



The Belltower Beacon

A publication to inform, welcome and inspire the spirited community of St. Christopher.

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During the past year our Cluster Team became aware of a priest from the Baltimore Diocese by the name of Fr. Leo who loves to cook and has authored a book entitled *Grace Before Meals: Recipes for Family*

Life. We further discovered that he has become a popular speaker, going around the country doing conferences and workshops, reaching people with common sense spiritual lessons for life. He does presentations based on his studies of the theology of beauty, teen spirituality, spiritual combat and praying as a family.

At the time we were looking ahead to Lent 2011, and what we might offer as a mission or spiritual event. It seemed like Fr. Leo might be a good option and so we contacted him regarding this possibility. He was available and thus we look forward to his being with us on April 3 and 4.

Fr. Leo was born in the Philippines and raised in the Baltimore area where he was ordained in 1999. He has served as a parish priest and is currently a member of the faculty at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary where he directs the Pastoral Field Education Programs for future priests. Fr. Leo studied philosophy at Theological College at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and holds advanced theological degrees from the Pontifical Gregorian University and Pontifical Maranium Institute in Rome.

Before becoming a priest, Fr. Leo studied law and journalism at the University of Maryland and taught high school speech, debate and drama. When he studied in Rome he traded cooking secrets with Italian restaurant owners.

As a result of his culinary skills Fr. Leo was honored to compete with Iron Chef Bobby Flay in September, 2009, on the Food Network's "Throwdown! With Bobby Flay" preparing fajitas. The competition was fierce but in the end, Fr. Leo prevailed. He said that Mother Teresa taught him how to cut vegetables in soup kitchens when he was a seminarian! Fr. Leo also holds a black belt in Tae Kwon Do and writes and performs music.

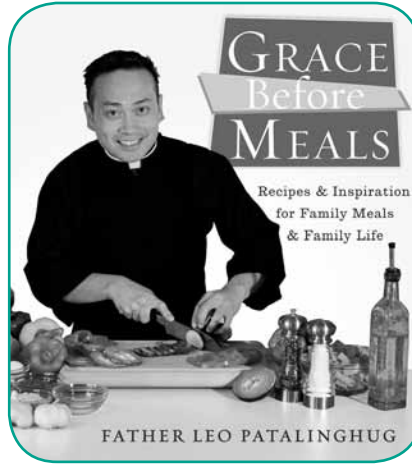
We are looking forward to having Fr. Leo with us in April and we will be able to get a "sneak preview" of him as he will be speaking at our 9 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 3 and at St. Angela Merici the same day at the 11:30 a.m. Mass. At 2 p.m. that day he will do a family spiritual presentation entitled "Grace Before Meals" at the Performing Arts Center at Magnificat High School. With insights on the spiritual component of food Fr. Leo will make important connections on food, faith, family and fun. Although this may sound like a "cooking show" it is actually an opportunity to grow in Body, Mind and Soul! We decided to use Magnificat as their venue holds more people and we will be opening up this opportunity to all the parishes in our Suburban West District.

Later on Sunday at 7:00 p.m. there will be a second presentation on teen spirituality entitled "Spiritual Combat" geared to our young people but open as well to those who care about them – parents, teachers, catechists, etc., again at Magnificat. Using his extensive background in martial arts, Fr. Leo will draw upon the techniques of hand to hand combat and make helpful parallels to the spiritual life. On Monday morning at 9:00 our St. Christopher students, grades 4-8, will join the St. Angela Merici students at St. Angela to listen to Fr. Leo talk about "Spiritual Combat" aimed at their age level.

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LENTEN GRACE, CONT'D.

Open seating tickets for the two separate events on April 3 are free but necessary for admission. Pre-registration can be accomplished by registering on line at the St. Angela website (www.samparish.org), where your registration will produce an on line ticket. Those who do not have internet access may pick up a ticket at our St. Christopher Parish Office. A free-will offering will be taken at both the afternoon and evening sessions. Fr. Leo will also have his books available for purchase.



