
CORNERSTONE CONNECTION

THE STONE THAT THE BUILDER REJECTED HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE. MATTHEW 21:42

Volume 1 - Issue 3



Easter: So What?

By Bob Weingaertner

As we close out the Easter season, the longest liturgical season in the church year, it is appropriate to ask the question, "So, what?" We celebrate Easter for 50 days, until Pentecost. Why so long? Let me start with a story:

A friend told me a true story about some children who sat on their front porch and ate all of their Easter candy at once. As soon as the candy was finished, their mom tossed the Easter baskets in the trash. End of Easter.

It is not that way for believers, however. The event that we celebrate: the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, which brought about our redemption, demands more than a day. We celebrate Easter as a fifty day season. We need those fifty days to unpack and ponder this sacred mystery. More importantly, we need to answer the question, "So what?" What difference does Easter make in our lives? I would suggest that Easter is more than a season, it is a lifestyle. More than a lifestyle, because unlike a philosophy or rule for living, Christianity is a *relationship with a person*, Jesus Christ, the Word of God, who, though divine, chose to fully enter into the human condition (Phil 2:5-11).

Easter is a special time for celebrating and reflecting on the Sacraments. Traditionally, since the third century, new Christians were initiated at the Easter Vigil, receiving Baptism, Confirmation and first Eucharist. After celebrating the Easter sacraments, the neophytes, as they were called, (from the Greek word for "young plants" or "new shoots") were given further instruction by the bishop to help them to better understand the sacred mysteries that they had experienced. This additional period of instruction and reflection, lasting through the Easter season is called Mystagogy.

Our parish second-graders recently celebrated their First Eucharist, so it seems appropriate to do a little



mystagogical reflection on this Sacrament. The Cornerstone sisters and brothers consistently tell how important celebration of the Eucharist is, not only at Cornerstone gatherings, but when we meet and greet one another and break the bread together within the larger community. Those of us who were present at the First Communions felt the same joy. Why? It isn't because the kids are cute (though they are cute). It is because they are a sign that the Body of Christ, as it finds its expression at Resurrection Parish, is alive and growing. Likewise, Cornerstone is called to be a sign to the community.

The First communion liturgies began at the Baptismal font, to remind the children, and all of us, that it is through Baptism that we enter into the household of Christ, become sharers in his passion, death and resurrection (Rom 6:3-5), and first accept the challenges of discipleship.

Challenge? Yes. I would suggest that every Sacrament involves an invitation, an encounter with Christ, and a challenge. What is the challenge for Cornerstone? As I see it, it might be cozy and convenient to stay in the "upper room", with the doors locked, but our efforts must also be directed outward, to the larger community. The key to this is found in the Eucharist. Recall Jesus' words at the Last Supper (Lk 22:14-20). What was true then is true today. When we gather for the Eucharist, Jesus still says to us, "Come, I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you." Jesus is passionate, the greatest lover of all time. Hence, his urgent desire for us to hear his word and partake of his Passover, the sacrifice and memorial that is his gift to us.

There is only one string attached. The string is this: Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me." Not just do the Eucharistic Liturgy. "Do this", means to celebrate the Eucharist, then go out and become Eucharist for a hurting world, starting in our "house church", the family; expanding into the parish community, and ever outward. "Do this", means to bring the presence of Jesus Christ to our families, schools, work places, the poor and the estranged. Is this easy? No, it's the greatest challenge of our lives. But, we have help. We have Christ's promise that he will be with us always. Our Easter Faith teaches us that this is not the failed promise of one more murdered prophet, but the everlasting promise of our Risen Lord and Savior.

Servant Leadership: It All Comes Down To Feet

The Last Supper story in John's Gospel (Jn 13:1-17), does not contain the institution narrative: the breaking of the bread and offering of the cup found in the other three Gospels. Instead, this Gospel focuses on the "Do this" part of Eucharist: "If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet." (Jn 13:14-15). We see this activity clearly at Resurrection Parish where Cornerstone brothers and sisters are serving in every ministry. In truth, however, ninety percent of ministry takes place away from the church campus, in the family, neighborhood, or workplace. It may be helping a family member with a project (the messier the better), shoveling snow for the seniors down the

street, becoming an intercessory prayer partner with someone in the parish, or just being a good listener to someone who is hurting. Eucharist makes us less self-centered and more in tune with the needs of others.

An Invitation

From the start of his public ministry, Jesus invited women and men from all walks of life into community: the righteous and the sinners, it didn't matter. (Jn 1:35-49 and Mk 1:16-20). Following His example, a big part of Cornerstone is inviting people to "come and see", and witnessing to the power of the "Word of life" in our lives (1 Jn 1:1-3). So, consider this *your* invitation. We are facing a challenge in attracting new Cornerstone candidates and team members. Please tell your friends about Cornerstone. Also, consider serving on the next team. Those who have served on a team can tell you from personal experience that working in a team to put together the Cornerstone weekend is even more rewarding than your first weekend. Serving on the team is work, but it isn't all that difficult because the discernment process assures that your gifts will be put to the best use, and you will receive tremendous support from your fellow team members. Think and pray about it.

