



March 2016



## *Holy Week and Easter*

We take Holy Week seriously and cherish the quiet solemnity of the many rituals. We begin on Holy Thursday with a Seder Meal before the evening liturgy. It is highly Jewish in tradition, much like Jesus would have celebrated.

Sister Paula, prioress, presides and serves the various courses which include bitter herbs, matzah, charoset, lamb, etc. Wine opens the meal which is interspersed with psalms and other Old Testament readings and the youngest asking questions about why this night is different from all others. In the evening Mass the prioress washes the feet of the Sisters as Jesus did at the Last Supper.

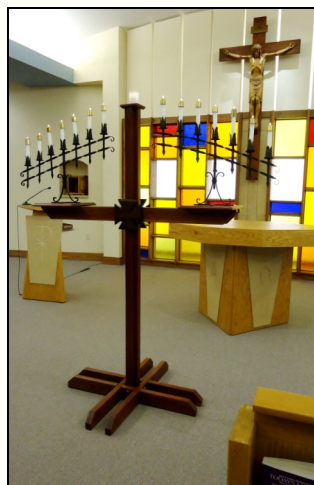
The Triduum begins on Good Friday. Our prayer opens with a harsh sound of wood clacking rather than our usual gentle gong. We pray more psalms and canticles, and have sung Lamentations from Jeremiah, and after each a candle is extinguished.

At 3:00 p.m. the prioress again presides at the liturgy and our silence continues.

Holy Saturday continues the Triduum prayers. We join the monks of Assumption Abbey and the St. Mary's Parish community for the celebration of the night liturgy. It is "high church" in all its solemnity and tradition and is always more meaningful when RCIA members are welcomed into the Church - this year we welcomed three women. We cherish worshipping with the full community of Richardton on this holy night.

Easter Sunday dawns with our morning Divine Office of the feast and Eucharist. It is a day of great joy for its meaning but also because we look forward to eating what we have smelled baking: our traditional (and utterly delicious) Easter bread that Fran Hauck bakes for us!

We know we are truly blessed.



### *A Reflection for March*

*March is a month of many saints and feasts. Our own founder Saint Benedict had a crew of followers who struggled and did not give up. That is what we are still doing.*

*Saint Joseph, a good man, had his doubts too, but he listened to the voice of the angel and believed. Many others went through ups and downs in their lives: doubts and fears as well as joy and faith.*

*Let us trust our tomb moments and embody our Lord and Savior. Remember, Christianity is a battle, not a dream of the weak. The tomb is the only way to resurrection.*

*Go! Enter the tomb and meet the Resurrection.*

*Sister Dolores Heidt*

### *Lenten Votives*

Though we always welcome requests to pray for special intentions, in Lent we offer a direct invitation in an offer of our bell tower prayer votive to be placed in our sanctuary all of Lent.

Sister Paula, prioress, blesses these votives which are lit for First Vespers of the Sunday (Saturday night). After Easter the votives are mailed to those who requested them to continue praying for their intentions.



### *Colorado College Monastic Experience Week*



They spend enough time in each community “living as we live” and learning about our lives. Their time is varied with the Benedictine values of prayer, work, learning and leisure.

These are fantastic, smart and insightful young people who greatly enhance our lives.

A major highlight of our year is to have students from Colorado College in Colorado Springs, CO, spend a week with us.

Monks from Assumption Abbey have a great part in this venture even though the students stay with us.





### *Glendive, Montana Confirmation Class*

We welcomed the young Confirmation candidates from Sacred Heart Church in Glendive for an overnight visit with us. They joined us in prayer and recreation, but when it came to doing the dishes they displaced us!

We fought the notion (feebly, we admit) but they did a great job as their chaperones helped.



### *Sally's Supper*

One of the chaperones for a group of confirmation students from Stanley liked it so much here that she returned with all the fixings for a halibut supper!

She cooked three different halibut recipes, a delicious salad, and so much more. We love those guests who like it here so much they come back, but we have a special fondness for those who come back and cook!



### *Ila Perhus' Birthday*

We believe in celebrating birthdays and that includes those of our employees. Ila Perhus, our Sacred Heart Benedictine Foundation assistant director, provided us a party opportunity in early March. Sister Kathleen has been "surprising" the employees with candles in their ice cream for years.

In the background are Ross and Frank, our maintenance men who keep this place working well and tidy. We always have a good time at these afternoon parties with lots of conversation, teasing and laughter.

Sisters Michael, Dolores, & Carol dye eggs for Easter





### *Vocations Jamboree*

At the end of March over 50 religious communities, volunteer/service programs and evangelizing groups met at the University of Mary for a Vocations Jamboree. It offered high school and university students and young adults a chance to understand the variety of charisms in religious life and Christian service opportunities and formulate new possibilities for their future.

It was a wonderful opportunity for all involved and we are very grateful to the University of Mary in Bismarck for inaugurating such a great annual event.

### *Digital Marketing*

We contracted with Summit Marketing in Lenexa, KS, to help us with a digital media campaign for vocations and we are very pleased with what they have produced for us and helped us prepare. This campaign was launched on our Facebook page March 1 and has greatly enhanced our outreach. If you have not checked out our page, be sure to do so!

We really like their “branding” of our bell tower logo on their work and we have produced hard copy materials as rack cards and small cards with our information for distribution.



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