



# Huron-Superior Catholic

## DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

### Catholic Culture Update #28

#### Quote to carry through the week

“The Lord is kind and merciful.” Ps. 103:8a

**March 20 is the Third Sunday of Lent. “Practice of Faith –** In this reading from Exodus, we can only imagine Moses as awestruck as a voice called to him from the burning bush. God called Moses by name, commanding him to remove his sandals, for that area was holy ground. Then we hear the name of all names: the great I AM. How often do we allow ourselves the opportunity to be mystified by the presence of our Lord? Do we stop at the end of each day to reflect on God’s presence?

- ✚ In an extended prayer time, contemplate the moments when you felt God in your midst during the past several years and journal about them.
- ✚ When you next enter a Catholic church, think about why we genuflect when adoration is taking place or bow when the reserved Eucharist is not exposed. This prayerful action confirms our belief in God’s presence in a holy place where our expressions of reverence are most appropriate.
- ✚ Consider how you honour God’s presence during the day.” AT HOME with the WORD 2022, Liturgy Training Publications, page 53

**Scripture Insights** > “Our Old Testament reading for today is well known to us – likely one we have heard since childhood; Moses, who is tending his father-in-law’s flock at the base of Mount Horeb, may be looking for distractions to while away the time when he sees a bush in flames just off the path. What is remarkable is not the burning bush itself but its staying power. The bush is not consumed. As many of us would, Moses decides to check it out. Moses’ openness becomes God’s cue to call out to him, indeed, to summon him far beyond what he believes himself capable. Notice that when God calls him by name, Moses responds simply, “Here I am.” In Hebrew, this is just one word, *hinneni*. It is how Abraham responded to God at the ultimate test of his faith (Genesis 22) and how many prophets after him also will respond to their call. Once God alerts Moses to the holy ground and identifies himself in the covenantal tradition of Moses’ ancestors, Moses lowers his face in fear but remains. Much staying power will be required of him as well in the coming years. God then reveals his intentions to bring the Israelites out of oppression in Egypt into this very wilderness where they will worship God in freedom. Moses is God’s chosen prophet and leader. This scene culminates when, at Moses’ request, God further reveals the divine name, YHWH, a form of the

verb “to be.” God is the essence of being, the “A AM,” a name so sacred that it should not be uttered. Our reverence is indicated in the address, “LORD.”

- ✚ Moses is snatched out of his daily routine and called to be a leader and God’s spokesperson, or “prophet.” Are you open to God calling you in new ways?
- ✚ Reflect on God as the essence of being. Does this change your concept of God?
- ✚ How have you been challenged beyond your supposed capabilities in your life? Do you have the staying power to which God calls us? How might you build such endurance?” AT HOME with the WORD 2022, Liturgy Training Publications, page 53

March 20/21 is the **Vernal Equinox**. “On two days of the year, one at the beginning of spring and one at the beginning of fall, day and night are each exactly 12 hours long. That’s what the word equinox means (equal days and equal nights). The word vernal means “spring.” Today marks the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. From now until the autumnal equinox, days will be longer than nights. The most important date of the Christian liturgical year, the date of Easter, is determined by the vernal equinox. For most Roman Catholic and Protestant Christians, Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the equinox. That can fall any time between March 22 and April 25. The vernal equinox occurs during Lent. In fact, the word Lent is related to the word lengthen because during Lent the days lengthen and the nights get shorter. The word Lent also is an old word for springtime.” Companion to the Calendar – A Guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year, second ed., page 56 Reflect: Did colonization make this connection between vernal equinox and Lent and Springtime? What season is it in the Southern Hemisphere?

March 22 is World Water Day. The theme this year is “**Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible**.” Every year, the World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. The theme also sets the focus for the annual World Water Development Report. An annual theme is proposed by UN-Water Members and Partners two to three years in advance. At its meeting in Rome last week, UN-Water decided that “Groundwater: making the invisible visible” – proposed by IGRAC – will be the theme for the World Water Day 2022. The 30th meeting of UN-Water was held at the headquarters of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome, Italy. Over 50 delegates of UN-Water Members and Partners and 23 observers from governments and other organizations attended this meeting.” Go to <https://www.un-igrac.org/news/groundwater-making-invisible-visible-theme-world-water-day-2022#:for> more information. When I see people buying cases of bottled water, my stomach is sick. Our water supply is good. Aquifers are being emptied by companies withdrawing water in order to put it in bottles. What will we do when there is no more freshwater that has not been contaminated by plastics?

