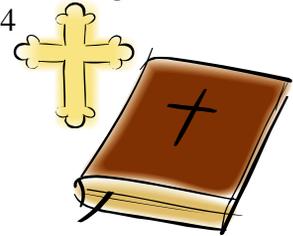


March 2, 2008

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saint John Vianney

A Mission Church of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish serving you since August 10, 1997
1100 Hood Road, Rio Rancho, NM 87124



Friends in Christ,

Greetings.

I hope you were able to attend the parish mission with Father Daniel. For several reasons I was unable to attend most of the mission. From comments made, the mission was great.

But a mission is only as good as the response it gets. Or, better yet, a mission is only as good as the fruits it produces. For a mission to be successful, it has to produce good fruits--change hearts, redirect wandering souls, solidify faith, and so on. I believe Father Daniel's mission will produce such good fruits.

Have a blessed week,

Fr. Scott Mansfield

**We Welcome our
New St. John Vianney Parishioners**

Jarad Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Duran
Vivian Nava
Sandra & Nathan Villa Gomez
Michael & Toni Saiz
Frank & Katherine Vallone
Andy & Helen Hoos
Anthony & Rosa Maria Gurule
Cal & Ana Cordova
John & Laura lee Lopez
Bill & Frances Donlin

**1st Communion
Parent's meeting will
be on March 16th
at 9:30 A.M.**

Holy Rosary

Sunday 7:40AM
Sunday 10:40AM

Holy Mass

Sunday 8:00AM
Sunday 11:00AM

Defending Our Faith – A Series on Apologetics by John Lombardo

Praying to the Saints: Can They Hear us?

The historical Christian practice of asking our dearly departed brothers and sisters in Christ-the Saints-to pray for us has come under attack in the last few hundred years. This beautiful practice dates at least to the second century.(1)

The title above is a primary anti-Catholic charge against intercessional prayer. How can the saints in Heaven hear our prayers? If they can't it is silly to ask for their intercession. Scripture clearly states otherwise. For example, Revelation 5:8 "depicts the saints in heaven offering prayers to God under the form of 'golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.' But if the saints in heaven are offering our prayers to God, then they must be aware of our prayers. They are aware of our petitions and present them to God by interceding for us.(2) John tells us that the incense they offer to God is the prayers of the saints. Prayers are not a physical reality-they can't be touched, smelled, tasted, etc. so the saints offer our prayers to God mentally, i.e. by interceding for us.(3)

Another barb usually hurled at the Catholic practice of praying to the saints is 1Tim. 2:5: "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ." Dear friends, we Catholics have no problem accepting this spiritual truth. Jesus is the one mediator because he is the only person who is both God and man. Now let us read what St. Paul says in context with the four verses immediately preceding 1 Tim. 2:5. Paul instructs all Christians to *regularly pray to Jesus on behalf of one another*: "...I ask that supplication, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone...this is good and pleasing to God our savior..." (1 Tim. 2:1-4). (4) This type of mediation, i.e. intercessory prayer by a Christian on behalf of others, is "Something good and pleasing to God." Such prayer offered by the intercessor (including Mary and the saints) is offered to Jesus to bring to the Father our petitions on behalf of the person prayed for.

Do we not ask others to pray for us and don't we pray for another's needs? By praying to God on behalf of others, we act as mediators. Even fundamentalist do the same. Attend one of their services and see how Brother Michael and Sister Grace ask their congregation to "pray for them." Also, when a Christian minister has an "alter call" wherein he prays for the various members of his congregation who wish to turn their lives to God, the minister is acting as a secondary mediator on their behalf. There is nothing wrong here because such a prayer to the Father goes through the primary mediator, Jesus . It is unfortunate that the actions of some fundamentalists contradict their theory concerning Catholics praying for one another.

The Catholic stance on intercessory prayer is well established in the Bible:

"I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in the struggle by your prayers to God on my behalf." (Rom. 15:30-32)

"In [Jesus] we have put our hope that He will also rescue us again, as you help us with prayer."

... Continued on next page

... continued from previous page

“My hearts desire and prayer to God on their behalf is for salvation.” (Rom.10:1)

