

April, 1992 Newsletter

Praised Be Jesus Christ! We are approaching the second half of the Lenten Season. How is everyone faring? Any battle wounds yet? I'm just grateful that we have a Solemnity now and then to break up the intensity of Lent! Last week we had the Feast of St. Joseph and this past week, the Feast of the Annunciation. By the way, happy feast day to my fellow Annunciation Church parishioners. I hope you celebrated appropriately!

The Companions of Christ and St. Paul's Outreach have taken this Lenten Season seriously. We have taken on some practical ways to live out our duties of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. On the prayer side of things, SPO started off Lent with an "All Night Prayer Vigil." About 45 vigilants prayed through the night on Friday, March 6th at 10pm until Saturday, March 7th at 6:30 am, followed by Mass at 6:45 am. This all took place in the Chapel of the Redemption at the University of St. Thomas. Our prayer was mainly intercessory. Each hour during the night we prayed for a particular need of the Church, the Colleges, the Diocese, our Families and Friends, and the World. I was greatly inspired by the number of people who showed up, and on a Friday Night!

In addition to the Vigil, our weekly SPO Sunday Night Prayer Meetings at Nativity Church have taken on a Lenten focus: we are doing a series of talks called "The Two Kingdoms." Each week, a talk is given to reflect on our Christian Journey, which involves the cross but ultimately shows us the power of the Resurrection. Our series will run through Easter.

On the First Friday in Lent, I started a weekly Bible Study at my house with eight students from the University of St. Thomas. We meet each Friday Evening and reflect on the upcoming Sunday Gospel reading. I am very edified by the insights into the passages and the hunger these men have for the Word of God. I feel very privileged to lead it.

Though it is Lent, The Companions of Christ did have the honor of hosting Archbishop John Roach for dinner on Thursday, March 5th. Fr. Michael Skluzacek (the new Pastor of St. Michael's in Stillwater, MN) joined us for this occasion. Archbishop Roach offered Mass in our little chapel followed by dinner. Abp. Roach was interested in finding out more about the Companions of Christ in our own words, so we shared with him our history, charism, and aspirations. The evening was splendid. Thank you all for your many prayers.

Coming up in April is, at last, the joyous season of Easter! I have been asked to help serve the Holy Week and Triduum services at Nativity Parish in St. Paul. After the Sunday Easter Mass, the Companions will head for Northern Wisconsin for a couple of days of rest, relaxation, and Easter Celebration.

On Wednesday, April 22nd, St. Paul's Outreach will celebrate its second annual "Christian Seder." This will be a time where members of SPO will gather together to celebrate Easter with food, song, dance, and entertainment. The prayers for the evening are based upon the Jewish celebration of Passover. I have been made co-chair for this event. I will fill you in on more details next month.

*Until next month, may the Lord grant you a blessed Lent and a most Joyous Easter!
Your Companion in Christ*

William Pelant