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The Sword



Your weekly connection with St. Michael's Episcopal Church

21 February 2013

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Anniversaries

This Week

Birthdays

- 2.24 Rick Ryba,
Alexendra Pullinger
- 2.25 Kim Garrity
- 2.26 Max Raynor,



Absolute Help

a letter to the people from the Rector

Dear People of St. Michael's,

What does it feel like to regularly fail in our desire and efforts to help other people? A pastor and author by the name of Richard Rohr sees the dilemma this way: *"Much of our helping is like hoping for first-class accommodations on the Titanic. It feels good at the moment, but ... the big tear in the hull is not addressed, and we are surprised when people drown, complain or resort to lifeboats."*

One might think that despair or cynicism would result from such a view. For Rohr it has apparently led to deeper humility and a wiser perspective. He notes a critical difference between help and HELP: *" ... to essentially help another person ... is absolutely unlike any other form of helping. It has*

Barbara Kane,
 Hunter Eissler
 2.27 Abby Ferry,
 Allison Bradtke,
 Macy Brett
 2.28 Jeff Moore,
 Christine Olson, Julia
 Yerger
 3.1 Sandra Volkmann
 3.2 David Bishop

many counterfeits and disguises. What Jesus, Buddha, Confucius, the saints and prophets are talking about is Absolute Help, which alone is worthy of the name - the radical help that none of us can give to another. We can only point to it and promise that it is there. That is the first and final work of all true religion; all else is secondary."

I'm not surprised that this muse of Richard Rohr's jumped off the page at me when I read it yesterday. The parish clergy, staff, Vestry members and other lay leaders are all helping in high gear now. We're preparing for Holy Week and Easter, launching Faith Reflection Groups, readying for the Vestry's annual planning retreat (March 2). These and so many other activities at St. Michael's are devoted to orchestrating resources in order to *help* all who worship and serve at and through St. Michael's and in order to help many beyond our walls.

In the context of all this, Rohr's words caution me. I want to believe that we at St. Michael's are not just frantically generating more and more of the '*counterfeits and disguises*' of which he writes. And I pause in this holy season of Lent to pray for an ever deeper awareness of our common, essential need for Absolute Help. May all of us at St. Michael's discover more ways - for one another and for the world - to authentically '*point to it and promise that it is there.*'

- Patrick +

Also from the Rector:

+ **The quotes above** are from Radical Grace: Daily Meditations, Franciscan Media, 1995, p. 250.

Rest in Peace

2.24 June Foy
 2.25 Bill Allen
 2.27 Jean
 Clendinning, Mary
 Schwind
 2.28 Stacey Curtis

+**My sermon this past Sunday** heavily relied on the story of a 1912-1913 Antarctic expedition led by Douglas Mawson. A few of you asked for more information, and the January 2013 National Geographic article that I summarized can be found

[here](http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/01/mawson-trek/roberts-text): <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/01/mawson-trek/roberts-text> (And,

by the way, I was intrigued by how many of you had your own stories about Robert Service poems!)



+ **They're AWSM.** Please keep in your prayers the 50 women of the parish who will be taking place in the AWSM retreat—including retreat leader Deacon Laurie Michael's—

tomorrow and Saturday (Feb. 22-23) at the Stronghold Retreat Center along the Rock River, in Oregon, Illinois.

+ Parishioner **Jack Schaefer** was the subject of an extensive feature story in the January-February issue of *Quintessential Barrington*. Among other commitments, the story describes Jack's role as the current President of the Barrington Area Development Council. Also featured is a fine series of photo portraits by Thomas Balsamo. Thanks for your serving and leading, Jack!



In the Parish family

+Those for whom prayers have been requested:

Leslie; Connie; Nacier; Hollis; Dana; Mary; the Daro family; Debbie; Pat; Rollo; the Olson family; Brian; Andrew; Mary; Bob; Ben & Paulette; Amy; Scott; safety & peace in South Sudan; Cassie; Michele; Frank & Suzanne; Steve & Barb; Bishop Joseph; St. Cyprian Food Pantry; military troops in danger including those from our parish, especially, Zane, Ryan, Michael, Bruce, and Taylor.

