



FEBRUARY, 2010

LOVE, HONOR, AND...OBEY?

As a child, whenever I questioned my mother's authority, she immediately let me know I had pushed the envelope too far. Her response always began with "Lady Jane." Apparently, I made her so angry she momentarily forgot I was Lady Joan. Then the ominous words would follow indicating a minimum sentence of being grounded for one week. "Lady Jane, you are becoming too big for your britches!"

Obedience was never my greatest virtue. I remember arguing with the priest, who married my husband and I, about using the word "obey" in our vows. We were equals; so why would I need to obey my spouse. Even then I was a little too big for my britches. Obedience is not becoming someone's subordinate or strictly adhering to another's rules. Obedience is the most perfect demonstration of selflessness. It is the willingness to surrender what *you* want for what *God* wants. One of the greatest gifts God gave mankind was free will. When we freely sacrifice our will for the sake of someone other than ourselves that is a true act of love. Once we perceive obedience as an "attitude of heart" it is clear why it belongs in the matrimonial vows. In order for a marriage to survive, partners can no longer view themselves as separate entities.

They have become two souls joined as one. Every individual choice affects their union. His spending is our spending, her depression is our depression, his triumph is our triumph, her sin is our sin and his will is our will. I know what you're thinking, "Wait a minute, that's not what I signed up for!" Most of us had no idea what we signed up for when we processed down the aisle. We thought the person walking along side us would always be desirable, faithful, dependable, and healthy. Oh sure, we realized everyday wasn't going to be perfect. There would be arguments, angry words, and slammed doors; but at the end of the day we would still love each other—right? Little did we know, the important question was will we obey each other? Will we freely go without our desires, and even what we consider our needs, for the salvation of our marriage? Ultimately, it is the commitment to obey that makes or breaks a marriage. So, Lady Janes or Lord Johns, with Valentines Day right around the corner, maybe we should ask if we have gotten too big for our britches. Let's renew our marriage pledge to our spouses not with chocolates, or roses, or cards; but with obedience. And maybe, just maybe, we will make it to our golden anniversary.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 2/1: Gr. 6 Skiing
- 2/2: Dogsled Presentation
- 2/3: Ed. Council Mtng.
- 2/4: "Souper" Bowl Day
Gr. 5-Snowshoe
- 2/5: Early Dismissal
Winter Carnival Parade
- 2/6: **Opening Mass for CSW**
- 2/7: **Pancake Breakfast**
- 2/8: Dare Graduation
- 2/9: Teacher Appreciat.
- 2/10: Dress for Success
- 2/11: **Spaghetti Supper
Poetry Speak-out**
- 2/12: Variety Show
- 2/15-19: **Winter Break**



Our mission is to nurture and prepare disciples in an environment of Christian love.

As I watched the news stories coming out of Haiti the past few weeks, one of the things I noticed was the calm and tranquility exhibited by so many who were immersed in chaos. Priests, sisters, and thousands of lay people praying in thanksgiving for their lives being spared and asking God for the courage to continue on. People

waiting days to be rescued from the rubble, and for food, water, shelter, the bare necessities of life; still remembering God is with them. There could not be any better demonstration of how we can develop the virtue of tranquility.

Many of us believe tranquility only exists when everything in our lives is peaceful, quiet, and relaxed. Yet tranquility can and must exist among the chaos of our lives. When we're late for work, or over-scheduled, when the kids are fighting, and the washer is broken; it is hard to remind ourselves we are meant to live in a tranquil state. This is because we are obsessed with time. We are constantly living in the past or the future; hardly ever in the present. Think about it; how much of our life is consumed with what happened yesterday or last week and what we have to get finished by tomorrow or next week? In actuality, the only moment that matters, the only moment we can control is the moment we are in right now. Once we begin to understand this; we begin to understand tranquility. We are able to remain calm, cool, and collected because we are totally aware of what is happening NOW. This awareness will allow us to decide: Right now I can create more chaos and anxiety among my children by yelling, threatening, cursing, or swearing because we are late; or I can accept the fact I'm going to be late for work and it's not the end of the world.

Living in a tranquil state requires staying in the state of gratitude and keeping things in perspective. Yes, the washer has died and this is a great inconvenience; but it's the washer that died not a loved one. In the grand scheme of



things there are far worse casualties that could occur in our lives. Tranquil people make conscious decisions to think positively. They see the best in situations and in other people. Tranquility requires keeping our ego in check and not taking ourselves

so seriously. They remember they are human beings not godly beings or super beings who must achieve perfection. They admit their mistakes and even laugh at their mistakes. Most importantly, tranquil people make time for God. They pray everyday and they worship with others in a faith community. How does this help? By finding time to set before the Lord and just being in His presence makes you aware of the fact you are not in your state of chaos alone. There is someone with you; guiding you, encouraging you, and assisting you—if you just listen. Before you know it your fears, your worries, your stress, all the things deleting the serenity in your life, are significantly decreased.

As parents, we need to develop tranquility within ourselves before we can provide it for our children. If we are in a tranquil state our children are more likely to listen to us and connect with us. In the words of Joseph Chilton Pierce: "We must become the people we want our children to be." We need to be what we are seeking. If we are looking for patience we need to be patient. If we are looking for acceptance we need to be accepting. If we are looking for kindness, we need to be kind. If we are looking for tranquility; we need to calm down, slow down, quiet down and be tranquil. No matter what chaos is going on in our lives; we simply need to remember God is right there with us; taking us through the turbulence and into tranquility. Oh the places we'll go; knowing God loves us so!

