

SEPARATED & DIVORCED

This is a group of friends with whom to share the difficult experience of an ended relationship. A monthly video tape featuring experts on various topics and periodic presentations from speakers add to the rich experience of this group. Discussion group meets every Monday from 8:00 - 9:30 PM in the **Kaffeehaus**. Please call Laurel O'Donovan, 543-3929 or Maria Bergeman, 746-1135 for any information.

STEWARDSHIP - St. Paul tells Timothy that we must be prepared to bear some hardships as followers of Christ. Each of us carries a cross or perhaps many crosses. However, stewardship calls us to look around to see if there are others to whom we might be able to offer help in carrying their crosses.

Please remember St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church in your Will and Estate planning!

VATICAN SPLENDORS - February 9 - May 11

Celebrate 2000 years of beauty and faith. One of three exclusive engagements in the world. Highlights include: Personal objects of John Paul II, Objects from the election of Benedict XVI, Reliquary containing relics of St. Peter, The Mandyion of Edessa, the earliest known image of the face of our Lord. Exhibition at Florida International Museum, 244 Second Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm, Sun. Noon-6pm. For information go to: www.floridamuseum.org or www.vaticansplendors.com

ANNUAL VIVA LIFE LUNCHEON - for the benefit of Maurawood Community Outreach will be held on Palm Sunday, March 16th at Carrabba's Italian Grill, on Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., between the hours of 12:00 and 3:00 PM. The tickets are \$18.00 for adults and \$10 for children. A few tickets are available at the Parish Office or may be purchased at the door. For any information call Pat, 684-0564 or Resna, 842-2406

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

(Matthew 17:1-9) What a vision these three apostles had! Jesus, their friend and teacher, was standing before them suffused with divine glory, flanked by two of Israel's greatest heroes. No wonder Peter was dumbfounded!

Think, too, about what had just happened a week before this strange event: Jesus had told them for the first time that he was going to be put to death by the chief priests and elders of Israel. Now, after having given them a few days to digest this troubling news, Jesus took them up a mountain and gave them a taste of why he would endure such suffering. For just one moment, Jesus showed them what he would look like after the death he had just predicted.

We tend to focus on repentance and fasting during Lent. We speak about bearing our cross or putting to death our human sinfulness. But like Peter, James, and John, who saw Jesus' glory before they experienced his cross and their own, we too need to have our eyes lifted up from time to time. We too need to see Jesus risen in triumph and transformed in glory.

Brothers and sisters, our ultimate goal is not to die but to live! We don't exist to repent but to live with Jesus in an unbreakable bond of love. Through his transfiguration, Jesus wants to give us a glimpse of our own future, when we will live with him in glory, no longer weighed down by sin but lifted up by the Spirit.

As you listen to the Scriptures at Mass today, picture yourself with the apostles on the mountain. Let the Spirit show you Jesus' glory. Try to imagine what he was speaking about with Moses and Elijah. Ask him how to keep your eyes focused on the glory he promises rather than on the difficulties of the day. Allow him to share with you whatever heavenly thoughts he would like to put in your mind and heart. May his resurrection empower you today-and every day.

"All glory and praise to you, Jesus! You reign, risen with the Father. I lift my eyes to you and behold your glory!"



Stations of the Cross



The Stations of the Cross is a devotion that was started in the Middle Ages when the Holy Land was under Islamic control. Unable to visit Jerusalem, Christian pilgrims created their own local "Way of the Cross", walking from station to station to imitate the Via Dolorosa, the walk endured by Jesus Christ on the day of His crucifixion.

Join us for **Stations** on Friday, February 22nd, at 7:30PM. Led by Bill Richart, it will feature prayer, music, short sharings, deep worship, and Powerpoint images designed to make Christ's sacrifice more real and personal.

There is no charge - a free will offering will be taken

Bill Richart is a man who has been blessed to know the Lord Jesus Christ in a personal way. He is a Catholic lay evangelist, ministering through music, healing and preaching. Bill now travels throughout the United States, ministering the Gospel of Jesus Christ full-time at parishes, conferences, retreats, workshops, jails and schools. Bill has many stories from life and shares them with humor and passion. His love for the Eucharist is evident. Bill lives in Bay City, MI with his wife, AnnMarie and young son Will.



RELIGIOUS SHOP - The Shop has a large selection of Confirmation and First Communion gifts for that special young person in your life and a card to go with your gift. We also have a good selection of spiritual aids to help you as you meditate during this Lenten Season.

LENTEN CONCERT SERIES - Tuesday, February 19th at St. Patrick Church, 1:00 PM. Featured artists are Junko Ohtsu, violinist and Irena Kofman, pianist. Admission is free.

CARING FRIENDS - Are you in need of a Caring Friend to do your grocery shopping or to take you to a doctor's appointment or to visit with your homebound loved one while you run a few errands? For whatever reason you might need a CARING FRIEND, call us and ask. We will try our best to help you. Call Joan Comensky, 743-0255.

Would you like to be a "CARING FRIEND"? We are currently adding to our volunteer list and would like to add your name. If you have time to give, please call. The gift of friendship is priceless.