

March 7, 2010

Third Sunday of Lent

Saint John Vianney

A Mission Church of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish serving you since August 10, 1997
1000 26th Ave NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144
www.stjohnvianneyparish.org

Friends in Christ Jesus,

This year, for the first time at St. John Vianney Mission Church, Mass will be celebrated on Holy Thursday. The Mass will include the traditional washing of feet, and at the end of Mass the Blessed Sacrament will be moved to the Altar of Repose. Adoration will follow until midnight. Since we cannot leave the Blessed Sacrament untended that evening, I am asking you to consider joining me that evening after Mass to keep vigil with our Lord. The Mass will begin at 7 PM. The next evening, Good Friday, a Good Friday service will be observed, also beginning at 7 PM. Please plan to attend both very beautiful Liturgies this year at St. John Vianney. More info to come as Lent progresses.



Have a blessed week.

Fr. Scott Mansfield

Holy Rosary

20 Minutes before each mass

Holy Masses

Saturday4:00PM

Sunday.....8:00AM

Sunday..... 10:00AM

Sacrament of Confession

Saturday 3:00-3:45PM

Upcoming Events

- Food Collection for St. Felix Pantry 1st Sunday of every month
- Food Collection for Kid's Pantry Backpack 3rd Sunday of every month
- Stations of the Cross Fridays at 6PM



Do not forget your umbrella.
I have to water the plants.

God

Thank you for reading our bulletin. Any suggestions, comments, prayers or articles can be sent to bulletin@sjvnm.org. We also like to hear about births, baptisms, marriages or other news about our church members.

**Some people are kind,
polite, and sweet-
spirited - until you try
to sit in their pews.**

Prayer Corner

Let us join as a community in prayer for our fellow parishioners and/or their family members.

- ◆ Please pray for Marie Montoya health. (2/14)
- ◆ For healing and a great recovery for Sharon Thompson after surgery, and for her husband, Bob. (1/17)
- ◆ For Nick Lombardo health and peace to his family with his illness. (1/10)
- ◆ For Fr. Whorton on his deployment, and his family, that they all remain under God's loving care. (Till he returns)
- ◆ For the strength and courage of the disabled, sick, elderly, and dying
- ◆ For our country leaders to make the right decision for the well being of our country.
- ◆ For guidance to our leaders for the removal of the stain of abortion.
- ◆ All our brave men and women of the world keeping their country free.
- ◆ For the lonely that they find comfort in the heart of Our Blessed Mother Mary as she too suffered the loneliness of Christ's death.

Prayers are kept on the list for a month then need to be resubmitted.

Thank you for your prayers.

**You might be a
TRUE AMERICAN if:**

It never occurred to you to be offended by the phrase, "One nation, under God."

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Observations on Growing Older
~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.

Faith and Finances with Phil Lenahan © – www.VeritasFinancialMinistries.com

Marriage and Money – Non Cooperative Spouses

It's unfortunate when spouses don't operate as a team with money. It's one thing to overcome this when they recognize the problem and are willing to change. But what do you do when you want to change and your spouse doesn't?

First, never give up on achieving the unity which the Catechism describes so eloquently: "Grace proper to the sacrament of Matrimony is intended to perfect the couple's love and to strengthen their indissoluble unity. By this grace they 'help one another to attain holiness in their married life and in welcoming and educating their children'" (1641).

At the same time, don't stick your head in the sand and assume things will be alright when you know you are violating basic money management principles. The longer you let "bad behavior" continue, the higher the mountain of problems will be to climb.

A key to making progress with an uncooperative spouse is to minimize the harm they do, while maximizing the potential for success. For example, if your spouse lacks discipline when it comes to spending, have them hand over their debit and credit cards, and put them on an all cash allowance system for discretionary spending.

In more troubled situations, it may be necessary to legally separate financial activity. This is serious, and should only be done after receiving spiritual direction and legal counsel. Separating financial activity is not a desired goal, but a temporary step to allow the non-cooperative spouse an opportunity to mature so you can eventually work effectively as a team. God love you!

**Come, Pray and Sacrifice for The Unborn
The Helpers of God's Precious Infants
Monthly Mass and Procession
Saturday, March 13, 2010
San Ignacio Church
1300 Walter St. NE, Albuquerque**



Mass Begins: 8:00 A.M. followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a procession to a nearby abortion mill. Then, return to church for Benediction. Invite your family and friends to join you at this peaceful and prayerful event. Potluck social will follow. For more information contact Yolanda at Helpers@Defendinglife.Org or 220-8891.

Einstein and God by Carl E Beyer

My niece sent me an email the other day about Einstein and God which, while not a true story, was thought provoking. So let me set the table for this discussion with a brief synopsis of the email.

