

Memento Mori, “Remember that You are Mortal”
by Julie Cini

A very wise gentleman made a very profound comment to me the other day. He said, “Our entire life is lived for one moment, and that is the moment we die.” This is the time of judgment, where we see our lives through the eyes of God. Think about that. At the moment of death a choice will be made as to where we will spend eternity.

Several years ago the movie *Dead Poets Society* revived an obscure Latin phrase that most of us had never known or had forgotten: **Carpe Diem**. The phrase was written by the Ancient Roman poet Horace, and it means, “**Seize the Day**.” The expression is now viewed as a catch-phrase which challenges us to live life to the fullest, to get the most out of each individual day because there may be no tomorrow. Most people would probably agree that this type of outlook is one they would like to apply to their own lives. The idea is that one should “seize the day” in order to get the most out of life. This suggestion promotes the undertaking of incredible, marvelous feats akin to climbing Mount Everest, or becoming a millionaire or disobeying conventional rules in order to feel alive. Advertisers feed this human craving and use it for their slogans such as: *Who Says You Can't Have It All? Just Do It, Share the Fantasy, Satisfy Your Thirst, Life Is A Journey-Enjoy the Ride*, and so on.

As is the case in much media promotion the “rest of the story” is omitted. The entire original phrase, *carpe diem, quam minimum credula postero*, is more accurately defined as “seize the day, sucking the marrow out of life.” The translation of the full sentence portrays a different picture. This phrase in its entirety shows us that the true meaning more precisely suggests ravenous, rapacious, gluttonous and self-indulgent behavior.

Even as far back as 1336, a young Italian poet, Francesco Petrarca, was wrongly inspired by this maxim of Horace. Petrarca decided to climb to the summit of Mount Ventoux. What started as an exercise in going for the gusto of life became one of the most famous spiritual lessons ever recorded. When Petrarca reached the summit of the mountain, he decided to celebrate his achievement by reading a random passage from the writings of St. Augustine. Opening Augustine’s *Confessions*, Petrarca was greeted with the words: “And men go about to wonder at the heights of the mountains, and the mighty waves of the sea, and the wide sweep of rivers, and the circuit of the ocean, and the revolution of the stars, but themselves their souls, they consider not.” (Continued inside)

THE SAINTS (MODEL OF THE CATHOLIC LIFE) by Patrick Middleton
SAINT POLYCARP (FEAST DAY FEBRUARY 23)

The setting is Smyrna (now Izmir, Turkey) in 155 AD amidst an era of Christian persecution. After martyring St Gemanicus, a crowd of Jews and pagans cried out, "Away with the atheists (meaning Christians); let search be made for Polycarp." Polycarp's friends, hearing the shouts, convinced him to flee. Later, while being protected in a farm house, he saw his pillow burning in a dream and told his companions, "It must need be that I shall be burned alive." Authorities tracked him to the house, but when they learned he was already gone, they tortured two house slaves. One of them revealed Polycarp's new whereabouts. When the authorities arrived, Polycarp had a chance to escape, but chose to remain. He said "the will of God be done." He came out to meet those who would lead him to his death, spoke to them in kindness, ordered them food and prayed while they ate, "remembering all, high and low, who at any time had come in his way the Catholic Church throughout the world (Epistle of the Church of Smyrna Concerning the Martyrdom of Polycarp).

Christians could avoid death by swearing an oath to Caesar as a god and giving sacrifice to the Roman gods. While being led away in a chariot, Polycarp's captors asked him, "What harm is there in saying 'Lord Caesar' or event in sacrificing to escape death?" While Polycarp remained silent – like Jesus during his interrogations – they asked him again. He responded, "I shall never do what you desire of me." They kicked him out of the chariot, and he walked the rest of the way to his appearance before the Roman proconsul who would determine the 86 year-old man's fate.

Polycarp (meaning "much fruit") was born in 69 AD to a Christian family and was a disciple of some of the apostles. St John appointed him bishop of Smyrna, a position he served for 55 years." He became the most prominent figure in Asia Minor's Christian church in the 2nd Century, and was known for his apostolic spirit, meekness, humility and charity. In addition, he was steadfast in the truth. St Jerome wrote that Polycarp met the well-known hermit Marcion who claimed the God of the Old Testament was not the God of the New, came up with his own New Testament scriptures which disparaged the Old and allowed only the unmarried to be

baptized. He was also incensed that Polycarp did not take proper notice of him. He asked "Do you not know me, Polycarp?" to which Polycarp



replied, "Yes, I know you to be the firstborn of Satan." Tradition holds Polycarp was the "angel of the Church in Smyrna" to whom St John directs Ch 2 v 8-11 in Revelation. Of the seven churches, only the Church in Smyrna received no reproach.

