



Families Matter

Catholic, Charismatic, Evangelistic & Family-Oriented

Families in Christ Jesus Community

March 2008

Putting on God's Character

by Arch Tunnell



As I approached Lent I started to pray about what God would have me do during this period. I kept getting this Scripture: Ephesians 4:22-24 *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self,*

created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

I had a sense that I had put on some of my "old self" again. Like old comfortable clothes, that are very warm and snuggly, I had returned to some old habits that were not good. Therefore I decided to review again what the Lord wanted my "new self" to look like. This led me to look at God's character and meditate how to becoming Christlike. The first Scripture that the Lord showed me was 2 Corinthians 3:18 *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. O.K. so what comes next? What are the character traits that distinguish the person who is trying to become Christlike or put on the "new self"? They are of course, the fruits of the Spirit which are nine characteristics that Paul mentions in Galatians 5:22-23. As I started to study this list the Lord showed me that there are some basic principles that apply to all aspects of developing Godly character. I would like to share some of these principles with you and maybe they will help all of us during this Lent to become more Christlike.*

The first principle is "Devotion to God is the only acceptable motive for actions that are pleasing to God".

Unfortunately, too often our motives are self-centered. We want to maintain our reputation before others or we want to feel good about ourselves. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:31 "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." All of our actions, to be acceptable to God, must be done out of a sense of devotion to God. We must always first check our motive.

The second principle is: "The power or enablement for a godly life comes from the risen Christ." As the source of power for Christlike character is Christ, so the means of experiencing that power is through our relationship with Him. Jesus teaches us this In John 15 with his teaching about the vine and the branches. It is only in abiding in Him that we can bring forth the fruit of godly character. We must maintain daily contact with Jesus with a personal prayer time and daily walk with Him in our life.

The third principle of godly character is "Though the power for Christlike character comes from Christ, the responsibility for developing and displaying that character is ours." The spiritual power that enables us to apply ourselves to the cultivation of Christian graces is of God, who works in us to will and to act. While, therefore, we grow in the Christian life by divine grace, it is our duty to grow in grace. Let us be ever mindful of our entire dependence upon the Holy Spirit of God but let us be ever mindful of our duty to maintain good works.

The fourth principle of godly character is, "The development of godly character entails both putting off and putting on character traits."

If you refer back to the Scripture that I started with, Paul talks about this. Paul continues in verses 4:25 - 5:4 providing specific applications of this principle. We are to put off falsehood and put on truthfulness. We are to put off stealing and put on generosity. Unwholesome talk must be put off and replaced with speech that is helpful for building others up. Some Christians have a tendency to emphasize only putting off traits of the sinful nature. They are usually very morally upright but lacking in those gracious qualities of love, joy, and compassion. There is an equal danger if we focus all our attention on such qualities as love and compassion while neglecting to deal

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God's Character

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with vices of the sinful nature. We need encouragement in the body of Christ to feel good about ourselves but not neglect the equally scriptural emphasis of putting to death the deeds of the sinful nature.

A sixth and final principle is "Growth in all areas is progressive and never finished." Growth in godly character not only is progressive and always unfinished, it is absolutely necessary for spiritual survival. If we are not growing in godly character, we are regressing. In the spiritual life we never stand still. We should have a sense that we are growing in our character every day. Are we growing toward godly character or ungodly character? Are we growing in love or selfishness, in harshness or patience, in greed or generosity, in honesty or dishonesty, in purity or impurity?

Every day we are training ourselves in one direction or the other by the thoughts we think, the words we say, the actions we take, and the deeds we do. There can be no letup in our pursuit of godly character. Every day that we are not practicing godliness we are being conformed to the world of ungodliness around us.

