

Assumption plans several Lenten events

FAIRPORT — The following Lenten activities will be held at Church of the Assumption, 20 East Ave.

• **March 18:** Deacon Dick McCorry will present "Into New Wineskins: A Spirituality of Change." The talk will be held at 7 p.m. in the new living room of the church's parish ministry center.

• **March 28:** Parish youths will present a living Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.

• **March 31:** Pastoral Associate Dr. Dem Mack will give a talk entitled "Fresh Look @ the Scriptures We Hear on Sundays," to be held in the new living room of the church's parish ministry center.

• **Wednesdays throughout Lent:** Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.

The church will also be the starting point for an ecumenical Way of the Cross through Fairport, which begins at noon on Good Friday, April 18. The event is being sponsored by the Perinton Pastoral Association.

Those who would like to participate in the event are asked to arrive at the church's parking lot just prior to noon.

For more information on the parish events or the ecumenical Way of the Cross, call the parish office at 585/388-0040.

Mending relations at Lent

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

ROCHESTER — Lenten sacrifice is often linked with suspending a favorite pastime, such as watching television or eating candy or desserts.

Yet it's activity, rather than abstaining, that will take priority this Lent at Nazareth Academy. Members of the all-female high school's campus ministry are asking fellow students to work on healing relationships — with an end result that will hopefully bear fruit well beyond the Lenten season.

Campus-ministry members are creating multicolored bracelets to be distributed during services at school on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Students will be asked to wear the bracelets throughout Lent, focusing each week on a color that represents a different relationship in their lives: with a teacher, a friend, a parent, etc. The idea is to seek reconciliation where it's most needed — including reconciliation with God.

Three members of the campus ministry, all Nazareth seniors, told the *Catholic Courier* that the bracelet initiative is designed to have deeper effects than giving something up for Lent.

"Forgiving somebody takes more will — although I am a little addicted to caffeine," said Laura Grzywna, 17.

"You give something up for 40 days, and you go right back to it," said Terese Vaccaro, 18. But by working on relationships, she noted, "You're actually doing something to improve what you already



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Nazareth Academy junior Colleen Clark makes bracelets for fellow students Feb. 14, which will remind the wearers to focus on mending relationships during Lent.

have."

"It's just something more permanent," agreed Janelle Borkowski, 17. She added that the bracelets embody the spiritual intent of Lent, saying, "I think it's really good, sticking with the whole Lenten preparing for Easter. You want to do everything you can to improve your life, and it's important to improve relationships that are important to you. Lent is a very good time to reflect on who you are as a person."

The students are not necessarily opposed to giving things up for Lent. But Terese, who attends Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish, said she isn't sure whether people "get in touch with the fact it's a sacrifice because Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice."

Among the campus ministry's other Lenten initiatives is the "Mustard Seed Card" project. Cards containing numerous slots for quarters will be placed in classrooms, with money collected from the effort being forwarded to help fight children's hunger in Africa. Whether it be donating money or improving relationships, Laura said such activities need not be limited to the

Lenten season.

"In my mind, I think Lent should be an ongoing process," stated Laura, from St. John the Evangelist in Greece. "This is just part of our duty — we're supposed to be there for each other. It's our duty in life."

A valid point, to be sure — but Terese said she still feels the need for a special time of year to examine her faith. Terese acknowledged that she has struggled recently to attend church on a regular basis, so she "definitely" hopes her Lenten experience will provide a spark.

"For me, I kind of need to get a kick in the right direction now and then," Terese explained. "Throughout the year things come up. Your mind-set, it goes into so many different places."

Janelle, from St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport, remarked that during the rest of the year, the meaning of Jesus' sacrifice may not provoke the deep reflection it deserves. But Lent, she said, "kind of brings back the fire."

Janelle said her Lenten experience last year, when she took part in a deeply moving Living Stations of the Cross at her parish, sparked a fire that extended beyond Easter. "Every once in a while I think about that. It kind of stays with me, so it did make a difference," she said.

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