During Polycarp's trial in 155, the proconsul demanded "Swear by the genius of Caesar, and I discharge you; blaspheme Christ." Polycarp responded, "I have served him these fourscore and six years, and he never did me any harm, but much good, and how can I blaspheme my King and Savior? If you require of me to swear by the genius of Caesar, as you call it, hear my free confession – I am a Christian." When the proconsul threatened him with death, he proclaimed kindly but confidently, "You threaten me with a fire which burns for a short time and then goes out, but are yourself ignorant of the judgment to come. . . Bring against me what you please."

The proconsul announced, "Polycarp has confessed himself a Christian." The crowd responded, "This is the great teacher of Asia; the father of the Christians; the destroyer of our gods, who preaches to men not to sacrifice to or adore them." They demanded he be killed and rushed to gather wood to burn him alive. Polycarp then prayed aloud, "O Almighty, Lord God, Father of you beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the knowledge of thee God of angels, powers and every creature and of all the race of the just that live in thy presence! I bless thee for having been pleased in thy goodness . . . to partake of the chalice of thy Christ, for the resurrection to eternal life." When the wood was lit, the fire swirled around Polycarp but did not harm him. He was therefore stabbed to death. (Epistle of the Church of Smyrna).

His remains were collected by the Christians, and relics of his still remain in Izmir, Turkey.

February 22, 2010
First Sunday of Lent
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Teachers: Christine Farrell (pre-3), Stephanie
Jacobson (pre-K), Amy Lee-Despard (6-8 and Social
Studies), Kit Mathison (Kindergarten and Art), Laura
Nelson (1-2 and Language Arts), and Kate Shrock (3-5
and Science)

Anoth

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC)

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SACRAMENT CELEBRATIONS AND GUIDELINES

EUCCHARIST / MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM
Sunday Morn: 8:00 AM 10:00 AM
Sunday Eve: 7:00 PM
Tuesday-Saturday/Weekday Mass: 9:00 AM
Monday Communion Service: 9:00 AM

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 – 4:45 PM

BENEDICTION & EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday at 9:30 AM Benediction followed by Perpetual
Adoration from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday

HOUSE CALLS

If parishioner or local Catholic needs to receive the
sacraments at home, please call the Parish Office.

BAPTISM

Please register for Baptism and Baptism classes by
calling the Parish Office. Baptisms are celebrated on
the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11:30 AM

MARRIAGE GUIDELINES

The engaged couple should meet with the pastor six
months before the wedding date and enroll in Marriage
Preparation class. One party should be a registered
parishioner.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you have an intention you would like mentioned in
prayer or if you would like to be part of the prayer
chain, call Mary Corbin (206) 842-2974, Helen
Quitsdorff (206) 842- 3127, or the Parish Office

Act of Hope

***O My God, relying on your infinite goodness and promises. I hope to
obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting. Through
the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. AMEN***

Monday February 22	Tuesday February 23	Wednesday February 24	Thursday February 25	Friday February 26	Saturday February 27	Sunday February 28
Communion Service 9:00 AM Centering Prayer 9:30 AM Rosary 5:30 PM Catholics Come Home Com. 7:00 PM	Mass 9:00 AM Bible Study 9:30 – 11:00 AM Rosary 5:30 Contemporary Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM RCIA 7:30	PREP (7 th & 8 th) 6:30 PM Rosary 5:30 PM	Mass 9:00 AM PREP (K - 6 th) 2:30 PM 4:00 PM Rosary 5:30 PM	Mass 9:00 AM †Ivan Suryan by Anderson Family Perpetual Adoration 9:30 AM until Sat. 4:00 PM SCCS Fish Fry in Conger 5:30 – 7:30 PM Stations of the Cross in church 7:30 PM	Mass 9:00 AM Legion of Mary 9:30 AM Liturgical Choir Rehearsal 3:30 PM Reconciliation 4:00 – 4:45 PM Vigil Mass 5:00 PM	2 nd Sunday of Lent Mass 8:00 AM Mass 10:00 AM Youth Group 5:30 PM Meditative Mass 7:00 PM

Note: PREP? PREP for what? PREP is Parish Religious Education Program. Get your children PREPped.

