

ISSUE

49

MARCH

2019

MONTHLY NEWS
from the ADVISORY
COUNCIL'S CATHOLIC
IDENTITY COMMITTEE

Family Connection



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March

Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities

That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.



First penance lambs

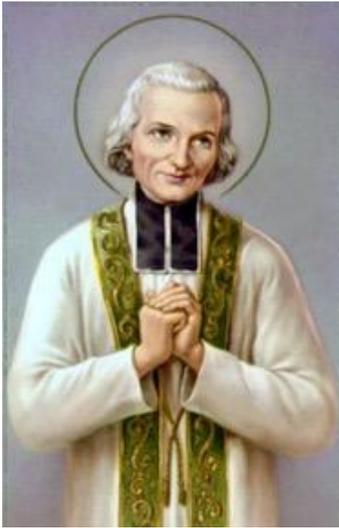
Luke 15 :4 - 7

This month we join in prayer for our parish's 2nd grade children who will make their first penance. May we all approach this sacrament with hearts broken over our sins and full of trust in our forgiving Father.



LENT

prayer • fasting • almsgiving



St. John Vianney

In 1805, John Vianney entered a seminary at age 19. After several months of study, he was still not prepared to attend lectures in Latin. He went to live with a friend who was a priest and who tutored him. This priest persuaded the bishop to ordain John not for his learning but for his holiness. After a few years, John was assigned to Ars, a village of about 50 families in France.

The people were careless about practicing their faith, so they were not happy with this priest who was eager to draw them back to God and Christian living. Some caused trouble by lying about John, by acting violently against him, and by refusing to cooperate with him. They hoped that he would give up and leave. Instead, Father Vianney increased his prayers, fasting, and penances.

Gradually, people came to celebrate the sacraments and listen to his homilies. Within a few years, Father Vianney was spending 10–15 hours a day in the confessional. People from all over France and other countries came to consult him. The government built a railroad line to Ars to accommodate all the pilgrims. Father Vianney just continued his hard, yet simple, way of prayer, fasting, and penance. He was strict with his parishioners but a hundred times stricter with himself. John gave away his furnishings, his belongings, and the gifts of clothes and food that the neighbors brought him. Once he received a black velvet cape as an award and sold it to buy food for those who were poor. He died at age 73, known as the Cure of Ars. John was canonized in 1925 and is the patron of parish priests.

Source: *Christ Our Life*, by Sisters of Notre Dame of Chardon, Ohio



**FOCUS on the
SACRAMENTS:
CONFESSION**

*Come to me, all you who are weary and
burdened, and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11:28



✝ DON'T BE AFRAID ✝

Guilt is such a pain. Specifically, it's the pain of the soul hurt by sin! If your foot hurt, the pain lets you know you should check out your foot. When we feel guilt, that feeling lets us know that we need to check out our soul (**examination of conscience**) and receive a cure (**forgiveness**). Happiness and freedom in life come from living LIGHT, not weighed down by guilt over the past. We can be forgiven of ANYTHING that we have done – what a gift! Feel like you always say the same things in confession? That's okay – that means you are seeking God's mercy and you are being humble. God loves a humble and contrite heart! Feel like you don't have anything to say? Think of times you chose to do what you wanted instead of what God wanted. When did you not show love? Confession restores our relationship with God and with others. Confession also gives you grace – that means STRENGTH to be great!

Examination of Conscience

Based on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

From Monsignor's sermon on 5-25-14

Love is patient: I am calm when things don't go my way.

Love is kind: I am always thoughtful and helpful.

Love is never jealous: I don't get upset when I'm overlooked or when others are preferred to me.

Love is not conceited: I don't look down on others or consider myself superior to them.

Love is never proud: I do not brag about my achievements.

Love is never selfish: I am not possessive of friends or insist on always getting my way.

Love is never irritable: I am not touchy or hard to deal with.

Love never holds a grudge: I forgive and forget.

Love does not rejoice with evil: I do not delight in the misfortunes or failures of others.

Love rejoices with the truth: I welcome the truth even when it hurts.

Love never gives up: I do not let criticism or discouragement stop me from doing what's right.

