

February 2007

Eagle's Wings

**Executive Director of
University Mission
and Ministry**

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286-8284 (1 - 4 p.m.)
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Secretary

Rosemary Bowman
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**Weddings and
Baptisms at
Alumni Chapel**
Call Fr. John Maher
286-8415

Mass Intentions
are accepted for each
Weekday and Sunday
Mass for \$10 per Mass.
Call 286-8400 or stop by
the office.

**Campus Ministry
Web Page**
www.niagara.edu/
ministry

Newsletter On-line
from the above website,
click on NEWSLETTER

Mass Schedule
See Page 4

From the Director

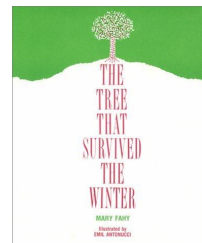
Trick Question: What starts out white and ends up green?

Answer: Hopefully, Lent!

We begin this holy season in the dead of winter, covered in snow. The wind howls and the branches snap. We bundle up and with head down, make our way across the campus. One day, we will bundle up, head out of our cars or buildings, put our heads down to face the elements, only to be pleasantly surprised to find it calm, and warm, and green. The sound of snapping branches will be replaced with chirping birds. The promise of spring!

Sometimes life is like this. We feel chilled by the challenges before us. Our schedules stress us out. Classes clash with worries of work, and our families and friends complain that they are forgotten. But the darkness of winter will not last forever. The days get longer and the light brightens our way. And one day we realize that the birds are chirping once again. Our spirits lift and smiles return to our faces, now uncovered and joyfully greetings other who have survived the winter as we have.

There's a delightful little book entitled The Tree that Survived the Winter, by Mary Fahy. After the cold, brutal winter, the young and vulnerable tree exclaims with great joy, "I have survived the winter." The sun responds, "You have survived the winter because you are very much loved."



"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Yes, we are very much loved. Let us prepare our hearts during the season of Lent, a time to clear out the clutter that keeps us pre-occupied with things that don't matter. Un-clutter your heart and your soul and you will see more clearly the path that lies before you. It's been there all along, but perhaps we couldn't see it in the dead of winter under the white covering of snow. It turns to green before our very eyes as we move toward Easter. We will see it emerge before us. We are invited to follow it! It will bring us peace, joy and fullness of life. It's a promise. It's the promise of Spring!

Sister Nora Gatto, DC
Executive Director of University Mission and Ministry

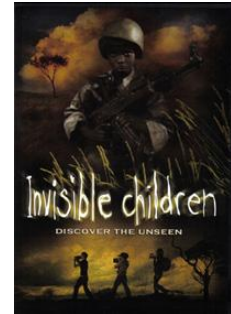
What's Next?

Did you know that there are countless benefits of doing a year of service after college? Did you know that you are able to defer student loans by doing a year of service? Did you know that you get good health coverage and some even offer graduate school incentives? What a wonderful way to continue your Vincentian education by living an adventurous year! Check out www.cnvs.org. Contact Campus Minister Monica Saltarelli at ms@niagara.edu, call her at 286-8409 or stop by her office in the LLGC. She would love to chat with you!

Pax Christi News

*"Be the Change You Wish to See In the World."
-Gandhi*

Special Congratulations to Stephanie Gowan and crew for organizing a phenomenal week concerning the plight of the "Invisible Children!" Pax Christi is particularly grateful to David Cirincione for bringing this issue to the forefront at NU. Thanks to all who supported this University wide effort to end the injustice of children forced into the military as well as into slavery.



Teresa Spagnola and Laura Manley are planning the 24 hour Food Fast on March 3rd which benefits Catholic Relief Services. Their tireless efforts are hoping to draw more student involvement toward the issues of poverty and hunger on a global front. On Saturday March 3rd there will be a variety of motivating activities from 6-9 p.m. "Under the Taps" concerning global issues. Do something extra special this Lenten season and participate in the "Food Fast." The next Pax Christi meeting is **Monday, February 26th at 8:30 p.m. in the Study Lounge, LLGC.** If you have any ideas about other justice issues, please contact Campus Minister, Monica Saltarelli at ms@niagara.edu or call her at 286-8409. Her office is located in LLGC.

