

The FIAT

Faith In Action Team Newsletter

October 2010

Bringing Hope to Daily Life by Belen Glasso



This summer my husband and kids went to Spain to visit my family. After my husband Bill left (he gets the American vacation) my mother who is extremely spontaneous said to me, “Do you want to go to Santiago?” That is Santiago de Compostela the location of a famous pilgrimage site in northwest Spain. Of course my first thought as a mom went to my children, but it’s true they have more fun sometimes without the parents smothering them every minute. Besides thinking about the kids, gaining a Indulgence Plenary was also on my mind as it is a Jubilee year in Santiago this year.

Well my mom and I packed a small bag and off we went. We would have loved to do the pilgrimage but there was no time for that so we took an Iberia flight to Santiago instead. When you enter into the main square of Santiago for the first time you never forget it. It is a very strong cathedral—Santiago has an imposing presence about her. Of course the sight of the pilgrims arriving after their long journey is moving and I felt a little jealous, I have to admit.

My mother, as efficient as always, rushed me to THE LINE. This is where you wait to enter the cathedral and hug the Saint (a statue of the apostle Santiago—Saint James). After a 2 hour wait, we went in hugged the saint and knelt for a quick prayer in front of his relics. To win a Plenary Indulgence you have to do 3 simple things: go to Santiago and hug the saint; go to confession; and listen to Mass within 1 month. We waited to go to Mass in the Tabernacle chapel where the Lord was present.

There in the quiet of this room I got a chance to meditate on my journey to Spain this year. I had been feeling guilty that I was tired often and complaining too much—that I was letting the grace and little crosses of every present mo-

ment escape me—that I was not doing God’s will because I was too worried about my will and my comfort. Now here I am Lord in front of you about to win Plenary Indulgency... with what merits Lord? *I realized that we wait for something major to make us think of our eternity, some big disaster or some amazing vision. But Oh how wrong I was. It is in the simplicity of the present moment that we have to think of our eternity; in the surrender to the small mundane things of every day of our lives.*

Also we need to look around us and think about the eternity of the people around us. Having left Spain 13-14 years ago I had forgotten a little bit of my roots. Growing up in Spain we are given a sense of responsibility for one another in our family. In America we raise independent children and that is a wonderful thing. However we sometimes think alone too much. *We can do everything on our own, we are responsible for everything we do and others mistakes are their problem and irresponsibility. I feel that we have to look at one another with a little more charity than that, and furthermore be concerned for one another’s Eternity.* If our brother, father, mother... is far from the Lord and doesn’t even know about the Hope that Catholics enjoy, we need to pick up the pieces and in the gift of the faith that was given to us give it back and offer our small sacrifices, and excuse the imprudence we have with one another and so on.

On the train ride back to Madrid my mother said something to me that I want to share with you, she said, “Belen we are one heart beat away from our eternal life.” That’s it—a heart beat, a moment an instant. This is my battle. To be able to offer in happiness the little moments that drive me crazy, the moments when I want to throw in the towel. As Catholics we have the truth of the ever presence of our eternal life. I can find strength and Hope in that truth. What a recompense!

Belen and her husband Bill are Saint Mary parishioners and school parents



At a Glance

Altar Server Training Grades 5 and up

Wednesday, October 6
at 3:00pm in the Church

-or-

Thursday, October 7
at 6:00pm in the Church

Morning of Reflection with Kathy McGovern *The Eucharist in the Gospel of Luke*

Saturday, October 9
9:00am—noon in Ave Maria

Preschool 5th Anniversary Present and past preschool families!

Saturday, October 16
8:15am—10:30am
Church/Marian Hall
RSVP to Kathy Wetstein

Book Club

Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather

Wed, October 20
7:00pm in Ave Maria Hall

Marriage Renewal Retreat

Fri—Sun, Oct 22—24
at St. Mary’s
Childcare available
Contact Deacon Greg
at 720-283-4735

Kids! Dress Like a Saint Weekend and Holy Day Masses

October 30—November 1

Saint Luke and Confidence

*“When one puts all his care on God, and rests wholly upon Him, being careful, meanwhile to serve Him faithfully, God takes care of him; and the greater the **confidence** of such a one, the more the care of God extends over him; neither is there any danger of its failing, for God has an infinite love for those souls that repose in Him.”* – St. Francis de Sales



The virtue of confidence means to have trust or faith in God. It is important that we do not put too much trust in others or in our own abilities and talents. The saints advise us to have confidence in God and rely on Him alone. St Teresa once said, “I am very sure that there is no safety in relying upon men; they break under the least weight of

disappointment or contradiction. The true friend in whom alone we can trust is Jesus Christ.”

God never abandons us, even in the smallest, seemingly unimportant activities of our daily lives. His goodness is beyond measure and He has an infinite desire for our well-being. We can never have too much confidence in the goodness of God.

“Saint Luke inspired the Gentiles to have confidence that, through Christ, salvation could also be theirs.”

Confidence in God’s goodness and mercy does not free us from our duty to perfect ourselves and grow in holiness through working daily to turn our vices into virtues. Prayer is one of the most important instruments to conform our will to God’s will, and an area where I have often lacked confidence. I have frequently struggled against the temptation to abandon prayer because I could not sense God’s Presence. However I know I am called to persevere in prayer, even in the times of spiritual dryness, with a lively confidence that our Lord is always near us when we pray.

St. Luke the Evangelist was probably born of pagan parents in Antioch. He converted and became the missionary companion of St. Paul. He wrote a Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, probably between A.D. 70 and 85. These two books emphasize that Christ’s love extends beyond the Jews to the gentiles – a radical concept at that time. By spreading this message, St. Luke inspired the gentiles to have confidence that, through Christ, salvation could also be theirs. His feast day is October 18.

by Eve Lubbers

Marriage Renewal Weekend October 22–24, 2010

FRIDAY 6:00pm–9:00pm (Light Dinner)
SATURDAY 8:00am–8:30pm (3 Meals)
SUNDAY 8:00am–1:00pm (1 Meal)

What’s the purpose?

- ◆ Experience God’s unconditional love through the Sacrament of Marriage
- ◆ Renew our marriages
- ◆ Share our gifts with our parish
- ◆ Deepen our sense of Sacrament and community

What are we going to do?

- ◆ Enhance self/couple awareness
- ◆ Share with others in a climate of safety
- ◆ Private time with spouse
- ◆ Have fun

Who’s the weekend for?

The weekend is for all married couples regardless of their background. The program accepts couples where ‘they are now’ and builds from there.

Childcare available all weekend

Contact Deacon Greg Frank to register
at 720-283-4735 or
gfrank@stmarylitleton.org

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.