

God does not see
as man sees:

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BULLETIN

Vol. III Issue 24

March 29, 1987



man looks at appearances but
the lord looks at the heart.

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 29, 1987

Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad.

"What are you doing for Lent?" Now that we have returned from our "break", let us consider giving God a break in our lives. One way to let God in is to listen to HIM in scripture, particularly the Sunday readings. Today we hear a blind man asking Jesus for sight, St. Paul telling us we are the light and no longer darkness, and David is chosen by Samuel to be king even though he was the youngest of eight and he hardly had a majestic appearance. The blind man's sight is restored, we sometimes see the light, and David becomes the great King of Israel But.... sometimes I take my God and my neighbor for granted and I see so little that I am in darkness. I become blind to injustice, to neighbors I consider inferior (the handicapped, the minority, the weak, etc), to those closest to me (my parents, girl/boy friend). Some times I cannot see! Like the blind man I must ask the Lord for sight and acknowledge Him as my light. That's sort of what Lent is all about.



4th Sunday, cycle A



"Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam"

So the man went off and washed
and came back able to see.

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord



Notre Dame Encounter #1

On the weekend of February 7 forty students, four faculty-staff observers, ten student team members and four moderators participated in the first Notre Dame Encounter which is a unique retreat tailored to the spiritual needs of today's Domers. Here are some reactions of some of the participants to the question, "What was the best single aspect or experience of NDE #1?"

"A chance to meet other students in a group setting and away from the social norms of school."

David Gallivan, OC

"The meditation time, the thinking time—there is never time at school to just sit down and think. I needed that time, that weekend."

Julie Oxler, PW

"The ability to share in a community, a very important part of my life. I live with these people for 9 months but rarely get to know them on the level I did this weekend. It has been very reassuring to find other people as serious about their faith as I am."

Nancy Wehner, Lyons

"The NDE #1 was a beautiful weekend indeed. I really enjoyed the chance to get away and reflect on my relationship with God."

Andy Shannon, Stanford

"Interaction with the other people that went—sense of community."

Rich Rehg, Stanford

"The opportunity to become closer to God."

John Huberty, Grace

"The team and directors really gave me, and everyone making the retreat, a very, very memorable weekend."

Steve Megargee, St. Ed's

Seven Ways to Make a Better Lent

1. **Pray privately.** Start with five minutes a day, in a private space and moment, to center yourself in Christ and find what his will is for you. Ask him to set your mind ablaze with his light, so that you see what you must do and have the strength to do it. Take enough time to charge your battery. Encourage other family members to do the same, and then let them alone to do it. Keep your thoughts as private as a conversation with God should be.
2. **Pray publicly.** Seek out and participate in parish and school liturgies or special Lenten services, from the old-fashioned Stations of the Cross to the currently popular Ashes-to-Easter five week program. Share your overflow of grace from private prayer with your second family, the community.
3. **Make your sacrifices a positive affirmation.** Less a doing *without* than a doing *for*. Don't stop at material denials. Offering up a favorite TV show or Sunday morning coffeecake is nothing compared to giving up the pleasure of having the last word or being infallible. At least once a day, refrain from saying "I told you so," "I knew I was right" and "It wasn't my fault." For 40 days, try to keep your mouth shut and your heart open.
4. **Give—your time,** energy, privacy, effort, ear and light heart—unsparingly. Give without reckoning cost or reward. Work in whatever capacity you are needed (and ask God's guidance to lead you there), at hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, prisons, soup kitchens, Meals-on-Wheels. If you are paid, fine. But don't expect it.
5. **Give—of all your material blessings.** If you give money, don't call it tithing and expect something back. Just give it as you think Christ would, out of love.
6. **Be actively concerned about the entire world** not only your small, specific one. Read, listen, learn, become involved in making a more Christ-like life by working for good in politics, environment, world hunger, peace and nuclear power, armaments dispersal—all topics we have heard about over and over until they have little meaning. Make them real. Remember we are all one family trying to make a just and loving home out of this world.
7. **Keep a joyful sense of humor** about your imperfections and lapses. If we were perfect, we wouldn't be here. Wear a face that says, "Be of good cheer!" Secret, silent martyrs only make real martyrs of those who have to live with them. "A cheerful countenance bespeaks a serene heart," and a serene heart says that all is well, all is very well, Lent and all.

Centering Prayer

Here is one formulation of it: Sit comfortably in a chair that will give your back good support, and gently close your eyes. It is good to choose a place where you will not be disturbed by any sudden intrusion. A quiet place is helpful, though not essential.

1. Sit relaxed and quiet.
2. Be in faith and love to God who dwells in the center of your being.
3. Take up a love word and let it be gently present, supporting your being to God in faith-filled love.
4. Whenever you become *aware* of anything else, simply, gently return to the Lord with the use of your prayer word.
5. Let the Our Father (or some other prayer) pray itself.



R C I A NEWS



CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES: A meeting will be held on Tues. evening, March 31, 7-8:30 P.M., Badin Hall, University Ministry Office, for students who have been preparing for the sacrament of confirmation.

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 12: A rehearsal for the Rite of Full Communion will be held after the 12:15 liturgy in Sacred Heart Church for all candidates for full communion.

RITE OF FULL COMMUNION: On Tuesday, April 14, at 5 P.M. at Sacred Heart, The Notre Dame community will warmly welcome eleven new members into the Catholic Church.

8.7 A contrite heart, O God,
thou wilt not despise (Psalm 51:19)

Pontius' Puddle