We think we're in for a treat as we welcome Fr. Leo to our parish communities. Do mark the date on your calendar and plan to join us for this engaging Lenten speaker. In the meantime you might want to check out Fr. Leo's website: www.gracebeforemeals.com.

Gayle Cilimburg

HOW DID THE PENITENTIAL PRACTICES OF LENT BEGIN?



Nearly everyone in the St. Christopher parish community is in the habit of performing some type of penance during Lent. Many of us began by giving up candy or a TV show as children. But have the penitential practices of Lent

always been part of the Church's almost 2,000-year existence? The answer, for the most part, is yes.

Since the earliest times of the Church there is evidence of some kind of Lenten preparation for Easter, although the historical sources – such as letters between bishops – are often commenting on the variation of practices from place to place. But no matter what the differences in the particulars of observance from one Christian community to the next, penance was the constant.

“Throughout the Church’s history,” says *The Catholic Catechism* by John A. Hardon, S.J., “it was assumed that doing penance was a necessary condition for salvation. What

the Church did, therefore, was not to create the notion of penance but merely specify at different times the manner of its practice and exhort the people to its faithful observance.”

Penance for the faithful has always involved fasting. According to many sources fasting was rigorously practiced in Judaism before Christ's time. It was practiced by the disciples of John the Baptist, observed by the apostles, and taught by Jesus in word and example. From the beginning of the Church the fasting of Lent has been connected with Easter.

“By the solemn 40 days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert,” according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1994 English language edition). “Fasting and penance prepare us for the liturgical feasts; they help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.”

Today we still fast and abstain as part of our Lenten preparation for Easter. Here at St. Christopher we're fortunate also to have many opportunities for prayer as a community during Lent. The “Upcoming Events” section on the back page of this newsletter has a full list.

Mark Doyle

CHURCH CLUSTERING CLOSE TO HOME: ST. CHRISTOPHER & ST. ANGELA MERICI

While much has been made in the general media of church closings and mergers and the consolidation of parish schools throughout the Cleveland Diocese, the work of clustering between St. Christopher Parish and partner parish St. Angela Merici has continued with relative quiet yet steady progress.

In May 2007 Bishop Richard Lennon set in motion the Cluster Planning and Coordination process throughout the entire Diocese. Every Diocesan parish was designated one or more partner parishes with whom they were to collaborate to address specific challenges presented by Bishop Lennon.

Each Parish was directed to choose a team of five people to participate in the Cluster Planning and Coordination (CPC) process: the Pastor, a Parish staff member, and three active parishioners. The St. Christopher Parish team included Fr. John Chlebo, Pastor; Gayle Cilimburg, Pastoral Associate; Terry Brizz, a member of the Parish Finance Council; and Francis Girard and Mary Horvath, members of the Parish Pastoral Council. In 2009 Parish Council member Melanie Wall replaced Terry Brizz. The teams from St. Christopher and St. Angela Merici met faithfully and regularly for the ensuing three years from 2007 to 2010 under the guidance of Gayle Cilimburg, who served the entire three-year term as CPC team chair.

The designated charge by Bishop Lennon to the team was to develop a Cluster Plan that addresses five challenges:

Challenge #1: Continue to explore collaborative possibilities to strengthen pastoral care in an equitable manner

Challenge #2: Strengthen evangelization and social and community services that serve the surrounding neighborhoods

Challenge #3: Engage all of our faithful in regularly attending and participating in the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy

Challenge #4: Continue to support Church in the City partnerships through cluster-cluster cooperation

Challenge #5: Continue to monitor enrollment trends and collaborate to ensure the long-term presence of strong, stable Catholic schools serving the area.

The 10-member CPC team was charged with developing a Cluster Plan that articulates specific goals and action steps to address the five challenges. Necessary resources had to be identified and an implementation time-line had to be specified. A complete, formal Cluster Plan was due to be submitted in writing in October 2008 for the Bishop's review.

