

— Christ Is Risen! —

The FIAT

Faith In Action Team Newsletter

April 2010

Divine Mercy



“Can a woman forget her suckling child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.” (Is. 49:15)

Sometimes, when we think about mercy, our concept is very weak and frail. But we need to see that behind this concept is a very deep and consistent reality. It is the love of a mother, faithful and invincible thanks to the mysterious power of motherhood that is

expressed in the Old Testament in various ways as salvation from dangers, especially from enemies, and also as forgiveness of sins as individuals and also the whole of Israel. But the love of God goes even farther and becomes *agape* – that is, unconditional and voluntary.

Hosea above all shows us that this *agape* dimension of God’s love for man goes far beyond the aspect of gratuity. Israel has committed “adultery” and has broken the covenant; God should judge and repudiate her. It is precisely at this point that God is revealed to be God and not man: *“How can I give you up, O Ephraim! How can I hand you over, O Israel! ... My heart recoils within me, my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger, I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst”* (Hos 11:8-9).

God’s passionate love for his people—for humanity—is at the same time a forgiving love. It is so great that it turns God against himself, his love against his justice. **Here Christians can see a dim prefigurement of the mystery of the Cross:** so great is God’s love for man that by becoming man he follows him even into death, and so reconciles justice and love. (*Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI)

St Paul writes, *“Love is patient and kind...Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful...but rejoices in the right. Love hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”* (1 Cor 13:4-8)

This love is able to reach down to every prodigal son, to every human misery, and above all to every form of moral misery – to sin. When this happens, the person who is the object of misery does not feel humiliated **but rather found again and “restored to value.”**

(*Dives in Misericordia*, Pope John Paul II)



At a Glance

Covenant of Love:

Permanence of Marriage

Friday, April 9

6:30pm in Marian Hall

Childcare available

RSVP to Dora 720-283-4737

Rescheduled!

World Youth Day Car Wash

Saturday, April 10

9:00am—3:00pm

Grease Monkey

6549 S Broadway

Adoration Chapel Sign Up

Sat– Sun, April 10 –11

After Masses in the vestibule

Altar & Rosary

Spring Bake Sale

Sat– Sun, April 10 –11

After Masses in Marian Hall

While goodies last!

Pot Luck hosted by Youth Grp

Sunday, April 11

Right after the 5:00pm Mass
in Marian Hall

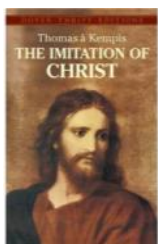
First Communion

Saturday, April 24

10:30am in the church



The Imitation of Christ



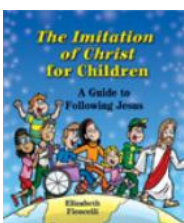
Just a few years ago my mother gave me a copy of *The Imitation of Christ*. It's one of the most treasured books I own and it has inspired, enlightened, and humbled me. Written in the 15th Century.....yes over 500 years ago.... author Thomas Kempis understood that the best way to love and serve God is to follow the example set by his Son Jesus, in his teachings, his life, his passion, death, and resurrection.

Our Lord's words "whoever wishes to be My follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day and follow in My steps." (Luke 9:23) This teaching of Christ is a great place to start, and sometimes this is a challenge, isn't it? We are so surrounded by the comforts and conveniences of modern living, it's easy to become immersed in the material, often forgetting our eternal destiny, to get to Heaven, to be with Jesus, Mary and the Saints.

This book, a classic that should be in all our homes, is a timeless work of spiritual devotion. It's purpose is to instruct the soul in Christian perfection with Christ as the Divine Model, to assist the soul with its pursuit of holiness and communion with God.

Here are 7 examples of the 114 chapters in this book. One chapter is plenty to meditate on in a day, or even a week!

- * Following Christ our Model
- * The Teaching of Truth
- * How to Acquire Peace
- * The Advantage of Not having Everything Our Own Way
- * How God Speaks with Us
- * How Grace is to Be Kept Close through the Virtue of Humility
- * The Body of Christ and Holy Scripture



And luckily, Catholic author Elizabeth Ficocelli has written a children's book that captures the heart of this ageless classic. She presents its essential message of love in a kid-friendly manner that children can understand, appreciate and apply. Both Thomas Kempis and Elizabeth Ficocelli's

books are available on line.

As I prayerfully read this book, I turn the pages slowly and ask The Holy Spirit to bring me his peace and his Joy. I pray too that this book be a practical tool in combination with the Holy Sacraments to help me keep my eye on the Lord!

- by Mary Jo Rakowski

Thursday, April 29 St. Catherine of Siena



*"When we are whom we are called to be we will set the world ablaze."
St. Catherine of Siena*

One of the greatest female theological minds and great intercessors to live is St. Catherine of Siena. Her feast day is celebrated April 29.

St. Catherine's passion for the love of God and neighbor were inseparable and quite evident throughout her life.

Catherine Benincasa was born in 1347 in Siena, Italy. She was the 25th child of a cloth dyer. It is reported that her first visual encounter with the Lord occurred when she was only 6 years old. She became a Dominican tertiary when she was 16 years old and continued to have visions of Christ, Mary and the Saints. It is also reported that she incurred the stigmata on her hands, feet and heart, which were apparent to herself alone during her life, but clearly visible after her death.

St. Catherine never received formal education, but she is called the "Doctor of the Church" because of her ingenious theological mind. The "Dialogue," her "Letters" and her "Prayers" are considered some of the most brilliant writings in the history of the church. She was gifted as a peacemaker as well and persuaded Pope Gregory XI to return the papacy to Rome from Avignon in 1377. St. Catherine also endeavored to heal the Great Western Schism before her death. She died when she was only 33 and her body was found incorrupt in 1430. She was declared a saint in 1461 by Pope Pius II and declared Doctor of the Church in 1970 by Pope Paul VI.

- by Jen Hehn

What is FIAT? FIAT (Faith In Action Team) is a school organization sharing spirituality in daily living and in becoming leaders that follow Christ. Fiat is a Latin word that means, "let it be." Just as Mary, Joseph and Jesus said "yes" and accepted their earthly missions, let us strive each day to accept God's calling for us in our lives. FIAT is a group for all parents of St. Mary's School! Read this newsletter aloud with family, use the suggested resources and spread the faith! Any questions or comments can be e-mailed to Meg D'Costa at odc234@aol.com.