

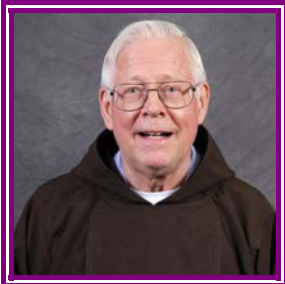


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Spring into Lent

by Ken Smits



Ken Smits

Next Wednesday begins the season of Lent. On the 1st Sunday of Lent we hear, as a paradigm, the Gospel story of Jesus being led into the desert by the Spirit for forty days. Jesus contests with the forces of evil and so prepares for a ministry of proclaiming the Reign of God through prophecy, preaching, and healing, including the forgiveness of sin. The ministry comes to a climax with Jesus' death and resurrection, from which flow Baptism and Eucharist as the primary sacraments of forgiveness of sin.

The history of the many forms and development of Lent is bound up with preparation for Easter, the development of penitential structures, and the practice of doing penance. In early centuries, a major structure developed known as public penance for public sins (most commonly the denial of the faith under the duress of persecution). A time and form of penance was assigned, concluding with public reconciliation before Easter. This public practice largely fell away after the time of persecutions, and with the change to a generalized practice of infant baptism.

In the early Middle Ages a private form of penance, drawn from monastic practice, developed. It consisted in a private confession, a time and form of penance, and a return for absolution. With this the shape of Lent was formed. Shrove Tuesday was the last day to confess (only a historical name now), followed by a penance for the length of Lent (usually fast and abstinence), and concluding with public reconciliation on Holy Thursday. Eventually the time separation of confession and absolution fell away and the order of penance was changed: confession, a nominal penance, immediate absolution, and the performance of the penance. Holy Thursday was no longer an observance of public reconciliation. (Note that our present Holy Thursday celebration falls on Good Friday, which begins with sunset on Holy Thursday; the same with the Easter Vigil. That's the reason why we have time restrictions on these celebrations.)



“An ironic contrast to the Gospel of Ash Wednesday: ‘wash your face so that you may not appear to be fasting.’” (Matthew 6:17-18)

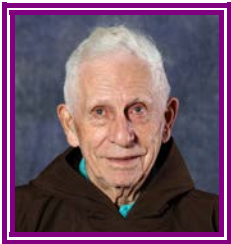
Lent really has two beginnings. The most traditional is the 1st Sunday of Lent. Later the four preceding days were added to extend Lent to the traditional 40 days. Then the biblical penitential practice of sprinkling ashes upon the head of the penitent was added, marking Ash Wednesday as the first day of Lent. In some countries (including the U.S.) it became a practice of smudging the forehead, *an ironic contrast to the Gospel of the day*: “wash your face so that you may not appear to be fasting.” (Matthew 6:17-18).

Lent is a time for the practice of penance. I have often heard people say that they do penance to make up for their sins. St. Paul tells us (Romans) that we can't really do that; it's already all been done by Jesus. We can't "earn" our salvation. Rather, our penance is a free response to God. This dynamic of salvation keeps us from concentrating on self rather than God, and it is easier than trying to save ourselves.

Ken Smits spent most of his ministerial years teaching and preaching, and ministering to "special needs" groups. Now, semi-retired, he ministers part-time as a chaplain in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Four brothers top our 2018 jubilarian list

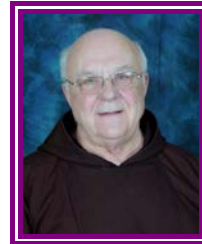
Isidore Herriges celebrates his diamond jubilee this year (65 years), while Richard Hart, Jerome Higgins (70 years) and Ambrose Simon (75 years) celebrate their platinum anniversary. All 19 of our jubilarians will be honored on 20 July at our provincial celebration in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin.



Isidore Herriges



Richard Hart



Jerome Higgins



Ambrose Simon

"Preventing conflict and sustaining peace through decent work"



World Day of Social Justice is observed on 20th February 2018. Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality or the rights of

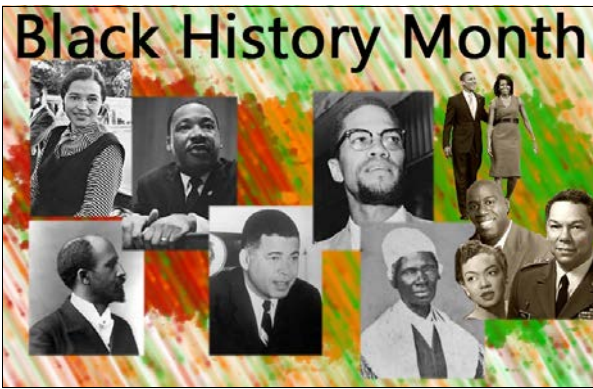
indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, orientation, religion, culture or disability.

For the United Nations, the pursuit of social justice for all is at the core of our global mission to promote development and human dignity. The adoption by the International Labor Organization of the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization is just one recent example of the UN system's commitment to social justice. The declaration focuses on guaranteeing fair outcomes for all through employment, social protection, social dialogue, and fundamental principles and rights at work.

Observance of World Day of Social Justice should support efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all.

Justice is a central moral standard in social life, is generally held to have a prominent role in social theory and social action, and so it is perhaps not surprising that all the social sciences have examined the concept at some length. "Charity is no substitute for justice withheld," Saint Augustine said.





