

BASILICA BULLETIN

A Weekly Publication of Our Lady of Penafrancia Basilica and National Shrine, Naga City, 4400 Philippines

March 11, 2012

www.penafrancia.net

3rd Sunday of Lent

Jesus Reclaims the Temple

Fr. Jose Cortes

A very offended and angry Jesus appeared in the temple of Jerusalem! We would wonder why the usual low profile Rabbi who even avoided passing through populated portions of villages has postured this way. And He was aggressive and made no pretense of His feelings accordingly manifested, going to the extent of making a whip out of cords to drive out specific people selling oxen, sheep and doves, and their animals from the temple area. Along the way He would overturn tables of money-changers and scattering on the floor their coins.

Why the rage?

“Take these out of here and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace”, Jesus demanded. Now, here is the Son making a claim over His Father’s house that appears being abused and desecrated!

What right have you? What authority do you have? What sign can you give? A battery of interrogation came from people affected by Jesus’ ac-



tion as if they were ready to battle over the temple. They wanted the temple for themselves and their purposes, even though how mundane these maybe. Who is this man getting into their way? How dare He could whip people out of the temple area?

A tense situation indeed that could have flared! But Jesus has the answer: “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up”. The Jews were taken aback but still were not disarmed. “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?”, they retorted. They were not convinced for

not understanding that Jesus was speaking about the temple of his body.

Do we respect the house of God? Are we there to pray and commune with God? Or could it be that sometimes we make this a social event to meet friends primarily and God secondarily? Are we trying to internalize the love and mercy of Jesus as expressed in our church liturgical celebrations?

When we try to help correct what could be desecrating the church we go to, let us remember that Jesus could also be making us His whip in cleansing and claiming back His Father’s house.



Sunday Gospel

Jn 3:14-21

“Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.”

His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me.

At this the Jews answered and said to him,

“What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.”

The Jews said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?”

But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

Daily Readings of the Week

Mar 11 Sun:	2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/ Jn 3:14-21
Mar 12 Mon:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/ Rom 4:13, 16-18/ Lk 2:41-51a
Mar 13 Tues:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/ Jn 5:1-16
Mar 14 Wed:	Is 49:8-15/ Jn 5:17-30
Mar 15 Thurs:	Ex 32:7-14/ Jn 5:31-47
Mar 16 Fri:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22/ Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Mar 17 Sat:	Jer 11:18-20/ Jn 7:40-53

“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up”

Not many facts are known about the life of St. Patrick. We know that he was born around 415 AD, and was a Roman Briton. When he was about 16, while he was tending his sheep some Irish raiders captured him and made him a slave. He eventually was able to escape and return to Britain. There he heard the call to return and bring Christianity to Ireland. He was ordained a priest, consecrated a bishop and came back to Ireland around 435 AD.

Many legends are associated around St. Patrick: how he drove the snakes out of Ireland, and the use of the shamrock to teach the mystery of the Trinity. Whether or not the legends are true, St. Patrick succeeded in bringing Catholicism to Ire-

land, and in time, the whole country converted from their pagan gods to the one true God.

Although a small country, Ireland has played a large role in saving and bringing Christianity throughout the world. During the early Dark Ages, the Irish monasteries preserved Western writings while Europe remained in darkness. But as the Catholic country remained solidly Catholic, the

Irish spread the faith to all corners of the world. To learn more on this subject, read Thomas Cahill's *How the Irish Saved Civilization*.

We have a few works attributed to St. Patrick, one being his autobiography called *Confessions*. It is a short summary of the events in his life, written in true humility.

Here is a short excerpt: *I am greatly*

God's debtor, because he granted me so much grace, that through me many people would be reborn in God, and soon after confirmed, and that clergy would be ordained everywhere for them, the masses lately come to belief, whom the Lord drew from the ends of the earth, just as he once promised through his prophets: "To you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Our fathers have inherited naught hut lies, worthless things in which there is no profit." And again: "I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles that you may bring salvation to the uttermost ends



10 Things to Remember for Lent

1 Remember the formula. The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.

2 It's a time of prayer. Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.

3 It's a time to fast. With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that's why it gets all the attention. "What are you giving up for Lent? Hotdogs? Beer? Jelly beans?" It's almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.

4 It's a time to work on discipline. The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. "I'm going to exercise more. I'm going to pray more. I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends and coworkers."

5 It's about dying to yourself. The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control – it's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.

6 Don't do too much. It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. There's a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don't try to cram it all in one Lent. That's a recipe for failure.

7 Lent reminds us of our weakness. Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we're all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity. Why not ask for His mercy by going to confession?

8 Be patient with yourself. When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. "What a bad person I am!" But that's the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.

9 Reach out in charity. As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should

be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It's about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it's about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.

10 Learn to love like Christ. Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him. (From Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin)

Schedule of the Renewal Course of Liturgical Ministers

Apr 14 - Saturday
Renewal Course for Lectors of
Central and Bay Districts
Venue - USI Auditorium

Apr 21 - Saturday
Renewal Course for
Extraordinary Ministers of
Holy Communion
Venue: USI Auditorium

Apr 28 - Saturday
Renewal Course for Lectors of
Partido and Rinconada Districts
Venue: USI Auditorium

Pope Ends Lenten Retreat



Pope Benedict at the Redemptoris Mater-Chapel

When life feels like a dark and silent tunnel, faith gives a Christian light and music, Pope Benedict XVI said at the end of his weeklong Lenten retreat.

Congolese Cardinal Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya of Kinshasa led the pope's retreat Feb. 26-March 3 in the Redemptoris Mater Chapel of the Apostolic Palace, offering the pope and top Vatican officials three meditations each day on the theme "Christians' Communion With God."

