The Easter Candle (Paul Turner)

The first sound of the Easter season is the cracking 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.
Edmundite Campus Ministry Events (Continued)

April, 2015
CHAPEL OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

International Spring Market: April 10 & 11; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day in the Alliot Hall lobby. Please help support our India Extended Service program by purchasing gifts from around the world.

Handmade gifts and items from previous service trips are available. Monetary donations for these trips are also welcome. Contact: Allison Cleary at 654.2901.

Appreciation BBQ: Wednesday, April 15, 5-6 p.m. Location TBA. All who have been involved in MOVE this year are welcome!

COTS Walk: Sunday, May 3; 2:00 p.m. at Battery Park, Burlington. Registration begins at 1:00 pm. If you are interested in raising money and walking to support the work of the Committee on Temporary Shelter “COTS”, 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:

Links: 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 1, 8, 15, and 29; 8 to 9 p.m.; Upper Room of the Chapel.

Busy Student Retreat: This is a free, on campus, guided retreat, designed to fit into every student’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 and schedule up to a half hour of one-on-one spiritual direction with a spiritual director each day. We also welcome you to participate in the daily liturgies and prayer opportunities offered by Campus Ministry. Begins April 19 – 23, 2015.

Edmundite Campus Ministry Events

heiser. Thursdays, April 2, May 7, June 4, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Eddie’s Lounge, 2nd floor, Alliot Hall. Snacks welcome but optional. Contact Stephanie Noakes at 871-9322 or email at snoakes@smcvt.edu if you are interested in attending.

One in Christ Weekend for engaged couples. Couples are invited to deepen their faith and to better understand the Christ-centered nature of Sacramental marriage. April 24-26, 2015, St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte. Contact the Office of Catholic Formation for more information; (802) 658-6110.

WorldWide Marriage Encounter May 1 –3, 2015 at Saint Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte, VT: Married couples, let your Catholic faith strengthen your Sacrament of Marriage. If you have been married for many years, this weekend could help you enhance communication, renew commitment, and rekindle romance. Share a Marriage Encounter Weekend with each other. For further information, please contact Dave & Jennie Erkson at 802-434-4218 or at erkson-mevt@comcast.net. Applications can also be found in the Chapel.

A Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat will take place April 10-12, 2015, in Northern Vermont. Rachel’s Vineyard offers an opportunity for healing to anyone struggling with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. The retreat focuses on God’s forgiveness, compassion, and mercy to help participants work through complicated grief, anger, emotional numbness, and other spiritual and psychological effects of abortion. Retreats are guided by a priest and counselors trained in post-abortion healing to help participants grieve, receive forgiveness and find peace. Contact 802-658-4118 or email projectrachel@vermontcatholic.org.


Pontigny Society: We will be discussing the book “Death Comes for the Archbishop”, a novel by Willa Cather. Sessions begin at 12:00 pm, Monday, April 13 in the VT Room, 2nd floor, Alliot Hall; a luncheon will be served. RSVP required. All faculty and staff are welcome. Please RSVP to Fr. Marcel Rainville, SSE at 654.2897 or alester@smcvt.edu.

Connections: Come join us for weekly small faith-based discussion with an emphasis on Scripture and reflections on your faith life in college. Thursdays 8 to 9 p.m., Alliot 125 (Anna Lester’s office).

Are you looking for academic excellence in a faith-filled environment? You can call 655-2600 or e-mail info@sfxvt.org to schedule a personal tour at Saint Francis Xavier School. Learn more about us in a video featuring SFX teachers, parents and students at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TL5dEJQBo3Q, or scan here.