A professor is having a conversation with a student about how God created evil. The logic is that if God created everything including the Devil, then God must be evil in order to have created evil. Why would a loving God create evil? The student, who is said to be Einstein, argued back to his professor based on the concepts of cold and darkness. Cold is simply the lack of heat. You cannot introduce cold to anything. You can, as in a refrigerator, take away heat, which makes our food cold. Absolute zero is where there is considered to be no heat. You cannot be at absolute zero and introduce cold to make it colder than absolute zero. The same logic can be applied to darkness. Darkness cannot be introduced to make it darker. Darkness is simply the lack of light. You can take light away to a point of total darkness but you cannot introduce darkness to make it darker. This same premise is then used to show that evil is simply the lack of God. God did not create evil, but evil is the lack of God.

This got me to thinking about whether this is a valid argument. We can, in the argument, replace God with Good since God is true good. So is the lack of good, evil? If your every action is toward good can you do evil? If we do not do good are we doing evil?

In our general confessions we say "In what I have done, and in what I have failed to do". If evil was not the lack of good why confess what we have failed to do? The reverse is not true. If we failed to do evil are we doing good? No, we are not. I have heard people comment that they do no evil. Their logic is that by doing no evil they themselves are good. Not true. To be good you have to do something good for people. If you see someone who needs help and you do nothing for them while they are down, did you do no evil and therefore do good? No, that logic does not stand up. In order to do good you have to help the person in need. You have to take an active role. Good is not passive. To do good you have to take action.

If your every action is toward good can you do evil? First, unless we are speaking of our Lord, who of us can direct all our actions is toward good? We, as God's children, can strive our whole life and never achieve a state where our every action is toward good. If you ever have a chance to speak to someone whom you believe dedicates all their actions toward good you will find that they will tell you differently. The best we can do is to discern what our gifts are and do as much good with them as possible. If we are doing too much evil it is because we are doing too little good. Think about that. Let me say it again. If we are doing too much evil it is because we are doing too little good.

If we do not do good are we doing evil? Yes! Yes! Yes! If the way to save your soul was to do no evil then our faith would be quite different. Jesus would have preached isolation. Our faith, if this were true, would be to sit in an empty room by ourselves with no other human interaction so that no evil could be done. Can you envision such a world? The message would not be to love your neighbor but to avoid your neighbor. What a terrible world that would be. A world where when someone was walking down the street you would run away from them to avoid doing evil. No smile, no hello, no chitchat, just isolation. And to take it further, we could

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take this across the animal kingdom. No pets because we can be good to them and therefore by withholding our good we could do evil. What a sad world it would be.

The bottom line is this: I would agree would this imaginary Einstein. There is nothing measurable that can be called evil. Evil is the lack of Good. The less Good the more Evil. The more Good the less Evil. The next time temptation finds you, ask yourself this question. If I were doing good, would I have time to do evil? Thus the saying “Idle time is the devils playground”. Indeed how true is this saying. Let us pursue the opposite of that saying in “Doing good is God’s playground.

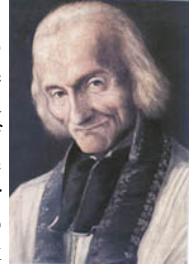
If you have not taken the time yet, may I humbly ask that you examine your three T’s: Time, Talents and Treasures. Everyone has each of these T’s in different quantities. How can you use yours to promote good? Promote the good in the world. Let us all make an effort to do good, and thus, diminish evil. Let the light of God shine so brightly into every dark corner we have so that good can be seen everywhere.

God Bless You All. Go forth and do Good. God loves you and so desires you to spread his love. What better way than to do good unto your fellow man?

	Sacristans	Ushers	EM of Holy Communion	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors
Sat Mar 6th 4:00PM	Christine Garcia	Therese Lopez J.D. Strickland Juan Serna	Pinky Bjornstad	Pam McCarty	Josh Storms Jamie Van Loben Sels Jessica Van Loben Sels	David Crawford Rosie Root
Sun Mar 7th 8:00AM	Margaret Chavez	Tom Anderson Mike Philbin Jim Cutler John Christensen	David Schutten	Sheila Howard	Albert Ibarra Sergio Guillen Shane Herrera	Jose Guillen Geneva Torres
Sun Mar 7th 10:00AM	Geri Hoover	Tony Quinones Ariana Eck Gary Vigil John Valdez	Jeremy McClellan April Karen McClellan Teresa Medrano	Judith Conner	Rocky Peyton Drew Garcia Alura McClellan Karla Del Cid	Connie Dudon Ana Padilla
Sat Mar 13th 4:00PM	David Crawford	Bill Deneen Eddie Crespín Mike Philbin	Janis Crespín	J.D. Strickland	Delaney Kast Emilio Crespín Victoria Perez	Bill McCarty Pam McCarty
Sun Mar 14th 8:00AM	Julie Burnside	Juan Serna James E Dory Tom Anderson John Christensen	Harlan Harrington	Frances Perko	Vincent Valdez Peter Lucero Charles Lucero	David Schutten Julie Burnside
Sun Mar 14th 10:00AM	Geri Hoover	Tony Quinones Nick Coca III Ariana Eck Gary Vigil	John Lombardo Ana Padilla Margaret Chavez	Rebecca Eck	Amanda Vigil Gary Vigil Krista Savela James Uhrich	Vicky Howell Lillian Ortiz