During development of the Plan the CPC team sought input and engaged in dialogue with the Parish ministries. Diocesan resources were tapped. Parishioners were afforded forums to provide input. A thoughtful and comprehensive Cluster Plan was delivered to Bishop Lennon on October 30, 2008. Bishop Lennon characterized the Plan as "very well done." After review and approval by the Bishop, the final plan was disseminated and set in motion. A complete copy of the 19-page document, "Vibrant Parish Life – Phase II: Cluster Plan for St. Angela Merici Church and St. Christopher Church", can be accessed from the Parish web site home page at www.stchrisonline.com.

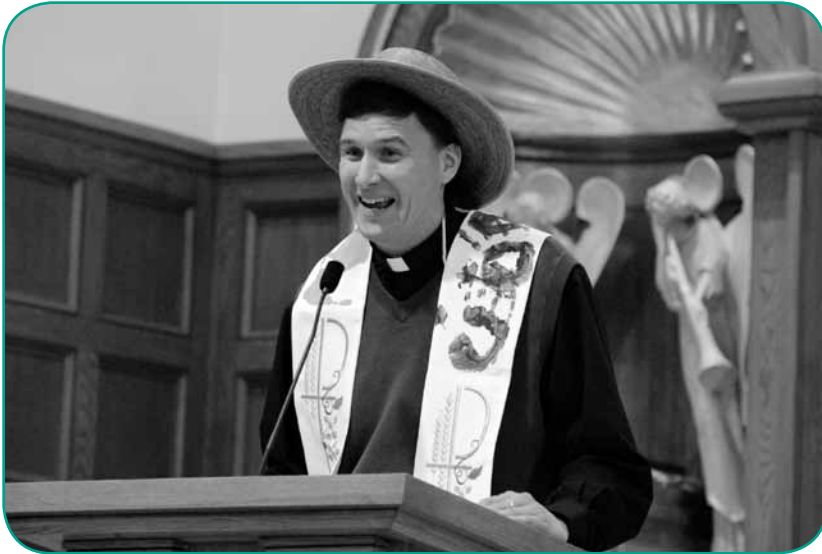
The CPC team continued to meet and monitor progress on the Cluster Plan implementation until June 2010 as directed by Bishop Lennon. Until then and beyond, a host of activities has been executed to advance Cluster collaboration. St. Christopher's Youth Ministry launched with guidance from those engaged in St. Angela's well-established Youth of St. Angela (YOSA) program. St. Christopher's Evangelization Committee formed with St. Angela's participation and with direction and training by the Diocesan Evangelization Office Director. St. Christopher's Social Concerns Committee engaged St. Angela's Social Justice Commission in helping serve the Church in the City monthly meals at St. Colman. Collectively these Parish ministries provided Thanksgiving food baskets to the West Side Ecumenical Ministry's (WSEM) Community Corner Hunger and Family Center with donations from parishioners at both churches. Collaborative faith formation programs and shared Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick liturgies have been offered. Both parish bulletins share weekly information on mass schedules. Both churches prominently display side-by-side, life-size images of their patron saints in their parish centers.

The principals at St. Christopher and St. Angela Merici Schools have developed a communication channel and found ways to share resources that advantage both: a shared full-time librarian; a joint faculty day of reflection; a joint high school night; and a shared full-page ad in WestLife newspaper during Catholic Schools week.

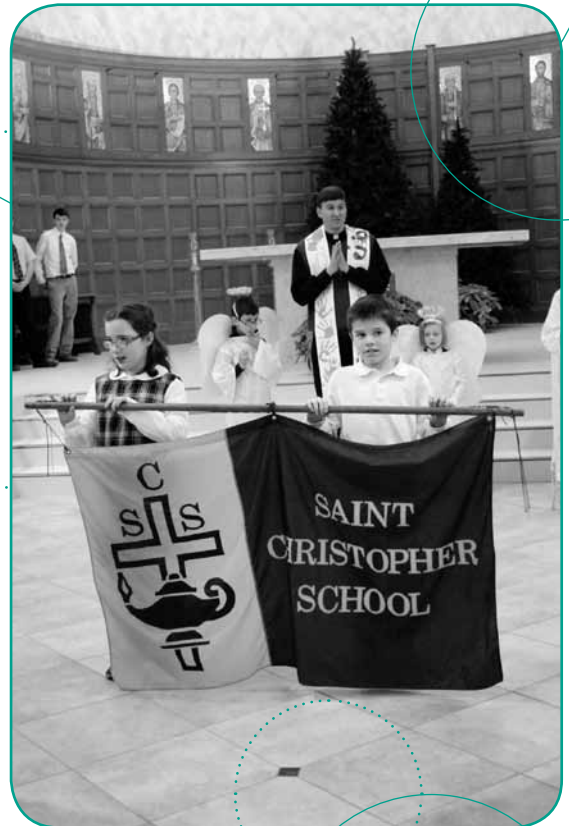
St. Christopher and St. Angela Merici pastors, staffs, and Parish Pastoral Councils have met to discuss and collectively tackle ongoing Cluster challenges. St. Christopher Parish and St. Angela Merici Parish are both thriving, vibrant church communities with strong Parish schools. By collaboration and cooperation each has realized the benefits of revitalizing their individual and collective strengths through Cluster Planning.