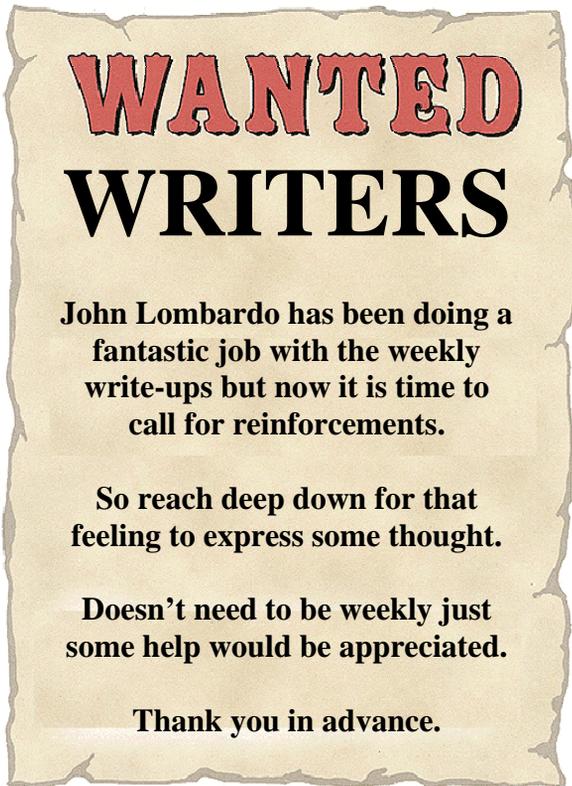
We Catholics are not pushing Jesus out of His role of primary mediator and putting Mary and/or the saints in His place. No one in heaven or on earth can take Jesus’ place as primary mediator, because Jesus is the bridge between heaven and earth. Jesus tells us this in John 14:6... “no one comes to the Father except through me.”(6)

Lastly, Catholics do not pray *to* the Saints. We do not pray to a saint if the implication is our prayer stops there and no further. We simply ask them to pray with us and for us as we pray to God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Catholic doctrine is clear in that any prayer directed to a saint or Mary is to be in the form of secondary mediation as noted above, that is, we pray to God through the *intercession* of a saint or Mary. (7) We know Mary and the saints are not divine; we pray to them as secondary mediators because they are Christians in heaven with God.

Many Protestants believe that at death one ceases to be Christian since one can only be Christian here on earth. Catholics believe there is no basis for such a belief because there is no scripture supporting such belief.(8)

Next week we’ll discuss issues of “praying to the dead” and “saint worship.” In the meantime,

PEACE



**WANTED
WRITERS**

John Lombardo has been doing a fantastic job with the weekly write-ups but now it is time to call for reinforcements.

So reach deep down for that feeling to express some thought.

Doesn't need to be weekly just some help would be appreciated.

Thank you in advance.

- (1) The Essential Catholic Survival Guide , Staff of Catholic Answers, p.91
- (2) Ibid, p.91
- (3) Ibid, p.92
- (4) Unabridged Christianity, by Fr. Mario P. Romero, p.122
- (5) Ibid, p.124
- (6) Ibid, p.125
- (7) Apostolic Exhortation For the Right Ordering and Development of Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pope Paul VI, 1974- noted in Unabridged Christianity, by Fr. Mario P. Romero, p. 126
- (8) Unabridged Christianity, Ibid p. 128

Parish Directory

Vicar.....	Rev. Scott Mansfield
Coordinator	Ed Uhrich
Communications	Carl E. Beyer
Finance Building Chair	James Sandoval
Pastoral Chair	Ed Uhrich
Head Sacristan	Gerry Hoover
Head Usher & Altar Servers	Ed Uhrich
Head Lector.....	Peggy Riley
Head EM.....	Pinky Bjornstad
Head CCD.....	Edwinna Herrera
Head Snacker	Harlan Harrington
Speed Bump Inspector	Tony Quinones
Parish Website	www.sjvnm.org

Volunteer Schedule	March 2, 2008		March 9, 2008	
	8:00AM	11:00AM	8:00AM	11:00AM
Ushers	Tom Anderson John Christensen	Tony Quinones Frank Charles	Karl Lucero James Dory	Ed Uhrich James Sandoval
EM of Holy Communion	Julie Burnside	Marie Lombardo	David Crawford	John Lombardo
Rosary Leader	Catherine Uhrich	Mary Belle Lucero	Mary Anne Padilla	Bill McCarty
Altar Servers	Peter Lucero Fernando Lucero	Steven Chavez Kevin Savela	Charles Lucero Ian Burnside	Mathews Sandoval Rocky Peyton
Readers	Peggy Riley David Crawford	Lillian Ortiz Rochelle Quinones	Jose Guillen Racquel Torres	Pinky Bjornstad Kellie Reynolsa
Sacristan	Julie Burnside	Margaret Chavez	Julie Burnside	Gloria Beyer

Thank you for reading our bulletin. Any suggestions, comments or articles can be sent to bulletin@sjvnm.org. We also like to hear about births, baptisms, marriages or other news about our church members. Please visit our website at www.sjvnm.org and click on **Subscribe** to be added to the eMailing list.

Debi Wendt - Realtor Coldwell Banker 263-7095 Cellular 891-6431 Direct mariska564@aol.com	For information on advertising eMail ads@sjvnm.org	Ad \$ Raised for the Building Fund \$700
New  Ad	 <p><i>Sin Cera</i> Homestaging and design among friends Joanna and Greer: 897-2169 sincera.staging@hotmail.com</p>	
Support our advertisers and give them a call	New Mexico Net Your NM information resource www.nmnet.org	
Rio Rancho Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Laurence J. Rogel, D.D.S., P.C. Providing oral surgical care for N.M since 1984 994-4772 - www.rioranchooms.com	All proceeds from advertising goes toward the building fund.	