SUNDAY MASS SERVICE ROSTER

Saturday, February 27 (5:00 PM)

Celebrant: **Fr Emmett Carroll, SJ**
Eucharistic Ministers: Janet Mullins (HEM)
E. Okada, V. Sorenson
Alter Servers: Sam, Spencer & Mollie Alpaugh
Sam Maher
Ushers: F. Jacobson; J. Willman
Lector: Len Beil
Music from the Liturgical Choir

Sunday, February 28 (8:00 AM)

Celebrant: **Fr Emmett Carroll, SJ**
Eucharistic Ministers: Mike MacEvitt (HEM)
A.L. MacEvitt; A. Mancebo
Alter Servers: Jonathon, Rebecca & Maria Gallivan
Ushers: G. Cruz, G. Broom, K. Carlson
Lector: Marybeth Rauch

Sunday, February 28 (10:00 AM)

Celebrant: **Fr Emmett Carroll, SJ**
Eucharistic Ministers: Don Harrington (HEM)
J. Gildner, T. Perez, M. Stephens,
P. Velasquez, L. Van Dyke
Alter Servers: J. Gildner Jr., K. Matthews
Stefani, Lilia & Nic Paul
Ushers: M. McDevitt, J. Stratz
Lector: Joanne Croghan
Music from the Contemporary Choir

Sunday, February 28 (7:00 PM)

Celebrant: **Fr. Emmett Carroll, SJ**
Eucharistic Ministers: Dick Hassell (HEM)
M. McDonald, O. Earhart
Alter Servers: Liam & Rory Gallivan, Emily Neer
Ushers: R. Earhart; OPEN!!!!
Lector: Joe Rochelle
Meditative Music

DAILY MASS AND HOUSE CALLS ROSTER

Sunday February 28

House Call Route 1 Don Riddell
House Call Route 2 Rita Elsberry
House Call Route 3 Dick Hassell
House Call Route 4 Matt Keller

House Call Route 5 Marcia Kilbane
House Call Route 6 Susan Lester
Communion Minister March 1: John Keller
Route 3 is Island Health
Route 5 is Messenger House

DAILY READINGS

Monday, Feb 22: 1 Peter 3:1-4; Matthew 16; 16-19; Psalm 23; 1-3a, 4-6
Tuesday, Feb. 23: Isaiah 55: 10-11; Matthew 6: 7-15; Psalm 89; 1-2
Wednesday, Feb 24: Jonah 3; 1-10; Luke 11; 29-32; Psalm 24; 6,3,22
Thursday, Feb 25: Esther C;12,14-16,23-25; Matthew 7;7-12; Psalm 5;2-3
Friday, Feb 26: Ezekiel 18; 21-28; Matthew 5; 20-26; Psalm 24; 17-18
Saturday, Feb 27: Deuteronomy 26; 16-19; Matthew 5; 43-48; Psalm 18; 8

PARISH BEAT (NOTICES AND INVITATIONS)

ATTENTION ALL SAINT CECILIA PARISH GIRL SCOUTS: March 7th is Girl Scout Sunday, and all parish Girl Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms to the 10:00 am Mass. Scouts will greet people before Mass, serve coffee and doughnuts and cleanup afterward. Contact Debbie Menagh via phone (206) 842-8466 or via e-mail at dlmenagh@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

OUR FAITH; OUR FUTURE. Parishioners are invited to go on line and view a short film celebrating the new art and landscape elements for the Faith Center. In "Finishing Our Faith Center" artists and fundraisers from Saint Cecilia Parish display their talents as they seek the last few \$\$ to "Jazz Up" the new Faith Center. Our talented media wizard, Mary Dombrowski has produced the film in 2 parts totaling 14 minutes. See www.youtube.com, search: "Finishing Our Faith Center"

PREP NOTES FROM TERRY MARKULY

First Reconciliation and First Communion Parent Meetings

First Reconciliation meeting Tuesday, Feb. 23 7:00-8:30 PM in Conger Hall

First Communion meeting Tuesday, Mar 9 7:00-8:30 PM in Conger Hall

This meeting, just for parents, will offer a brief overview of the sacrament and simple ideas for preparing the children at home. This will include a showing of the suggested books for home reading. At this point, we do not have babysitting, BUT if any Girl Scout needs some time for their badge, please contact Ms. Markuly via phone (206) 842-3594 ext. 102 or e-mail via tmarkuly@saintcparish.org. We will then see what we can do so all parents will be able to come.

