

WHAT'S WHERE:

Sept 19 – Sts. Peter & Paul parish center, Richmond. **Potato Pancake, Sausage & Ham Supper.** 3:30 till 7:30 pm. Adults \$7.00, under 12 \$3.00, under 5 eat free. Sponsored by Catholic Aid Council.

Sept 19 – St. Boniface Church, Cold Spring. **Deb Hennen Benefit Supper.** Spaghetti Dinner, 4 till 8 pm. Silent Auction & Raffle. Music by Max and the Good Old Boys.

Sept 21 – Brooten Elementary School. **Annual Fall Dinner & Raffle.** Roast turkey & ham, real mashed potatoes & gravy, dressing, corn & coleslaw, cranberries & dinner rolls and homemade pie/dessert. Serving 11:00 am till 1:30 pm. Raffle drawing after dinner with 150+ prizes – prints, quilt, cash.

Sept 28 - Albany Legion Smorgasbord Breakfast 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

Sept 28 – St. Mary's church basement, Melrose. **M-G Breakfast, Bake Sale & RAFFLE.** Serving 8:30 am till 12:30 pm. Sausage, pancakes, hashbrowns, eggs and rolls. All proceeds donated to St. Mary's Catholic School.

**One In The Spirit:
Hands of Justice**

Third Annual Diocesan Ministry Day

Monday, September 29, 2008
St. Cloud Civic Center, St. Cloud, Minnesota
Pre-registration is now open!
Register online: <http://www.stcdio.org/dmd/>

Keynote speaker **Jack Jezreel** currently is Director of **JustFaith Ministries**, a nonprofit organization that creates justice formation materials. **Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services** are partners and promoters of **JustFaith**. Over ten thousand people in over ninety dioceses have participated.

This exciting event will feature a festive keynote and prayer celebration, plus Workshop sessions, including:

- Topics for catechists, youth ministers & Catholic school personnel
- Leadership sessions • Parish Secretary Track • Liturgist/ Musicians Track
- Stewardship Track • Marriage and Family/Respect Life Track
- Diaconate/Vocations Track • Social Concerns Track...and more.

Cost: \$45 per person Registration Fee. Cost includes continental breakfast and lunch and late afternoon social.

"Faith and Light", an international movement for persons with intellectual disabilities, their family members and friends will hold the first meeting for this year on **Monday, September 15th** in the Community Room at the Grace McDowall Apartments (1525 Northway Drive) in St. Cloud beginning at 4:30 p.m.

The Faith and Light community meets monthly to share faith, friendship, food, and fun. Come join us. For more information contact Catholic Education Ministries: 320-251-0111 or cem@gw.stcdio.org.

**Dying, you destroyed our death;
rising you restored our life.
Save us by your cross, Christ our Redeemer.**

On this Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (or Triumph of the Cross) we honor the Holy Cross by which Christ redeemed the world. The public veneration of the Cross of Christ originated in the fourth century, according to early accounts, beginning with the miraculous discovery of the cross on September 14, 326, by Saint Helen, mother of Constantine, while she was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem — the same day that two churches built at the site of Calvary by Constantine were dedicated.

The observance of the Feast of the Exaltation (probably from a Greek word meaning "bringing to light") of the Cross has been celebrated by Christians on September 14 ever since. In the Western Church, the feast came into prominence in the seventh century, apparently inspired by the recovery of a portion of the Cross, said to have been taken from Jerusalem the Persians, by the Roman emperor Heraclius in 629.

Christians "exalt" the Cross of Christ as the instrument of our salvation. Adoration of the Cross is, thus, adoration of Jesus Christ, the God Man, who suffered and died on this Roman instrument of torture for our redemption from sin and death. The cross represents the One Sacrifice by which Jesus, obedient even unto death, accomplished our salvation. The cross is a symbolic summary of the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ — all in one image.



A CHANGING OF SEASONS

Noticed salamanders crossing east to west across 263rd this morning. Sure sign of change. No geese honking or whistling overhead in flight, at least around here. Unless the locals have simply been chased to bigger waters by too much gunning, it has me scratching my head. Maybe the geese are just off to Alaska for a quick gander at the sudden-changing political landscape.

Ducks left early, most songbirds actually fled before they were fed up. But no sound of autumnal foraging crows, either. Silent mornings. It's kind of eerie.

Vast change in my work habits, too. New computer, a marvel of technology with an operating system which begs me to explore its wonders but for now I'm content just to put the extra hours to other uses for a change. Try to get my damaged mousing shoulder fixed somehow, for one thing. Clean the house, clean up my work habits and re-learn how to get some sleep. Good night moon, and all that.

What does the future portend? A long and early winter? If so, I got a ton of wood to cut. Lazy warm Autumn? Canning tomatoes in October would be fun.

But what *does* the future hold? Natural disasters and continued economic meltdown? Or promise of human cohesion and a great huge reawakening of spirit?

Let's just go with that and see how it all turns out.

~yr. obt. svt.

Reporting for a Smile

If any news reporter makes it his serious vocation to report good news, I've never met him. Or her. Still, occasional good news does catch the eye. I've seen four such items recently. Two of them came right out of the Vatican.

First, a giant statue of Jesus has been unveiled in Manado, Indonesia — where fundamentalist Islam is the "growingest" religion. The statue cost over a half-million dollars and stands 98 feet tall. It is eclipsed only by Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, which is 30 feet taller. The Indonesian statue is roughly 16 to 17 times larger than life.

Second, a museum of altar wines opened in Zvenigorod, Russia in August. Its collection of Russian Orthodox altar wines will go back to the 17th century. This may not be interesting to you, and it does seem odd to have a museum for just looking at wine. Nonetheless, the link with the saving blood of Christ is clear, and that's a good thing.

Third, and of somewhat more significance, is the fact that the Pope's second encyclical, *Spe Salvi*, has now sold over one million copies. That's pretty impressive considering it can be downloaded free of charge. There does seem to be a constantly growing interest in whatever modern popes write, and that also is a very good thing.

Last but not least, Mercedes has given Pope Benedict a brand new G-class Mercedes-Benz, customized to meet Vatican needs. The company clearly hopes to replace the Volvo "popemobile" which Benedict has been using. Motives may be mixed, but within proper limits there's no harm in combining piety with advertising. It's also nice to know that even crass auto-makers recognize the iconic power of Peter's successor.

STEWARDSHIP

August 31, 2008		September 7, 2008	
Adults	1122.00	Adults	809.00
Youth	3.00	Youth	4.00
Children	0.50	Children	3.00
Plate	128.00	Plate	75.43
Votives	11.00	Votives	24.00
Total	1264.50	Total	915.43