Thanking the cardinal at the end of the retreat, Pope Benedict said Cardinal Monsengwo "seasoned these meditations with beautiful stories -- taken mostly from your beloved African land -- which gave us joy and helped us."

Attacks on Christians Tripled

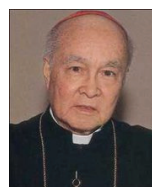
Terrorist attacks on Christians in Africa, the Middle East and Asia tripled in a seven-year period, a Vatican official told a U.N. meeting.

Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, the Holy See's permanent observer to U.N. offices in Geneva, told the U.N. Human Rights Council that while Christians are not the only victims, attacks on them in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia "increased 309 percent between 2003 and 2010." He did not offer any specific numbers.

"Approximately 70 percent of the world's population lives in countries with high restrictions on religious beliefs and practices, and religious minorities pay the highest price. In general, rising restrictions on religion affect more than 2.2 billion people," the archbishop told the council members March 1.

The archbishop denounced "intolerance that leads to violence and to the killing of many innocent people each year simply because of their religious convictions."

Cardinal Sanchez, 91



Jose Cardinal Sanchez, archbishop emeritus of Nueva Segovia, passed away at 4:30 a.m. Friday, March 9, 2011. He was 91. Sanchez would have turned 92 on March 17.

Sanchez was born in Pandan, Catanduanes on March 17, 1920 and ordained priest in Naga City on May 12, 1946, his profile on the website of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines said.

From assistant pastor of San Raphael Parish, Legazpi City, he rose to vicar general of the diocese of Legazpi, then in 1968, auxiliary bishop of Caceres to bishop of Lucena and archbishop of Nueva Segovia.

He was appointed Secretary to the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and later Prefect of Congregation for the Clergy on July 1, 1991.

Archdiocesan News

New Balaton Parish Priest



After the installation, the Archbishop together with Fr. Mayo Herrera and priest-concelebrants

Attended by all the parishioners, the installation of Rev. Fr. Ceasar Maysar Herrera as the new parish priest of Our Lady of Peñafrancia Parish, Balaton, Lagonoy, Camarines Sur, was presided by Most Rev. Leonardo Z. Legaspi, O.P., D.D., Archbishop of Caceres, last March 3.

Fr. Herrera is the second parish priest of the parish that covers 10 barangays and three sitios. Seven of these barangays and one sitio belong to the Municipality of Lagonoy, and three barangays belonging to the municipality of Garchitorena. These barangays and sitios are strategically facing the Pacific Ocean that makes these places accessible only by motorized boats, locally called lantsa. The pastoral seat, Barangay Balaton, is an hour boat ride from Tamban, Tinambac, Camarines Sur.

BASILICA NEWS

New Officers of Cofradia de San Jose



Msgr. Rodel Cajot together with the newly elected officers of the Cofradia de San Jose: Renato Mendizabal (President), Renato Bequillo (Vice-President), Troy Benito (Secretary), Rico Lozana (Treasurer), Frank Galanga (Auditor)

Some 120 members of the Cofradia de San Jose gathered at the Basilica Hall last March 3, for their general assembly. It was their first meeting with Msgr. Rodel Cajot. During the meeting, the voyadores were reminded again of their important role of serving our INA. From the Cofradia de San Jose, an elite force of Guardias de Maria are chosen to protect the image of INA in all processions.

During the meeting, the members also elected their new sets of officers who will serve the organization for this year. They will be installed on March 17 during the 5:00 mass at the basilica.

INVITATION TO ALL YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The Penafrancia Young Professionals (PYP) will sponsor a Lenten Recollection for **Young Professionals on March 18, 2012 at 8:00-12:00 noon at the Naga Parochial School.** The speaker will be Fr. Marc Real.

It will also be open to all who are interested to join the PYP. For inquiries, text or call 09274207660 or 4733644.

COLLECTION REPORT

1. 2nd Collection (Mar.3) Seminary	P13,141.00
2. Donation Box for Basilica Bulletin	
a. Feb. 26 -	P710.00
b. Mar 3 -	<u>P915.00</u>
(Basilica Bulletin)Total collection	P1,625.00

Basilica Schedule of Services

SUNDAY MASSES:

6:30 am(Bikol) (1st Sunday - Latin) 8:00 am(Bikol) 9:30 am (English) 11:00 am(Tagalog) 4:00pm(Bikol) 5:00 pm(English) 6:00 pm (English)

SATURDAY

6:00 a.m. (Bikol) 7:00 a.m (English) 5:00 pm Anticipated (English) 6:00 pm - Procession around Patio 6:15 pm - Healing

WEEKDAY MASSES

6:00 a.m. (Bikol) 7:00 a.m.(English) 5:15 p.m.(English)

CONFESSIONS

Sunday 6:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Weekdays

Wednesday - 3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.
Thursday - 2:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.
First Friday - 5:00p.m. - 6:30p.m.
Saturday - 9:00a.m. - 11:00a.m.

NOVENARIO IN HONOR OF JESUS NAZARENO March 21-30, 2012

5:15 pm – Novenary Mass

5:45 pm - Procession around the Basilica Grounds
(except Sunday)



Sponsors:

March 21 – Basilica Auxiliaries
March 22 - Lectors /Basilica Staff
March 23 – OLPA (Jan – May)
March 24 - OLPA (June - Dec)
March 25 – PYP / Basilica Joggers
March 26 – Lay Ministers /
Catechetical Center
March 27– Daily Choir
March 28 – Pilgrimage Foundation
March 29– Voyadores /DM

March 30 - FEAST DAY

Friday before Holy Week

5:00pm - Mass in honor of
Jesus Nazareno

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