



# Stronica Proboszcza

## The Pastor's Page

April 7<sup>th</sup>, MMXIX  
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

*Month of the Holy Eucharist*

FmarkB@aol.com

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!  
Praised be Jesus Christ!

**T**oday we begin the final period of Lent known as Passiontide. It is that time of Lent when we focus our attention in our prayer and meditation more closely and lovingly on the sacred Passion of Christ. The actual physical pain Jesus endured at the end of His life was horrendous! Some years ago the film "The Passion of the Christ" was released. This film made the pain Jesus endured very clear and so realistic for viewers. Added to this physical pain was the very real psychological and spiritual pain He endured, which is also clearly evident in this fine film. Yes, Christ's death was a cruel and violent torture, which He endured out of pure love for humanity. If you have not viewed Mel Gibson's masterpiece, "The Passion of the Christ," the season of Passiontide would be the perfect time. It will certainly effect your celebration of Easter and the Paschal Mysteries in a profound way! Also, recently, Mark Burnett and Roma Downey produced the film "Son of God," which can also be a fine inspiration to Christians during these final days of Lent. Passiontide extends through Holy Week and culminates during the Triduum on Good Friday.

This period in the liturgical year is dramatically observed in our church by the veiling of the sacred images according to long standing Catholic tradition. The crosses remain covered until after Good Friday services and the statues until Holy Saturday. What is the meaning of this practice? The crosses are veiled because Christ during this time no longer walked openly among the people, but hid Himself. Christ's divinity was hidden when He arrived at the time of His suffering and death. The images of the saints may also be covered because it would seem improper for the "Servants" to appear when the Master Himself is hidden. The veiling of the images creates an unmistakably somber atmosphere in a church. In a certain way we feel alone, much as Christ did when the time came for Him to make the ultimate sacrifice. He cried out, "My God, why have You forsaken me?"

Któryś za nas  
cierpiał rany,  
Jezu Chryste,  
zmiłuj się nad nami.

☩ Jesus Christ,  
who suffered  
and was wounded for us,  
have mercy upon us.

## Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> – the Feast of St. John Baptist de la Salle

In the days of King Louis XIV of France, the country had only two classes of people: the very poor and the very rich. In time, these unjust conditions would lead to the French Revolution. But John Baptist de la Salle did something revolutionary of his own. Born to a rich and well-known family, he spent his life teaching the poor.

John was born in 1651 into a wealthy family of the city of Rheims. As a youth he was intelligent, handsome and a smooth talker. At the young age of 11 he began to study for the priesthood and he became a priest at age 27 in 1678. Later he studied to receive a doctorate in theology. With so much education, he expected to hold a powerful position in the church and he became a canon of the cathedral.

John's ambitions took an unexpected turn while he was serving as a priest at the cathedral in Rheims. There he met Adrian Nyel. In those days only the rich could afford to send their children to school. Adrian had a dream of educating poor children, and he wanted John to help him.

John did not enjoy going into the slums, but Adrian convinced him to help begin a school for poor boys. John began training teachers. He taught them how to plan lessons and keep order in classrooms which he divided into grades for the first time.

Soon his community of teachers became the "Brothers of the Christian Schools." In 1684 his first twelve followers made temporary professions and placed the Congregation under the special patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They were the first religious group whose special mission was to teach the poor. The brothers taught their students how to live in the world as Christians. John also founded technical schools and humane reformatories for boys who had gotten into trouble.

Back in those days, classes were taught in Latin. If you didn't understand Latin, you couldn't learn. The brothers began to teach in French so ordinary students could understand. John realized that this work was a call from God. He resigned from his post at the cathedral and gave away his share of the family fortune to the victims of a famine. John opened the first teachers' college, schools for poor children in Paris and other French cities, and industrial schools for boys.

Not everyone understood John's bold actions. His wealthy family opposed his choices. Many schoolmasters disapproved of his teaching methods, especially those from the Sulpician order. Some of his schools were raided by the police and closed down, but eventually the work of the Christian Brothers began to thrive throughout the world.

John Baptist de la Salle died on Good Friday of 1719 at the age of 68, after suffering for many years from asthma and rheumatism. He was canonized in 1900 and in 1950 Pope Pius XII proclaimed him a patron saint of school teachers.

