

Bulletin # 102656

**Our Lady of Fatima
2010 12th Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601**

814-942-0371

Attn: Carol Smith

MESSAGES:

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 28-29, 2009

Fatima Mirror

Visit our Web site at: ourladyoffatimaaltoona.org - Send us a Fax at: 814-942-0372 - Give us a call at: 814-942-0371

This Week, 24,300 More American Citizens were tortured to death in U.S. Abortuaries

Post-abortion healing: 814-884-8000 Confidential, compassionate. For women, men, relatives, friends hurt by abortion. Helpful websites: noparh.org; abortionchangesyou.com; menandabortion.info (not .org); rachelsvineyard.org.



Repent!

Diocesan Communal Penance Services

The priests of the Diocese will assist in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Bishop Joseph.

Johnstown - **Monday, March 30, 6:30 PM** at The Cathedral of Saint John

State College - **Tuesday, March 31, 7:00 PM** at Our Lady of Victory

Altoona - **Wednesday, April 1, 6:30 PM** at The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament

Altoona and Surrounding Area

You are invited to join Bishop Joseph with his priests in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is the Church's season to remind the faithful of our need to turn from sin and seek God's mercy. We seek reconciliation with God and our neighbor. Gather with all who identify themselves as sinners joyfully proclaiming the love and forgiveness of God. A Communal Penance Service focusing on the Pauline Year will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 1, 2009, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, One Cathedral Square, Altoona, at 6:30 PM. This public gathering of believers is a great preparation for the celebration of the Easter mysteries. Plan to gather for this hour of prayer celebrating God's mercy in liturgy.

The entire parish will be praying to Saint Benedict Joseph Labre this entire week for relatives and friends, fellow parishioners and all residents of the Fifth Ward who are suffering from any form of Mental Illness.

A Pilgrim

Saint Benedict Joseph Labre, born on March 26, 1748 in northern France, exemplifies a very particular kind of holiness found in both East and West. He was a wanderer who prayed ceaselessly, a pilgrim walking from one holy place to another, a fool for Christ.

A Misfit

As a young man, Benedict Joseph made a number of unsuccessful attempts at monastic life. He tried his vocation with the Trappists, with the Cistercians, and with the Carthusians, but, in every instance, after a few months or a few weeks, he was rejected as being unsuitable. Benedict Joseph was endearing in his own way. He was a gentle young man, tortured by scruples of conscience, and sensitive. He was completely honest, humble, candid, and open. He was cheerful. But, for all of that, he was a misfit. There was an oddness about him. He was drawn irresistibly to monastic life and, at the same time, rejected from every monastery in which he tried his vocation.

**The Road**

When he was twenty-two years old, Benedict Joseph left the Abbey of Sept-Fons, still wearing his Cistercian novice's habit, with a rosary around his neck, and a knapsack on his back. His only possessions, apart from the clothes he wore, were his two precious rosaries, a New Testament, a Breviary for reciting the Divine Office, and *The Imitation of Christ*.

Walking all the way to Rome, begging as he went, he became a consecrated vagabond, a pilgrim vowed to ceaseless prayer. He walked from one shrine to another, visiting the Holy House of Loreto, Assisi, Naples, and Bari in Italy. He made his way to Einsiedeln in Switzerland, to Paray-le-Monial in France, and to Compostela in Spain. He lived on whatever people would give him, and readily shared what little he had. He observed silence, praying constantly. He was mocked, abused, and treated like a madman. Cruel children pelted him with garbage and stones.

Rome

After 1774, Benedict Joseph remained in the Eternal City, apart from an annual pilgrimage to the Madonna at the Holy House of Loreto. At night he would sleep in the Colosseum. During the day he would seek out those churches where the Forty Hours Devotion were being held, so as to be able to adore the Blessed Sacrament exposed. So striking was his love for the Blessed Sacrament that the Romans came to call him "the beggar of Perpetual Adoration." He was graced with a profound recollection in church. More than once he was observed in ecstasy, ravished into the love of God and shining with an unearthly light. It was on one of these occasions that the artist Antonio Cavallucci painted the beautiful portrait of Saint Benedict Joseph that allows us, even today, to see his handsome face illumined by union with God.