SAY "CHEESE", IT'S PHOTO TIME AGAIN! Stop by after Mass and sign up for your family portrait for the 2010 Pictorial Directory. Participants will receive a free 8 x 10 portrait and the new 2010 Parish directory. This is a great opportunity to finally get that family portrait taken that you never seem to get around to doing, as well as show your active participation in our parish community. You may also go online to schedule yourself via the following website.

<http://www.appointment-plus3.com/ap/stceciacatholicbainbridgeisland/index.php?page=10>

ST VINCENT de PAUL ESTERMAN CONFERENCE NEWS. The St Vincent de Paul conferences serving the Olympic and Kitsap peninsulas met at St Cecilia on Thursday, Feb 11, 2010. Nineteen Vincentians and the St Cecilia office staff met for a working lunch meeting. Thank you for your continuing support with food and monetary contributions and helping your neighbors stretch their grocery supplies and paying for critical needs. We'll soon have our Spring Checkup/ Easter visit project.

CATHOLICS COME HOME St. Cecilia's Parish will offer a six-week series entitled "Catholics Come Home", beginning April 6, 2010 at 7:00 PM at the Church hall. The sessions are for non-practicing Catholics who are seeking answers and are interested in returning to the Church. If you know a lapsed Catholic, please invite them to join us. For more information, contact Terry Markuly via phone at (206) 842-3594 ext. 102 or via e-mail at tmarkuly@saintcparish.org

WELCOME TO SAINT CECILIA CHURCH! If you are new to the parish, please take a few moments and fill out the following form. The completed form can be dropped in the collection basket or left with Parish Secretary in the office.

Name: _____ Phone _____
Address _____
I am interested in becoming a Catholic _____ new to the area _____ a returning Catholic _____
I am interested in RCIA Classes _____ and /or _____
Would you be interested in attending our Listening Sessions? _____

FEATURES FOR INFORMATION, INTEREST AND EDUCATION

GOOD NEWS FROM ST. CECILIA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Take advantage of our Early Registration Discount by enrolling by March 15th. Most of our current families are enrolling, and here is what they are saying:

- ⊕ Small class size and excellent educational standards
- ⊕ Strong sense of community, religion & academics
- ⊕ Love the school and wonderful teachers and class sizes
- ⊕ A wonderful staff that could not be any better. Everyone has a positive attitude and respect for one another.
- ⊕ Community/religious education (Catholic teaching on social justice). Nurturing teachers. My child loves it here!
- ⊕ We are happy with the formation and education that SCCS is giving our child.
- ⊕ The teachers; emphasis on Catholic identity and powerful learning opportunities
- ⊕ My child has blossomed while at SCCS. New friends, bringing their school skills up. Anxiety has decreased tremendously.
- ⊕ My child loves it here. They are thriving and feel connected. As a parent I like it here too.

To learn more about how your family can benefit from a Catholic education, call the school at 842-2017, or online at www.saintceciliaschool.org.

THAT'S LIFE – Kerry Daly's weekly feature on the sanctity of life

The following is from *from Evangelium Vitae, Pope John Paul II*

It is frequently asserted that contraception, if made safe and available to all, is the most effective remedy against abortion. The Catholic Church is then accused of actually promoting abortion, because she obstinately continues to teach the moral unlawfulness of contraception. When looked at carefully, this objection is clearly unfounded. It may be that many people use contraception with a view to excluding the subsequent temptation of abortion. But the negative values inherent in the "contraceptive mentality" -- which is very different from responsible parenthood, lived in respect for the full truth of the conjugal act -- are such that they in fact strengthen this temptation when an unwanted life is conceived. Indeed, the pro-abortion culture is especially strong precisely where the Church's teaching on contraception is rejected. Certainly, from the moral point of view contraception and abortion are specifically different evils: the former contradicts the full truth of the sexual act as the proper expression of conjugal love, while the latter destroys the life of a human being; the former is opposed to the virtue of chastity in marriage, the latter is opposed to the virtue of justice and directly violates the divine commandment "You shall not kill".