We utilize an eMail notification for our volunteers at St. John Vianney. We are missing the eMails for the following volunteers: Judith Conner, Drew Garcia, Frances Perko and Geneva Torres. If this is you or you know their eMail address can you please send it to bulletin@sjvnm.org. Thank you. for your assistance.

Catechism on Sin I by Saint John Vianney



Sin is the executioner of the good God, and the assassin of the soul. It snatches us away from Heaven to precipitate us into Hell. And we love it! What folly! If we thought seriously about it, we should have such a lively horror of sin that we could not commit it. O my children, how ungrateful we are! The good God wishes to make us happy; that is very certain; He gave us His Law for no other end. The Law of God is great; it is broad. King David said that he found his delight in it, and that it was a treasure more precious to him than the greatest riches. He said also that he walked at large, because he had sought after the Commandments of the Lord. The good God wishes, then, to make us happy, and we do not wish to be so. We turn away from Him, and give ourselves to the devil! We fly from our Friend, and we seek after our murderer! We commit sin; we plunge ourselves into the mire. Once sunk in this mire, we know not how to get out. If our fortune were in the case, we should soon find out how to get out of the difficulty; but because it only concerns our soul, we stay where we are.

We come to confession quite preoccupied with the shame that we shall feel. We accuse ourselves by steam. It is said that many confess, and few are converted. I believe it is so, my children, because few confess with tears of repentance. See, the misfortune is, that people do not reflect. If one said to those who work on Sundays, to a young person who had been dancing for two or three hours, to a man coming out of an alehouse drunk, "What have you been doing? You have been crucifying Our Lord!" they would be quite astonished, because they do not think of it. My children, if we thought of it, we should be seized with horror; it would be impossible for us to do evil. For what has the good God done to us that we should grieve Him thus, and put Him to death afresh -- Him, who has redeemed us from Hell? It would be well if all sinners, when they are going to their guilty pleasures, could, like Saint Peter, meet Our Lord on the way, who would say to them, "I am going to that place where thou art going thyself, to be there crucified afresh. " Perhaps that might make them reflect.

The saints understood how great an outrage sin is against God. Some of them passed their lives in weeping for their sins. Saint Peter wept all his life; he was still weeping at his death. Saint Bernard used to say, "Lord! Lord! it is I who fastened Thee to the Cross!" By sin we despise the good God, we crucify the good God! What a pity it is to lose our souls, which have cost Our Lord so many sufferings! What harm has Our Lord done us, that we should treat Him so? If the poor lost souls could come back to the earth! if they were in our place! Oh, how senseless we are! the good God calls us to Him, and we fly from Him! He wishes to make us happy, and we will not have His happiness. He commands us to love Him, and we give our hearts to the devil. We employ in ruining ourselves the time He gives us to save our souls. We make war upon Him with the means He gave us to serve Him.

When we offend the good God, if we were to look at our crucifix, we should hear Our Lord saying to us in the depths of our soul, "Wilt thou too, then, take the side of My enemies? Wilt thou crucify Me afresh?" Cast your eyes on Our Lord fastened to the Cross, and say to yourself, "That is what it cost my Saviour to repair the injury my sins have done to God!" A God coming down to earth to be the victim of our sins, a God suffering, a God dying, a God enduring every torment, because He would bear the weight of our crimes! At the sight of the Cross, let us understand the malice of sin, and the hatred we ought to feel for it. Let us enter into ourselves; let us see what we can do to make amends for our poor life.