Women's Cornerstone VI Update

Claire Lambariello

The Women's Cornerstone VI team is currently in formation. The current Team is made up of women from various Cornerstone weekends and we have already met a few times. Women's Cornerstone VI will be held in February, 2014 rather than in October in an effort to give women of the parish who have full schedules in October a chance to attend. The group would welcome a few more team members so if you have attended Cornerstone but never participated on a Team or even if you were on a previous Team but you are interested in the chance to for an even deeper Cornerstone experience, please contact Claire Lambariello at cmlamb@optonline.com or Betsy Roche at broche117@verizon.net for more information. Our next will be on Sunday, May 19, at 11:30am in rooms 7-8. †

Men's Cornerstone Team 5 Update Tom Roche

Notwithstanding the compelling testimonials & the now typical post Experience euphoria, efforts to get Men's Team 5 Formation underway have not gained traction – both Team & Candidate response to Renewal (3-16) and Information (5-4) Nights has been minimal.

A second attempt at an Information Night is currently scheduled for May 19th, with an aggressive phone campaign leading up. Unless we get a adequate turnout we'll be suspending the Men's Cornerstone effort until further notice.

Cornerstone Sisters & Brothers, your ideas are most welcome & your prayers most appreciated.

But Wait....There's More By Shannon Civetta

My Cornerstone experience was wonderful. Now, nearly 5 years later, I can see that it was part of God's patiently executed plan. First, He had my mother bring me to a Bible seminar where He created a thirst for more. Next, He formed a Bible Study halfway between my mother's house and mine, on my day off, and even provided me with childcare for my half day kindergartener. Here I saw what a group of faithful Catholics can do with 2 hours of God's Word each week. Wouldn't it be great if Resurrection offered this? Lastly (though it's never really *lastly* with God), during the course of 26 hours in October of 2009, He "called me by name" and introduced me to the beauty of my new community in Resurrection. He gave me, an only child, 26 sisters who would support me if I tried something new. Maybe I could I bring a program here?



Shannon Civetta

As I continued my Cornerstone experience on Team II, God gave me the courage to talk about

Bible Study with my new sisters. Finally, after completing our team preparations and launching Team III, I had enough confidence to ask permission to start a short study. That year I ran 4 "Helicopter Tours" and shared the story of Salvation History with nearly 75 parishioners, many of whom were my loving sisters. Interest grew and Word spread (pun intended). Next week, we will complete our 3rd full-year study having discussed 13 Old Testament Books, a Gospel, and the Acts of the Apostles with a great and growing group of people from 4 parishes. I have helped bring His Word to Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel, Saint Matthews and St. Therese. Recently He's given me the opportunity to speak to all Religious Formation Directors of the diocese and to more than 130 faithful at a diocesan conference about the joys and fruits of starting Scripture studies.

What if I hadn't answered His call? What if the gift of a passion for the Scripture went unopened? What if I didn't use the courage I received from my Cornerstone experience? Repeatedly, we hear that Cornerstone "renewed my spirit", "strengthened my soul" or "reacquainted me with the Lord." I believe the true power of the Cornerstone sometimes goes untapped. The 26 hours are beautiful, the family that grows from sharing our stories on team is extraordinary but it's how we answer God's call and use our "renewed spirit" that can truly transform others. ✠

Give Yourself the Gift By Henry M. Holden

Fifty-seven brothers and sister attended this year's Cornerstone reunion which took place between 9am and 3pm on March 23. A full report on the reunion written by Bob Weingaertner is [here](#) and on the Cornerstone icon on the sidebar of the parish website. Also FYI the [Post Event Survey](#) also located on the Cornerstone icon.

It was a energized and busy day. The opening Liturgy set the tone for the day, and it was agreed that future events of this nature would always open with Mass.

Witness Talks

Three witness talks focused on this year's theme *No One Walks Alone*. In view of the fact that the talks present issues of a personal nature that often evoke strong emotions, only the scripture readings, titles, and witnesses for the three talks are listed here.

- Isaiah 40:29-31; Ecclesiastes 3:1. "For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven," by Dee Rincon.
- Matthew 5:1-12, "Living the Beatitudes; what I learned from my Dad," by Bob Weingaertner.
- Proverbs 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding," by Annette Tracy.



Lorraine Scandariato (Rick Tracy)

"I know when I listened to the witness talks I felt connected in so many ways," said Lorraine Scandariato, who later led a guided mediation in the chapel. "It is a wonderful way to reflect on your own life through other people's talks, your faith journey, and your relationship with God.

"Similar things have happened to me. I haven't taken their journey but I can certainly appreciate their journey since we're all on similar journeys.

"I think we're all in this together, we're not alone. We are connecting with each other, and we realize that when we listen to each other. People all have similar concerns, fears and issues. We realize in some ways we're not unique in our feelings, in our highs and lows, our trials and tribulations, and even our joys."

Quiet time

Quiet time after the witness talks offered an option for private prayer or discussion, or a guided meditation. The mediation was followed by the rosary led by Reuben Blanco, and Benediction with Deacon Roger.