Mary D. Horvath

Farewell, Fr. John Ostrowski



The students and teachers of St. Christopher School said farewell on January 10 to Fr. John Ostrowski and thanked him for his four years of service to the parish. Come mid-April, he will be starting work with the Diocese of Cleveland's mission in El Salvador. During the ceremony in the church the students gave Fr. John many good wishes and several gifts, including a journal and a hand-decorated stole, seen in these photos. One student from each grade placed a hand print in orange or blue (the school's colors) on the stole. The design was inspired by a quote from Isaiah: "I will not forget you. I have carved you in the palm of my hand." The straw hat was not a gift – it's a veteran of Father's first assignment in Central America years ago.



Easter

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 20
 CONFESSIONS 7:00-8:00 P.M.

Holy Thursday, April 21
 MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 7:00 P.M.

Good Friday, April 22
 OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS 12:00 P.M.
 THE PASSION OF THE LORD 3:00 P.M.
 STATIONS OF THE CROSS 7:00 P.M.

Holy Saturday, April 23
 FOOD BLESSING 3:00 P.M.
 EASTER VIGIL..... 9:30 P.M.

Easter Sunday, April 24
 MASSES IN CHURCH 7:30, 9:00,
 10:30 & NOON
 MASS IN PARISH CENTER 10:30 A.M.

LIVING OUR FAITH FROM THE BENCH ... SPOTLIGHT ON U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE PATRICIA GAUGHAN



It was truly an honor to interview the Honorable Patricia A. Gaughan for this piece, as she has represented this parish community in exemplary fashion during her many years of public service. With her husband, Roger Andrachik, and children Brett and Kathryn, Judge Gaughan and her family have been active members of St. Christopher school and church for many years. Judge Gaughan considers herself “fortunate” that her judicial career has exposed her to the many good causes surrounding us and allowed her to serve on diverse boards like the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, St. John’s Hospital Community Board, and Magnificat High School Board of Directors, to name a few. Books are written about individuals like Judge Gaughan, so this is simply a snapshot of her admirable background.

On a professional level, Judge Gaughan serves on the Executive Committee of The 3Rs (Rights Responsibilities Realities), Cleveland Bar Association’s initiative working with high-risk students. She was appointed by a Supreme Court Justice to the National Conference on Federal-State Jurisdiction, which takes her to other parts of the country on

a regular basis. Judge Gaughan is known throughout her professional and personal communities for her brilliant but humble protection of the U. S. Constitution. She was a Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge before being appointed to the United States District Court by President Clinton in 1995. Before that, she was an Assistant United States Attorney. She is a graduate of University of Notre Dame Law School.

When asked what Judge Gaughan finds most rewarding about giving back to the community, she states: “It is rewarding to know that I have played a part, albeit small, in improving both Catholic and public education, enhancing my legal profession, continuing the commitment to Catholic healthcare, and attempting to find a cure for blood cancers.” She believes that it is important to give back to the community and show we are Christian because “only by giving back to the community does life make sense to me. I believe we have been put on this earth for the purpose of achieving our greatest self, which cannot be measured in terms of wealth, title or position. It can only be measured by how much we give to enhance humanity. We have been taught since birth that we are to be more like Christ who was never about Himself.”