By the end of Lent may all of us be able to say as St. Paul did in Philippians 3:12-14 *Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

Gathering Reminder

March Set-Up:	O'Neill & Rihtar
March Clean-up:	Powall & Roach
April Set-Up:	Tunnell & Youth
April Clean-up:	Kristanc & McIlroy
May Set-Up:	Federico & Del Valle
May Clean-up:	Davisson Erickson

Questions? Please call Bob Perusek @ (216) 731-5531

Join us at the MARCH GATHERING

Featuring Special Guest

Ralph Martin

**"Families & the
New Evangelization"**



Please join us on Thursday,
March 13th
from 8:00 - 10:00 PM
at St. Williams Church

Ralph Martin is the President of Renewal Ministries and the host of the weekly television program *The Choices We Face* on which he proclaims the basic truths of Christianity. He urges repentance and faithfulness to scripture; he emphasizes the need for all to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; he imparts the courage to stand firm over the long haul as together we cope with an increasingly secular society.

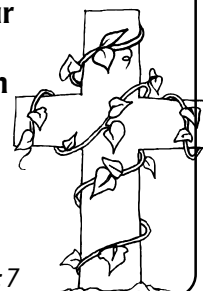
He is the author of several books on the Catholic Church and spirituality and audio albums on the teaching of the saints. He is the Director of Graduate Programs in The New Evangelization at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. Ralph is also Assistant Professor of Theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in the Archdiocese of Detroit as well as Visiting Professor of Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

In Loving Memory of

**Jill Grabinski, wife of Archie and our
dear sister in Christ**
Jay Ansberry, father of Chris Roach
Paul Posavad, father of Ken

I have fought a good fight,
I have finished my course,
I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7



Speak Lord, Your Servant is Listening

1 Samuel 3:10
by Irvin Del Valle

Brothers and Sisters, it seems as though it was not long ago that we celebrated a new year. I am sure that many of us set certain goals we would like to accomplish this year. And for most of us in FCJC the deepening of our relationship with the Lord is a constant desire. How are we going about it? Before much more time passes on I want to share what the Lord has been placing on my heart.

Growing spiritually oftentimes seems elusive. We participate in the celebration of the Mass and make time for prayer, service and fellowship.

While we know the Lord is present, the moments seem fleeting. And then there are those events where our hearts are stirred by the Holy Spirit in a powerful way and we become consumed by His presence within and around us.

His voice speaks clearly and directly to us through the experience. The resulting effects may stay with us for some time to come. We feel renewed, refreshed and restored. These moments are very exciting, and oftentimes met with anticipation for the next moment that the Lord will reveal Himself so distinctly. It is to this situation that the Lord speaks clearly to me. It is best summed up by the Lord's word, repeated by one of our brothers, "What did you do with the last word I gave you?"

In looking back at notes from past meetings, whether from the Gatherings, household meetings, LCS, individual prayer, a specific teaching or even a witness, I am presented with the reality that God has been continually making ways for us to draw closer to Him. At our Gatherings we have been blessed by presentations from a number of priests throughout our Diocese.

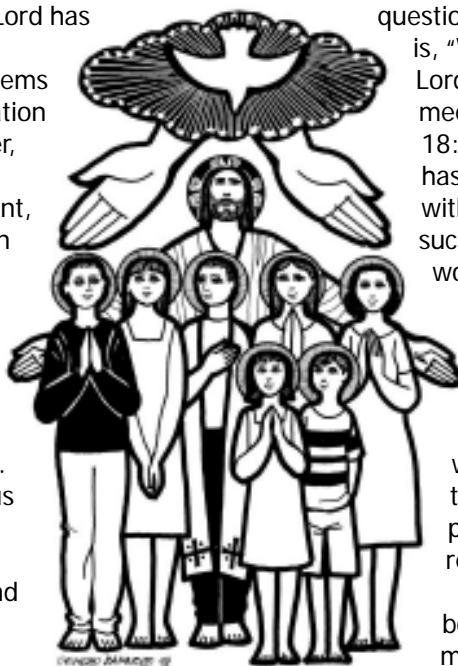
Fr. Franco spoke to us at our last Gathering about taking steps to purposefully focus on the meaning of Lent. Fr. Woost shared about the Brown Scapular, as well as the beauty of God's love and mercy found in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr. Bill Thaden spoke of a wonderful perspective for the season of Advent. The list goes on. Dr. Ray Guarendi provided a refreshing and enlightening perspective on the Catholic faith. We have received teachings on total surrender, about human emotions, about the need for absolute truth while facing issues of tolerance. We have witnessed testimonies about answered prayers. We have seen how God has manifested

His work in the lives of those who are ill or dying and those facing economic hardships. We have seen his power in one brother who was imprisoned unfairly; and in those standing up for the lives of the innocent. God has been working mightily - renewing, refreshing, restoring!

