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March 2014 Lantern!

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PARISH HAPPENINGS

*Are you ready for the
Upcoming*

Men's Club Follies?

Sunday March 15, 2015

2:30PM– 4:00PM

*They promised this would
Be the BEST*

Songs

Poems

Music

Mark your Calendar!

Fr. Peter's Letter to Parish



Abnegation – So What?

For What?

We are all well into our Lenten practices and disciplines, whatever they may be, anticipating the transition into Holy Week that begins on the last Sunday

of this month. One of the things that always comes to mind during Lent is self-denial, more commonly in terms of “giving up” or “cutting back” on something that we like, such as chocolate, candy, television, fun of one sort or another – maybe even fast food. All too often the common thread is giving up something that pleases or entertains us, with little thought to any underlying purpose. The end result is that we end up placing more emphasis on obsessing over what we’ve given up and how much we miss it, than on why we’re giving it up.

Oddly enough, what popped into my head while thinking about the “So what?” and the “What for?” is the recently popular *Divergent* book series by American novelist Veronica Roth – not exactly a major theological study resource! It is a dystopian adventure written primarily for Young Adults (days long gone by...), whose premise is a future in which people are divided into several factions based on perceived virtues having distinct characteristics and behaviors, each contributing something very different for the overall good and preservation of a society emerging from an apocalyptic collapse.

One of these factions is designated as “Abnegation”, loosely defined as self-denial or self-sacrifice. I see these as the Lenten people of the series. On the surface, they seem very altruistic, giving of self for the benefit of others; until you learn that the factions are largely segregated, and children born into a given faction for the most part remain part of that same faction and its lifestyle for the rest of their lives. So being “Abnegation” is no longer a choice, but an expectation with dire consequences if not met.

Some Abnegation do willingly and freely live out their lives self-sacrificially for the benefit of others – but there is also an undertone of discontent and rebellion in their midst. The story unfolds from there...

What does all this have to do with our own Lenten practices?

We are called in Lent to a time of reflection and preparation for the crucifixion and resurrection of Our Lord. It is an opportunity to walk with Christ through the highs and lows of his journey to the cross, step-by-step, sharing his frustration and his pain, as well as those moments of reassurance and union with his Heavenly Father. One of the most effective tools we can use in that endeavor is self-denial and self-sacrifice, not to dwell on what we’ve given up, but in sincere imitation of what Christ did for us. We take up our own crosses and follow Jesus. This means giving up control and surrendering everything, even life itself, to God. Each of us has to answer for ourselves the underlying question:

Am I “Abnegation” because it is expected of me and I have no other choice? ...or...

Am I “Abnegation” because I have accepted God’s call to me to follow the way of Christ, and am willing to give freely of myself to lift up the Kingdom of God in the broken world around me?

May the rest of your Lenten journey this year be blessed with new insights and bring you ever closer to the One who died and rose again for you!

*Your Servant in Christ,
Fr. Peter+*

Padre Pedro

Abnegación – ¿Por Qué? ¿Para Qué?

Estamos avanzando en nuestras prácticas y disciplinas cuaresmales, sean las que sean, anticipando la transición a la Semana Santa, que comienza el último domingo de este mes. Una de las cosas que siempre viene a la mente durante la Cuaresma es la auto-negación, más comúnmente en términos de que vamos a "dejar de hacer" o "hacer menos" en relación a algo que nos gusta, como el chocolate, los dulces, la televisión, las diversiones de un tipo u otro - quizás incluso "comida rápida". Con demasiada frecuencia, el hilo común es renunciar algo que nos agrada o entretiene, con poca atención a cualquier propósito subyacente – la razón de hacerlo. El resultado final es que ponemos más énfasis en obsesionarnos con lo que hemos negado y cuanto lo extrañamos, que en la razón para la auto-negación.

Por extraño que parezca, lo que vino a mi mente al pensar en el "¿Por qué?" y el "¿Para qué?" era la recientemente popular serie de libros *Divergente* por la novelista estadounidense Veronica Roth - ¡No es exactamente un importante recurso de estudio teológico! Es una aventura de ficción distópica escrita principalmente para los adultos jóvenes, cuya premisa es un futuro en que las personas se dividen en varias facciones basadas en virtudes percibidas que tienen distintas características y comportamientos, cada uno contribuyendo algo muy diferente para el bien general y la preservación de una sociedad que emerge de un colapso apocalíptico.