When asked specifically about living out her faith, the Judge is quick to say that she is thankful for “... a loving family, a solid education, strong faith, and rewarding job ...” She recognizes that she has been given more than most, so she finds that giving back is one way she can thank God for His blessings. She also tries to be “kind, joyful and respectful” in her daily life as another way to give thanks. Judge Gaughan relies upon the values and morals instilled in her from childhood through Catholic education to carry out her duties as a judge on a daily basis.

When contemplating her family’s relationship with our parish family, Judge Gaughan recalls that upon joining St. Christopher, she and her husband were inspired by how committed to service the people are. She and Roger found it “contagious” and felt a true sense of family and community. She is grateful that this church community of “amazing people” embraced them from the start. The judge and her family hope and pray that we will all continue to be “true Christians in every sense of the word” in our commitment to consistently express our faith by helping others.

Carmen Everett DeHaan

HOW IS THE DATE OF EASTER DETERMINED?

Easter is unusually late this year – April 24. In fact, that’s about as late as it can be. April 25 is the latest possible date for Easter according to the Church’s method of setting the date (March 22 is the earliest). But what is that method? The short answer: Easter Sunday is observed on the Sunday after the paschal full moon. A more complete answer is more complicated.

Easter, of course, always occurs on a Sunday because Sunday was the day of Christ’s resurrection. The paschal full moon, the determiner of which Sunday, is the first full moon that appears on or after the vernal (spring) equinox. The Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.) settled on this method. What’s the significance of the paschal full moon? It

was the date of Passover in the Jewish calendar, which was the date of the Last Supper (Holy Thursday). So, Easter was set to be the Sunday that immediately followed Passover.

There’s some fine-tuning involved. Because the paschal full moon can appear on different days in different time zones, which could make for different Easter days depending on where you live, the Church designated the 14th day of the lunar month (14 days after a new moon) as the paschal full moon. The vernal equinox can also wander on the calendar – March 21 or 22 – so the Church chooses March 21 every year. Standardizing the moon and equinox dates lets the Church set a universal date for Easter.

Mark Doyle

YOUTH GROUP BUILDS MOMENTUM IN ITS SECOND YEAR

St. Christopher Youth Group welcomes all high school age parishioners. The Group draws from a broad spectrum of the parish: eight high schools are represented and there are equal numbers of boys and girls. Members are encouraged to bring friends, even if they're not Catholic. Youth Group is for everyone, even those who go to Catholic schools. The focus is on developing teens' relationships with God, rather than learning facts about religion. It's about living our faith more than knowing Church history.

Meetings are currently held every other week. Look for signs outside the church and an announcement in the bulletin. Better yet, join the St. Christopher Youth Group Facebook page. To find it, search for "St. Christopher Youth Group," and click on the one that has our group's logo. You can connect with other teens in Youth Group and find out the next meeting's topic.

A typical meeting follows the format of the mass. It begins with Gather, a fun activity that relates to the night's topic and sometimes includes a snack. Next is Proclaim, the short teaching portion of the evening. This might be a personal witness, a video, or a concept from the catechism. Afterwards teens break into small groups to discuss what they've just seen and heard. Meetings conclude with a powerful prayer experience. For example, the meeting before

Christmas ended with adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist. Music is used for prayer as well. When possible, teens receive a tangible reminder of the meeting, such as holy water to use with personal prayer. There are also raffles for local restaurants and Christian music CDs.

Emily Laco, our new Youth Minister, Terry Grachanin, our seminarian and four adult volunteers plan and lead the meetings using resources from LifeTeen®, a curriculum used by parishes nationwide. The adult leaders communicate via e-mail and assemble before each meeting to make sure everything runs smoothly. Younger adults interested in becoming involved are welcome to e-mail Emily at emilylaco@wowway.com. Volunteers facilitate the small group discussions and might introduce a portion of the meeting.

Teens are able to provide input about the Group. A survey from a recent meeting showed that parish teens are interested in expanding social activities. Ms. Laco plans to hold summer cookouts and is looking into a bowling night. The Group may begin weekly meetings to have more time for social events and service activities. In addition, plans are underway for a Lenten day of reflection.