The 2018 theme for Black History Month (February), *“African Americans in Times of War,”* commemorates the centennial of the end of the First World War in 1918, and explores the complex meanings and implications of this international struggle and its aftermath. The First World War was initially termed by many as *“The Great War,”* *“The War to End All Wars,”* and the war *“to make the world safe for democracy.”*

**AFRICAN AMERICANS
IN TIMES OF WAR**

Those very concepts provide a broad, useful framework for focusing on the roles of African Americans in every

American war, from the Revolutionary War Era to that of the present *“War against Terrorism.”* *Times of War* inevitably provides the framework for many stories related to African American soldiers and sailors, veterans, and civilians. This is a theme filled with paradoxes of valor and defeat, of civil rights opportunities and setbacks, of struggles abroad and at home, of artistic creativity and repression, and of catastrophic loss of life and the righteous hope for peace.



The theme suggests that contemporary conditions, past and present, give us cause for critical pause in our studies and deliberations to consider the specific and unique issues faced by African Americans in times of war. These issues include opportunities for advancement and repression of opportunities during wartime; the struggle to integrate the military and experiences during segregation/apartheid and successful integration; veterans experiences once they returned home; the creation of African American Veteran of Foreign War posts; cultures and aesthetics of dissent; global/international discourse; the impact of migration and urban development; educational opportunities; health care development; the roles of civil rights and black liberation organizations, including the Black Power movement and the Black Panther Party; the roles of African American businesses, women, religious institutions, and the black press; in the struggle abroad and at home; the topographies and spaces of black military struggle, resistance and rebellion; and how black soldiers and/veterans are documented and memorialized within public and private spaces. These diverse stories reveal war’s impact not only on men and women in uniform, but on the larger African American community.

Feb 14th – Feastday of beekeepers...who knew?

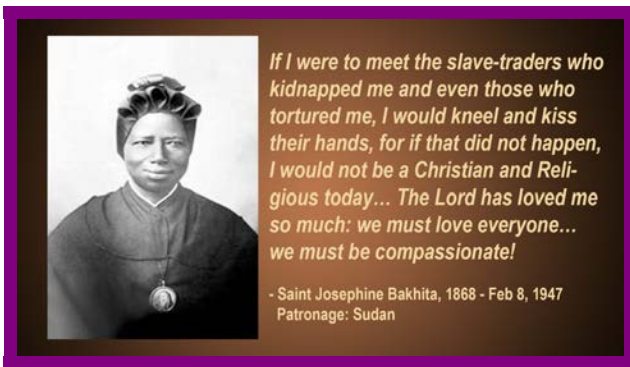


Along the ages, folk have put their faith in all manner of medicines, charms, prayers and superstitions to keep the bees in their hives healthy and the honey in their pots plentiful. Some of the lingering medieval powers that beekeepers invoked were those of St. Valentine. Honey and bees have long been associated with deities of love across Europe to Africa and further, so his current image is not out of place. How was he recruited into such charming company? Some say that one dilemma of the early church was how to oust the Roman feast of Lupercalia (15th February). It was a blessing revel of dancing, drinking, sacrifice, and expressions of love. Today St. Valentine, as well as being patron of love and romance, is a patron of beekeeping... he is said to ensure the sweetness of honey, and the protection of beekeepers.





- Joseph Monachino was diagnosed with prostate cancer.
- James Costello (father of Mark Joseph Costello) was diagnosed with lymphoma.
- Mary Havinga (sister of Gus Cops) died recently.
- The mother of John Raniszewski died recently.
- “My condition has improved and I have been discharged from the hospital and am recuperating at home. Thanks to all the friars and friends for their overwhelming support and prayers which helped me get through a difficult time, it meant a lot to me and Betty.” ~ Chris L’Esteve



In solidarity with those who have suffered as victims of human trafficking, we pray ...

God, we ask your blessing on every victim of human trafficking. We know you bear their fear, their hurt and their pain. May they feel your loving presence wash over them. May justice be served. May these women, men and children be released from the anguish they suffer. Make us instruments of love and compassion — seeking out, serving and helping to heal those who are victims of human trafficking.

In Your name we pray. Amen.

Capuchin bishops installed



Paul Schmitz (left) with Dave Zywiec

Our brothers, Paul Schmitz and David Zywiec, both bishops in Nicaragua, were recently installed in two new dioceses: David was installed as bishop of Siuna on 13 January; Paul was installed as bishop of Bluefields on 20 January. *re:Cap* offers prayerful good wishes to our brothers as they continue their episcopal ministry to the people of Nicaragua.



February

- 7 **Jerome Higgins (B)**
- 8 **Mary Ghesquiere (B)**
Int'l Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking
Josephine Bakhita (F)
- 12 **Paul Craig (B)**
- 13 **Keith Clark**
Investment Commission, DTW Airport
- 14 ♥ **St. Valentine's Day**
✚ **Ash Wednesday**
John Willger (B)
Harlan Swift (B)
- 16 **Arthur Cooney (B)**
HR Video Conference
Chinese New Year
- 17 **Michael Bertram (B)**
John Gau (B)
- 19 **JPIC Zoom Conference**
- 20 **World Day of Social Justice**
- 20-21 **Pro Council, Detroit**

