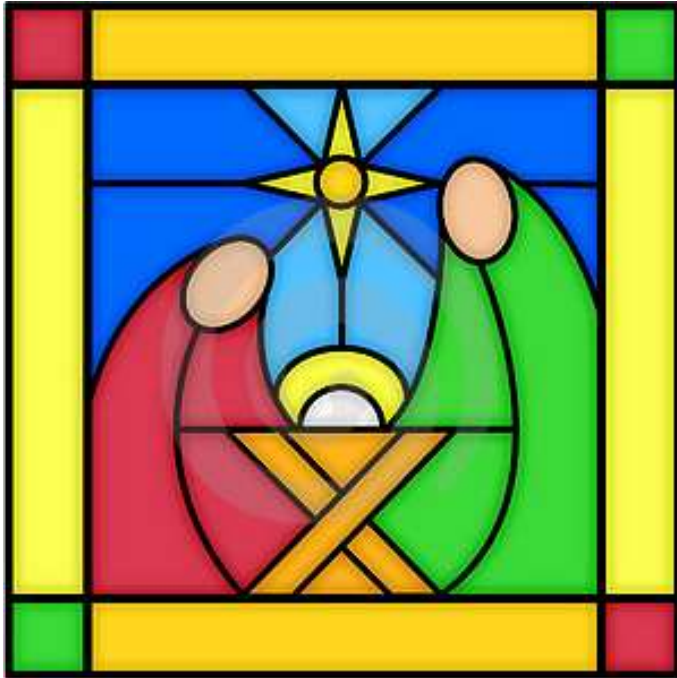


# Along the way

*"Were not our hearts burning within us as he opened the Scriptures for us along the way." — Luke 24:32*

A publication of **sabbath retreats** the preaching ministry of Father Lou Papas

## Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year



Peace

On

Earth

Goodwill

To

All

## Easter triduum retreat in Green Bay

The Norbertine Spirituality Center in De Pere, Wisconsin, a suburb of Green Bay, has invited Fr. Lou to preach a three-day retreat Holy Thursday through Holy Saturday, April 1-3.

Known as a *Triduum* "three days" *Retreat*, after the traditional name for those three holy days, the retreat hopes to create a prayerful context for the celebration of the most sacred time of the church year.

The Easter Triduum, offers a microcosm of Christian beliefs and the celebration of those beliefs. It is a time to keep vigil: to fast, to pray, to remember, and especially to celebrate our core beliefs in a way that is not possible during the busyness of the rest of the year.

In addition to the celebration of the rituals of the Triduum, whether in the parish church or at the Abbey, five conferences will be offered, reflecting on the power of these three holy days as a model for daily living.

The five conferences over the three days will develop the theme of the retreat "**From Memory to Mission**," and include such topics as *The Meaning of 'Do this in memory of me,' The Passion as Our Story, The Cross and the Human Experience, and The Risen Christ of the Universe.*

The retreat ends with the Easter Sunday Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

The cost of \$225 includes food, lodging, and the program. Commuters attend for \$100 which includes the conferences only.

For Information or to register call the Norbertine Center at 920-337-4315.

## Website readership explodes in 2009

The introduction of weekly homilies to the **sabbath retreats** website beginning in December, 2008 has increased page views over three-fold.

When the **sabbath retreats** website was first placed on the web in 2005 it had a mere 52 visits. After classified ads in America Magazine and the National Catholic Reporter began in 2006, annual visits to the website went from 52 to 1,698 that year.

Those ads dominated the source of website traffic until December, 2008 when weekly homilies began being posted and some 200 emails were sent out each Saturday announcing the postings. Some parishes visited have also placed notice of the website in their parish bulletins.

The tracking is done by the webmaster, Homestead Technologies. The counter seen on the homepage was installed sometime in 2008 and is not as accurate as the system used by the webmaster.

In addition to tracking page views, Homestead also tracks which pages are most frequently visited, as well as the location of the visitors, but not their identity.

2009	16,825
2008	5,368
2007	1,475
2006	1,698
2005	52

*Tracking of Page Views*

## Homily evaluation

On the next page of this newsletter is an evaluation form for the homilies which have been posted on this website. It is hoped that those who have received those homilies each weekend via the Internet would take the time to help in this important task. The electronic form will be posted online January 10.

There are two options for completing an evaluation:

- 1) Use the electronic form on the homepage of this website after January 10. The Evaluation will remain anonymous unless you offer your name in the "comment" textbox at the bottom of the form.
- 2) OR copy and print the evaluation form:

*Go to the Evaluation Form on the next page of this newsletter.*

*Right click the page itself, then select "Current Page" on the pop up printing menu and print.*

The evaluation can then be completed by hand and mailed to the address on the bottom of the form.