Una de estas facciones se designa como "Abnegación", vagamente definido como auto-negación o auto-sacrificio. Veo este como el Pueblo Cuaresmal de la serie. En la superficie, parecen muy altruistas, dando de sí mismo por el bien de los demás; hasta que uno aprende que las facciones son en gran parte segregadas, y los niños que nacen en una facción determinada a lo largo siguen siendo parte de la misma facción y su estilo de vida para el resto de sus vidas. Así que ser "Abnegación" ya no es una opción, sino una expectativa con graves consecuencias si no se cumplen.

Algunos Abnegación voluntariamente y libremente viven sus vidas de auto-sacrificio para el beneficio de los demás - pero también hay un sentido de descontento y rebelión en medio de ellos. La historia se desarrolla a partir de ahí...

¿Qué tiene todo esto que ver con nuestras propias prácticas Cuaresmales?

Estamos llamados en Cuaresma a un tiempo de reflexión y preparación para la crucifixión y resurrección de Nuestro Señor. Es una oportunidad de caminar con Cristo a través de los altibajos de su viaje a la cruz, paso a paso, compartiendo su frustración y su dolor, así como los momentos de tranquilidad y unión con su Padre Celestial. Una de las herramientas más eficaces que podemos utilizar en ese esfuerzo es auto-negación y auto-sacrificio, no pensando en que nos hemos negado, sino en la imitación sincera de lo que

Cristo hizo por nosotros. Cargamos con nuestras propias cruces y seguimos a Jesús. Esto significa renunciar el control y entregarlo todo, incluso la vida misma, a Dios. Cada uno de nosotros tiene que responder por sí mismo a la cuestión de fondo:

¿Soy yo "Abnegación" porque se espera de mí y no tengo otra opción? ... o...

¿Soy "Abnegación" porque he aceptado el llamado de Dios a seguir el camino de Cristo, y estoy dispuesto a dar libremente de mí mismo para levantar el Reino de Dios en el mundo quebrantado que me rodea?

¡Que el resto de su camino cuaresmal este año sea bendecido con nuevos puntos de vista y le llevará cada vez más cerca a Aquel que murió y resucitó por usted!

*Su Servidor en Cristo,
Padre Pedro +*

A few Words from our Senior Warden

Trust and Follow

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths." - Proverbs 3:5-6

These verses invite us this Lent to trust, acknowledge and follow God in everything we do which includes praying, working, or playing. Trusting and following God with all our heart can transform us individually as well as a parish. Opportunities abound to trust and

follow God - whether we are part of Bible study, loss support group, making sandwiches for the homeless, general clean up, the Follies, hosting regional ministries for women or regular worship.

In His Love,

Beth



Unas palabras de nuestro Guardia'n Mayor

Confíe y Siga

"Confíe en el Señor con todo corazón, y no se apoye en su propio entendimiento. En todas sus maneras reconózcalo, y él enderezará tus veredas" - Proverbios 3 : 5-6

Estos versículos nos invitan esta Cuaresma a confiar en, reconocer y seguir a Dios en todo lo que hacemos como orar, trabajar o jugar. Confiar en y seguir a Dios con todo nuestro corazón nos puede transformar así como persona o parroquia. Las oportunidades abundan a confiar en y seguir a Dios - ya que somos parte de estudio de la Biblia, el grupo de apoyo de pérdida, hacer sándwiches para los sin techo, limpieza general, las locuras (Follies), hosting ministerios regionales para las mujeres o las misas regulares.

En el amor del Señor,

Beth

JUNIOR WARDEN

Many hands help accomplish the work which needs to be completed within our church campus. We are always on the lookout for bulbs to be replaced, faucets to be adjusted or flags to be replaced. All the repair work for the vandalism has now been completed with the stained glass church window back being praise worthy. The total cost for the repairs exceeded our insurance deductible, which means the bills for repair/replacement must come out of our already strained budget. We are thankful to a number of anonymous givers who have given monies to cover almost half of that unexpected expense. The battle of the weeds continues on....I have been helping with spraying but the battle has not been won. New components will be used shortly and that should have a very effective outcome.

A current clean up/out has been happening in Bargains Galore and we have seen some nice improvements. Much of the equipment and tools, which are in various places, are slowly getting back to where they should be kept.

Extra efforts for cleaning the patio have been taken on by a number of people and the improvement is very nice.

During our last spaghetti dinner we learned that our refrigerator was not maintaining a dependable degree of coldness. An overall tune up was completed and we are now in compliance.

