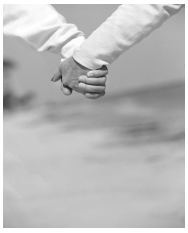
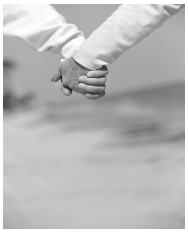


S.M.A.R.T. NEWS

Saint Mary's Active Religious Teens
Saint Mary's Parish Iowa City, Iowa March 2011
Web Site: **http://youth.icstmary.org**



Dear Friends,

Two friends were walking through the desert. During some point on their journey, they had an argument and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything wrote in the sand, *"Today my best friend slapped me in the face."*

The two friends kept on walking until they found a deep creek where they decided to go for a swim. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the muddy creek and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone, *"Today my best friend saved my life."*

The friend who had slapped AND saved his best friend asked him, *"After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now you write on a stone - why?"* The friend replied,

"When someone hurts us we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

During this Lenten season, let's take the time to make improvements in the way we treat others and to ask for forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the times we have chosen to do wrong instead of choosing to do good. Only then will we feel the wind from Christ's whisper saying,

"Your best friend forgives you and loves you."

And we can put that in stone…

Patti McTaggart

Jesus is the living stone; rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him… Peter 2:4

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

By: Joseph Malanson Sophomore, West High School

St. Fina
Feast Day: March 12th

St. Fina dei Ciardi was born in 1238 in the city of San Gimignano. Her family was a lessened noble family, living in a humble house in the center of the city. Nothing definitive remains of the earliest years of her life. Legends say that even as a little child she was extraordinarily kind but they also she never left the house to attend mass, especially any that were devoted to the Virgin Mary. Also, even though her family was relatively poor, she always saved a half of her meal to give to the destitute in the city. However, when she was ten years old, she contracted a disease that would forever change and eventually claim her life. The treatment at the time was further complicated by the fact that around this time, her father died, losing the family's chief source of income.

This illness began to slowly paralyze her and now would be diagnosed as some rare form of tuberculosis. She refused to lie on a bed and instead spent her days on an oaken table. Hoping to be similar to Christ on the cross, she lay their without complaint while her mother had to leave and work or beg to get them food. Although she was in awful pain, St. Fina stayed calm and kept her eyes fixed on the crucifix on the wall, praying. During this long sickness, legend says her body became attached to the table and she was attacked by parasites. She resigned herself to her eventual death and began to pray that her soul may leave her body to join Jesus Christ in heaven.

However, her life only grew more difficult. Her mother died and Fina was left without anyone to provide with her a way to live, except for her devoted friend Beldia. Her neighbors did come to bring her the basic essentials but they were afraid to ever stay with her for too long and none would ever touch her. Fina always gave those neighbors encouragement, for whatever was going in their life, and never resented them for their actions. During this time, she began to especially venerate Gregory the Great, and she prayed to him that he would intercede on her behalf to help her with her pain.

Eight days before her death, Fina lay on the table, alone, and was visited by St. Gregory the Great. He said to her, "Dear child on my festival God will give you rest." On March 12, 1253, on St. Gregory the Great's feast day, she passed away at the age of fifteen. The rotten wood on the board where Fina had lain for 5 years, was covered in white violets. At the exact moment of her death, all the bells in the city rang without anyone touching them. The entire city attended the funeral for her. Her feast day was established on March 12 and the peasants of the area have long given her name to the white violets which bloom in that region. A chapel in the city was dedicated to her and still holds relics.

Many amazing miracles are attributed to praying for the intercession of St. Fina. Her friend, from many years of caring for her, Beldia, had developed a paralyzed hand. As Fina lay dead in the Church, Beldia approached her. Fina raised her arm and grasped Beldia's, curing the hand. Many people have visited her grave and been healed by praying for her intercession.

St. Patrick's

SHAMROCK

SHOOTOUT

FREE THROW CONTEST

Saturday, March 5

Registration 11:00am-Noon
Shooting begins at 11:30 AM
$5 per person or $20 per family

Come see the newest gym in Iowa City!
Open to the public ages 3rd grade and up

4 YOUTH age divisions by grade
2 ADULT age divisions-54 and under, 55 and up
St. Patrick Church 4330 St. Patrick Drive Iowa City, Iowa
Prizes awarded for Group Division Champions
-Boys – Girls – Adults

Proceeds to support St. Patrick's Youth Activities.

SEMINARY VISIT: The Vocation Office of the Diocese of Davenport is sponsoring a trip to **Mundelein Seminary Wednesday, March 16.** This special trip is open to young men in high school and there is no cost. All meals and transportation will be provided. This is a great opportunity to visit a seminary, meet seminarians and to see seminary life first-hand. We will leave from Assumption High School in Davenport at 7:30 AM and return at 10 PM. A highlight of the day will be participating in Mass celebrated by Cardinal George with the seminarians. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Fr. Marty Goetz (goetz@davenportdiocese.org or 563-888-4255) by March 9.

St. Joseph's Day – Friday, March 19th

One of the special patron saints of religious and priestly vocations is St. Joseph, the faithful spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster father of Jesus. The reason for this is founded in his primary vocation in life, which was to watch over and to protect the Blessed Virgin Mary and, our Savior, Jesus. During this month of March, which is dedicated to St. Joseph, let us pray to him for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. God may be calling you! ☺

CALLING ALL CHEFS!!!! DO YOU LIKE TO COOK? On the third Thursday of every month, join other youth from each high school and junior high as we collaborate together in St. Mary's parish hall and make four casseroles for the Free Lunch program. This month's "cooking class" will take place on Thursday, March 18^{7h} from 5:00-6:00PM. The casseroles created will be served the next day, Friday, March 18th, at the Free Lunch program and since it's Spring Break week, we can serve the meal as well! All youth are invited to participate!!

Movie and Pizza Night!

Staying home during Spring Break? GREAT! On Wednesday, March 16th , 2011 at 6:00PM, we will have a "Make-Your-Own Pizza" and "Movie Night" in St. Mary's parish hall. Patti will bring the pizza dough, the sauce, the cheese, and the drink. Bring your own topping to share with others. As we devour the delicious pizzas we create, we'll watch a movie flick!

ALL YOUTH ARE WELCOME – COME JOIN IN THE FUN!

DIOCESAN JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH RALLY!!!

WHEN: SUNDAY, MARCH 20th, 2011
WHERE: REGINA HIGH SCHOOL
TIME: 10AM-4PM
SEE THE FLYER FOR DETAILS or go to davenportyouth.org for more information.

SUMMER CATHOLIC CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

St. Thomas More Youth Camp in Panora, Iowa hosts week-long Catholic retreats for youth. They also have a promotional video up from last year's camps: www.stmcenter.com.
Registration fills up fast!
Youth from our parish go every summer and LOVE it!
CHECK IT OUT! Grades 2-12.

NATIONAL EVANGELIZATION TEAM

This is the organization that has hosted our Confirmation Advance for the last few years. They are GREAT! They have weekend retreat opportunities throughout the summer in Minnesota and other places. Check out their website – you won't be disappointed! www.netusa.org.