

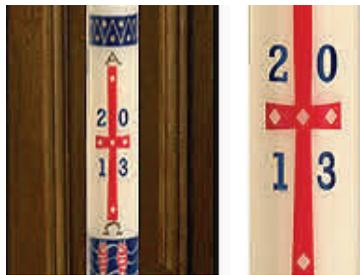
THE EASTER CANDLE Paul Turner

The first sound of the Easter season is the crackling of new fire. Even before the presider greets the people, the Easter flame burns to warm the hearts of believers and to fascinate our eyes which long to behold the glory of God.

The Easter candle that leads the procession into the church at the Easter Vigil becomes a dominant symbol for the season. Tall, bright, decorative, stately, it creates the first light for the faithful and dispels the darkness which belies our sins. The Easter candle first announces the news of the resurrection, followed by the Glory to God, the Alleluia, the Gospel, the homily, and, of course, the Eucharist. All join to make the same proclamation. Christ is risen! So big is this message that it takes fifty days to celebrate. That Easter candle burns in our churches every day during those seven weeks, proclaiming: Christ is risen, and we too may rise!

The Easter candle appears in our liturgy on two other very significant occasions: baptisms and funerals.

Whenever infants are baptized, we light the Easter candle. The resurrection of Christ foreshadows our own resurrection. Baptism incorporates us into the body of Christ and gives us a share in his resurrection. Whenever the baptismal waters are poured, the Easter candle burns bright. Parents and godparents light a baptismal candle from the Easter candle. They accept the responsibility of keeping the flame of faith alive in the heart of the newly baptized. Parents carry this candle home, where it may shine on baptismal anniversaries to symbolize the first news of the risen Christ.



We also light the Easter candle at funerals. In the midst of our grief, we call upon the symbols which enliven our faith. Several images of baptism reappear at the funeral: the sprinkling with holy water, the placing of a white pall (like a white garment) over the casket and the lighting of the Easter candle. Christ rose from the dead so that we too might pass from death to life. Every death reminds us of Easter. And every Easter gives us hope that death is not the end, but the passage from darkness to eternal light.

Copyright © 1997 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. Paul Turner, pastor of St. John Regis Parish in Kansas City, Mo., holds a doctorate in sacramental theology from Sant' Anselmo University in Rome. His e-mail is PaulTu@aol.com.



April/May 2013



CHAPEL OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

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Edmundite Campus Ministry Events

MASSES
Sunday
11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Holy Day of Obligation
Ascension of our Lord
Thursday, May 9; 11:30 a.m.

Mondays
4:30 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday
11:30 a.m.

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MORNING PRAYER
Monday-Friday
7:40 a.m.

MASS IN SPANISH
Monday, April 8; 7:30 p.m.

RECONCILIATION
Sunday, April 21st
Offered after each Mass
or by appointment any time

Rice Bowls: Please turn in any remaining Rice Bowls at the front entrance of the Chapel by April 7th.

April is national Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is most appropriate that Child Abuse Prevention Month is held during the Easter Season. There is no better time than Easter to celebrate the protection of our most valuable gift from God--our children. For information on how you can become more informed and involved in keeping our children safe, please call the Office of Safe Environment Programs at (802) 658-6110.

Eucharistic Adoration: Please join us for some quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Back Altar space of the Chapel. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered each evening.

Edmundite Campus Ministry Events *(Continued)*

Free Concert: The Vermont Gregorian Chant Schola, under the direction of Dr. William Tortolano, will be giving a free concert at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Shelburne, on **Sunday, April 7th at 3:00 p.m.** In addition to the 18-member choir, the music will be performed on the historic Jacques Orgues pipe organ. A free-will offering will be available.

May 6th: Cookie Snack Break: To help ease the burden of exam week for students, Edmundite Campus Ministry will be serving refreshments from **3:30 to 4:30 p.m.** in the Alliot Lobby. Everyone is welcome!

Faculty & Staff Programs

Partners in Ministry: Monday, April 8th at 5:30 p.m. in the Stained Glass Room (Alliot Hall; 2nd Floor). Churchill Hindes will lead us in a spiritual reflection and prayer. Light potluck to follow. All adults from the Worshipping Community are welcome and encouraged to attend. Stephanie Noakes is the contact person at 654-2999 or at 871-9322 or a (email: snoakes@smcvt.edu). Our last session this season will be on May 6th (same location and time).