"What a pity it is!" the good God will say to us at our death; "why hast thou offended Me -Me, who loved thee so much?" To offend the good God, who has never done us anything but good; to please the devil, who can never do us anything but evil! What folly! Is it not real folly to choose to make ourselves worthy of Hell by attaching ourselves to the devil. when we might taste the joys of Heaven, even in this life, by uniting ourselves to God by love? One cannot understand this folly; it cannot be enough lamented. Poor sinners seem as if they could not wait for the sentence which will condemn them to the society of the devils; they condemn themselves to it. There is a sort of foretaste in this life of Paradise, of Hell, and of Purgatory. Purgatory is in those souls that are not dead to themselves; Hell is in the heart of the impious; Paradise in that of the perfect, who are closely united to Our Lord.

He who lives in sin takes up the habits and the appearance of the beasts. The beast, which has not reason, knows nothing but its appetites. So the man who makes himself like the beasts loses his reason, and lets himself be guided by the

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inclinations of his body. He takes his pleasure in good eating and drinking, and in enjoying the vanities of the world, which pass away like the wind. I pity the poor wretches who run after that wind; they gain very little, they give a great deal for very little profit -- they give their eternity for the miserable smoke of the world.

My children, how sad it is! when a soul is in a state of sin, it may die in that state; and even now, whatever it can do is without merit before God. That is the reason why the devil is so pleased when a soul is in sin, and perseveres in it, because he thinks that it is working for him, and if it were to die he would have possession of it. When we are in sin, our soul is all diseased, all rotten; it is pitiful. The thought that the good God sees it ought to make it enter into itself. And then, what pleasure is there in sin? None at all. We have frightful dreams that the devil is carrying us away, that we are falling over precipices. Put yourself on good terms with God; have recourse to the Sacrament of Penance; you will sleep as quietly as an angel. You will be glad to waken in the night, to pray to God; you will have nothing but thanksgivings on your lips; you will rise up towards Heaven with great facility, as an eagle soars through the air.

See, my children, how sin degrades man; of an angel created to love God, it makes a demon who will curse Him for eternity. Ah! if Adam, our first father, had not sinned, and if we did not sin every day, how happy we should be! we should be as happy as the saints in Heaven. There would be no more unhappy people on the earth. Oh, how beautiful it would be! In fact, my children, it is sin that brings upon us all calamities, all scourges, war, famine, pestilence, earthquakes, fires, frost, hail, storms -- all that afflicts us, all that makes us miserable. See, my children, a person who is in a state of sin is always sad. Whatever he does, he is weary and disgusted with everything; while he who is at peace with God is always happy, always joyous. . . . Oh, beautiful life! Oh, beautiful death!

My children, we are afraid of death; I can well believe it. It is sin that makes us afraid of death; it is sin that renders death frightful, formidable; it is sin that terrifies the wicked at the hour of the fearful passage. Alas! O God! there is reason enough to be terrified, to think that one is accursed -- accursed of God! It makes one tremble. Accursed of God! and why? for what do men expose themselves to be accursed of God? For a blasphemy, for a bad thought, for a bottle of wine, for two minutes of pleasure! For two minutes of pleasure to lose God, one's soul, Heaven forever! We shall see going up to Heaven, in body and soul, that father, that mother, that sister, that neighbour, who were here with us, with whom we have lived, but whom we have not imitated; while we shall go down body and soul to burn in Hell. The devils will rush to overwhelm us. All the devils whose advice we followed will come to torment us.

My children, if you saw a man prepare a great pile of wood, heaping up fagots one upon another, and when you asked him what he was doing, he were to answer you, "I am preparing the fire that is to burn me, " what would you think? And if you saw this same man set fire to the pile, and when it was lighted throw himself upon it, what would you say? This is what we do when we commit sin. It is not God who casts us into Hell; we cast ourselves into it by our sins. The lost souls will say, "I have lost God, my soul, and Heaven; it is through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault!" He will raise himself out of the fire only to fall back into it. He will always feel the desire of rising because he was created for God, the greatest, the highest of beings, the Most High . . . as a bird shut up in a room flies to the ceiling, and falls down again, the justice of God is the ceiling which keeps down the lost.

There is no need to prove the existence of Hell. Our Lord Himself speaks of it, when He relates the history of the wicked rich man who cried out, "Lazarus! Lazarus!" We know very well that there is a Hell, but we live as if there were not; we sell our souls for a few pieces of money. We put off our conversion till the hour of death; but who can assure us that we shall have time or strength at that formidable moment, which has been feared by all the saints -- when Hell will gather itself up for a last assault upon us, seeing that it is the decisive moment? There are many people who lose the faith, and never see Hell till they enter it. The Sacraments are administered to them; but ask them if they have committed such a sin, and they will answer you, "Oh! settle that as you please. "

Some people offend the good God every moment; their heart is an anthill of sins: it is like a spoilt piece of meat, half-eaten by worms. . . . No, indeed; if sinners were to think of eternity -- of that terrible forever -- they would be converted instantly.

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