

Good News Notes



A Monthly Newsletter from the Diocese of London Pastoral Services Office

In This Issue

OPEN DOORS -
INVITATIONS

RESOURCES FOR
LENT

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

OPEN DOORS

BY CLAIRE BONDY

“Do you think Mary will do the upcoming Cursillo retreat?” That was the question someone asked me recently. And honestly I was pretty convinced she wouldn’t. She has been away from the church for a long time and it seemed like this would be way outside her comfort zone. But I have made it a practice to never say “no” for someone else, so I simply told my friend that I didn’t think Mary would be interested, but she should definitely ask!

I’m sure you can guess where this is going... my friend asked and Mary said yes, and I am glad I didn’t put a roadblock to the request.

Let me share a similar story, but this one happened at least 15 years ago. I was tasked with finding a new couple to participate in our COR retreats in the parish. This was a commitment to do two retreats a year for almost 2 ½ years, so it was a big ask. I would often look

around me at mass and pray to the Holy Spirit about who I should ask. I could anticipate that I would have to ask 5-10 couples before someone said yes so you can imagine how daunting this task was.

This particular time I had asked a few people and in my prayers I was directed toward a couple I will call Sam and Martha. Now, I don’t remember the details, but Sam does, and he has shared many times that I ‘chased them

down the road' to ask if they would consider being leaders on COR. When I asked he informed me that he wasn't actually Catholic, but I told him we could get past that. And, wonder of wonders, they said yes!

The simple act of extending an invitation can open doors to unexpected transformations, and the fact that Sam wasn't even Catholic at the time underscores the idea that God works in ways that are beyond our understanding, using unexpected individuals to play vital roles in ministry.

Sam and Martha's initial hesitation and subsequent

acceptance of the invitation showcase the impact that a well-timed request can have on someone's faith journey. Sam's acknowledgment of how that invitation affected his spiritual path speaks volumes about the ripple effect of participation in ministry — not just for the individuals involved but for the entire faith community. It's a reminder that God often calls us to approach people we might not initially consider, and through these invitations, incredible blessings and contributions can emerge.

I pray that you will continue to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, unafraid to extend

invitations, and trusting that God can work wonders through the seemingly ordinary act of asking someone to participate in ministry. Who knows what remarkable transformations and blessings may unfold as a result of our willingness to invite others into deeper engagement with their faith.

YOU MIGHT ALSO BE
INTERESTED IN

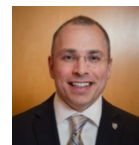
THE ART OF THE ASK:

How to Successfully Engage Parishioners

with Quentin
Schesnuik
Archdiocese of
Toronto



IGNITE
Phase 2: Nurturing Joy Initiative



IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

2 - The Presentation of the
Lord & World Day of Consecrated
Life

3 - St. Blaise

5 - St. Agatha

6 - St. Paul Miki & Companions

10 - St. Scholastica

11 - World Day of the Sick; World
Marriage Sunday (& Superbowl
Sunday)

14 - Ash Wednesday

19 - Family Day

22 - Chair of St. Peter

Note: February is Black History
Month

LENT RESOURCES

We searched the internet for a few things you and your parishioners can read, listen to, watch, do this lent. Feel free to share on your social media or email lists!

To Read

[5 Books to Read This Lent](#) - Book
List - Detroit Catholic

[Best Lent Ever](#) - Daily Emails -
Dynamic Catholic

To Watch or Do

[Lenten Activities for Kids](#) -
Loyola Press

[Lent Videos for Adults and
Families](#) - Formed

[Lent on the Hallow App](#) - 30
days free

To Listen To

[Lent With Your Littles](#) - Podcast
- Detroit Catholic

[Living Lent](#) - Podcast - Detroit
Catholic

[Songs to Pray With this Lent](#) -
Spotify Playlist - Detroit
Catholic

[Lent Songs for Kids](#) - YouTube
Playlist - Catholic Kids Media

[Bible in a Year or Catechism in a
Year](#) - Podcast - Ascension Press

We will update this list on [our
Good News Notes](#) webpage
throughout lent. Is something
you love missing from this list?
Send it to cskipper@dol.ca.

Good News Notes



[Click Here to Subscribe](#)