

# Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

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## Parish Life!



News and resources for your parish

March 2008

### Parish Life! from Our Sunday Visitor

Welcome to **Parish Life!** from Our Sunday Visitor. As a parish leader who has ordered from Our Sunday Visitor in the past, you're receiving this ninth edition of our special e-newsletter just for parishes!

Be sure to visit our [Parish Resources pages](#). Newly updated for March, this material is written specially for YOU! Find Lenten and Holy Week help and hints for early childhood, elementary, adult, youth, catechists, and the workplace! It's free! [Help for your parish is here now»](#)

Each month you'll find timely content, practical information, and insightful inspiration delivered right to your inbox. We'd love to hear from you as well, so please e-mail us with questions or topics you would like to see discussed in future editions: [yyoung@osv.com](mailto:yyoung@osv.com).

To continue receiving this monthly e-newsletter, you need do nothing. To unsubscribe, please follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.

Feel free to forward this email to a friend who might be interested.

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# How to keep the "Holy" in "Holy Week"

By Lorene Hanley Duquin

For parish staff members, the week before Easter can sometimes feel more like Hectic Week than Holy Week.

In addition to all of the normal things that happen in a parish, you are faced with special Palm Sunday and Triduum liturgies to plan, a church to decorate, and perhaps even a trip to the cathedral for the Chrism Mass.

How will you balance the sacred part of Holy Week with all of the other things you will be doing? Keeping the "holy" in Holy Week will require a little planning on your part.

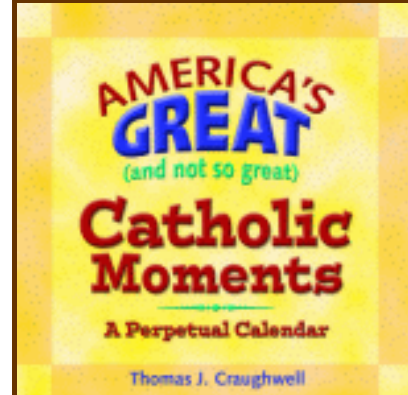
- Start by making a list of everything that needs to be done during Holy Week.
- Then block out time in your busy calendar for personal prayer and quiet reflection.
- Talk about your decision to keep the "holy" in Holy Week with parish staff members and volunteers. Ask how they plan to keep the week sacred.
- During Holy Week liturgies, if your mind wanders toward practical matters, bring yourself back into focus.
- Offer up whatever irritations or difficulties you experience during the week.
- Make it a point during the week to let go of resentment and forgive someone who has offended you.
- Remind yourself every morning that you are entering into the most sacred mysteries of our faith - the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Your greatest temptation during Holy Week will be scrimping on your spiritual needs because there is so much going on! If you let that happen, your Holy Week may look perfect on the surface, but will feel spiritually unsatisfying.

## In This Issue

Keep the "Holy" in "Holy Week"  
A Steward Reflects  
Help weave a "web of prayers"  
The origin of the Easter egg  
Take Five for spiritual uplift

## Catholic Moments



### March 1, 1961

On March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps. Perhaps inspired by the selflessness of Catholic missionaries, JFK envisioned the Peace Corps as a way for Americans to "assist other nations toward their legitimate goals of freedom and opportunity." At the time the president signed the bill, 13,000 Americans had already volunteered for duty.

- From "America's Great (and not so great) Catholic Moments," by Thomas Craughwell (OSV). [Order it here»](#)

## A Steward Reflects

by Julie Kenney

Chapter one of the bishops' **Stewardship: A Disciple's Response**, "The Call," centers on the start of our stewardship journey - our commission from the Lord to fulfill the role He created and equipped you and I to accomplish. Isn't it fascinating how God created us all so differently? Even children from the same parents have different talents and interests!

As Christians, we are all children of the same Father. We are asked to "live out joyfully and generously the commitments, responsibilities and roles to which God calls" us. I am expected to perform a function that only I can do at that exact moment in time. Talk about pressure! This is precisely where stewardship comes in - consciously choosing to go where He sends me, even if I am frightened or grouchy or simply do not want to go.

Consider how you differ from your co-workers in strengths and weaknesses, and how you are alike in your beliefs. What role has God called only you to fulfill today? How will you answer Him?

## A "web of prayers"



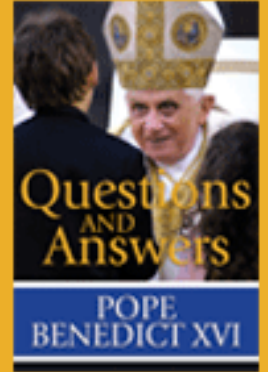
On April 15, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI will begin a six-day trip to the United States, visiting Washington, D.C. and New York City.

The Holy Father will meet with President Bush, lead Mass at the National Park in Washington and Yankee Stadium, address the United Nations General Assembly, and visit Ground Zero.

We're weaving a "web of prayers" for the Holy Father's visit. Join us by visiting our special web section at [www.osv.com/papalvisit](http://www.osv.com/papalvisit) and adding your own prayer request. And download a free prayer card (PDF file) by clicking here»

Please share this with your parish!

## Questions & Answers Pope Benedict!



978-1-59276-439-6, \$14.95

**Our Sunday Visitor**

Bringing Your Catholic Faith to Life  
[www.osv.com](http://www.osv.com)

**1-800-348-2440**

## Parish Life! Resources

Our Sunday Visitor's website offers monthly articles on early childhood education, elementary education, adult formation, spirituality at work, youth ministry that inspires and help for catechists. [To see the latest, click here»](#)

## Quick Links

[www.OSV.com](http://www.OSV.com)

Parish leaders' resources

Q&A with Dr. Joseph White

7 Steps to Becoming Financially Free Small Group Study Program

New VBS program: Great Bible Reef

Register to win free

## The origin of the Easter egg

As we prepare for Easter, many families color eggs to display, eat and hide on Easter Sunday. Did you know that according to an ancient tradition of the East, Mary Magdalene may have been the first person to color an egg?

After Jesus' ascension, Mary journeyed to Rome to talk with Tiberius Caesar. She told him that Jesus had risen from the dead. To help explain the Resurrection she picked up an egg from the table. Caesar responded that a human being could no more rise from the dead than the egg in her hand turn red. The egg turned red immediately!

For a new twist on coloring eggs, have your kids write a special Easter message on their egg before dipping it into the colored dye: "Christ is Risen!" "Alleluia!" "I have seen the Lord!" Also, visit our website to learn more about Mary Magdalene.

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### Take Five

Looking for a little spiritual uplift? **Take Five**, a new book soon to be released by Our Sunday Visitor, uses the teachings of St. Ignatius to help Catholics live their faith everyday and in every situation.

For example:

"God will not be outdone in generosity. He has given us everything we have in life, save our sins. For the sake of our salvation, He gave His only son. His self-giving is nowhere so evident as in the Mass, where Christ gives us everything He has: body, blood, soul and divinity. God has held nothing back. To imitate him, we must give as He gives. Ignatius taught his company to pray this prayer to obtain a divine spirit of generosity.

"Teach us, good Lord, to serve You as You deserve,  
To give and not count the cost,  
To fight and not to heed the wounds,  
To toil and not to seek for rest,  
To labor and not ask for any reward  
Except that of knowing that we do Your will."

Call 800-348-3440 for more information, or to preorder!

### Let us know what you think!

We hope you've enjoyed our Parish Life! newsletter! Let us know what you think--we appreciate your comments, questions, suggestions, and requests! Email York Young: [yyoung@osv.com](mailto:yyoung@osv.com).

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