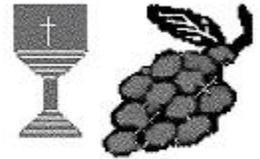


Taste the

# NEW WINE



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HOLY FAMILY PARISH

A CARING COMMUNITY

SPRING 2014

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## MEETING JESUS: AT THE STATIONS

By Pat Sullivan – from the archives

An old Lenten devotion can be a helpful doorway to look for Jesus on the dusty roads of our wounded world. It is a concept that adapts well to private prayer with a worldwide view. I offer a few ideas for starters. I'm sure any of us can think of many similar scenes in which Jesus is present in those who must endure their own walks to Calvary in our time.

**The First Station:** A black man in shackles, flanked by guards stands before the judge. The man hears, "...condemned to death by lethal injection." Funny, but he can't remember why he's here. He was so high on dope that night he can't remember what he did. They say he killed somebody. He never meant to do that. But he guessed he did because now he had to die for it. They lead him away. *God, teach us that taking another life leads only to more deaths. You are a God of life!*

**The Second Station:** She waved the flies off her small son's face. He'd die soon. Better if it's fast. He got it from her, this thing they call AIDS. She guessed his tiny body wasn't as strong as hers. Somebody told her they have medicines that keep people from dying. Rich people get them. Here in Sudan most people are like her, poor and forgotten by the world outside her hut. Her tears fall unheeded on the dirt floor. *God, teach us that some crosses are made from the greed of others. You are a God of justice!*

**The Third Station:** The old man staggered down the littered sidewalk. He'd just gulped his last swallow of

muscatel for the night. Now he's broke. He'd do some panhandling in the morning. His scuffed toe catches in a crack and he goes down, just in time to be spotted by a passing police cruiser. He hears them coming for him but he was too drunk to get away. It was okay. A night and a meal on the county would be better than cold concrete. *God, teach us that some people fall because they cannot make it alone. You are a God of relationship!*

**The Fourth Station:** He was young, badly wounded and frightened. He'd been only walking to the market to buy some tea for his mother when the bombs struck. He knew it was the Americans, but why here in his small village? They must think some Taliban people were hiding here or something. He moaned in pain as he tried to get up. He looking down he sees he is covered in blood. Suddenly his mother is there, crying to Allah and cradling his head gently. The rocky ground receives the blood of her son. *God, teach us that no mother ever again should need to see her child so afflicted. You are a God of compassion!*

**The Fifth Station:** She climbs off the bus like an old woman, but she's only sixteen. Her baby was coming fast. The hospital is so big. She sees the sign for the Emergency Room, clear on the other side of the building. She struggles toward it, stopping often for contractions. She'd never seen any doctor. Mama's job didn't pay much and there was no insurance. Mama was at work now and the girl was on her own.

Too far. She would never make it. Then she felt a hand under her elbow, supporting her, walking with her. The smell is awful. She turns to see a homeless man in filthy, ragged clothes. But his eyes are kind as he pats her hand reassuringly. She smiles back. It didn't seem so far now. *God, teach us to help each other when a cross is too heavy. You are a God of light burdens!*

**The Sixth Station:** What could he do? In this country illegally, he couldn't risk asking for any kind of help. His family needed the money he brought home from the meat-packing job. But here he was on the line, the carcasses flying by so fast for him to cut open and disembowel, and he was sick. He didn't know what he had, but it was getting worse. He felt that he was going to pass out. He knew that would mean they'd fire him. He fights it, but it's no use. The knife falls to the floor and his knees begin to buckle under him. His friend moves quickly to fill his space until he can get up again. The boss doesn't notice; the rhythm of the line is unbroken. *God, teach us to wipe the marks of pain from the faces of the powerless. You are a God of empowerment!*

So many more ideas come to me as I read the news. These are but a few for starters. I'm sure each of you could come up with others more relevant to your life and perceptions of the world. There are eight more stations. May your Lenten journey be filled with the surprises of meeting Jesus in the most unexpected places. Amen.

# Omaha Together One Community Report

by Don Zebolsky

**Omaha Together One Community** will hold its fifth annual "Celebrating Community" fundraiser on Saturday, March 29th from 6:00-9:30 pm at the Hot Shops Art Galleries, 13th and Nicholas. Highlights include a large silent auction with unique art items, fair trade goods, and gift certificates. Live music, an appetizer buffet, and cash bar will be available all evening. Tickets are available by calling the OTOC office at 402.344.4401 or [otoc@omahatogether.org](mailto:otoc@omahatogether.org) OR CONTACT Mary Ann or Don Zebolsky (402-551-4252, [demzeb@cox.net](mailto:demzeb@cox.net)). We are soliciting for silent auction items and Mary Ann has forms for such donations.

OTOC's Issues Conference, held Feb. 22 at Augustana Lutheran Church, had 150 participants. New Action Groups on Mental Health-Criminal Justice-Medicaid Expansion, and Environment and Sustainability have begun.

All are urged to snail mail, e-mail, or phone your state Senator in regard to the following bills:

**Prison rehabilitation programs** (LB 907 and 999). "Ban the box," which would disallow job application forms from asking, "Have you ever been convicted of a crime?" is included in LB907.

**Medicaid Expansion.** LB887, Wellness in Nebraska, was introduced January 14. The hearing was January 29 in the HHS Committee. Floor debate went into the night of Tuesday, March 18, 2014. The vote was 27 to 21 in favor, but 33 votes were needed to end the filibuster, so the bill failed to advance. Although it has failed for 2014, the issue is not dead. Please raise it with the candidates in May and November. Ask them where they stand and for support the next time.

