

# Penance and Conversion Liberate Us for Love

Following is the lenten message of Pope John Paul II, given through Cor Unum, the pontifical council which provides information and coordinates services for Catholic and human development organizations and projects around the world.

"Who is my neighbor?"

You will remember: It was with the parable of the Good Samaritan that Jesus answered this question posed by a lawyer who had just acknowledged what he read in the law, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."



The Good Samaritan is in the first place Christ himself; he is the one who approached us first and made us his neighbor, so as to help us, to heal us and to save us. "He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death even death on a cross."

If there is still some distance between God and

ourselves, that can only be due to us and to the obstacles we place in the way of his coming close: the sin which is in our heart, the injustices that we commit, the hatred and divisions that we foster, everything that still prevents us from loving God with all our heart and all our strength. The time of Lent is the special time for purification and penance, so as to allow our Savior to make us his neighbor and save us by his love.

The second commandment is similar to the first and cannot be separated from it. We love others with that selfsame love which God puts into our hearts and with which he loves them. Here too, how many obstacles in the way of making others our neighbor. We do not love God and our neighbor enough. Why do we still have so many difficulties in leaving the important but insufficient stage of thought, declarations or protestations, in order to become truly immigrants with the immigrants, refugees with the refugees, and poor alongside those who lack everything?

The liturgical period of Lent is given us in and through the Church in order to purify us of that remainder of selfishness and excessive attachment to things — material or otherwise — which keeps us apart from those who have a right to our help, principally those who, whether physically near or far, are unable to live their lives with dignity as men and women created by God in his image and likeness.

Allow yourselves, then, to be imbued by the spirit of penance and conversion, which is the spirit of love and sharing. Imitating Christ, draw close to those who have been left naked and wounded, those whom the world ignores or rejects. Take part in all that is being done in your local church to help Christians and all people of good will to obtain for each one of their brothers and sisters the means, including the material means, of living with dignity and of taking upon themselves their own human and spiritual advancement and that of their families.

May the lenten collection, even in poor countries allow you, through sharing, to help the local churches of still less favored countries fulfill their mission as Good Samaritans toward those for whom they are immediately responsible — their own poor, the undernourished, those who are denied justice, those who are still unable to ensure their own development and the development of their communities.

Penance, conversion. This is the road to follow; not a sad one, but a liberating one suggested by the lenten period.

And if we still ask the question, "Who is my neighbor?" we shall read the answer on the face of the Risen One and hear it from his lips. "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."



**PLAY** — Greece Olympia Drama presents "Anything Goes" by Cole Porter, at 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 18-20, Greece Olympia High School auditorium. Tickets \$3.50, group rates for Thursday performance; Gold Card senior citizens, free. For reservations call 865-7889.

**GIFT SALE** — Gifts for all occasions at Corpus Christi School's variety gift sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 15 through 18.

**COMEDY** — Nazareth Arts Center to present the McCarter Theatre on tour in "Arms and the Man," by George Bernard Shaw, at 8:30 p.m., on Friday, March 19. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for students.

**SPRING LECTURES** — On architecture begins at 10:30 a.m., on Friday, March 12, in Memorial Art Gallery auditorium with "Manors and Manners: The Great Houses of England." Tickets for individual lectures are \$3 for members; \$3.50 for non-members; series tickets are \$17 for members and \$20 for non-members.

**EXHIBIT** — of "Traditional Crafts of Saudi Arabia," March 13 through April 25, at Memorial Art Gallery.

**DISPLAY** — "Making Public Spaces Work," sponsored by the Women's Coalition for Downtown, 8 a.m., to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, March 8-16.

**COMPUTER SATURDAY** — Continuous computer demonstration 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., computer informational lectures, 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., Saturday, March 13, Penfield Public Library.

**FILMS** — "Shore Leave," 2 p.m., Saturday, March 13, Pittsford Community Library.

**CHILDREN'S FILMS** — "String 'In the Forest," 10:30 a.m., Friday, March 12, Janes Library, 200 Fairport Road; "Tom Thumb," 12:30 p.m., Saturday, March 13, Pittsford Community Library; "Mole as a Chemist," 1 p.m., Saturday, March 13, Greece Public Library; "Soapbox Derby," 2 p.m., March 13, Chili Public Library; "Magic Ball," 2 p.m., Saturday, March 13, Gates Public Library; "Granny Lives in Galway," 2:30 p.m., Saturday, March 13, Lowden Point Branch Library.

**CHORAL CONCERT** — Featuring the Garson Meyer Center Downtowners and The Sweden Senior Center Chorus, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., Friday, March 12 at Hochstein Music School, 50 N. Plymouth Ave., downtown. Free

**KILBOURN HALL** — American popular song series, featuring The Golden Age, 1920-1939, songs by Berlin, Gershwin, Kern, Porter and Rodgers & Hart, 8 p.m., Monday, March 15. Tickets, \$6.50. Faculty Recital, 8 p.m., Wednesday, March 17, Free: Jazz Ensemble IV Concert, 8 p.m., Thursday, March 18, free.

**EASTMAN THEATRE** — Eastman Percussion Ensemble Concert, John Beck, conductor, 8 p.m., Tuesday, March 16.

**SENIOR MATINEES** — "Judge Priest" starring Will Rogers, 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 11, George Eastman House.

**NFP SESSIONS** Sponsored by the Natural Family Planning Education Rochester, 7:30-9 p.m., on Friday, March 12 at Main Conference room, Rochester General Hospital, and room B-310, Lincoln Hall, Community College of the Finger Lakes, Canandaigua.

**NAZARETH THEATRE** — The Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, 8:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, March 12-13, main auditorium, Nazareth College Arts Center. Tickets, \$10 and for students \$8. Available at Nazareth ticket office, 586-2420.

**IRISH MUSICAL** — With

Tommy Maken and Liam Clancy, 8 p.m., Sunday, March 14, main auditorium, Nazareth College Arts Center. Tickets, \$10.

**FORUM** — Josephine Genovese, member of Rochester City School Board on the relationship of education to the broader community of Monroe,

noon to 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 17, Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St.

**MEETING** — The Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs monthly board at 11 a.m., on Thursday, March 11 at Howard Johnson's, Twelve Corners. A luncheon will be

at noon. Subject for the meeting will be a future community project for the benefit of St. Mary's Hospital. For luncheon reservations, call Joan Weiss, 225-3145.

**MUSIC** — The Canaltown Chorale of Palmyra will present Brahms "German Requiem" at 7:30 p.m., on

Sunday, March 28, at the First Baptist Church of Macedon. Guest soloists will be Nicole Philibosian and Paul Rowe.

**A SOCIAL** — Sunday dance sponsored by the 50 Plus Social Club, 2 to 5 p.m., Sundays, March 14, 21, and 28, Danforth House, 200 West Ave.

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