

Ashes provide fertile ground for growth as Lent begins

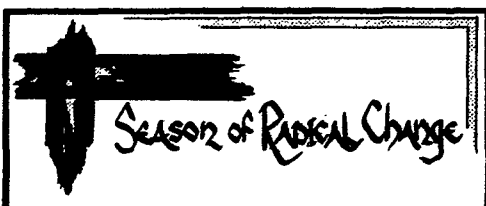
By Father Thomas P. Mull
Guest contributor

The Roman Church ushered in a new season of Lent as the ashes were pressed to our faithful's foreheads during the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Lent begins with the use of ashes as a sign of repentance and hope.

The ancient story of the Phoenix rising from the ashes reminds us that there is hope even in death. The words, "turn away from sin and believe in the gospel," were meant to summon the believer to a new dimension of belief with a renewed faith. Ashes the sign of death, life, hope.

Lent is not all fasting and abstinence. It is not just "doing penance." Lent is not just hearing the same Scripture readings again. It is not just purple vestments and subdued liturgical environment. Lent is also a time for wonder and awe. It is a season to relax and be overwhelmed with our God's ever-present existence, which is expressed in signs and symbols.

This year's celebration will speak of



water, light, resurrection, transfiguration, temptation and penance. It will hold high before us the Cross of Jesus and challenge us to look and love. Lent will open before us the ancient stories of creation "out of the clay of the earth;" the importance of family "that you will be a blessing;" the hope that water can flow from a stone; the choice of a shepherd to lead the chosen people "there, anoint him, for this is he;" the promise of a spirit, "I will put my spirit in you that you may live ...;" the suffering servant.

The synod sessions, too, will provide food for thought. Many images of the many avenues God has chosen to touch we creatures of the earth.

Easter is not just a time of jelly beans and bunnies. Nor is it simply a time of spring flowers and lilies. Easter is not

simply a time for white vestments and "alleluias" sung.

There is the baptism water, Easter water, paschal candle, aroma of chrism, the empty tomb, the explaining angel, the resurrection, "they saw and they believed," the Spirit's giving, "then He breathed on them: receive the Holy Spirit;" the good shepherd, "I came that they might have life;" the disciples of Emmaus, "and they recognized him in the breaking of the bread;" the early activity of the apostles "day by day the Lord added to their numbers;" the first deacons, "Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicholas;" and the freshness of Spirit. These challenge the senses to be open to renew the possibilities of a deepening experience of God.

Catechumens becoming neophytes, candidates becoming fully initiated Christians, live people joyously calling us to our entrance into the Christian community. People in search of quiet moments of reflection and prayer. All of these provide living reminders that we are a people who have been gifted

by God in so many ways. The Lent-Easter-Pentecost mysteries invite us to taste of these gifts and to drink deeply of God's grace. They invite an ever-deepening experience of God's love in our lives and we open ourselves to the possibilities that we, too, can be converted and renewed in the Spirit.

Yes, the ashes of Feb. 24 provide the fertilizer of today. The journey has begun. With nurturing and prayer, these Lenten/Easter days can become times of growth, allowing us to become more beautiful than any Easter lily. We have entered days which invite our excited senses to wonder and awe.

Do not allow these days to be dull and boring. Open your eyes of faith and appreciate the God's wonder until we become "like God" and praise God forever in heaven. In future weeks, this column will provide insight into various signs and symbols that will bring our liturgy alive and invite us to that "new life" of Easter joy.

Father Mull is priest-consultant to the diocesan Office of Liturgy.

LENTEN
Dining Guide

BRADDOCKS BAY
Restaurant

Serving Fish & Seafood
Specials Every
Friday

Sunday Breakfast
Lunch Daily

72 Manitou Rd. • 342-7770

THE WEBSTER
COLUMBUS
CENTER

SERVING DINNERS
EVERY FRIDAY, 5-8P.M.
Fish • Pasta • Chicken • Beef

Childrens Portions Available

TAKE OUTS TOO!

70 Barrett Dr.
Webster, NY
872-6090

THE LAMP LIGHTER
A Special Place for Special People

March Special
A TASTE OF ITALY
includes:
Chicken Escarole Soup
Caesar Salad
Veal Parmigiana
Pollo Alfredo
Tortellini
plus
Cannoli for Dessert
All for \$14.50

Serving Lunch
Mon.-Fri. 11:30am-2pm
Dinner Mon.-Thurs., 5-10pm
Fri.-Sat., 5-11pm
Located Down the Road from the
Greece Marriott
831 Fetzner Rd.
corner Maiden Lane
225-2500

CAPTAIN JIM'S
Fish Market & Restaurant

FOR ALL YOUR LENTEN SEAFOOD NEEDS

- Fresh & Cooked Seafood • Fish Frys • Clams
- Scallops • Shrimp • Fresh Fillets • Baked Dinners
- Sandwiches • Cooked Fish By The Pound

DINE-IN OUR TAKE-OUT—PHONE ORDERS GLADLY ACCEPTED

2329 E. Main St.
(Corner of E. Main & Winton) **482-3640**

OLYMPIA
NEIGHBORHOOD
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
SERVING BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

| | |
|--|---|
| GATES 2380 Lyell Ave. at Howard Road near St. Theodore's 6:30a.m.-10:00p.m. 429-8231 | GREECE 570 Stone Rd. at Dewey Ave. near St. Charles 6:00a.m.-10:00p.m. 663-3071 |
|--|---|

STOP BY AND SEE OUR NEWLY
REMODELED LYELL AVE.
RESTAURANT

LENTEN SPECIALS
Best Fish Fry
In Town!
FRESH HADDOCK
Beer Battered, Breaded or
Broiled—served Everyday
Many Other Daily Specials

FREE GLASS OF HOUSE WINE WITH ANY
DINNER SUNDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY
BY REQUEST ONLY
USE THIS AD FOR

10% OFF
Per guest check at either location.
Senior Citizen Discount everyday except Friday
Not valid with other coupons. Not valid on Fridays
Coupon Expires 3/11/93 c.c.

MasterCard VISA

HICKS & MCCARTHY
In The Heart Of Pittsford Village

-FRIDAY SPECIAL-
English Battered
Haddock or Cod Fish Fry

\$1.00 OFF
ANY DINNER ENTREE
WITH THIS AD - EXPIRES 3/12/93

586-0938

Pittsford:
23 South Main St.
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
Mon.-Sat. 7:00am-8:00pm
Friday til 9:00pm; Sunday til 3:00pm

**STOP BY PETALS THIS
LENTEN SEASON!**

Featuring:
FRIDAY FISH FRY
Fresh, Deep Fried Haddock
served with french fries, coleslaw, rolls & butter.
\$8.95

Effective Fridays 2/26-4/9

PETALS ROCHESTER **Marriott**
THRUWAY

Rochester Marriott Thruway
5257 W. Henrietta Rd. • (716) 359-1800