Katie Klima, Michelle Kraay and Anna LaRue



Wedding Cake Decorating Contest

Kristine Lee and Justin Duerk

Mike Pavlik, Kevin Arnold, Napon Yincharoen, John Kinsley, Anthony Tabanji and Joey Kinsley



Boys win!

CHURCH CHATTER

CONFIRMATION The **ninth graders** of our parish will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 6. Bishop Lennon will preside. Please keep them and their sponsors in your prayers.

BIRTHDAY WISHES Happy birthday to our Pastor, **Fr. John Chlebo**, as he celebrates his birthday on May 17.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Please keep our **First Communicants** in your prayers as they receive this sacrament during several weekend Masses in late April and May.

EL SALVADOR Several of **our fellow parishioners** recently returned from a missionary trip to El Salvador. Be sure to ask them about their experiences and look for an article about the trip in a future issue.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK Kudos to Benedictine High School senior, **Joseph Fisher**, who was recently honored by the West Shore Sun Newspaper as a model student. Joe is a St. Christopher School graduate who is already in the post secondary enrollment option at Notre Dame College of Ohio. Proud parents are Al and Gail; brother Tom is a freshman at Rocky River High School.

Share your spiritual and joyous events with us. Give submissions for Church Chatter to Roberta Trutko at 440-333-6099 or jmtrutko@aol.com.

2008 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES

In January 2008 our parish launched a three-year, three-million-dollar capital campaign. The goals of the campaign were to renovate the church, enlarge our gymnasium and pay down our capital debt. The first goal of church renovation was completed in 2008. Unfortunately the funds to complete this ambitious campaign were not realized as the pledge total reached just over 1.6 million dollars.

Nevertheless, in November 2010, as the campaign was winding down, our parish Athletic Association led a final effort to build a new gym here at St. Christopher. The original plan was to enlarge our current gym but pledges and donations had fallen short of the goal. The Athletic Association members believed that building a new gym was more attractive and would receive more support. Since the campaign needed to conclude by the end of 2010 a timely response was important. In spite of their efforts and in spite of a very nice plan we still fell far short of the funds that would be needed to build a new gym or even enlarge the current gym.

After discussing the situation with the Parish Finance Council and the Parish Pastoral Council it has been decided to move forward with some necessary work on our current gym. This primarily includes a new roof, new air conditioning and new changing rooms for teams to use. We will also replace the church boiler, a job that was deferred at the time we renovated the church two years ago. The plan is for this work to be accomplished during this calendar year. At this point there is enough money collected and pledged to accomplish these goals. Any remaining funds will be used to help retire our capital debt, as was part of the original campaign three years ago. I am grateful to those who, in spite of difficult economic times, have contributed to the campaign and who continue to complete the payment of pledges that are still outstanding.

Fr. John Chlebo



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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 4	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION	April 1	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
March 6	PSR LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE	April 3-4	FR. LEO PATALINGHUG LENTEN MISSION
March 6	SCHOOL ART SHOW	April 6	CONFIRMATION
March 8	PTU ICE CREAM SOCIAL	April 6	LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE AT ST. ANGELA
March 9	ASH WEDNESDAY	April 7	LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION – SR. MELANNIE SVOBODA
March 10	WILL AND ESTATE PLANNING WORKSHOP	April 10	ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PANCAKE BREAKFAST
March 12	CUB SCOUT PINWOOD DERBY	April 10	HIGH SCHOOL TEEN RETREAT
March 13	PSR LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE	April 15	LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND TALK
March 20	PRE-CANA DAY	April 17	PALM SUNDAY
March 25; April 1, 8, 15	STATIONS OF THE CROSS AFTER 11 A.M. MASS	April 30; May 1, 7, 8, 14	FIRST COMMUNION
March 27	BLOODMOBILE	May 6	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
March 27	CONFIRMATION RETREAT	May 23, 12:00 p.m.	FR. FRANZ DOOL FIRST MASS AND RECEPTION
March 29	LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE AT ST. CHRISTOPHER		