

LENT: Why we receive ashes—Wednesday, March 9th

Why we receive the ashes: Following the example of the Ninevites, who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and remind us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told “Remember, you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.” Ashes are made a symbol of penance by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice. The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave faults performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the Bishop blessed the hair shirts which they were to wear during the forty days of penance, and sprinkled over them ashes made from the palms from the previous year. Then, while the faithful recited the Seven Penitential Psalms, the penitents were turned out of the church because of their sins — just as Adam, the first man, was turned out of Paradise because of his disobedience. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days’ penance and sacramental absolution. Later, all Christians, whether public or secret penitents, came to receive ashes out of devotion. In earlier times, the distribution of ashes was followed by a penitential procession.

The Ashes: The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.



February 2011

Saint Michael's College



CHAPEL OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Edmundite Campus Ministry
(802) 654-2333

MASSES

Sunday

11:00 a.m. & *7:00 p.m.
(no 7:00 p.m. Mass on 2/20)

Mondays

4:30 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday

11:45 a.m.

MORNING PRAYER

Monday-Friday
7:40 a.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 9th
11:45 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.
Reconciliation after each Mass

MASS IN SPANISH

Monday, February 7th
7:30 p.m.

RECONCILIATION

Sunday, February 27th
Offered after each Mass
or by appointment any time

Edmundite Campus Ministry Events

Blessing of Throats: In memory of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, the Blessing of Throats will take place after the 11:45 Mass on **Thursday, February 3rd**, and at both Masses on **February 6th**.

Worshipping Community Program

Partners in Ministry will meet on Monday, February 7th at 5:30 p.m. in the Vermont Room (Alliot Hall) for the usual Pot Luck dinner, discussion, and prayer. We will be continuing with “Bridges to Contemplative Living” based on the writings of Thomas Merton. All are welcome with or without a dish. For more information, please contact Stephanie Noakes at 654.2999.

Faculty & Staff Programs

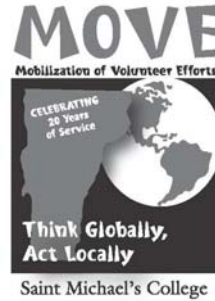
Pontigny Society: February 7th: We will be discussing two texts by C.S. Lewis: *The Screwtape Letters* and *A Grief Observed*. We will start by reading *The Screwtape Letters* through Chapter 17, ending on page 92. Lunch will be provided beginning at 11:45 a.m. which will help us to get started with the reflection promptly at noon. **Please RSVP if you plan to attend.** Contact Anna Lester at 654.2897 or alester@smcvt.edu for more information.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way. An opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. ~ Oscar Romero



Edmundite Campus Ministry Events *(Continued)*

Come be a part of Birthright. Please join Birthright Volunteers as we host a New Volunteer Coffee on Monday, February 14 at 10:00 a.m. at our office, 289 College St., Burlington. Come meet each of us and learn about becoming part of the Birthright family. All you need is a willingness to listen, a commitment to life, loving the woman and her baby, and a desire to help those in need without judgment. For more information, call 865-0056 or Marge Hennessey at 658-0228.



MOVE Used Book Sale: To benefit MOVE international service trips (India and the Dominican Republic). **February 24th—26st** (Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Alliot Student Center.

LENTEN MISSION

WITH JACKIE FRANCOIS

APRIL 7, 2011 - CHAPEL OF ST. MICHAEL - 7:00 P.M.



Jackie is a singer, songwriter, guitarist, speaker, and youth minister from Placentia, Calif. For 22 years Jackie attended St. Joseph Catholic Church in Placentia. Through retreats, youth conferences, and World Youth Day 2000 in Rome, Jackie experienced Jesus in a deeper way. In college, she served as the Cal State Fullerton Newman Catholic Club President and a volunteer youth minister and musician. Jackie has performed at many major faith events. In 2006, she served as the youth minister at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church in Ventura, Calif. In 2007, Jackie moved back to Placentia to begin full time music ministry, serving the wider Catholic Church.

Jackie is currently a host for spiritandsong.com's webcast, "The Commons," and for spiritandsong.com's Perfect Playlist Podcasts. Her debut album, *Your Kingdom Is Glorious*, was released through spiritandsong.com in 2008.

Retreat Opportunities

EMMAUS is a weekend retreat which provides an opportunity for participants to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and to share their faith with others. Candidates are invited to become aware of God in their everyday lives by recognizing the Lord's presence in others and in daily experience. The retreat uses a combination of guided meditations, private reflection time, and group sharing on scripture. **Applications being accepted for the February 25th—27th, 2011 weekend.** For more information, contact Jason Moore at 654.2386.

LEAP is a program of spiritual formation and renewal sponsored by Edmundite Campus Ministry. The retreat begins on Friday afternoon and ends early Sunday afternoon. LEAP is a unique, communal and deeply personal experience which builds upon talks, activities and group dynamics. The weekend includes a series of presentations that explores the meaning of commitment, peace, prayer and faith in one's life. It is an opportunity to deepen one's understanding of self and others within the context of a believing Christian Community centered around the Eucharist. **Our next retreat is March 4th through 6th, 2011** at the Bishop Booth Conference Center. Contact Campus Ministry at 654.2333 for more info.

SCHOOLS LIKE US: Intercollegiate Leadership Retreat at Enders Island, CT. **April 1st thru 3rd, 2011.** This retreat is for students who serve in various leadership roles with campus ministry programs and activities. Students from other colleges (St. Anselm, Assumption, Sacred Heart, Merrimack, Stonehill and others) gather together for a weekend of prayer and reflection on Jesus' call to

discipleship and service to others. For more information, contact the Campus Ministry office at 654.2333.



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! Wednesday, February 2, 9, and 16; 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Upper Room of the Chapel.

Dessert & the Divine: Enjoy food and fellowship with other Christians! We will gather on Wednesday, February 23rd at 8:00 p.m. in the Upper Room of the Chapel. Contact Anna Lester for more information at 654.2897.

