



S.M.A.R.T. NEWS

SAINT MARY'S ACTIVE RELIGIOUS TEENS
May 2011 Web Site: <http://youth.icstmary.org>



Dear Friends,

There once was a man named George Thomas, pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak...

"I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, "What do you have there, son?"

"Just some old birds," came the reply.

"What are you going to do with them?" I asked.

"Take 'em home and have fun with 'em," he answered. "I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?"

"Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy, "They like birds. I'll feed them to the cats."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?"

"Huh?? !!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister? They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!"

"How much?" the pastor asked again.

The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?" The pastor reached in his pocket and paid the \$10 price. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free.

Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit. Then the pastor began to tell this story:

"One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked.

Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to hate and abuse each other, how to lie and cheat and steal. I'm even gonna teach them how to kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you are done with them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you, and kill you. You don't want those people!!"

"How much?" Jesus asked again. Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your blood, your tears and your life."

Jesus said, "DONE!"

Then He paid the price...

Through Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins... Colossians 1:14

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

By: Joseph Malanson Sophomore, West High School



Pope St. Gregory VII (Feast Day: May 25)

Pope St. Gregory VII was born Hildebrand of Sovana, a city in Italy, in the year 1020 A.D. He came from humble backgrounds, his father being a blacksmith. When he was just a boy, he was sent to an abbey in Rome to study where his uncle was abbot. Hildebrand, after completing his schooling, rose rapidly through the levels of the Church, becoming a papal legate in just his 20's. He was instrumental in overcoming a crisis when an anti-pope was elected, helping remove him from any position of power. As a form of thanks, Hildebrand was created Archdeacon of the Roman church, becoming the most important official in the papal bureaucracy.

After the death of Alexander II, a great cry went up among the Roman people and clergy, calling "Let Hildebrand be pope!", "Blessed Peter has chosen Hildebrand the Archdeacon!" throughout the city. He was conducted to a church and the assembled cardinals elected him Pope on April 21, 1073. Hildebrand then chose the name, Gregory VII. Gregory VII was known to be devout, knowledgeable on both

human and divine levels, and a man who loved both equity and justice. Based on policies implemented during his papacy, he is known as one of the most reform-minded popes. However, he would have trouble in his foreign policy.

Soon after his election, Gregory VII called a council in the Lateran palace. This council focused on two main issues: simony and clerical celibacy. Simony was the practice of buying church offices and Gregory was determined to end it. However, the real struggle he took up was his campaign against clerical marriage. He wasn't the first pope to attempt this, but he took this up with a far more serious attitude than his predecessors. Gregory VII absolved all Catholics from obedience to a bishop or priest that was married. He asked all faithful to act against these married clerics and then not soon after, he took away their salaries. Pope Gregory VII wanted to centralize all matters of ecclesiastical government to Rome, meaning that he had to weaken the power of individual bishops. Gregory VII encountered numerous problems with implementing these reforms, with both higher ranks of the clergy opposing it and numerous portions of the laity refusing to turn on their local married clergy.

However, St. Gregory VII encountered real problems in his struggles in the realm of foreign policy. His most pressing issue was his relationship with the German state, seeing as the new monarch, Henry IV, was both inexperienced and facing internal division. After issues between the two over the Saxon rebellion and Italian politics, however they became divided, resulting in Henry declaring Gregory VII deposed and the Pope excommunicating Henry twice. Aside from Gregory's German troubles, he maintained or started relationships with every nation in Christendom. In several nations, he tried to establish Papal control over them, gaining Corsica and Sardinia in this manner.

Unfortunately for the Pope, his core of German supporters and the Roman people abandoned him after his numerous foreign relations mishaps. In the past year of his life, Gregory VII fled Rome to the castle of Salerno where he died May 25, 1085, still technically reigning as Pope St. Gregory VII. For the past 900 years, the people of Salerno have guarded his remains, still preserving his sarcophagus in the city cathedral. He was canonized in 1606.

A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for our Mothers! Where would we be without them? You have given every Mother a heart of unending, inexhaustible love, from the time she awakens at her baby's first cries to the time she falls asleep after her last child finally comes home! Thank You for our Mothers who care for us when we struggle, comfort us when we suffer, and celebrate with us when we succeed. Thank You for their hugs, their encouragement, and their faithful love.

Thank you, Father, for Mary, our heavenly Mother, who supported Your Son in His hopes and dreams, stayed by His side in His devastating death, and rejoiced with Him in His triumphant Resurrection! She will not rest until all of us, her children, are safely home forever. Through her intercession, please protect and bless our Mothers with Your strength, Your joy, and Your undying love.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The heart of a mother is a deep abyss
at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness.
~Honoré de Balzac

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PARISH SPRING CLEANING DAY

Youth helpers are needed to assist

with cleaning the inside and outside of St. Mary's Church. With a lot of help, it won't take long to get our spiritual home looking even spiffier!

(Is "spiffier" a word?)



Youth workers would certainly be appreciated!

WHEN: Saturday April 30th, 2011

TIME: 8:00AM- Noon

WHERE: At the Church!



**ATTENTION GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL
SENIORS
FROM CITY HIGH, REGINA, AND WEST HIGH!!!**



Each year, a special graduation breakfast is served at St. Mary's in honor of our high school graduates. All graduating high school seniors from St. Mary's Parish and their parents are invited. Please RSVP to the office at 337-4314 if you are planning to attend.

WHEN: Friday May 13th, 2011 7AM

WHERE: St. Mary's Parish Hall

FEEDING GOD'S CHILDREN 2011

As part of a national effort by the Catholic Forester's, all youth and adults from St. Mary's are encouraged to bring can goods to St. Mary's on Sunday, May 15th to be donated to our local/county food pantries. Our goal is to fill a truck! It can be done! Recruiting skills and muscles will be needed for this service privilege. All youth interested in being leaders with this privilege in assisting the poor are encouraged to contact Patti before May 15th at 337-4314 or

pmctaggart@icstmary.org. Free T-shirts for all youth volunteers (they look GOOD - and they will look even better on YOU!)



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TEEN BIBLE STUDY GROUP

For Junior High and High School Youth

WHEN: Sunday, May 15th, 2011

7PM-8PM in St. Mary's Parish Hall



Come join in the FOOD and FUN of learning more about the Bible!!!

You won't be disappointed!

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, April 14th from 5:00-6:00PM. The casseroles created will be served the next day, Friday, May 20th at the Wesely House. All youth are invited to participate!

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MAY

May 5th Holy Hour for Vocations in the church 7:00PM



May 8th Mother's Day (kisses and hugs to all Mom's)

May 15th Feeding God's Children Canned Food Drive
at all the Masses



May 15th Teen Bible Study
7:00PM in the parish hall

May 13th High School Graduation Breakfast
7:00PM

May 19th Casserole-Making for Free Lunch 5-6PM

MAY-JUNE Graduations (City High, West High,
Regina, West Branch, Tiffin)

Prayer for Vocations- World Day of Prayer for Vocations is May 15th!

*Gracious God,
With grateful hearts we welcome the presence
of Jesus, our Good Shepherd
We accept the mission of Jesus
to bring good news to the world
by our baptismal commitment to gospel living.
Bless us with discerning hearts.
May we have the courage to give our lives
in loving service through married life, the single life,
the consecrated life, and ordained life.
Inspire men and women to respond generously
and embrace the gift of a religious vocation.
We unite our prayers with the whole Church,
with the communion of saints, with Jesus and the Spirit
in praise and thanksgiving now and forever. Amen.*