+Brian Bentley Blanchard, the son of Frank Blanchard (who died 6 May 2011) died on the 15th of February. Both Brian and Frank will be interred in St. Michael's Garden Columbarium at a later date.

Brian was born in Chicago, Illinois at St Mary's Hospital on June 7 1954 the second son of Frank T. Blanchard and Zoe Ila (Nee) Walsh. He is survived by Brother F. Ted Blanchard, Sister-in-law Rev. Lou Blanchard (Nee) Paterson, Nieces Becky Joe and Heather, Grand nephew Fynn, and Grand niece Svenja. Sister Bridget Catherine Becker (Nee) Blanchard, Brother-in-law James Roy Becker, Nieces Zoe Ila and Samantha, and Nephew Bentley.

Food for the Journey, Sunday, 24 February, 10:05 a.m.: Labyrinths are not Mazes

Walking a labyrinth invites us into praying with our bodies as we move from the entrance to the center and back out again. Labyrinths are not mazes, but paths which follow a single course. We have borrowed a labyrinth to provide you with an opportunity to walk one! We will begin with a brief meditation and then you will be invited to walk it.



Food for the Journey, Sunday, 3 March, after the 7:45 a.m. service and at 10:05 a.m.:

What is the Diocese? And, why should I care?



Courtney Reid, Director of Operations for the Diocese of Chicago will be joining us to host a conversation about the current vision and direction of the Diocese. Hear about what is going on and ask any questions you might have.



Roots & Branches - Faith Reflection Groups at St. Michael's

Beginning in Lent we will launch our first Faith Reflection Groups. Through these groups we aspire to **connect** members to one another and to their faith community; **nourish** the faith and relationships that keep a parish vital; **grow** in our sense of what inspires us, unites us and

motivates our individual faith and our common life at St. Michael's. The groups will each include four parishioners, one of whom will be a trained moderator. Each group will meet four times for about an hour each during the next few months. At each meeting, one group

member shares his or her experiences of and questions about God, religion, the Christian faith and the church -at his or her own comfort level. At the end of the process, individual groups may voluntarily find a way to share how the groups experience may help to shape our future at St. Michael's. Whether or not this invitation seems natural or not: please consider taking part in a Faith Reflection Group. Share your "yes" with Fr. Keven Caruso, or click here to complete a form for him.



Mixed Media Painting by
Maria Pace Wynters

Is Haiti still calling you?

There will be an informational meeting for all who are planning to take part in the July 2013 Haiti Mission Trip on **Sunday, March 3 at 12:00 in the library.**

Participants from St Marks will also be joining us. Deadline for sign up with deposit is March 15. If you are planning to go in July but are unable to attend this meeting please contact Deacon Laurie as space is very limited. There will be

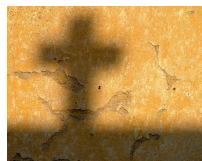
14 available slots in addition to our 2 group leaders, Elizabeth van der Weide with Project Haiti and Deacon Laurie.

Cost \$1200

Age: 18+ without parent

16-18 with parent

Additional information on the Haiti Project can be found at www.haitiproject.org or contact Deacon Laurie @ travellaurie@hotmail.com



Lenten Program 2013 Five Wednesday Evenings

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

6:30 pm Shared meal in the Community Room

7:00 pm Two Opportunities...

#1: Faith Reflection Groups

Three groups that have already formed will meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Additional groups may be formed if there is sufficient interest. To take part in a Faith Reflection Group, share your interest with Fr. Kevin, kcaruso@stmichaelsbarrington.org, 847.381.2323,

ext. 13 or complete a form by clicking [here](#).

#2: "I will, with God's help." Our Responses to the Baptismal Covenant

Wednesday, February 27

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

Wednesday, March 6

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Wednesday, March 13

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Wednesday, March 20

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?