Lorraine Scandariato sat down with us to share what the day held for her. "We had the guided meditation, and to make everyone comfortable we had soft music in the background while each person opened a quiet dialogue with God, a one-on-one if you will. We added extra dimension by asking each person to extend their hands, palms up. Bob Weingaertner, and Betsy Roche, anointed each

person's hands with fragrant oils in the Sign of the Cross.

"The reunion is a wonderful time refresh and renew your faith and re-bond with the people of like minds in the parish. There are people I know now that had it not been for the Cornerstone experience I would never have met or associated with them.

"I am so blessed to be involved in this because I've met such wonderful people. Most of my friends are now from cornerstone."

She offered some friendly advice.

"Remember how you felt in your Cornerstone experience? You can have that same experience again at the reunion in less than a day. Give yourself this gift." ✠

Called by Name

By Jean Mindingall

Vatican II has been on my mind lately. I'll admit, the interest has been spurred by the class I am taking this semester at Seton Hall. But the reflection has been worthwhile and I'd like to share some of what I've learned with you.



Jean Mindingall

First, some background: October 11, 2012 marked the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. The Council delivered 16 documents and so there are many special milestones to celebrate between now and what will be the 50th anniversary of the solemn closing of the council, December 8, 2015. The aims of the Council were laid out in its first document, *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, and included both "to impart an ever-increasing vigor to the Christian lives of the faithful" and "to adapt more closely to the needs of our age those institutions which are subject to change" (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, §1).

Many of the changes brought about by the council are part of our normal routine today: Mass is celebrated in English and we receive the Eucharist

under the species of bread and wine. Laypersons (including women!) are lectors and Eucharistic ministers and are allowed to attend theology classes along with seminarians.

The Council recognized the special role and calling of the laity in several documents, including *The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* and the *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*. In fact, we are called to a special role within the Church:

It is the special vocation of the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will. They live in the world, in each and every one of the world's occupations and callings and in the ordinary circumstances of social and family life.... There they are called by God to contribute to the sanctification of the world from within, like leaven, in the spirit to the Gospel, by fulfilling their own particular duties. Thus, especially by the witness of their life, resplendent in faith, hope and charity they manifest Christ to others. It is their special task to illuminate and order all temporal matters in which they are closely involved in such a way that these are always carried out and develop in Christ's way and to the praise of the Creator and Redeemer (Lumen Gentium §31). Wow. That's us. I don't often think of my life as a "vocation" since I usually associate the term with a calling to an ordained or consecrated religious life. Yet our place in the world – in families, at work, in social gatherings – **IS** our vocation. We are part of the great evangelizing effort of the Church for we are the face of Jesus Christ in our neighborhoods, schools, businesses, social events and recreation. This is a vocation every bit as difficult as the call to an ordained or consecrated ministry. We can be challenged by selfishness, ambition, and greed in the workplace, by consumerism, by messages in media and advertising that contradict Christian values, by strife and discord even within our own families and neighborhoods. Yet, on any given day, we may be the only tangible presence of Jesus Christ that another person comes in contact with.

As we face the many tasks and challenges of our daily lives, we may ask, where is God in all this? What can I do about the situation I find myself in? Elijah found God in the whisper, not in the thunder and fire. And I find that when I ask: "Where is God in this moment?" that moment suddenly is blessed. Our discernment of God's call is a daily event. Each of us has been called to be leaven – yeast – in the world. When yeast is mixed with dough it is indistinguishable from the rest of the ingredients, but it makes a big difference. Each of us, in our own

way and in our own situation, can make a difference in bringing Jesus Christ into the secular world. Pray for me as I pray for you, to be aware of God's presence in our lives as we go about our daily activities. Let us be open to the help of His grace. †



The Events Committee. (l-r) George Chang, Terri Mihalick, Lorraine Scandariato, Bob Weingaertner, John Cristadoro, Rick Tracy, Myra Sesko, Jackie Coccozza, Elaine & Henry Russo, Betsy Roche. (Rick Tracy)



Annette Tracy spoke on Proverbs 3:5 (Rick Tracy)



Lorraine Scandariato, Bob Weingaertner, and MC John Cristadoro, Enjoying a light moment. (Rick Tracy)

Photo Feature - All photos Rick Tracy



Quiet time after the witness talks offered an option for private prayer or discussion, or a guided meditation.



Dee Rincon spoke on Isaiah 40:29-31; Ecclesiastes 3:1



Jay Donohue spoke about the various ministries here.



Deacon Roger celebrated a Benediction



Everyone said the meals were outstanding



Mary Jane Viparini, Lori Quann, Annette Steele and George Chang provided some music.



Prayer Requests:

- #Kathy & Ray Latour.
- #Healing for a grandson.
- #Laura Byrne.
- #Employment for a son.
- #For Heidie, my daughter-in-law's pregnancy. May she have a healthy baby to come.
- #For my brother Rene and wife Maria's driving to NJ. May they be safe in traveling to New Jersey.
- #For the vacation of Jeremy and Jesse's and their family. May they have safe trip to their destination.
- #Michele Redhead

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