

# Our Sunday Visitor, Inc.

## Parish Life! from OSV



News and resources for your parish

February 2007

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 second edition of our special enewsletter just for parishes!

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 enewsletter, 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.

### Stepping into the Stations by Lorene Hanley Duquin

Make the Stations of the Cross part of your Lent experience this year by applying the stations to your own ministry.

The condemnation of Jesus: Ask yourself how often you put yourself in a position of judging others.

Jesus' acceptance of the cross: Are there people, situations or events that are a burden to you? How have you accepted these crosses?

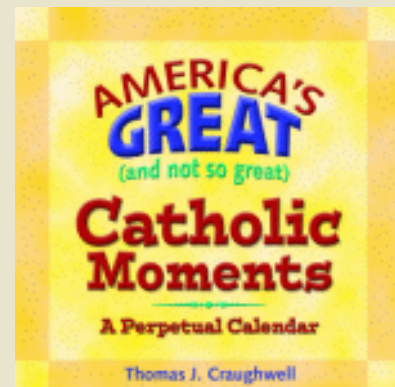
Jesus falls three times: In what ways have you fallen in your ministry? How have you picked yourself up again?

Jesus encounters his mother: How are you balancing the demands of your

### In This Issue

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### This Day in Catholic History: March 15



**"Going My Way" sweeps the Oscars, 1945**

ministry with the needs of your family?

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus: Who are the people who have helped you carry the burdens of ministry?

Veronica wipes Jesus' face: Who are the people who minister to you as you minister to others?

Jesus encounters the women of Jerusalem: Who are the people that you console in your ministry?

Jesus is stripped of his garments: Are you being called to let go of external things in your life and your ministry?

The crucifixion: How are dealing with pain in your life? Are you able to forgive those who have hurt you?

The death and burial of Jesus: What parts of your ministry have to die and be buried before they can be resurrected into new life? Do you really believe that the Risen Christ will renew you and the work that you do?

[Visit OSV's web section: Lent -- The Road to Easter](#)

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## The Catholic Answer: What are the historical roots of Lent?

Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for catechumens, or people who were preparing to be baptized at Easter. The fast, originally two days, then for the length of Holy Week, had expanded to a 40-day fast by the fourth century.

As infant baptism became the rule in Christianity, the preparation season for Easter remained. Christians had always prayed and fasted for the catechumens, and as baptismal practices changed, those days became a time of prayer, penance and conversion of heart for all Christians. — From the pamphlet "[How to Observe Lent as a Catholic](#)" (Our Sunday Visitor)

[More from The Catholic Answer](#)

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Leo McCarey's sentimental comedy about a young priest (Bing Crosby) assigned to help a cantankerous elderly pastor (Barry Fitzgerald) get his poor parish out of debt walked away with seven Oscars: Best Picture, Best Actor (Crosby), Best Supporting Actor (Fitzgerald), Best Director, Best Original Story, Best Screenplay and Best Song.

From [America's Great \(and not so great\) Catholic Moments: A Perpetual Calendar](#) by Thomas Craughwell.

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### 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 a free trip to the Catechetical Director's Convention



## How to Celebrate Holy Week

During the weeks of Lent, we have prepared for this final week by fasting, praying and almsgiving, all with the purpose of opening ourselves more fully to God's presence in our lives. During Holy Week, we walk with Jesus, we suffer with him, we die with him and, finally, we rise again: new creatures, brought deeply into the joy of redemption and new life, now and, we pray, forever. On these days, we are offered a gift: biblical symbols and liturgical gestures that help us to enter into the salvific events of Jesus' death and resurrection. We don't just watch, but we participate in each of them as we strive to follow Christ more closely. — From the pamphlet "[How to Celebrate](#)

[Holy Week](#)" (Our Sunday Visitor)

[Order How to Celebrate Holy Week now](#)

## Working Spirituality in Lent

Living in the present is the key to spirituality in all areas, but especially in the workplace. It's so easy to let our minds get distracted and to function on autopilot during work hours, particularly if our work is tedious, repetitious or boring (as all work sometimes is). To be fully in the present moment means that we can see the value of the work we are doing at the time we are doing. Consequently, it becomes infused with meaning. We begin to see the "bigger picture" of what we are doing, not just as one isolated worker, but as part of the entire human community working to create and re-create the world in the image of God. How to do this consistently is, of course, the big question. And it's a question that is particularly relevant as we begin the Lenten season and the journey to Easter. For more ideas, visit our [Parish Spirituality in the Workplace site by clicking here](#).

[Visit our parish pages](#)



## What are the rules of fasting and abstinence?

This article from the Feb. 25 issue of Our Sunday Visitor newspaper details the proper approach to fast and abstinence. Does everyone have to do it? What days should we fast and abstain?

Please [register](#) and [log in](#) to read this article.

[Nothing fishy about fasting](#)

## A Steward Reflects...

Deuteronomy 26:2-4 tells us: "You shall take some first fruits of the various products of the soil which you harvest ... and putting them in a basket go to the priest (who will) set it in front of the altar of the Lord, your God."

Our first fruits represent an offering of gratitude to God giving him our best, not what's left over. The offertory during Mass allows parishioners to thankfully return to a portion of the blessings God has given them. Many parishes express gratitude for all gifts received, even a widow's mite, by including the collection with the gifts of bread and wine brought forward. They set the basket in front of the altar and the priest gestures toward it during the prayer over the gifts. Other parishes say a special prayer of thanksgiving for the donations as they are collected. What other ways might your parish show appreciation for the collection received?

[For more information about stewardship, visit us on the web](#)

### Upcoming Events

LA Congress

March 2-4, 2007, in  
Anaheim, CA

### Let us know what you think!

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

### York Young

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