The Death of a Saint

On April 16, 1783 Benedict Joseph collapsed on the steps of the Church of Santa Maria dei Monti. It was the Wednesday of Holy Week. He was carried to a neighboring house where he received the last sacraments, and died. He was thirty-five years old. No sooner did news of his death reach the streets than a huge throng gathered crying, "È morto il santo! — The saint is dead!" Benedict Joseph was buried beneath the altar in a side chapel of Santa Maria dei Monti. I have gone there to pray, and knelt before the life-sized sculpture in marble that depicts him in the repose of a holy death.

(continued on page five)

MONEY MATTERS**First Sunday in Ordinary Time (March 22)**

263 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$2,014.25 of which \$ 231.00 accounted for "loose".

Envelopes In Circulation 231 # Used 110 # Unused 121

(continued from page two)

Miracles

Benedict Joseph Labre was dead but a few months, when more than 136 miraculous healings were attributed to his intercession. Present in Rome at the time of his funeral was an American Protestant clergyman from Boston, The Reverend John Thayer. The experience of Benedict Joseph's holy death converted Thayer. He was received into the Catholic Church, ordained to the priesthood, and died in Limerick, Ireland in 1815.

The Guild of Saint Benedict Joseph Labre

Fast forward, if you will, to the early 1990s. Mildred and Timothy Duff, the mother and brother of Scott Duff, a young man suffering from schizophrenia, guided by Father Benedict Joseph Groeschel, founded the Guild of Saint Benedict Joseph Labre, an apostolate dedicated to the spiritual support of the emotionally troubled, the mentally ill, and their families and friends. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta told the Duffs that the Crown of Thorns in Our Lord's Passion represented the sufferings of those afflicted by depression, and of the mentally and emotionally ill.

To the Altar

As we go forward into the Holy Sacrifice today, we recommend to the intercession of Saint Benedict Joseph, the Holy Father who bears both his names: Pope Benedict XVI, born Joseph Ratzinger eighty-one years ago today. We also recommend to the intercession of Saint Benedict Joseph all who suffer from depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, and other forms of emotional and mental illness. Saint Benedict Joseph Labre, pray for us, that like you we may pass through this life as pilgrims and as perpetual adorers, magnetized by the wondrous mystery of Christ's Body and Blood.

The Blessing of Saint Benedict Joseph Labre

Jesus Christ, the King of glory, came in peace.
 God was made man.
 The Word was made flesh.
 Christ was born of the Virgin Mary.
 Christ passed through the midst of them in peace.
 Christ was crucified.
 Christ died.

Christ was buried.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ ascended into heaven.
 Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ commands.
 From every lightening bolt may Christ defend us.
 Jesus is with us.
 Our Father - Hail Mary - Glory be

MASS INTENTIONS FOR March 30-April 5, 2009

Monday	03/30	08:00 AM	Pat Dennis, Gene Summers	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
Tuesday	03/31	08:00 AM	Wally Jorkasky, Lucy Grimme	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
Wednesday	04/01	08:00 AM	Michael J. Zaczek Anniv, Children	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>04/01</u>	<u>06:00 PM</u>	ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
Thursday	04/02	08:00 AM	John Gallace, Maureen & Don Miller	<i>Francis of Paola</i>
Friday	04/03	08:00 AM	Walter Bieniek, Wife Peg	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>04/03</u>	<u>06:00 PM</u>	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>
Saturday	04/04	04:30 PM	Cora Ivory Bday, Paul & Adaline Cassarly	<i>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</i>
Sunday	04/05	09:00 AM	Robert Flanagan, Bear & Patty McCloskey	<i>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</i>
Sunday	04/05	11:00 AM	Liv/Dec of Our Lady of Fatima Parish	<i>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</i>