

Uncontrollable Joy!

By Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

Mark Twain is thought to have once quipped: "A German joke is no laughing matter," which speaks to the untrue notion that Germans aren't funny.

While our faith is meant to be a serious endeavor, it's not defined as "no laughing matter." On the contrary: joyfulness is not a hindrance to holiness, it's an expression of it! *Laetare* means "to rejoice." A spirituality that radiates the joy of Easter is every bit as authentic as one that reflects the severity of Lent, and all the more inviting, too! A Redemptorist classmate of mine liked to say, "None of us are baptized in pickle juice."

According to Karl Rahner, the German Jesuit theologian, "Only the person who has a gift for affection can have a true sense of humor. A good laugh is a sign of love; it may be said to give us a glimpse of, or a first lesson in, the love that God bears for every one of us." Another theologian, Karl Barth, stated simply: "Laughter is the closest thing to the grace of God."

Imagine what it's like to see for the first time after being blind from birth. How could the blind man in John's Gospel refrain from laughing at the awesome blessing he received when Christ restored his sight? How could his eyes not weep tears of unspeakable joy at his good fortune?

An ancient Greek Orthodox tradition sets aside Easter Monday for jokes and laughter to celebrate Christ's triumph over death. It may be rooted in St. John Chrysostom's vivid image of the risen Christ laughing at the devil, who is at his wit's end. They rejoice! †

These reflections were excerpted from Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter by Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM, available from Liguori Publications. To learn more and review our complete list of Daybreaks authors, including Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI; Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR; Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA; and others, visit Liguori.org.

WEEKDAY READINGS

March 20–25

Monday, St. Joseph: 2 Sm 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16 / Rom 4:13, 16–18, 22 / Mt 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Lk 2:41–51a

Tuesday, Lenten Weekday: Ez 47:1–9, 12 / Jn 5:1–16

Wednesday, Lenten Weekday: Is 49:8–15 / Jn 5:17–30

Abundant Laughter

By Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

In *Between Heaven and Mirth* (HarperOne, 2012), Jesuit Fr. James Martin recounts a story by Margaret Silf of two friends who mourned the death of a mutual friend. At her gravesite, they planted what they thought were daffodil bulbs. Imagine their surprise when they returned in the spring to pay their respects and found a crop of onions! They laughed until they cried—and they felt certain their friend was right in there laughing with them.

At the beginning of Lent—the name is derived from the word *spring*—we solemnly soil our foreheads in remembrance of the Garden of Eden. With ashen faces and grave Lenten disciplines, we till our hardened hearts through purposeful penance, fasting, and almsgiving, and bury the guilt that we won't let die. Then, when we're born anew, our tears of sorrow are transplanted into tears of joy and laughter!

According to Dante's *Divine Comedy*, "In hell there is no hope and no laughter. In purgatory there is no laughter, but there is hope. In heaven, hope is no longer necessary because laughter reigns." Our faith assures us of a God who takes pleasure in his people and delights in being with us! †



So that our eyes may be open to your presence everywhere and in everyone, we pray—Lord, let us be like you.

The Redemptorists



Bringing Home the Word †

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)
March 19, 2023

I See

By Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Do we? Do we really see? Do we understand? There is so much that is simply misunderstood or unnoticed. Little about life is uncomplicated, and even that which is uncomplicated so often slips right by us. This is true about a life lived alone or with others. It is also true about our life with God.

The first reading is an example of this. God will choose one of the sons of Jesse to be king. Will it be the eldest, the rightful heir? If not him, perhaps it will be the brightest one or the most pious. All of these highly valued characteristics would certainly be necessary for one

to be an effective king. However, Jesse and his sons did not see in the same way as God. Their youngest brother, the one tending the sheep, would be God's choice. He was the one God wanted, and so David was anointed in the presence of his family.

The Gospel tells another story about seeing. In it, Jesus restores a man's sight. What began as a story about physical blindness and sight then becomes a lesson about seeing and understanding the mystery of God's power as opposed to refusing to see and understand it. No one in the story could claim that the man had not really been blind. Then why did they refuse to acknowledge that God's power had done something marvelous in their presence? But they did refuse. We can, indeed, choose to be blind. †

Sunday Readings

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a

God does not see as a mortal, who sees the appearance. The LORD looks into the heart.

Ephesians 5:8–14

Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them.

John 9:1–41 or
John 9:1, 6–9, 13–17, 34–38

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

There is so much that is simply misunderstood or unnoticed.

A Word from Pope Francis

The first Christians...used to say that the community of Christians, that is the Church, is the "mystery of the moon," because it gave light but it was not its own light, it was the light it received from Christ. We too can be "mystery of the moon:" giving light received from the sun, which is Christ, the Lord.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 22, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I blame others for their ill-health or misfortune?
- Does bias or prejudice make me blind to the gifts of others?

Bringing Home
the Word †
March 19, 2023

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Parish of St. Vincent De Paul

"We as a community rooted in the Catholic faith seek to imitate Christ's
Examples of love and service to others and spread the light of our faith to others."

Parish phone: 509-234-2262 **Mar. 19, 2023 website: stvincentconnell.org**

Fr. Miguel A. Gustavo Ruiz Juárez 509-318-0295 gruiz@dioceseofspokane.org

Deacon Arturo Biebrich parish phone: 509-222-9223 after 5 pm only

4th Sunday of Lent

Mass Mar. 19, 2023

Lector: Marv Grassl

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Stacy Ferguson

Greeters & Presentation of Gift

Mike & Jeanne Reimers

Altar Servers:

Giselle & Aubriel

5th Sunday of Lent

Mass Mar. 26, 2023

Lector:

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Greeters & Presentation of Gift

Alter Servers:

Pope's Prayer intentions: Victims of Abuse.