A Warmer Welcome to All

You may recall the listening sessions that took place this summer and resulted in the definitive feedback that our entry ways in the front, back and side of the church are not as welcoming as they could be. The Vestry tasked the Communications Committee with integrating efforts to make a great first impression on visitors to St. Michaels. As part of an ongoing project, the Communications Committee is now ready to move the project into the next phase-which really amounts to shifting from "park" to "drive." We collected names of several individuals at the end of the summer who expressed interest in "visioning" our next phase, but we would like to make a call one more time for others who are interested to contact Nerissa Brueckbauer, 847.381.2323 extension 15, or nbrueckbauer@stmichaelsbarrington.org, so that we may invite you to our planning meeting along with the individuals we previously identified. We plan to meet in mid-March.



**Little Red
Wagon in
February and
March**

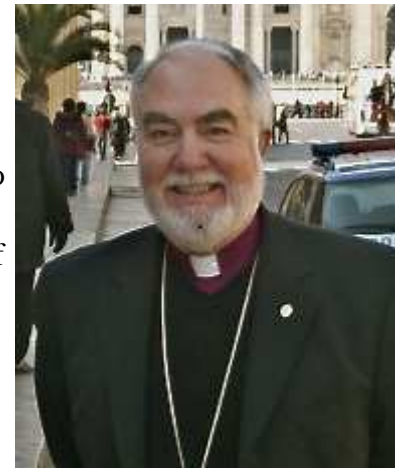
About 20 years ago our church started collecting food for St. Cyprian Food Pantry during Lent. It was an Episcopal mission on the northwest side of Chicago when in 1983 someone knocked on the door to ask for food. That simple beginning of the food pantry has now mushroomed into one serving 855 families (3,825 individuals) in December alone and with a budget of \$56,000 a year. Over time, St. Michael's has included more food pantries in our donation rotation, but in Lent we are reminded of our beginnings with St. Cyprian Food Pantry. The needs include breakfast, lunch and dinner foods, detergent, personal items and paper products. May donations to



Reaffirming your faith: An Opportunity to renew your commitment to a life of Faith...

How does my Christianity impact the way I live? What does it mean to be a person of faith? Is this a time in my life when reaffirming my commitment to God and the Church would be meaningful?

A number of weeks ago Father Patrick wondered what it might be like for a number of us to **reaffirm our faith when Bishop Epting visits, on April 28th**. Rather than offering a single path for all those interested in reaffirming their faith, we have made a number of paths available. You are invited to tap into those offerings that will provide you with nourishment on your journey of faith. If you know that you would like to reaffirm your faith on April 28th through reaffirmation, reception or confirmation, please contact **Father Kevin** at (847)-381-2323 or kcaruso@stmichaelsbarrington.org.



- (1) **Faith Reflection Groups** - An opportunity to share you the story of your faith and hear the stories of 3-4 other parishioners. [various times]
- (2) **Wednesday Nights in Lent: I will, with God's help** - Each week we will explore one of the five questions in the Baptismal Covenant. [Feb. 27th - March 20th]
- (3) **Food for the Journey** - In Lent and the beginning of Easter, the Food for the Journey program on Sunday morning will focus on topics foundational to a life of faith. [Sundays at 10:05am]
- (4) **Holy Week Worship (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday,**

the Little Red Wagon be part of your Lenten discipline.

Easter Vigil) - Over three days we journey with Jesus from the Last Supper, to his Crucifixion, and finally to his Resurrection. [Mar. 28th -Mar 30th]

(5) The Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) -The sacrament of Reconciliation provides an opportunity for us to ask God's forgiveness and to make amends for the wrongs we have done so that leave behind the burdens we feel from past mistakes. [by appointment]

(6) Time with Clergy - Our doors area always open to you! We can't promise answers, but we can promise to be with you on your journey of faith. [by appointment]

(7) Grab Bag - design your own course of study, either on your own, or with a member of the clergy! Feel free to contact us, so we can discuss how to best support you.

More information about these offerings will be available in the coming weeks. If you have any questions do not hesitate to be in touch.

Connect, Nourish and Grow with a Daily Lenten Reflection by St. Michael's "Own"

We are bringing a St. Michael's "own" daily/weekly Lenten reflection to you. The goal will be to offer parishioners, and others who desire, a daily quote, image, and piece of scripture to reflect on. This is another way in which we hope to **connect, nourish and grow** this Lent.