A large section of asphalt roofing material on the Chapel roof was lifted with the winds and has now been appropriately repaired. Al Franco

The BOOKSHELF

February was a very successful month for your bookstore thanks to all who donated and all who purchased. We have new paper back and hard cover fiction in our bookstore. The Friends of the Library downtown Phoenix donated 3 large boxes of jigsaw puzzles. New too are a selection of VHS movies. Many people prefer them to DVD because you can stop in the middle and come back to the same spot the next day or whenever you have time to finish it without having to rewind to find your place. Thanks go to Ron Dow who has been assisting in sales every Saturday morning.

We have set up a table of special readings for Lent. Check it out, you might find something different & stimulating. Some other Lent related material is here also. We have a varied selection of Bibles too. The old ones are the best ones because they have been prayed over.

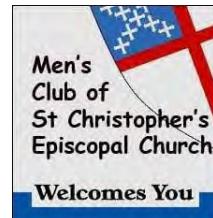
We are going to be doing some moving around to try to stimulate more sales. So, maybe things won't be where they were. We have lowered the price of the tall fiction paper backs to 3/\$1 from 50 cents each. I have noticed that other thrift stores have higher prices than we do so shop here first.

As always, Barbara keeps your fiction books in alphabetical order and the non fiction are sorted by subject so it is easy to find what you need. If you see many books by an author unfamiliar to you, perhaps that is a sign that this is a very readable writer and you might want to make his/her acquaintance.

We still need any books, DVD movies, etc that you no longer use. Also if you have an old atlas, we have people who have asked for them. We need more cookbooks & paperback fiction. As always, put the money in the Book Banks and it goes into the general fund.

Charlotte and Barbara

Men's Club Meeting Saturday March 14, 8:00AM



The Men's Club continues to make sandwiches and prepare lunches for the UMOM homeless shelter. March they will be making sandwiches on Saturday March 14 at 8:30AM.



ECW

Our pasta dinner was a huge success. We raised \$793.00 for Valley View Community Food Bank, plus 450 pounds of food was collected for the Food Bank.

ECW Meeting is March Saturday 14 at 10:00AM-12:00PM. We will be finalizing plans for the Regional Meeting/Luncheon to be hosted by St. Christopher's.

At the meeting there will be election of officers for the upcoming year.

Mark your Calendar for the Regional ECW and Altar Guild Meeting and Luncheon March 14, Saturday.

CHRISTOPHER SINGERS:

Dates for upcoming Sings,

- Friday March 6, 10:00AM
Sun Valley Lodge, 103 Ave.,
- Friday March 13, 1:00PM, Lucy Anne's
16752 N Greasewood St, Surprise
- Sunday March 15, 2:30PM
St. Christopher's
- Tuesday March 24, 10:00AM
Good Shepherd, 103 Ave and Olive, SC

BARGAINS

Written by Bonnie Franco

Amy Schultz has graciously welcomed me as her assistant in Bargains Galore (BG). Together, we are trying to step up the appearance, organization, profitability and true fun involved in this worthwhile endeavor.

Currently, 80% of the profit from this large activity goes to the Capital Reserve Fund. This is the fund we use to meet unexpected major repairs (i.e. roof or A/C, etc.) which are not currently covered in our operating budget. Additionally, 10% goes to outreach and 10% goes toward supplies needed to run the store.

We have many people who are directly involved with BG, some weekly and some monthly. Between us we manage to bring together a "show" each Saturday morning. During our current "make over", we have removed numerous articles which are not related to BG, cleaned out many areas which were filled with orphaned objects that had no apparent home and began grouping seasonal articles in specific areas.

We have a few new ideas to implement in the near future but in the meantime, we are working very hard to make all that we have even better.

Please consider giving us some help when you can.

We do laugh, confer, tease and accomplish lots of good things with only a few people. Generally, we work on Monday and Tuesday mornings plus Saturday, the sale day. Call me or Amy if you feel you can join us to help improve BG to be more than it has been in the past. We always need donated goods which are in reasonably good condition.

One of the new ideas is to gather some "better" valued articles to sale at somewhat higher prices. If you have some things which you feel are just too valuable to offer at our rock bottom prices, consider donating them to us to sell at a higher price . We cater to the community which often cannot afford to purchase needed articles at regular costs. There is also the patron who would enjoy finding a special item of fine quality for a little more.

Please, seriously consider how you might help us. We welcome everyone's involvement and suggestions.

p.s. check out the new **feather flag** we have purchased, which is on display Saturday mornings!

LANDSCAPE MINISTRY

Eva Quiles and I have been co-chairs for the current Landscape Committee since its inception, late in 2012. From that time until the present, we have had many people from the congregation support our activities with willing hands, strong backs, money, suggestions and encouragement. I hesitate to mention all the individuals for fear of leaving someone out or disclosing someone who asked to remain anonymous. However, I can readily admit there have been many who have stepped up more than once to make our intentions a reality.

