



ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL | 66 BROOKS DRIVE | BRAINTREE, MA 02184

March 2009

Dear Friends in Christ:

In recent months I have had the opportunity to reflect on the blessings of my first five years as your Archbishop. I am thankful for the spiritual renewal that is taking place throughout the Archdiocese and encouraged by an increasing confidence in the future of our local Church.

During my visits to parishes, I have witnessed the dedication of our pastors and priests, the commitment of parishioners to the mission of the Church, and the strength and vitality of so many parish ministries.

These difficult economic times serve to remind us of how essential the work of the Church is to our lives and those of our neighbors, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. During the Lenten season we are challenged to respond to our ongoing need for conversion and our mission to provide for the needs of so many people who rely on the Church for their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

This year's **Catholic Appeal** theme, *Responding to God's Grace, Renewing Our Church*, is an invitation for all Catholics to join in this renewal through prayer, service, and sharing:

Pray – Lent is a season to make time and space for God in our lives. Set aside time for Jesus, through daily prayer, reading the Word of God in the Bible, and attending Mass. Inviting family or friends to join you in these spiritual activities will be of great benefit to both you and them.

Serve – Christ invites us to invest our time and talent in service to the Church's mission. Please consider increasing your involvement in your parish or in one of the Archdiocese's central ministries. If you are not yet participating in parish or other Archdiocesan activities, Lent is a wonderful time to begin.

Share – *Please consider sharing your material blessings through a gift to the Catholic Appeal.* Your gift provides critical funding for the shared ministries of the Archdiocese and essential support for our parishes, schools and agencies, and the people we serve.

Please take home with you this weekend the information envelope on the Catholic Appeal. The enclosed brochure provides information concerning all the ministries that are supported by your gifts to the Catholic Appeal. There is also an intent card and reply envelope for your use. Gifts can be submitted in the collection basket in your parish on **Appeal Weekend: March 7-8, 2009** or mailed to us.

Thank you for all you have done, and all you will do, to help with the renewal of the Church and to be a sign of God's love to others.

With the assurance of my prayers for you and all your loved ones, I remain,

Archbishop of Boston

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Prayers are requested for those who are ill, for vocations to the Priesthood and to the Consecrated Life; for married couples and for families; for the safe return home of the men and women in our military services; and for the repose of the souls of the deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

A Third Mass During Lent has been added to the daily Mass schedule at 5:30 pm from Monday through Friday. We encourage you attend daily Mass during Lent.

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated every Friday in the lower church at 5:00 pm before the 5:30 Mass.



The **ARISE Together in Christ** process continues in its second week. Please know that you are able to join a group at any time during the Season, which runs through the Season of Lent. As always, we ask you to pray regularly the *ARISE* Prayer (from the holy card or the back flap of the bulletin) for the success of this process in the parish. Thank you very much.

Pure In Heart 'Pure In Heart' is a group of young adults, ages 18-35, dedicated to promoting a responsible attitude to sex, and sexuality among young people. Its primary objective is to educate, inspire and empower young people to enjoy a healthy lifestyle by living the virtue of chastity and abstaining from early sexual activity. Come learn more about 'Pure In Heart' – Next Sunday, March 15, 2009 @ 2:30pm in the lower church. Listen to young adults and special guests from Ireland where it all began! Followed by a Youth Mass at 5:00pm in the upper church.

Review Training will be held for Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on Saturday, March 21. Lectors at 10:00 am and Ministers at 11:00. Please mark your calendars.

The Knights of Columbus regular bi-monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12 at 7:00 pm.

Lenten Palm Crosses This Week: The needy children of Uganda will be the beneficiaries of this Lenten collection this year. The suggested donation for the Palm Crosses is \$1.00, please take one.

Attention: Volunteers are needed from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as a companion to a disabled adult in Jamaica Plain. No experience necessary, and it could be fun! Accessible by MBTA. For more information call the rectory office during regular office hours, Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Please Remember the St. Vincent de Paul Boxes as you leave Mass today. Next meeting Tuesday at 7:00.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sundays March 15 & 29
Family Masses at 9:30 am

Saturday, March 21 – 10:00 am
Review Training for Lectors

Saturday, March 21 – 11:00 am
Review Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Thursday, March 26 – 7:00 pm
Mass of Healing

Saturday, March 28 – 10:00 am
First Penance

Sunday, May 3 – 11:15 am
First Communion

Saturday, May 9 – 10:00 am
Confirmation celebrated by Cardinal Seán

PARISH GIVING

Parish Offertory (Feb. 28 – Mar. 1): \$5,760

St. Vincent de Paul (Feb. 28 - Mar. 1): \$92.00

Thank You for Your Generosity

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**From a Sermon on the Transfiguration
by St. Leo the Great, Pope (d. 461)**

The Lord reveals his glory in the presence of chosen witnesses. His body is like that of the rest of mankind, but he makes it shine with such splendor that his face becomes like the sun in glory, and his garments as white as snow.