March 25 is the Solemnity of the **Annunciation of the Lord**. “Exactly nine months before Christmas, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, when the angel brought to Mary the amazing news that she would be the Mother of God’s Son. On this day, as in Christmas Time, we contemplate the wonder of the Incarnation: in

Jesus, God took on our flesh, becoming like us in all things but sin. This solemnity almost always falls during Lent, and this seems appropriate because it was the Incarnation that made the Passion possible. In becoming one of us, Christ became capable of suffering as we suffer; he made himself vulnerable as we are vulnerable. “Beyond our grasp, he chose to come within our grasp,” wrote St. Leo the Great. “Existing before time began, he began to exist at a moment in time. Lord of the universe, he hid his infinite glory and took the nature of a servant. Incapable of suffering as God, he did not refuse to be a man, capable of suffering. Immortal, he chose to be subject to the laws of death” (Office of Readings, Volume II, p. 1746). The Annunciation is a Solemnity of the Lord, but it is also a day to give thanks to and for Mary. The Gospel account of the Annunciation in Luke reveals a great wonder: God sought the free consent of a young girl to carry out his plan for us. God asked for help! No wonder so many artists throughout the ages have chosen to depict this moment of decision that changed the world for ever.” Companion to the Calendar- A guide to the Saints, Seasons, and Holidays of the Year – second edition, page 57 *Loving Mary thank you for agreeing to be Jesus’ mother. May we follow God’s will as you did.* Announce the Good News today to those around you.

### **CEW 2022 Wednesday’s theme of Restore Together**

Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double. Zech. 9:12

### **The virtues of the month of March are Discipleship and Solidarity – L’solidarité A quote to encourage discipleship**

A spiritual person tries less to be godly than to be deeply human. Rev. William Sloan Coffin, Jr.

**Our Mission Statement – We strive to affirm the sacredness of life and respect for all creation. Take a drink of water to be grateful for its ability to quench our thirst.**

### **Strategic Directions – Engagement with our Employees and Partners**

**We will** increase our system’s cultural competency, understanding of special needs, and respect for the viewpoints of diverse populations. This is especially challenging when the viewpoints of diverse populations among the privileged create havoc and have no consideration of the common good. We have to teach our students how to respectfully disagree so these types of conflicts do not happen in the future.

### **Twenty-first Century Learning**

<http://wccm.org/> > World Community for Christian Meditation > This is a site for Christian Meditation for teachers and students alike.

[www.CARFLEO.org](http://www.CARFLEO.org) > best kept secret for religious education teachers of every grade

[www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2022-02/pope-francis-lenten-message-sow-seeds-of-goodness.html](http://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2022-02/pope-francis-lenten-message-sow-seeds-of-goodness.html) - Pope Francis’ Lenten message

[www.BlueCommunityCSJ.org](http://www.BlueCommunityCSJ.org) > Check this out. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Canada have taken up a stand for water in our communities. We want to be good stewards of this natural resource so many generations from now will have potable water.

**A Blog for Eclectic Readers** – by Pat Carter csj

**The Whole Language – the power of extravagant tenderness** by Gregory Boyle, s.j. 2021. This book is written as a third in the series starting with Tattoos on the Heart by the same author. Father Greg helps us to have insight into the lives of recovered gang members from the city of Los Angeles, gang capital of the world. You honestly laugh and cry reading the same page as you move from insight to insight about the transformative power of love, grace and mercy. Father Greg is building the kingdom of God here on earth with his homies. I give this book 😊😊😊😊😊/5 happy faces.

**Taking Jesus to the Movies** ...A blog by Sister Pat

**The Lorax**, 2012. This is probably a movie that many of you with children have already watched, and if not watched, have read as a bedtime story. I own the book but only purchased it because one year CEW books focused on the amazing creation of trees. As a teacher covering a class this week, I was delighted to have watched this movie with a Grade 2/3 class. First of all, the music was great and the students knew every one of the lyrics and some of the dance moves. They were riveted to the screen even though some had watched it several times [“I’ve seen this movie 30 times”; I’ve seen it a hundred times.” A bit of exaggeration, me thinks. However, they were still riveted. I believe it is because there is so much truth in the story. It is about poor stewardship of the earth and how greed can build those who want to make money. Children understand that truth. I give this movie ♥♥♥♥♥/5 Thank you Grade 2/3 for making this movie such a good watch for me.

**Catholic WORD of the Week – For Those Who Read to the end...Just like the credits at the movies**

**“Jonah, Sign of** – In Matthew 12:38-42 (cf. Mk. 8:11-12; Lk 11:29-32), the scribes and Pharisees ask Jesus to produce a sign to authenticate His identity and teaching as the Messiah. Jesus responds with reference to the Prophet Jonah, who is taken as a sign of Jesus’ death and resurrection (cf. also Mt. 16:1-4). That is, the true Messiah must die and have Jonah’s experience to rise to new life. The text makes clear that this was a type of Jesus’ resurrection. The importance of hearing God’s word and responding to it seems to be implied. If such *was true* in Jonah’s day, then how much more it is *true* about Jesus, One Who is greater than Jonah? Because Jesus is the revealer of the Father (11:27), He is greater than all previous prophets and wise men; it is, therefore, critical to heed His words.” Our Sunday Visitor’s CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA, page 539