Pontigny Society: April 8th: Our last discussion will complete the text "*Into the Silent Land: A Guide to the Christian Practice of Contemplation*" by Martin Laird. **12:00 Noon in the Upper Room of the Chapel.** Please R.S.V.P. if you plan to attend. Contact Anna Lester at 654.2897 or alester@smcvt.edu.

Saturday, April 20th: St. Michael's College presents a day-long music festival - **12 noon**, McCarthy Arts Ctr., Concert Band, directed by Christopher Gribnau. SMC students & faculty

perform music by Gustav Holst, Johan De Meij, Maurice Ravel, and Alfred Reed; **1 p.m.**, McCarthy Arts Center, Jazz Orchestra, directed by Brian McCarthy; **2 p.m.**, McCarthy Arts Center, SMC Chorale, directed by Professor Nathaniel G. Lew; **3 p.m.**, Saint Michael's Chapel, String Ensemble, directed by Professor Susan Summerfield; **4 p.m.** McCarthy Arts Center, A Cappella Ensembles—The Sleepless Knights, Mike Check, the Aca Bellas.

Pontigny Society Retreat: May 19th - 20th, 2013 at The Wildflower Inn, Lyndonville, VT. Retreat is open to employees of St. Michael's College and provides an opportunity to get away after Commencement and reflect as a community. Fr. Bill Sheehan, OMI will lead us in contemplative reflection and discussion on *The Path of Centering Prayer*. Please R.S.V.P. to alester@smcvt.edu or 654.2897.

Retreat Opportunities

BUSY STUDENT RETREAT is a free, on campus, guided retreat, designed to fit into everyone's schedule. During the course of the week, you are invited to schedule a half hour of prayer or quiet time on your own each day using the prayer booklets we provide for you, up to a half hour of one-on-one spiritual direction with a spiritual director each day, and you're also always welcome to participate in daily liturgies and prayer opportunities. It's up to you! This semester's retreat, entitled *The Cup of Our Life: A Guide for Spiritual Growth* will begin on **Sunday, April 14th** (following the 7:00 p.m. Mass); Upper Room of Chapel. The retreat ends April 18th. Register by April 5th. Applications are available in the Campus Ministry Office. Contact Jason Moore at 654.2386.



Spring Serv-a-thon: Saturday, April 6th; 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Volunteers are placed at sites throughout Chittenden County for a day of service. Breakfast and lunch are included. Please sign up on the MOVE bulletin board in Alliot Hall.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Wednesday, April 10th; 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tarrant Center. Donors and volunteers appreciated! Sign up in the MOVE office or contact 654.2674.

MOVE Appreciation BBQ: Tuesday, April 30th, 4:30-6:30 p.m. International Commons. All who have been involved in MOVE this year are welcome!

Spring International Market: Friday, April 19th; 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, April 20th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 21st, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Alliot Lobby. Shop for unique items and support the organizations MOVE service trips work with in the Dominican Republic and India. Items include crafts, jewelry, artwork, clothes, and more.

COTS Walk: Sunday, May 5th; 2:00 p.m. at Battery Park, Burlington. If you are interested in raising money and walking to support the work of COTS (Committee on Temporary Shelter), stop by the MOVE office to pick up a walker's packet.



VITA is a group of students who are committed to ministering to other students through practicing our faith and leading many of the liturgical, retreat, and service programs. Student-led programs include:

Link: A large group that meets weekly and combines discussion, meditation, music and more to help bridge the gap between our college and faith lives. Everyone is welcome to join us! **Wednesdays, April 3rd, 10th, and 17th as well as May 1st: 8:00 pm** in the Upper Room, Chapel.

Connections: Come join us for weekly small faith-based discussion with an emphasis on Scripture and reflections on your faith life in college. **Thursdays, April 4th, 11th, and 18th at 7:00 pm** in Alliot 125 (Anna Lester's office).

Dessert & the Divine: Enjoy food and fellowship with other Christians! We will gather next on **Wednesday, April 24th at 8:00 pm** in the Upper Room, Chapel. Please contact Anna Lester for more information at 654.2897 or alester@smcvt.edu.

"And now I would like to give the blessing, but first I want to ask you a favor. Before the bishop blesses the people, I ask that you would pray to the Lord to bless me — the prayer of the people for their Bishop. Let us say this prayer — your prayer for me."

Pope Francis
Bishop of Rome
March 13, 2013
First greeting of the people