The great reason for this transfiguration was to remove the scandal of the cross from the hearts of his disciples, and to prevent the humiliation of his voluntary suffering from disturbing the faith of those who had witnessed the surpassing glory that lay concealed.

With no less forethought he was also providing a firm foundation for the hope of holy Church. The whole body of Christ was to understand the kind of transformation that it would receive as his gift. The members of that body were to look forward to a share in that glory which first blazed out in Christ their head.

The Lord had himself spoken of this when he foretold the splendor of his coming: *Then the just will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.* Saint Paul the apostle bore witness to this same truth when he said: *I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not to be compared to the future glory that is to be revealed in us.* In another place he says: *You are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.*

This marvel of the transfiguration contains another lesson for the apostles, to strengthen them and lead them into the fullness of knowledge. Moses and Elijah, the law and the prophets, appeared with the Lord in conversation with him. This was in order to fulfil exactly, through the presence of these five men, the text which says: *Before two or three witnesses every word is ratified.* What word could be more firmly established, more securely based, than the word which is proclaimed by the trumpets of both old and new testaments, sounding in harmony, and by the utterances of ancient prophecy and the teaching of the Gospel, in full agreement with each other?

The writings of the two testaments support each other. The radiance of the transfiguration reveals clearly and unmistakably the one who had been promised by signs foretelling him under the veils of mystery. As Saint John

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says: *The law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* In him the promise made through the shadows of prophecy stands revealed, along with the full meaning of the precepts of the law. He is the one who teaches the truth of the prophecy through his presence, and makes obedience to the commandments possible through grace.

In the preaching of the holy Gospel all should receive a strengthening of their faith. No one should be ashamed of the cross of Christ, through which the world has been redeemed.

No one should fear to suffer for the sake of justice; no one should lose confidence in the reward that has been promised. The way to rest is through toil, the way to life is through death. Christ has taken on himself the whole weakness of our lowly human nature. If then we are steadfast in our faith in him and in our love for him, we win the victory that he has won, we receive what he has promised.

When it comes to obeying the commandments or enduring adversity, the words uttered by the Father should always echo in our ears: *This is my Son, the beloved, in whom I am well pleased; listen to him.*

The ARISE Prayer

Gracious God and Father,
we enter into your presence
realizing you know us better than we know ourselves.

You know the cares and sufferings
we carry in our hearts.

You call us to holiness
and we trust you to lead us together
on our journey to be a renewed Church,
for with you all things are possible.

Create us anew in Jesus Christ your Son.
Liberate us from all that keeps us from you.
Heal us from every form of sin and violence.
Transform us to live your Word more profoundly.
Awaken us to the sacred; rebuild trust among us.

Enliven our parishes; reunite our families.
May your Holy Spirit empower us
to live as a community of love,
freed to share in your work
of recreating our world and restoring justice.

We believe you are doing something new,
calling us to arise together in Christ
to celebrate the fullness of life. Amen.

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Masses for the Week

Sunday, March 8 – 2nd Sunday of Lent

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Leornard Bouchie, 14th Ann.
7:30 am *Missa pro Populo*
9:30 am Donato, Carolina & Maria Salvucci, Me
11:15 am Angela DiRenzo, Mem.
12:45 pm Segundo Andreu, Mem.
5:00 pm Joseph Moscone, Month's Mind

Mon. 5:30 pm Thomas Holland, Month's Mind

Tue. 5:30 pm Leone & Maria Alfano & Maria &
Vincenzo Cirigliano, Mem.

Wed. 5:30 pm Joseph Pacitto, Jr., 10th Ann.

Thu. 5:30 pm Frank Coen, Mem.

Fri. 5:30 pm William Fahy, 1st Ann.

Sunday, March 15 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Victor Sancuk, 32nd Ann.
7:30 am Elizabeth Allison &
The DiMambro Family, Mem.
9:30 am Agnes M. Torrisi, 6th Ann.
11:15 am Joseph & Rose Bisconte, Mem.
5:00 pm *Missa pro Populo*