

March 7, 2010

**Holy Dormition Friary
Sybertsville, Pa.**

web: www.hdbfm.com



The Daffodil Garden

**Divine Liturgy
March 7—14th 2010**

Sunday 07—8AM +Anna Machala
Monday 08—No Liturgy
Tuesday 09—No Liturgy
Wednesday 10—5PM Presanctified Liturgy
Thursday 11— No Liturgy
Friday 12—5PM Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday 13—12N All Souls
Saturday 13—5PM +Olga Hoda
Sunday 14—8AM + Dr. John Dubinsky

**Reconciliation
Thurs. & Friday 3 -4.30 & 7—8 PM**

The Daffodil Principle

The Daffodil Garden looks as though someone had taken a great vat of gold and poured it over the mountain peak and its surrounding slopes. The flowers were planted in majestic, swirling patterns, great ribbons and swaths of deep orange, creamy white, lemon yellow, salmon pink, and saffron and butter yellow. Each different-colored variety was planted in large groups so that it swirled and flowed like its own river with its own unique hue. There were five acres of flowers.

Who did this? Just one woman; she lives on the property. Her home is a well-kept A-frame house, small and modestly sitting in the midst of all that glory.

On the patio, there is a poster- **Answers to the Questions I Know You Are Asking**- was the headline. The first answer was a simple one. "50,000 bulbs," it read. The second answer was, "One at a time, by one woman. Two hands, two feet, and one brain." The third answer was, "Began in 1958."

For anyone this is a life-changing experi-

ence. The thought of this woman who, more than forty years before, had begun, one bulb at a time, to bring her vision of beauty and joy to an obscure mountaintop. Planting one bulb at a time, year after year, this unknown woman had forever changed the world in which she lived. One day at a time, she had created something of extraordinary magnificence, beauty, and inspiration. The principle her daffodil garden taught is one of the greatest principles of celebration: learning to move toward our goals and desires one step at a time--often just one baby-step at time; learning to love the doing; learning to use the accumulation of time. When we multiply tiny pieces of time with small increments of daily effort, we too will find we can accomplish magnificent things. We can change the world. It makes one sad to ponder: What might I have accomplished if I had set a wonderful goal thirty-five or forty years ago and had worked away at it 'one bulb at a time' through those years? Just think what I might have been able to achieve!

It's so pointless to think of the lost hours of yesterdays. The way to make learning a lesson of celebration instead of a cause for regret is to only ask, "How can I put this to use today?"

Stop waiting! Use the Daffodil Principle.

Until my car or home is paid off
Until I get a new car or home
Until my kids leave the house
Until I go back to school
Until I finish school
Until I clean the house
Until I organize the garage
Until I clean off my desk
Until I lose 10 lbs.
Until I gain 10 lbs.
Until I get married
Until I get a divorce
Until I have kids
Until the kids go to school
Until I retire
Until summer
Until spring
Until winter
Until fall
Until I die...



There is no better time than right now to be happy.

Happiness is a journey, not a destination.

So work like you don't need money.

Love like you've never been hurt, and,

Dance like no one's watching.

**Don't be afraid that your life will end,
be afraid that it will never begin.**

**Thank You For Your Support
Weekly offering was \$423.25**

ALMSGIVING

Generous giving to others is part of a refreshing gratitude toward all material things: *“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.”* Treat the goods of this earth with a free spirit. Enjoy them, and make sure that others can enjoy them too.

There are those who take a gloomy view of generosity, as though we can never enjoy the things of this earth and must always meter out our money and goods with a worried face.

Almsgiving is one of the three traditional practices of Lent/Great Fast. Generous giving to the poor is a powerful way to acknowledge that everything we have comes from God.

We’ve heard the saying, *“It takes a heap of living to make a house a home.”* Well, it takes a heap of giving to make this earth a home for everyone. We ask ourselves: *“What is the Lord inviting me to give away today?”*

Our response certainly changes the way we look at everything.

Lectio Divina

Last Sunday we looked at *“devotional prayer.”* Another traditional way of praying is called *Lectio Divina*, or, Scriptural Prayer.

One of the oldest and most simple ways of praying is to pray with the Scriptures. We take a short passage, mull it over, and simply let the Spirit speak to us through the words, and guide us to reflections that may seem to come from nowhere. This form of prayer is simply the slow reading of Scripture, without worrying about getting through a whole passage or a whole page. We take our time, and let God speak to us through these words. When something catches our attention, we stay with it, talk to God about it, or simply rest with God for awhile. Then we read on slowly until something else catches us, and we stay with it for as long as we wish.

We are not trying to learn about scripture or systematically read the Bible. We are trying to be with God and let God speak to us through the words. Most people are surprised at how easy it is to pray this way, and how deep such prayer can be.

U.S.A. Catholic Population

According to recent survey by the Pew Research Center Forum on Religions and Public Life, more than 68 percent of people who were raised Catholic remain in the Catholic faith.

Of those who leave the Church, 15% join a Protestant Church, and 14 % do not join any religious group.

The study, *“Faith in flux,”* noted that those who have left the Catholic Church outnumber those who have come into the Catholic Church nearly four-to-one.

During Lent, thousands of people wishing to enter the Catholic Church prepare for the process by going through the rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. (RCIA)

Approximately 150,000 people entered the Catholic church in the United States at Easter 2009. Let us pray for the catechumens who will enter the Catholic Church this Easter 2010.

Lose to Win

He was so absorbed with the model airplane he was put together, he was lost in his project. She was so caught up in the storyline that she was lost in her novel. They lost their shirts at the casino. Fascinated by the picture, I was lost in thought as I stood before the painting at the museum. Do we ever allow ourselves to become lost in Christ?

We lose days at a time to our jobs and to mindless entertainment. The Great Fast is a wonderful chance to lose some of our time to Christ. Perhaps we take the risk to ask forgiveness for the time we hurt someone. Perhaps we take more time for quiet prayer before God, trying to do nothing but listen with an open heart. Perhaps we lose some of our time volunteering to feed the hungry, knowing that we are also feeding Christ himself.

Jesus promises that we can only save our lives if we make the long-term investment in the Body of Christ. There is no more secure insurance program. If we strive only for our comfort here and now, we will lose our investment--our earthly comforts are temporary. Only when we lose our lives in Christ--only seeking reconciliation, giving mercy for body and spirit, opening our hearts to Christ on the streets and in prayer--only in losing our lives will we truly save anything of ourselves for the blessed Kingdom of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Jerome Wolbert, OFM