



Youth News

April, 2012



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Jottings from Joe

We have a couple odd rituals in our house. The first is this: I ask my wife what's on our schedule for a particular day. She runs down what's on our calendar and carefully tells me where I need to be and when I need to be there - at which point I take down the family calendar and look for myself. The second is like it: Just about every morning I ask my youngest daughter if she's buying school lunch or packing and she tells me exactly when she's buying and what's on the menu - at which point I walk over to where we keep the lunch calendar and look for myself. Sense a pattern here? It's just one of the many reasons I'm kind of annoying to live with.

Now it's not that I have any reason to distrust my wife or daughter, it's just that there are some things I have to see for myself. I can hear information and sort of "get it," but for stuff to really sink in I like to see it in black and white. It's just the way my brain works.

I have the feeling that St. Thomas was similar. The Sunday after Easter we'll hear the same Gospel we hear every year at this time — Jesus appears in the upper room and for some reason Thomas isn't there. So when he returns and hears about Jesus being alive, Thomas quite famously says that he won't believe it until he can probe the nail marks himself. He earns the nickname "doubting Thomas" for this little episode, as if he was being unreasonable. I mean, seriously, what would you say in his shoes? Have you ever heard of anyone rising from the dead? Walking through walls? Wouldn't you want to see Jesus for yourself too?

What I wonder about is why Jesus shows up when he does. Think about it. If Jesus can rise from the dead and move through walls, can't he also wait until everyone is there? Why does he appear when he knows Thomas is gone? Maybe Jesus knows how Thomas will react. Maybe he needs Thomas to understand that the Good News can't be limited to people who have seen Jesus face to face. *Maybe* he knows where Thomas is headed next.

I think it's significant that after the Ascension Thomas goes to India, taking the Gospel to people who have never seen a Jew, let alone Jesus. Imagine the challenge of bringing the story of Jesus to a culture that has no sense of heaven or hell or sin or Messiah or even only one true God. Oh wait. We have that too. We call it Hollywood. All kidding aside, maybe ancient India really isn't too different from the USA in 2012. Maybe the story of Thomas is really our story. Maybe his mission is really our mission. Maybe I should check the family calendar to see when I can squeeze in some evangelization.

Easter Peace,

Saint of the Month

St. Zita



Saint Zita was born in Tuscany in the year 1212. At the age of 12, she became a servant in the Faintinelli household, where she worked for the rest of her life. For a long time, her employers took advantage of her humble goodness, and her fellow servants despised and beat her for her hard work. The constant abuse, however, couldn't kill her inward peace, her love of those who wronged her, and her respect for her employers. Her meekness and humbleness eventually won over her fellow-servants and her employers, so much so that she was placed in charge of all the affairs of the house. Her faith had enabled her to persevere against their abuse, and her constant piety gradually moved the family to a religious awakening.

Zita often said that faith is false if we are lazy. She considered employment as a gift from God and so she gave thanks to God through her effort. She obeyed her master and mistress in all things since they were placed over her by God. She woke several hours before the rest of the family to pray and work while they slept, so she would have time to attend Mass each morning.

There is a story that one morning, Zita left her chore of baking bread to tend to someone in need. Some of the other servants told the family in order to get her in trouble for this, but when they went to investigate, they found angels in the Fatinelli kitchen, baking the bread for her.

St. Zita died peacefully on April 27, 1272, at age 60. It is said that a star appeared above the attic where she slept at the moment of her death. By her death, she was practically venerated by the family. She was canonized in 1696.

St. Zita is the patron saint of domestic workers. Her feast day is April 27. To this day, some families bake a loaf of bread in celebration of her feast day.

Coming Events:

April (National Poetry Month - Haiku for you?)

1 Palm Sunday and April Fools Day
HomeLIFE

5 Holy Thursday

6 Good Friday

7 Easter Vigil

8 Easter

15 HomeLIFE

22 Alternate 6:30-8:30

29 Youth Leadership Team 5:30

Last Alternate of the year! 6:30-8:30

May (National Meditation Month - think carefully about how you'll celebrate)

6 Last HomeLIFE of the year!

13 (Mothers Day) No Alternate

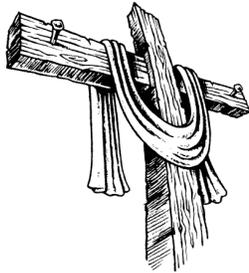
20 8th Gr./H.S. Party in the Park

Lofino Park, at the B'creek Y

22. Youth leadership Team 7:00

23. 27 Pentecost

28 Memorial Day



T.V. or not T.V., That is the Question

April 22 6:30-8:30 YMR

Does TV reflect reality or shape it? Does advertising really influence behavior? How does our faith impact what and how we watch?

Summer Lovin' (AKA Pizza Party)

April 29 6:30-8:30 YMR

Are you ready for summer? We're making some big changes at Ascension Youth Ministry this summer. Here's your chance to weigh in (oh, and chow down on pizza and ice cream!)

Because Sundays in May are booked, this is the final Alternate for the year! Can you believe it?

**There's Still
Time to S.O.A.R.
to WV this summer!**



This summer we'll venture to beautiful Mingo County, WV for our annual summer work-camp! For the week of July 1-6 we'll be spending our days working on local homes or at a Vacation Bible School. Our nights will be spent getting to know the town and our fellow work campers from Chicago IL, Pittsburgh PA, Conklin, MI, and Pleasant Valley, IA. We still have a few spaces available, so register soon! Cost (including food, travel, and lodging) is only \$110 for the entire week! All forms are available on our [SOAR Summer Service](#) webpage, as well as more detailed information about registration, the Mingo County area, the schedule for the week, and more.

**Coming
June 25-28**



credo

**A high energy, 4 day retreat for high schoolers
at the Spital Center of Maria Stein**

Cost: \$75

Deadline: May 23



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See our website for all the details and registration materials! This retreat is guaranteed AWESOME, so hurry and register today!!!