## GOING TO MASS DURING THE WEEK

Pope Saint Pius the tenth once said "The Holy Mass is a prayer itself, even the highest prayer that exists. It is the Sacrifice, dedicated by our Redeemer at the Cross, and repeated every day on the Altar." During the holy season of Lent the Church urges us even more than usual, to incorporate into our lives those practices which will help us to grow in holiness. Going to Mass is definitely one of them. Mass is offered in our church every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30 AM and every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:00 PM. Of course we understand that the majority of our parishioners must go to work and are not free to attend Mass in the morning. Since we have Mass on Tuesday and Thursday evenings we would hope that folks who would go to a weekday Mass if they could, will take advantage of this more convenient hour. Of course, after a day at work it would be easier just to come home and take it easy for the evening, and getting in the car and going off to church would take some effort, but anything we undertake to improve ourselves does require some work. And there is a pay off for the time and energy invested in going to Mass. The most obvious and most important is Holy Communion, but there is also that opportunity to be in God's house for thirty minutes or so and to hear what God wants to say to us in the scriptures and the prayers of the Mass.

Benefiting from these also requires effort. Pope Pius X goes on to write, "If you wish to hear Mass as

it should be heard, you must follow with eye, heart and mouth all that happens at the Altar. Further, you must pray with the Priest the holy words said by him in the Name of Christ and which Christ says by him. You have to associate your heart with the holy feelings which are contained in these words and in this manner you ought to follow all that happens at the Altar. When acting in this way you have prayed Holy Mass." Please at least consider coming to the Tuesday and Thursday evening Masses at 7:00 o'clock PM during Lent. Those who are wise enough to take advantage of this treasure will gain so much from it!

### ***Stabat Mater dolorosa juxta crucem lacrimosa, dum pendebat Filius.***

There is a very old custom in the Church to commemorate the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Friday before Holy Week begins. Those seven sorrows of Mary are as follows: the Prophecy of Simeon, the Flight into Egypt, the Loss of Jesus in the Temple, Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary, Jesus Dies on the Cross, Mary Receives the Dead Body of Jesus in Her Arms, and Jesus is Placed in the Tomb.

Mary lived in a country oppressed by the Romans. She knew how it felt to be an unwed mother, a refugee, the mother of a political prisoner and criminal. She experienced poverty and she was a widow. Her sufferings have been shared by many people of our times, especially in places around the world that endure political oppression and war.

In Italy in the thirteenth century, Jacopone da Todi wrote a "sequence" song in honor of this day. This song is often sung when people pray the Stations of the Cross. Here are a few verses:

*At the cross her station keeping,  
stood the mournful mother, weeping,  
close to Jesus to the last.*

*Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,  
all His bitter anguish bearing,  
now at length the sword has passed.*

*Christ, when You shall call me hence,  
be Your mother my defense,  
be Your cross my victory.*

## ***Every Friday of Lent is a day of Abstinence.***

***Everyone over 14 years of age must abstain from eating meat  
Why not come to our Fish Fry and support your parish and save yourself the  
trouble of cooking? In the school building from 3PM until 7PM***

***K***eeep us, O God, from all pettiness.  
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.  
Let us be done with fault-finding and  
leave off all self-seeking.  
May we put away all pretense and meet  
each other face to face, without self pity  
and without prejudice. May we never  
be hasty in judgment, and always be  
generous.

Let us always take time for all things,  
and make us grow calm, serene and gentle.  
Teach us to put into action our better  
impulses,  
To be straightforward and unafraid.  
Grant that we may realize that it is the  
little things in life that create differences,  
that in the big things of life, we are as one.  
And, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind!  
Amen.



# Easter Lilies



## In Loving Memory of Our Beloved Deceased

Once again this year we are offering the Parishioners and friends of Our Lady of the Scapular the opportunity to buy a lily for our sanctuary in memory of a deceased member of their family. The cost is \$25 per lily.

On Easter Sunday a special insert will be included in the Sunday bulletin listing the names of the deceased and those who remembered them in this special way.

At the end of the Easter Season those who purchased a lily are welcome to take it home and plant it in their garden. Any lilies that remain will be planted on the church grounds. 40 lilies will be purchased to decorate our sanctuary. \* Note: Money that is contributed toward the church flowers in the envelope provided will be used to purchase flowers for the tomb.

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I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_ lily (lilies) in memory of

\_\_\_\_\_  
Enclosed is a check for \$25 for each lily I want to offer.  
My Name & phone number: \_\_\_\_\_