

Formation Corner

July 24-25, 2010

As human beings, we all face an important moment in life which is death. This moment prompts important questions to consider. How do we understand this moment? What choices are possible to make at this moment? How do our choices fit our Catholic Faith?

Our understanding of death is rooted in the story of Jesus. As faith-filled people, we believe that Jesus died so that we might know resurrection. Through his faithfulness, we are restored from our fallen nature to an outpouring of grace. The opportunity to arrive in the heavenly kingdom becomes God's gift to us because Christ was obedient even in the suffering of the cross.

Such obedience in suffering is the groundwork for understanding that God does not desire that we avoid suffering. If God is for us, is not God present even in our suffering? When Jesus hung on the cross, the most powerful message is not that God has aban-

doned him; rather God desires to restore him. His prayerfulness is reflected in his words, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing," and "Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit." God is the center of this moment and also the moment which moves him to pray for all those around him. The experience of suffering is our opportunity to live this moment of Calvary. We are invited to place our suffering in the hands of God and to offer pray for those around us as we suffer. Our faith draws us into the belief that God can use this moment to bring something greater.

In the experience of suffering, we are asked to avoid falling into the loss of faith. Without faith, we might be caught in the trap that God doesn't want us to suffer and thus shouldn't we do something to shorten our lives and avoid this pain. We might fall into the trap that God has stopped caring about us and is punishing us by shortening our life. Such pitfalls keep us from growing in our faith and entering into the mystery of Calvary in which suffering is redemptive. God is bringing something new to our lives. Next week we will look at how this vision shapes our decisions about end of life.

Website Suggestion: www.svdpplover.com

The Picnic Team has met with all chairs and reviewed the results of Picnic Weekend. I am happy to report that the Picnic was a wonderful success! Thank you to the team, the chairs and all the volunteers who assisted with the Picnic. The parish has received a check for \$40,243.62. This will be a boost to our new budget!

Congratulations to Sr. Alexine Meronek who is celebrating her 75th Anniversary of her profession as a Sister of St. Joseph/Third Order of St. Francis. Sr. Alexine is our former Visitor to the home-bound. Please consider sending her a card of congratulations!

A wish of God's peace is extended to the family and friends of Leonard Olski. His funeral was a private family gathering. May our prayers assist the comfort and consolation offered by God to those who mourn.

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On the back of my letter is a recent article that appeared in a Madison paper. Thank you Bill for sharing your insight gained from our recent missionary!

A Mass of Thanksgiving for a new Bishop is scheduled at St. Joseph Parish on Monday, August 23, at 8:00 a.m. Please consider attending this Mass of Thanksgiving.

The annual Diocesan Appeal target has arrived. Watch for information in the *Good Seeds*. Please consider your donation to assist in meeting the new target. It will be announced as soon as it is received.

Enjoy this final time of July!

Have a good week!

Goodsearch/Goodshop.com

2010 YTD—07/14 - \$27.62/\$1.06.
Search and Shop for St. Joseph Parish—Thank you!

**** August ****

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions:

General: That those who are without work or homes or who are otherwise in serious need may find understanding and welcome, as well as concrete help in overcoming their difficulties.

Mission: That the Church may be a "home" for all people, ready to open its doors to any who are suffering from racial or religious discrimination, hunger, or wars forcing them to emigrate to other countries.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Eighteenth Sunday
In Ordinary Time

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23
Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
Luke 12:13-21

Together In Faith
Together In Faith

