



## ASH WEDNESDAY OUR MOUNTAIN CLIMBING TOWARDS EASTER BEGINS

This coming Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, our church will look a little different; it will have a Lenten look – the cross, the banners, the purples. They underline the fact that as Christians we are signing up for renewal on the way to Easter when we will have our baptism renewed. The scripture readings and the music will sound different too as part of the Lenten repertoire.

On **Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm**, there will be a service at OLV in which we receive the ashes. The receiving of the ashes is a sign that we are serious about the upcoming season of renewal and conversion. However, let us not lose sight of Easter. We do not observe Lent for its own sake. It is meant to get us in shape to celebrate the central mystery of our faith: The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That core mystery will be celebrated right after Lent during the Three Great Days of Holy Thursday evening, Good Friday, Easter Saturday/Easter Sunday.

On Ash Wednesday, we start our 40-day trek to Easter. We can mark the journey with the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

**Prayer:** Our Sunday liturgies, with their rich Bible readings, provide the basic orientation for Lent. How about making a special effort to use the FOOD FOR THE WEEK item found on the front cover of the bulletin? You can also take a booklet of Lenten reflections.

**Fasting:** During Lent, we could refrain from some food, from a drink, from a party, from a video as a gesture of solidarity with those who have no choice in these matters, for the simple reason that they do not have them. This sort of fasting can also be done to show that we can distance ourselves from so much of what our consumer society says we need.

**Alms:** This flows naturally from the previous two practices. Alms-giving says we care for others, even to the point of depriving ourselves from something. How about making the money we save this way into our contribution to the special Development and Peace Share Lent collection that will be held later on in Lent?

## MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION FROM THE ARCHBISHOP – FEBRUARY 2016

“That opportunities for meetings and dialogue between the Christian faith  
and the peoples of Asia, increase.”

**Social reflection:** The Christian faith had for a very long time been celebrated in secret. Even during his lifetime, Jesus' message was not always well received. What about today? “When you consider the major questions humanity is asking itself about its future, and the future of the utopia inaugurated by Jesus of Nazareth, it might be stimulating to take a look at how certain Christians in Asian countries are expressing their faith and wisdom. Indeed, the Greco-Roman formulations aren't the only ways to express the Christian faith.”<sup>[1]</sup> In the light of the multiplicity of faiths lived on the Asian continent, the dialogue is a must in order to live the Christian mission. Ever since the days of Francis Xavier's exploratory missions in Asia, there have always been a lot of challenges.

**Our faith response:** We are invited as Christians to enter into dialogue with all cultures and faiths; share and exchange our faith with them. We can find many examples of such dialogue in the New Testament: think of the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman (Jn 4, 1- 42). Closer to home, with the wave of immigration that keeps on rising, there is, and will be, more and more people of different faiths around us. How, as a Christian community, can we unite our forces for the realities of justice and peace in the promotion of human dignity? The peoples of Asia have a lot to teach us on the challenges of poverty and injustice<sup>[2]</sup>

**Reflection:** Sunday, February 7th, 2016: I will take some time to meditate internally, and discover that, like Simon Peter, I don't feel worthy to be a disciple of Jesus. In spite of my weaknesses, how can I properly serve Jesus? I inform myself on how Christians in Asia live their faith.

<sup>[1]</sup> Philippe de Briey, <http://librepenseechretienne.over-blog.com/2012/04/paroles-de-chretiens-en-terres-d-asiemaurice-cheza-j-briard-et-j-borremans-afom-karthala-2011-17-2012.html>

<sup>[2]</sup> CHEZA, Maurice with the collaboration of John Borremans and Jacques Briard, Paroles de Chrétiens en terre d'Asie, Chrétiens en liberté Collection, Karthala Editions, 2011, 360 p.

## Get your 2016 Share Lent Calendar!



On Ash Wednesday, **Development and Peace** will launch its annual **Share Lent** campaign with its theme for the year, **Create a Climate of Change**. Money raised through **Share Lent** provides vital support to the poor in more than 30 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. You can make **Share Lent** a part of your own Lenten journey by putting up the Solidarity Calendar (inserted with this bulletin) in your home. Or you can download our Lenten Calendar app for free from the App store or Google Play! Learn more about the campaign at [devp.org/sharelent](http://devp.org/sharelent). The **Share Lent** collection will take place on March 13<sup>th</sup>, Solidarity Sunday.

## OUR LADY of VICTORY & ST. MALACHY NEWS

Our Lady of Victory Needs You: For quite a long period of time, OLV has been short one Warden required to ensure a full team of administrators. Being a Warden is an excellent way to support your faith community and really does not take up a lot of personal time. Wardens meet once a month and work as a team to administer the Parish financial and administrative affairs. If you want to join a great team and wish to support your parish, please feel free to contact Bill Cameron at 819-986-8901 for more details.



**Desjardins**

**Caisse du Cœur-des-vallées**

Recently, Our Lady of Victory forwarded a letter to the Caisse requesting financial support for the conversion of our heating system. This past week, the Caisse presented OLV with a fabulous donation of \$5,000. This generous donation will go a long way to assisting us in offsetting the cost of implementation and we are extremely grateful and thankful for their support.

As our parishioners are aware, our parish is playing an active role in our community through the support for those less fortunate and for those suffering from addiction problems – **“a small church with a big heart”**. The Caisse, through its Community Development Fund, partners with a wide range of community groups in support of the well-being of our entire community. OLV is proud to be a partner with the Caisse, an organization with a social conscience, in working towards a common goal of community wellness.

Once again to the Caisse, a heartfelt thank you for your support and encouragement to continue the Parish's outreach to the community