We have asked guest "curators" to choose a VERSE from the Gospel for each week in Lent. This verse will serve as the inspiration/theme for the week.

The curator will then choose a QUOTE for each day.

The curator will also choose some IMAGES that connect to the scripture/theme.

We plan to offer parishioners the opportunity to "opt-in" to a once a week email to receive these weekly reflections. A print copy will also be available on Sundays.

If you would like the weekly Lenten email with all the week's entries simply click [here](#) to send an email to

Nerissa that indicates "opt-in," and I will send you one email each week of Lent with the entries for the week or go to our Facebook page - search for St. Michael's Episcopal Church Barrington, IL - and read each day's entry.



Music Workshop with Dent Davidson, Chicago Diocese Coordinator for Music and Liturgy

All deanery church members are invited to a music workshop with Dent Davidson, the Chicago diocese coordinator for music and liturgy, on Saturday morning, **February 23** at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 40

Center Street in Elgin. We will gather to register at 8:30 a.m. and the workshop is from 9 to noon. The cost is \$10, which will cover coffee, snacks and handouts. Anyone interested in music and worship are welcome. Please contact Dr. Margaret Brady at 847.508.6337 or margaretmbrady@gmail.com if you would like to come, and we will save a place for you. Our Director of Music Ministries, David Baker, will be in attendance and hopes that you will join him!



It's Prayer Shawl time again!

We will meet **Tuesday, February 26, from 7-8:30 p.m.** in the church library. All are welcome. We knit and crochet shawls for comforting and baby blankets. Hope to see you there.

From our Youth Minister

THIS WEEK:

Sunday 2/24 @ 9:00-- Youth Worship & Ski Trip, to depart following the 9:00 service

I would like to invite all youth and parents to attend the Food for the Journey this week together. The topic is LABYRINTHS ARE NOT MAZES. This is most definitely an activity for everyone.

Sunday 2/24 @ 10:45--SMUSH Worship

****Kara will not be here this Sunday. Please sit with your families and remain in the sanctuary for the entire service.****

UPCOMING:

Friday 3/1-Sunday 3/3--HAPPENING, a diocesan retreat for highschool students put on by highschool students . Check out the details at <http://www.episcopalchicago.org/at-work-in-the-church/youth-ministry/happening>

**Save the Date- April 20th, 2013**

Join AWSM (All Women of St. Michael's) for an evening of Wine, Women (and Men) and Song. Significant others included! Details to follow.

Upcoming Events

- +Tuesday, 26 February, Prayer Shawl Ministry, 7:00 pm, Library
- +Wednesday, 27 February, Stations, Shared Meal, Two Opportunities, 6:00 pm
- +Saturday, 2 March, Solemn Communion Service, 5:00 pm, Nave
- +Sunday, 3 March, Haiti Mission Trip Meeting, 12:00 pm, Library

Revised Common Lectionary Year C, Lent 2

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35

Contact Info**St. Michael's Vestry**

Kathy Sawyer Randolph - Sr. Warden, Shan Atkins - Jr. Warden

Pete Douglas, Lora Gier, David Bishop, Sof Ts'o

Dolores Kampert, Ray Kean, Pat Kane, Mike Savage

Cristy Cressey, John Totten, Teri Doran, Lance Marcinek

John Davis - Treasurer, Craig Anderson - Clerk

Marissa Longo, Youth Representative Madelyn Lanham, Youth Representative

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Patrick Raymond, Rector; The Rev. Kevin Caruso, Curate; The Rev. Laurie Michaels, Deacon; Caren Hunter, Director of Little Angels Christian Preschool; David Baker, Director of Music Ministries; Thom Wibbels, Organist; Kara Joy Baker, Youth Pastor & Director of Children's Choir; Nerissa Brueckbauer, Children's Education Director & Communications Coordinator; Kim Lessner, Parish Operations; Nancy Holmes, Parish Administrator & Rector's Assistant; Jeff Schirmer, Sexton.

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The Sword is published each Thursday. Any questions or comments regarding this

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