, neighbor, or relative, who is homebound, in the hospital or nursing

home, who would like visits and/or Eucharist? Please call the office.

Right to Life Bottle Collection

Don't forget to drop your deposit bottles in Father Willis Hall! All monies go toward the cost of the next March for Life trip.

Lights, Fans, Candles

The Sacristans at our Masses are responsible for setting up for our Liturgies ~ please leave the above details in their hands. Their time preparing the altar is a spiritual one so please be respectful.

The Priory Retreat, Chestertown, NY 518.494.3733

✠ Gospel Background ✠

Walton Schools Week-End Backpacks

Items may be dropped at Townsend Elementary, Ogden Library, or United Presbyterian Church:

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| - peanut butter (18 oz) | - tuna (5 oz) |
| - peas, beans, corn, carrots (8 oz) | - pork/beans (11 oz) |
| - soup (chick, veg beef, tom) (10 oz) | - instant breakfast |
| - oatmeal (individual packet box) | - single serve cereal |
| - pasta, ravioli, beefaroni (individual) | - Ramen noodles |
| - granola, fruit 'n nut bars | - raisin box, small |

An Hour a Week with God

A 5 pm Wednesday Adoration opening is still available at St. John. If you would like to have quiet and rest with our Lord on a weekly basis, please contact Dorothy at 829.5912.