St. Vincent de Paul Society News

Under the great leadership of Katie Zimmer, Meg Schlichting, and Karen Young, there are some great opportunities to get in shape during Lent. They have been busy collecting food and non-perishables to benefit our Vincentian Parish, Our Lady of Lebanon and the surrounding neighborhoods in Niagara Falls. They are especially looking forward to the Lock-In at Our Lady of Lebanon on Friday night, March 23rd. It will give the children's parents a night off while they know that their kids are having safe fun. Another activity that our student Vincentians are looking forward to is their "Senior Dance." It is a way to have fun and learn some wisdom from some seniors who enjoy being around some charming college students.

If you would like to participate in these events or some other enriching service events attend the next St. Vincent de Paul Society meeting, **Monday, February 26th at 7:30 p.m. in the Study Lounge, LLGC .**

WANT TO TALK WITH NU STUDENTS FROM ALL DIFFERENT FAITH BACKGROUNDS AND HELP PLAN INTERFAITH FORUMS, EVENTS, AND SPEAKERS ON CAMPUS?



**Interfaith Council First Meeting
Friday, March 2, 2007 2pm-3pm
Study Lounge, LL Gallagher**

LOOKING FOR SOME TIME AWAY FROM CAMPUS TO REFLECT AND JUST BE?

**NU Spring Retreat
6pm Friday, March 30 to 2pm Sunday, April 1
(held at Center of Renewal, Stella Niagara)
Cost \$10**

For more info, contact Jerod Sikorskyj, Campus Minister at jjs@niagara.edu or 286-8412

Listening to the Longing in Our Hearts

*“There is a longing in our hearts O God for you to reveal yourself to us...
there is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God”
(Lenten Hymn)*

What does it mean to be a ‘person of faith’? We hear a great deal of discourse in mainstream media and the blogosphere. With a plethora of Presidential candidates now campaigning 20 months before the 2008 election, talk abounds how being a ‘person of faith’ may or may not improve their prospects for success. Popular clichés and a sound-bite symphony of testimonies will be endlessly broadcast in real time and on live stream.

But the essential question still remains: What does it mean to be a person of faith? What do we ‘say and do’ to validate this stance? The late William Sloane Coffin, chaplain at Yale for decades, noted “true faith hasn’t been found lacking; it’s been found difficult.” I suspect many of us would echo similar sentiments in trying to live out the complex faith realities in our own lives.

Perhaps it entails two key elements: *desire and decision*. It begins with a desire for something more than meets the eye. The quote at the top of this article is the refrain of a haunting Lenten hymn we sing, reminding us even the best we share ‘here and now’ won’t last forever. The grand sunrise/sunset, the great meal, the perfect vacation, the dream job, THE right relationship: these great benchmarks don’t last forever.

Sadly, the world is filled with many who, despite outward appearance of success in the categories above, still appear deeply unsatisfied, judging by their words and deeds. Misdirected desire? Maybe. But desire must be directed, clarified, lived out by decisions that nurture and grow faith. Being a ‘person of faith’ is more than just wishing or desiring it to be so.

A recent national survey by the UCLA Higher Education Institute of 112,000 new students at 236 colleges and universities found a great majority of incoming students care deeply about what it means to be a person of faith. Three-quarters of students stated they look for deeper meaning in life and can discuss this with their peers; two-thirds said they engage in prayer. The study noted: “The stereotype has it that freshmen arrive at college looking for good parties and career paths. However, most also look for meaning in life and God”.

As with previous UCLA surveys, this group will be surveyed again in junior year. However, other junior class surveys indicated “while students’ interest in spiritual matters remains high during college, their religious practice shrinks. They get little encouragement in the classroom to think about spirituality”. A. W. Austin, study leader, said it offered a “clear message to help colleges to do more to navigate issues of faith”.