This evaluation form was found with a Google search (naturally!). It is not entirely clear who composed it, but it was found on a website of the Kendrick (St. Louis Archdiocese) Seminary faculty member. So I assume that it is or has been a homiletics tool of that seminary.

## Morphing themes, meeting parish needs

When a parish staff is looking for a parish mission they usually have some need they are trying to meet in the spirituality of their community. In a similar way, a mission preacher has a set of themes which generally offer a clear direction for a parish community. When the staff and the preacher don't immediately click, compromise and invention take over.

For example, one of the most popular mission themes offered by **sabbath retreats** is *Discipleship for the 21st Century*. When Holy Spirit Church in Uniontown, OH requested a parish mission on the theme of evangelization, that need was met with *Disciples Reaching Out*, taking the theme of discipleship and slanting it toward the need of that parish community to evangelize.

In the same way, when the Gary (IN) Parish Cluster opted for a Mission during the Easter Season, their particular need was met with *Easter Disciples: From Memory to Mission*, taking the basic theme of the discipleship mission and weaving it into the framework of the final and ongoing stage of Christian Initiation known as *mystagogia*, a process by which we deepen our understanding of how our faith shapes our daily lives.

Universal themes meet specific needs for a particular faith community. That's the beauty of **sabbath retreats**.

## PREACHING SCHEDULE

Food for the Poor Assignments / Sabbath Retreats Engagements

### JANUARY, 2010

January 2-3	St. Agnes	Avon, NY
January 9-10	St. Elizabeth	Marlette, MI
January 16-17	Immaculate Conception	Parkhills, MO
January 23-24	St. Ann	Freemont, OH
January 30-31		

### FEBRUARY, 2010

February 6-10	Holy Family <i>Living Sacraments Parish Mission</i>	Eudora, KS
February 13-16	Holy Family <i>Families of Faith Parish Mission</i>	Kansas City, MO
February 20-24	Quad Parishes <i>Disciples for the 21st Century Parish Renew</i>	Green Bay, WI
Feb. 27-Mar. 2	Annunciation <i>Families of Faith Parish Mission</i>	Washington, DC

### MARCH, 2010

March 6-8	Holy Spirit <i>Disciples Reaching Out Parish Mission</i>	Uniontown, OH
March 13-16	Blessed Sacrament <i>Families of Faith Parish Mission</i>	Grand Island, NE
March 20-23	Ss. Cosmas & Damian <i>Disciples for the 21st Century Parish Mission</i>	Twinsburg, OH
March 25-31	Vacation	

### APRIL, 2010

April 1-4	Norbertaine Retreat Center <i>From Memory to Mission: A Triduum Retreat</i>	De Pere, WI
April 5-14	Vacation	
April 17-20	Gary Cluster Parishes <i>Easter Disciples: Parish Mission</i>	Gary, IN
April 24-25	St. John Neuman	Marlinton, WV

**HOMILY EVALUATION**

Date of Homily \_\_\_\_\_

**INTRODUCTION****YES NO**

1. Does the introduction gain your interest? 1 \_\_\_\_\_
2. At the outset would you say, "This homily has something to offer me"? 2 \_\_\_\_\_

**"SO WHAT"**

3. Does the homily meet realistic spiritual needs? 3 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Does it make a difference? 4 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Would it leave you/others changed in some helpful way? 5 \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATION / CENTRAL IDEA**

6. Is there one simple, clear central idea? 6 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Are the various movements or areas of development arranged in a way that makes the homily easy to follow? 7 \_\_\_\_\_

**IMAGES / EXAMPLES**

8. Are there enough examples and illustrations to help you "see" the message? 8 \_\_\_\_\_
9. Has the preacher avoided too much abstract language? 9 \_\_\_\_\_
10. Is the homily *down to earth*? 10 \_\_\_\_\_

**WITNESS**

11. Does the homily speak from the preacher's own faith experience? 11 \_\_\_\_\_

**SCRIPTURES**

12. Is the homily rooted in one or more of the readings for the particular liturgy? 12 \_\_\_\_\_
13. Is the preacher **proclaiming** the message rather than just explaining one or more of the readings? 13 \_\_\_\_\_

**EUCCHARIST**

14. Does the homily point to the Eucharist? 14 \_\_\_\_\_

**SABBATH REFLECTIONS**

15. Did the "Sabbath Reflections" help in extending the homily theme into your daily life? 15 \_\_\_\_\_

*Feel free to add any additional comments on the back side of this form. And THANK YOU !*

*Email to [loupapes@ameritech.net](mailto:loupapes@ameritech.net) OR Mail to Sabbath Reflections, 4519 West 193<sup>rd</sup> St. Cleveland 44135*