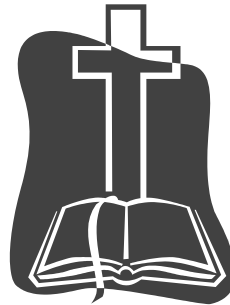
WHAT ARE YOU GIVING UP?

Lent is just around the corner and the question comes up again, "What are we going to give up for Lent?" My youngest son's answer was a variety of things such as mayonnaise, broccoli, or showering. We were quick to point out some other suggestions that might be more pleasing to God and enable him to make some worthy changes in his lifestyle. Are you wrestling with the same question: "What can I give up for Lent?" Check out the following list and see if any of these suggestions would work for you.

1. Rushing
2. Complaining
3. Procrastinating
4. Nagging
5. Gossiping
6. Foul language
7. Bragging
8. Overeating
9. Wasting natural resources
10. Wasting God-given abilities

If you are a person who believes Lent is about giving and not giving up, you may wish to give one of the valuable commodities listed below.

1. Time
2. Compliments
3. Empathy
4. Kind words
5. Parking space
6. Smiles
7. Gratitude
8. Right of way
9. Forgiveness
10. Patience



I don't know about you; but I found quite a few choices on both lists that would make my Lent a life-changing opportunity. So take your pick and Happy Lent!

MARCH IS REGISTRATION MONTH AT TRINITY CATHOLIC

During the first week of March we will be holding Pre-K and Kindergarten registration. Personal invitations are sent to all the families we know who have children meeting the age requirements for our Early Childhood Programs.

Through parish announcements and local advertising we try to encourage as many people as possible to consider a Catholic education for their child. This year we are asking your help with marketing our school. Parents listen to other parents; therefore we are looking for parents who would speak briefly at the Masses at each of the Churches in Massena, Louisville, Brasher, Norwood, Norfolk, and Hogansburg. By sharing your stories about the positive effects you and your children have experienced at Trinity Catholic, you may convince another family to seek a Catholic education. If you would be willing to do this, please call me or email me. There

will be a short meeting, to establish some focus points for presentations. We also encourage all our families to invite other families into our school. Catholic Schools' Week is one of the best opportunities to bring along another family to one of our events and allow them to experience the Trinity tradition. We have also partnered with Mike Guimond and WMSA to prepare radio spots throughout the month of March. We will be looking for parents to speak about Trinity during one of these spots. I can't stress enough the importance of raising our enrollment. The greater number of students we have, the lower our per pupil cost becomes; and a lower per pupil cost means lower tuition. So please consider helping in some way with our Trinity registrations.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK

Saturday, February 6, begins Catholic Schools' Week. This is the one of the most important weeks out of our school year. I encourage all families to participate in as many events as possible. It is the one time during the year our school family reveals who we are as a faith community. I hope you will all make a concerted effort to join us at St. Mary's Church for our Opening Mass at 4:00. The parishioners of St. Mary's, St. Joseph's, Sacred Heart, St. Lawrence and the outlying parishes have given Trinity Catholic great support throughout the years. This is our chance to demonstrate how well we nurture their investment of time, talent and treasure. Please be sure to check out the enclosed flyer listing all our Catholic Schools' events. I look forward to seeing all of you sometime during this week.

FAMILY FUN TRIVIA NIGHT

Thank you, thank you to Anson and Tammy Burke, Kathy Behrens, and all our PTC members who organized our Family Fun Trivia Night. A special thank you to Mike Viskovich and Nancy and John Bogosian who took time out of their busy schedules and directed the Trivia Game on this evening. Thank you also to Val Terry and Joanne Lawrence who provided us with delicious pizza and chocolate chip cookies. We all know every family event has to have good food, fun, and laughter to be a success. Anson Burke was a wonderful master of ceremonies and kept the spirit of the crowd high through the evening. Congratulations to the Hartman family aka "The Chicago Fire" who came in first place. A great time was had by all and we look forward to making this an annual family event.

CHOCOLATE BAR SALE

I know it may seem a little early to be thinking about our Chocolate Bar Sale but March will be here before we know it. Our Chocolate Bar Sale will begin March 1. I would like to thank Larry and Ruth Dowdy for chairing this fundraiser.

This year we have decided to sell World's Finest Chocolate. The bars come in boxes of 50 bars mixed with a nice variety of almond, dark chocolate, caramel, crunch, and milk chocolate. The bars sell for \$1 each and there is a \$2 coupon on the back of each bar for Pizza Hut. We think these chocolate bars will be very popular and the sales will do very well. Watch for boxes of chocolate coming home with your child on March 1.

DARE GRADUATION

The fifth graders will be celebrating Dare Graduation, Monday, February 8, at 2:00 in the cafeteria. These students have been working with Officer Flynn since the beginning of the school year and this is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge both Officer Flynn's efforts and their efforts. I hope you will be able to join us for this event and congratulate your child on his or her choice to remain drug free for a lifetime.

DOGSLED TEAM

On Tuesday, Feb. 2, a member of the Dogsled Team competing during Massena's Winter Carnival will be making a presentation at Trinity Catholic School. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn first hand all the ins and outs of dogsled racing. Our fourth grade students are particularly interested because they are reading the novel *Stone Fox*, a story about a young boy who enters a dogsled race in order to save his grandfather's farm. The presentation will begin at 12:00 for grades 4-6 and 12:30 for grades K-3.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Friday, February 5, Massena Central will be dismissing early. Trinity students will be dismissed at 11:15. There will be After-School on this day.

WINTER CARNIVAL PARADE

I hope you will join our Trinity Family and march with us in the Winter Carnival Parade on Friday evening at 7:00. Line up will be on Water and Phillips Street.