NU’s Catholic, Vincentian heritage offers a treasure trove of resources and people to assist all our students in developing a desire to make decisions to live as people of faith. For most students, the impact of what peers think and do is considerable. It’s no wonder many Catholic colleges have started ‘peer ministry’ programs to enable students to learn about and share faith with one another. Could such a program succeed here at Niagara? Can we who worship in this chapel faithfully every week rise to the challenge by examining and sharing our own faith? It is always a risk to reach out to another; by that standard, Jesus certainly was the ultimate risk-taker. Think, pray, ask God to help you answer this question: How can I be more fully a person of faith?

Father John T. Maher, C.M.
University Chaplain



**MASS SCHEDULE
Alumni Chapel**

for Weekdays and Holy Days

Weekday Mass

**Mondays, Wednesdays
and Fridays**
12:15 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays
12:35 p.m.

Weekday Masses are held between

**Aug. 28 - Dec. 15 and
Jan. 17 - May 11**

No Weekday Mass will be held on:
March 12 - 16
April 5 - 9

Holy Day Masses

Ash Wednesday

Feb. 21st
8:30 a.m. - Prayer Service
12:15 p.m. - Mass
5:05 p.m. - Prayer Service
10:00 p.m. - Mass

**SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE
Alumni Chapel**

Jan. 21 – March 4
11a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

March 11
11 a.m.

March 18
11 a.m. and 10 p.m.

March 25 – April 1 (Palm Sunday)
11 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 9
11 a.m.

April 15 – May 6
11 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

May 13
11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

May 20 - Aug 19
10 a.m.

Alumni Chapel Choir

The Alumni Chapel Choir is open to anyone who likes to sing or play an instrument. Singers, cantors, and musicians are invited to participate in either the 11:00 a.m. or 10:00 p.m. Sunday Mass. The morning Mass features inspiring, familiar hymns from the Catholic songbook, while the evening Mass blends traditional liturgy with contemporary praise and worship music.

We are looking for:

- *Singers*
- *Cantors*
- *Musicians*

Both groups rehearse on Thursdays from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in Alumni Chapel, and warm up for an hour before Mass. Singers and musicians of all ability levels are welcome to become a part of this friendly and dynamic group.

If you have any questions, please contact Liz Thelen at 208-5923 or lemonbar@gmail.com.

Lent 2007

Repent

**Reconciliation and
Confession**

Sundays before 10:00pm Mass, 9:15-9:45pm, Alumni Chapel
Mondays at 5- 5:45pm, Alumni Chapel or by appointment

Listen

**Sunday Masses
Weekday Mass**

11:00am, 4:30pm and 10:00pm, Alumni Chapel
MWF at 12:15pm and Tu,Th at 12:35pm, Alumni Chapel

Weekly Holy Hour

5-6:00pm on the following Wednesdays at Alumni Chapel
Feb. 28th, Mar. 7th, Mar. 21st, Mar. 28th and Apr. 4th

Remember

**Stations of the Cross
Penance Service**

Wednesday Mar. 7th and Mar. 28th, 7:30pm, Alumni Chapel
Monday, April 2nd at 7:30pm, Alumni Chapel

Believe

**Student Retreat
Lenten Bible Study**

Friday, March 30th, 7:00pm – Sunday, April 1st at 12 Noon
Tuesdays at 5:05- 6:00pm, Alumni Chapel

Glorify

Community Service

Heart & Soul Soup Kitchen, Sunday, Mar. 18th, Noon-2:00pm

Triduum Services at Alumni Chapel (April 4th-8th)

Holy Thursday, 7:00pm
Good Friday, 7:00pm
Holy Saturday Vigil, 8:00pm
Easter Sunday, 11:00am

Weekly Blog & Podcast on our Lenten Themes:

- **Repent** Week of February 25th
- **Listen** Week of March 4th
- **Remember** Week of March 18th
- **Believe** Week of March 25th
- **Glorify** Week of April 1st

<http://www.niagara.edu/ministry/wordpress/>