*Let us pray for those who have suffered because of the
wrongs done to them from members of the Church; may
they find within the Church herself a concrete response
to their pain and suffering.*

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. @ St. Paul's in Eltopia

10:30 a.m. @ St. Vincent's (English)

12:00 p.m. @ St. Vincent's (Spanish)

Saturday: 7:00 p.m. @ San Juan Diego (Spanish)

Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. Adoration @ St. Vincent's

8:30 a.m. Mass @ St. Vincent's

Confessions: Wednesdays 6:30 pm @ St. Vincent's

Friday 4:30 pm @ San Juan Diego

Church Secretary: Elida Fernández - secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com

Tues, Weds. Thurs 12:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917 - 12 – 3:30 pm on Tues. Weds. Thurs.

Prayer Chain: Call Carolyn Nordhus @ 509-234-5972

Breezeway Calendar: If you have any parish events or meetings that you would like
on the all parish calendar that is posted in the breezeway please contact
Marla Goade @ 539-5354 wmgoade73@gmail.com

Weekly Bulletin: Please email Elida Fernández secSt.vincent2015@gmail.com by
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS for information to be included in the upcoming Sunday
bulletin.

Elida can be reached at 509-318-0917

Website: To add or send information, pictures or news to the website please
email Jaeniffer Kaiser @ jaeniffer2002@hotmail.com

LIKE our Facebook page to get updated posts and information about our parish. You can
also see photos of all the activities that have been happening. If you want to post church
happenings on Facebook please email Onna Pollock at olpollock@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Altar Flowers

March – Guadalupanas

April – Altar Society

CONFESSIONS

Wednesday the 29th of March

@ St. Vincent Parish

5 pm – 8 pm

Confessions @ San Juan Diego

Tuesday, April 4th

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS ED

Meets this Wed. 22nd March

Dinner is served @ 5:20 pm

Movie begins @ 5:30 pm

Connell Food Bank

Banco de Comida

Seniors: Tuesdays

3rd Edad- Tues. / Martes

March 21st

10:00 am – 11:30 am

General Public:

El público en general:

Wednesdays / Miércoles

March 22nd

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

International Pilgrimage statue

Of Our Lady of Fatima

March 20 – 27, 2023

At St. Vincent of Paul

More details to be announced.

Thank You For Your Generous

Contributions

Feb. 19, 2023

Feb. 26, 2023

10:30 am - \$5182.00 10:30 am - \$1011.24

12:00 pm – \$858.33 12:00 pm - \$919.48

Basin City – \$923.02 Basin City – \$934.77

Seeking Volunteer for:

Safe Environment Coordinator

St. Vincent Parish and San Juan Diego Mission
are seeking a bilingual volunteer
for each church, to

manage the Safe Environment program.

It requires someone that is responsible and can

maintain a high level of confidentiality of

records. If you are interested, please contact:

Elida Fernandez 509-318-0917

LENTEN FISH DINNER

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023

@ St. Vincent Parish

5 pm -7 pm

All are welcomed, cost is by donation.

Class / Training

On March 21st @ 5 pm

For Lectors and EU Ministers

At San Juan Diego

Confession Schedule

@ St. Pat's –Pasco

Tuesday – Friday

5 pm – 6 pm

@ Sacred Heart- Othello

Wed. @ 5 pm

FR. GUS'S SCHEDULE FOR 2 WEEKS:

Mar. 12, 2023 – Apr. 2, 2023

Monday Mar. 20:

Fr. Gus on Vacation

Tues. Mar. 21:

Fr. Gus on Vacation

5:00 pm – Lectors & EU Ministry Trng

@ Basin City

Wed. Mar. 22:

Fr. Gus on Vacation

Thurs. Mar. 23:

Fr. Gus on Vacation

Fri. Mar. 24:

8:00 am Mass @ Tricity Prep

5:00 pm Lenten Dinner @ Connell

Sat Mar. 25:

8:00 am Guadalupanas Retreat @ Connell

7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City

Sun Mar. 26: Mass

8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Connell

12:00 pm Mass @ Connell

Please Keep Fr. Gus in Our Prayers.

Monday Mar. 27:

Fr. Gus day of rest

Tues. Mar. 28:

Fr. Gus @ Spokane

Wed. Mar. 29:

No adoration / Mass @ Connell

5:00 – 8:00 pm Confessions @ Connell

Thurs. Mar. 30:

10:00 am Adoration @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Eltopia

2:30 pm Meeting

Fri. Mar. 31:

8:00 am Prison Ministry @ Connell

4:00 pm Marriage Prep @ Eltopia

7:00 pm Parish Council @ Basin City

Sat Apr. 1:

7:00 pm Mass @ Basin City

Sun Apr. 2: Mass

8:00 am Mass @ Eltopia

10:30 am Mass @ Connell

12:00 pm Mass @ Connell

DESERT WAY OF THE CROSS

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Transportation will be provided.

**Meet at St. Vincent's for bus departure
at 2:00 pm. This is about a 2 hour hike
through sand dunes.**

Water and snack will be provided.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**High School students must submit signed
permission form. Boots are recommended as**

the sand can seep into your shoes.

Please sign up at the back of the Church