Rosemary Lynch, Jordan Montes, Al Franco and I have been the main weed pullers or sprayers for longer than any of us thought we would need to be. Maria Anderson and others have been seen out helping from time to time as well. While we are sincerely grateful, we just can't keep up with this constant challenge.

The professionally strong weed killer has not been a match for the latest early Spring explosion of weed growth. We have now purchased an equally strong pre-emergent to add to our arsenal. The spraying will commence soon after the rain has left. Al, Dave Cooley and I hope to have this completed in the very near future. This is an expensive product which will nearly deplete our landscaping monies. Eva and I invite all to consider making a donation (in any form) to the landscaping ministry .

Help us continue to look our best while doing the work God has asked us to do.



Bonnie Franco

P.S. Since writing 76 Gallons of Pre Emergent has been sprayed on the grounds.



On a recent visit to The Valley View Community Food Bank Amy Schultz learned more about the workings of the food bank . She also had the opportunity to meet with Jesse Ramirez founder of the food bank.

There is nothing quite like being able to offer a helping hand in a time of need. Valley View Community Food Bank is committed to doing as much as possible to serve the needs of our diverse community. Some of the need is for

- emergency food boxes
- a gathering place for music, meals and fellowship

There is an area in the warehouse designated for community to; play harmonicas, a full orchestra comes to preform, local band comes to practice and on Sundays there is church.

- a resource center for people needing help with utility bills
- a place for people to “get their volunteer on”
730 Active Volunteers, plus Boy and Girl Scouts, various businesses and also Wells Fargo employees
- a location for community activities

Valley View Community Food Bank is more than a food bank. It's where a harvest of the big hearts in the community yields an awesome sharing of the bounty around us. It's *the good stuff about people* that we will celebrate on this site.

Valley View Community Food Bank serves over 160 families a day, over 340 people a day. They are able and will serve all of Arizona.

They receive donations from 4 Safeway's, Albertsons and Costco to name a few.

Valley View Community Food Bank is in no way Tax Supported, they are independent. This gives them the opportunity to serve anyone who knocks and says “we need help”. They never say “NO”.

Jesse Ramirez says “God tapped we on the shoulder “, this gives him the freedom to serve out community and spread God’s word.

The Thrift Store run by the food bank pays for all the operating cost of the facility.

St. Christopher's will continue to support Valley View Community Food Bank. Recent ECW Pasta dinner proceeds of \$793.00 and 450 pounds of food collected was given to the food bank.

James Dunkelbarger	March 1
Kabrina Roddy	Marchg 4
Jane Meyers	March 5
Charlyn Balabanis	March 6
Marie Dunkelbarger	March 10
Lisa Lynch	March 12
William Alburez Fabian Jr.	March 16
Martha Livisay	March 19
Glenn Wilder	March 21
Dasyre Roddy	March 22
Ed Bellerive	March 25
Carol Brown	March 25
Virginia Swisher	March 25

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MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Dave and Jane Cooley	March 20
Aurelio Valles and Veronica Sanchez	March 26

Thank you and Welcome to our
New interim Organist and Choir
Director.

Michael Heap

*(someone said they didn't know the
organ could sound that good)*

March Service Times

Sundays

Holy Eucharist – 9:00 AM in English

Fellowship – 10:30 AM in Harte Hall

Holy Eucharist – 11:30 AM in Spanish

Sunday School – Sunday, at 10:30 AM in 2nd Floor above Narthex

Wednesdays Midweek Eucharist and Healing Service – 10:00 AM in the Chapel

Wednesdays – Stations of the Cross 5:00PM5:30PM

Wednesdays - Choir Practice - 6:30PM-8:00PM

Special Events in March

Living With Loss-Mondays 9:30am-10:30am Middleton Hall

Workbench Men's Bible Study – Tuesday mornings at 10:30 AM – Bible Workshop Program

Women's Bible Study-Thursdays 9:30AM-12:00PM

Men's Club Morning Prayer and Breakfast--Saturday March, 14, 8:00AM

Men's Club Sandwich Making-Saturday March 14, 8:30AM

Spring Clean Up Day-Saturday March 15 -9:00AM

ECW Women's Club Meeting –Saturday, March 15, at 10:00 AM -12:00pm Parish Hall

Men's Club Follies-Sunday March 15, 2:30PM

Super Staff Meeting – Tuesday, Feb 10 at 9:30 AM in Middleton Hall

ECW –Spring Ingathering – Saturday March 21, 8:30AM-2:30PM

Check out our full online calendar at <http://stchristophers-az.org/>