Copies of these bills and a list of Senators along with their phone numbers and email addresses can be accessed at the Nebraska Legislature Website: [www.nebraskalegislature.gov](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov)

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Below is a model letter to your state Senator for support of LB887. Please use it for reference as you study the candidates in May and November.

Your name and address

Senator's name and address

Dear Senator \_\_\_:

Please support the passage of LB887, the Wellness in Nebraska Act. It would expand Medicaid to those of low income now not eligible. Now single adults are not eligible for Medicaid, and parents must be below 50% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to be eligible. The Act would provide a stipend to those between 100 - 133% of the FPL to buy private health insurance on a Nebraska exchange.

Now, \$751,000 in federal funding per day is lost to Nebraska. The FPL is \$11,490 for 1 person. The maximum cost for health insurance if that person's income is \$1 below the FPL is \$8905. If \$1 above the FPL, \$413 is the maximum cost. This is not just. About 33,000 adult Nebraskans are in this coverage gap. It is estimated the Act would help over 50,000 Nebraskans to have health insurance.

Passage of LB887 would help those inmates who undergo rehabilitation and are released. One-fourth has mental health needs. This Act would lower the recidivism rate which is now 70% in Douglas County.

Please consider the many benefits of LB887 and work to insure its passage. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely yours,

Your name and signature

Snail mail:

Senator \_\_\_\_\_

District # State Capitol

PO Box 94604 Lincoln NE 68509-4604

# Deacon's Corner

by Ralph Hueser

January was an interesting month. I had a CAT scan on Jan 6. It showed I had cells on my kidney, the nerve that goes to my voice box, on my aorta, and under my right armpit. I had to see the radiation oncologist who decided I needed a PET scan. I had it on Friday and saw my oncologist and the radiation oncologist on Tuesday. They walked in and I was waiting for them to tell me when the radiation therapy would start. His first words were, "The scan shows you are in remission." Ruth Ann asked, "Are you sure?" He answered Yes. She asked again, "Are you sure?" The radiation oncologist said he read the scans and there were no bright spots which means he is in remission. Ruth's comment was, "Maybe God was listening to my prayers." The radiation oncologist said that was the only reason they could give. So, I guess I will be around for a while. People keep commenting that GOD must have something for me to do. I wonder what that will be, but If so, I hope I know when the time comes.

Things seem to be going well at HF, if you consider being broken in twice in three weeks. The first time, they pushed an air conditioner out of a window and crawled through. They managed to get into various rooms. They broke open one of our locked freezers and took a bunch of hams, chickens, and other meat. They got into Pattie's office and stole the computer, printer, and screen. They also stole some of the Door Ministry checks. They cashed two of them at Walgreens. They signed them with some kind of a signature but made them out to one of the individuals who was involved. The second break-in occurred two weeks later. They broke the glass in the

## Reflections on a Pre-Lenten Retreat at the Columban Fathers

by Don Zebolsky

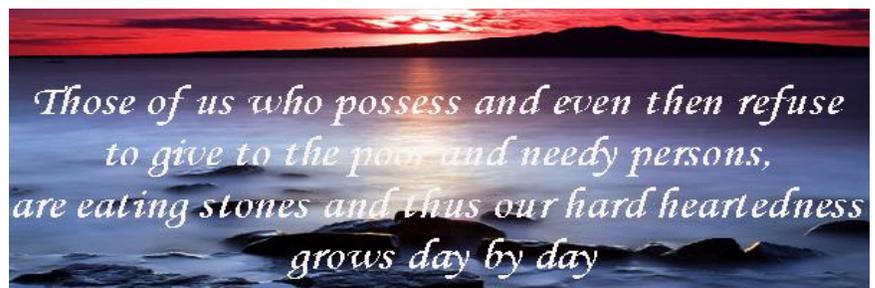
The retreat was held on Saturday, March 1. It seemed to me to be based on the gospel for Ash Wednesday about prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18), and the reading from Isaiah (58:1-9) on the Friday after: "This is the fasting I wish: free the oppressed ..."

What I like about the Columbans' retreats is that they have many dimensions. Prayer has many forms: liturgy, ritual, mantra, discovering the presence of God in others, and finding God with us on a walk. Likewise fasting can be not only self-denial of food, but breaking a bad habit, fasting from judging others, giving up a grudge. When asked what I did for a fast I was sort of taken aback then stammered "gardening." Well, the presenter picked up on that and analyzed various ways we might garden, plant and harvest, as well as the traditional planting of vegetables and flowers.

I love to garden! We live at Elmwood Towers where my wife, Mary Ann and I manage the gardens there. Our daughter, Gina, helps in the summer when she's not teaching school. I think I find God there among within the plants, but within my fellow gardeners, too.

Almsgiving can have many forms as well. One power point slide added time and talent to treasure as different ways to give alms. One great thing about the Columbans' retreats is after every presentation we take time to share with others around us. And we are told to sit in a different place each time to share with those we don't know. One companion suggested fasting from the Internet! Another said how I felt: "What do I have to give? I have nothing!" We settled on listening. To really listen to another is a marvelous gift!

What are your favorite ways of alms giving?



same window through which they got in the first time but left a blood trail. We don't know what they took that time. I don't know if the police have picked them (him, whoever) up yet.

Other than that, things are going well at HF. We moved over 22,000 pounds of food in the food re-distribution program. We made not quite 10,000 lunches in February. The

Door Ministry gives away a lot of clothes, especially winter stuff, primarily to the residents of the Sienna/Francis House. We also provide rental and utility assistance to five to ten families a month.

As usual, we have been blessed by GOD to provide us with so much support from so many of you. May GOD bless each of you in some special way.



# Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday Liturgy 5:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil 5:30 p.m.

Easter Mass 10:00 a.m.



## TASTE THE NEW WINE

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