So the Lord's message for me centers on key questions that I want to share with you. The first is, "Where are we looking to find Him?" The Lord's promise is that each and every time we meet in His name He is present (Matthew 18:20). Do we truly believe in His words? What has been our attitude about getting together with Christian brothers and sisters? To look at such opportunities as just another meeting would be to disregard the occasions for the work of the Holy Spirit. The next question is, "How are we prepared to receive His word?" We need to purposefully take note of His message and reflect continuously on His word so that it accomplishes what it was set out to do in our lives. We may miss the significance of a message the Lord provides because we don't understand its relevance at the moment.

But God doesn't waste words. From the book of Habakkuk, "Then the LORD answered me and said: Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets, so that one can read it readily. For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint; if it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late" (Habakkuk 2: 2-3). God knows our needs and often provides a response in advance, in His way and in His time. Be prepared for His word to take hold.

Brothers and Sisters, the Lord is constantly working. As we take this journey with the Lord, let us be mindful of the here and now, constantly reflecting on the word He makes known to us. Let us take advantage of every opportunity to be present and attentive to Him during our times of gathering with one another, and be able to truly say, "speak Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).



Evangelization

by Ross Federico

The Lord continues to ask us to proclaim His glory. In Matthew 10:5-7, Jesus sent out His 12 disciples after instructing them, "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation, 'the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

During this Lenten season, take the time to pray and proclaim the Lord's glory, and encourage others to join you. Step out of your comfort zone, and tell others how awesome the Lord's name is to a friend or stranger you meet.

You might be amazed at the results.

I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I will declare all your wondrous deeds.

I will delight and rejoice in you;

I will sing hymns to your name, Most High.

— Psalm 9:2-3

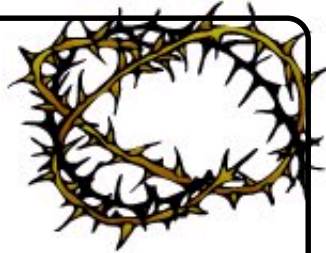


Suggestions for the Household

by Mike Powell

For the Holy Season:

- † Showing the DVD "The Passion of the Christ"
- † Bible Study on The Passion in Mark, Luke or John
- † Lord's Day dinner with your household
- † Recite The Rosary and the 5 Sorrowful Mysteries
- † Go to the internet search and print the Stations of the Cross and review each station with prayer and meditation



Our Sincere Thanks

The Bob Roach Family would like to thank Families in Christ Jesus for their prayers, care, concern, and sympathy for the death of Chris' dad, Jay Ansberry. Your words of sympathy, your thoughtful cards and kind gifts meant so much to us during this time of sadness.

We will miss our dad and grandfather. He was our hero.

Sincerely, Bob, Chris, Kristen, Jared & Becky,
Amy & Jared, Catherine, John, Meghan, Joshua,
Anthony & Tobias Roach

Youth Calendar

March Schedule

- Sat., Mar 1 Girl's Retreat
- Sun., Mar. 2 Leaders' meeting
- Sun., Mar 9 General Meeting @ Borromeo 6 - 8 pm
- Thu., Mar 13 Gathering @ St. Williams 8 - 10 pm
- Sun, Mar. 16 General Meeting @ Borromeo 6 - 8 pm
- Sun., Mar 30 General Meeting @ Borromeo 6 - 8 pm

April Schedule

- Thu., Apr. 3 Gathering @ St. Williams 8 - 10 pm
- Sun., Apr. 6 Leaders' Meeting
- Sun., Apr. 13 General Meeting @ Borromeo 6 - 8 pm
- Sun., Apr. 27 General Meeting @ Borromeo 6 - 8 pm

For more info call Becky Roach @ 216-407-4629

Schedule subject to change - please call for updates.