(Editor's Note: Please take part in 40 Days for Life this Lent. Contact Kerry @ (360) 697-7334)

KNOW OUR CATHOLIC FAITH THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE MYSTERIES OF JESUS' PUBLIC LIFE submitted by Patrick Middleton

The proclamation of the Kingdom of God

543 *Everyone* is called to enter the kingdom. First announced to the children of Israel, this messianic kingdom is intended to accept men of all nations. To enter it, one must first accept Jesus' word: The word of the Lord is compared to a seed which is sown in a field; those who hear it with faith and are numbered among the little flock of Christ have truly received the kingdom. Then, by its own power, the seed sprouts and grows until the harvest. [Lumen Gentium 5]

544 The kingdom belongs *to the poor and lowly*, which means those who have accepted it with humble hearts. Jesus is sent to "preach good news to the poor", he declares them blessed, for "theirs is the kingdom of heaven." To them -- the "little ones" -- the Father is pleased to reveal what remains hidden from the wise and the learned. Jesus shares the life of the poor, from the cradle to the cross; he experiences hunger, thirst, and privation. Jesus identifies himself with the poor of every kind and makes active love toward them the condition for entering his kingdom.

[Next week: The proclamation of the Kingdom of God cont'd]

CATHOLICS COME HOME

Do you know someone who has left the Church? Most of us do not have to look very far to find non-practicing Catholics in our circle of family and friends. Many of us are concerned about these loved ones, but we don't know how to help them. Obviously, most of them are searching, but how can we help them find their way home?

As baptized, practicing Catholics, we have a precious gift of faith and love from the Lord that needs to be shared with our non-practicing brothers and sisters. First, we need to pray for them. Next, we need to extend a personal invitation to them to come home to the Catholic Church. Most non-practicing Catholics are waiting for an invitation to return. Many mistakenly think they are ex-communicated and are not welcome to return for a variety of reasons.

Many non-practicing Catholics carry with them a tremendous amount of guilt and misinformation about the Church and are afraid of approaching the Church for fear of being rejected. You can make a tremendous difference in someone's life simply by reaching out to them and telling them that we miss them and would like for them to come back home to our Church family.

Here at St. Cecilia's Parish we have a special program to help non-practicing Catholics return to the Church entitled "Catholics Come Home". The next series begins April 6, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Church hall. Please pass this article on to anyone who might be interested. As stated in the Parish Beat news section, more information can be obtained by contacting our Parish coordinator for "Catholics Come Home", Terry Markuly via phone at (206) 842-3594 ext. 102 or via e-mail at tmarkuly@saintcparish.org. Visit the website: CatholicsComeHome.org

(Editor's note: Next week read about the homecoming of Martha Wild King, The Frugal Catholic)

FROM PAGE 1; CONTINUATION OF "MEMENTO MORI"

Petrarca discovered that the more worthwhile climb is really one of the soul, to aspire for heaven. Life truly requires that we seize each moment to be the best we can be in virtue. True happiness will not be found in chasing passions, but by the steady climb up the ladder of the spirit, so as to one day seize the highest summit and see the face of God.

The Dominican theologian Thomas Aquinas thoughtfully considered the true meaning of life. In his *Summa Theologiae*, Aquinas understood the purpose of life to be in the achievement of reaching the maximum level of personal happiness. To attain the optimal level of happiness, one has to be able to satisfy the deepest yearning within the human person. In the end, Aquinas argued against the proposal that human happiness is to be found in wealth, honor, achievement, fame, power, or bodily pleasure. He found that these conventional sources of happiness are either temporary, constrained by time, stolen, able to be destroyed or corroded. Aquinas concluded that the greatest happiness an individual can obtain is the vision of God, to be reconciled completely with the source of all life. What matters is eternal – God. Aquinas was reinforcing St. Augustine's conclusion in the *Confessions*: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

It all starts and ends with God. A superior Latin phrase to remind us how to live in a way pleasing to God is; *Memento Mori* or remember that you are mortal. On Ash Wednesday (*Deis cinerum* or day of ashes) we were reminded "Remember man that thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return." If we remember our mortality in every situation in ordinary life, where we all do our commonplace living, we are sure to seize each moment. If you lived this moment and the next as though it were your last, wouldn't you tell your loved ones that you loved them? Would you smile more at people? Would you give some money to the poor? Would you want to apologize for the wrong that you have done?

One great humble way to get back on the right path towards heaven is by ridding ourselves of that heavy weight of sin that we carry around via the great Sacrament of Reconciliation. What better way to seize the day than to become like an innocent babe the minute you walk out of that confessional – pure enough to meet God. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless turn from your sins and become like little children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven." What are you waiting for? *Memento Mori, so Carpe Diem*. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time. ~Mark Twain