Kid's Korner

Kids for Christ

Ages 4 -12

Next Meeting March 7th

Please join us to study the word of God,
have fun and meet new friends!

When: First Friday in March, June,
September & December

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Where: Bob & Chris Roach's home*
22756 Rushore Drive
Richmond Heights, OH

Please call so we know who is coming.
216-531-6774

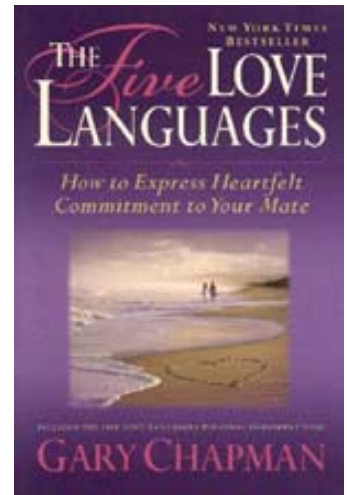
* June 6th KFC will be at Colby Park in Wickiffe.



Let's Talk...

"The Five Love Languages" by Gary Chapman

by Al Schempp



How is the relationship with your spouse, children, parents or coworkers? It may be a matter of the fullness of your Love Tank! Is it full or empty?

The Schempp household decided to get this book and read and discuss it in a span of 5 household meetings. I thought the exercise was not only magical it was immediately helpful in my marriage and to all those around me.

Over the years I have noticed that people treat others assuming that everyone reacts to a stimuli as they react. With this "Love Language" exercise I quickly learned that this is not the case.

Chapman defines the Love Languages as:

1. Words of affirmation
2. Quality time
3. Receiving gifts
4. Acts of service
5. Physical touch.

He then goes into detail for each and finishes with a multiple choice test that identifies what the individuals' pre-dominant Love languages are. I found that mine are "Words of Affirmation" and "Quality Time". How does this help? Lets assume that Marie, my dear wife, spends a lot of time and money getting me a gift certificate for a massage at a plush spa.. Well first of all, gifts are not important to me and secondly having people rub me is not my idea of having fun. So there I am after opening her loving gift, trying to look thankful and not succeeding. Even worse I am already thinking about how am I going to get out of going there. Far better for me is for Marie to plan something that would allow the two of us to have "Quality Time" together. I must also say that if I bought her that same massage she would be ecstatic. It is very important for all to know the other person's preferences. The biggest mistake is to assume that they are the same as mine.

This is a great exercise that focuses on the wonderful differences that we bring to life and how to utilize those differences to make life more joyous. Let me know how this knowledge works for you!

YOUR KINGDOM COME!

FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE 2008 SUMMER CONFERENCES

Catholic Charismatic Conferenrce	June 6 - 8, 2008
<i>The Power and the Kingdom</i>	
Defending the Faith Conference	July 25 - 27, 2008
<i>The Mysteries of the Kingdom</i>	

Go to <http://www.franciscanconferences.com/> for full conference schedule and complete details.

FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE

Our Youth Group will be attending the June 13 - 15th Youth Conference. There are a few tickets available on a first come - first serve basis.

Call Becky Roach at 216-407-4629 for more information.

Carrying his own cross,
he went out to the place
...called Golgotha.
John 19:17

"He is not here;
he has risen!"

L u k e 2 4 : 6

FCJC Women's Retreat

Feb 1-3, 2008






Remembering Roe v. Wade - LifeLink & FCJC Standing for Life






Mary Beth O'Neill
 440-974-7281 V.M. 440-749-9956 Cell
*I'll work hard for you &
 I appreciate referrals too!*



Please send Families Matter articles/contributions & advertisements to Debbie Finomore preferably by e-mail to deb@finomore.com or mail to 12115 Burlington Glen, Chardon OH 44024.



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 Chesterland OH 44026



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