

# The FIAT Newsletter

## A Family Ministry Publication

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish & School, Omaha, NE.

August 2011

### What is FIAT?

**FIAT (Faith Integration Action Team)** is a committee of Family Ministry created to assist St. Robert parents and students in incorporating spirituality in daily living and in becoming leaders of all to Christ.

#### FIAT strives to:

- \*Actively promote parish faith formation activities, the sacraments, and the parish library.
- \*Provide resource guides for spiritual reading and family friendly media.
- \*Promote and increase family prayer and Eucharistic Adoration.
- \*Help parents better understand their role as primary educators of their children in matters of faith.

*Share the beauty  
and depth of our  
Catholic Faith!*

### Become a Member of the "Fraternity of Kindness"

**There are no officers, no meetings, and no dues.**

You must make up your mind that you want to belong to it and then begin immediately to keep the rules.

**The rules are simple - three little don'ts and three little dos.**

#### Don'ts:

1. Don't speak unkindly of anyone.
2. Don't speak unkindly to anyone.
3. Don't act unkindly toward anyone.

#### Dos:

1. Do speak kindly of someone at least once a day.
2. Do think kindly about someone at least once a day.
3. Do act kindly toward someone at least once a day.

#### For any unkindness committed:

1. Make a brief act of contrition, such as "My Jesus, mercy!"
2. Offer an apology, if possible.
3. Say a little prayer - such as "Bless N., O LORD" - for the one to whom you have been unkind.

Source: The Hidden Power of Kindness by Lawrence G. Lovasik

*Kind words can be short and easy to speak,  
but their echoes are truly endless.*

-Blessed Mother Teresa

### Rediscovering the Mass

Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011, the Catholic Church in the United States will worship according to the new translation of the Roman Missal. What brought about these changes?

In the Roman rite of the Church, the Mass was celebrated in Latin for centuries. When the Second Vatican Council allowed for the prayers of the liturgy to be translated into the vernacular, various groups worked quickly to develop an official English translation. The approach to translation used at the time aimed at communicating the general meaning of the Latin text of the Mass, rather than providing a literal translation.

When the Latin text was paraphrased, a number of rich spiritual metaphors and images were lost. **In 2001, the Vatican called for a more precise translation that gives Catholics a better sense of the richness of the Latin text.**

**The revised English translation provides a unique opportunity for Catholics to reflect on the meaning of the Mass and rediscover the splendor of the liturgy.**

Source: A Guide to the New Translation of the Mass by Edward Sri

**Profile of a Saint**  
**St. Monica**  
(332-387)  
**Feast Day August 27**  
**Patroness of Mothers**

Monica was born in 332 into a Christian family in North Africa. Her parents selected a husband for her, a pagan named Patricius, who was a bad-tempered man and unfaithful to her. To add insult to injury, his mother, who taunted her and told lies about her, lived with them. But Monica ignored the indignities they heaped on her, and practiced good works instead, giving to the poor and helping the sick while still caring for her family.

Monica and Patricius had three children. The eldest son, although a talented scholar, was a source of constant worry for Monica. She prayed constantly that he and her husband would someday join her in worship. Eventually, her faith and kindness were partially rewarded: her husband and his mother converted to Christianity.

But Monica's son seemed hopeless. He took a mistress, had a son, and ignored his mother's protests. She sought the help of her local bishop, who encouraged her. "It is not possible that the son of so many tears should perish." Eventually, Monica turned to Bishop Ambrose in Italy, who brought her son to God by appealing to his intelligence instead of his emotions.

Monica's goal came to pass, in ways even she didn't foresee. Her son became so strongly drawn to the faith that he was eventually canonized – as St. Augustine, one of the church's greatest teachers and philosophers.

Source: [Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives](#) from IMP, Inc.

*May we imitate the example of St. Monica  
and never give up encouraging  
our children's spiritual journeys.*

**Prayer to St. Monica**

*Exemplary Mother of the great Augustine, you  
perseveringly pursued your wayward son not with wild  
threats but with prayerful cries to heaven.*

*Intercede for all mothers in our day so that they may learn  
to draw their children to God. Teach them how to remain  
close to their children, even the prodigal sons and  
daughters who have sadly gone astray. Amen.*

<http://www.2heartsnetwork.org/Monica.htm>

**Need A Good Book?**

Parents recommend the following book which is available in St. Robert's Parish Library!

**The Shadow of His Wings** by Gereon Karl Goldmann, O.F.M. translated by Benedict Leutenegger

The Shadow of His Wings is the astonishing true story of the harrowing experiences of a young German seminarian drafted into Hitler's dreaded SS at the onset of World War II. Without betraying his Christian ideals, against all odds, and in the face of Evil, Gereon Goldmann was able to complete his priestly training, be ordained, and secretly minister to German Catholic soldiers and innocent civilian victims caught up in the horrors of war. How it all came to pass will astound you.

**New Beginnings**

**The beginning of the school year is a great time to establish a plan to fit prayer into your busy schedule every day.** It may take some planning by parents, but will be well worth the effort! Some suggestions:

- \* Try to provide Catholic periodicals and faith-filled reading material throughout the home and car.
- \* Tune into *KVSS 102.7 FM* at home or in the car.
- \* Make the sign of the cross each time you pass a Catholic Church to honor Christ's presence.

**Finding Christ in Ordinary Ways**

**What we really need is not extraordinary signs of Christ's presence in visions and revelations, but a sense of reverent attentiveness to this religious experience as it comes to us in ordinary ways.** Like most of the people in Jerusalem and Galilee two thousand years ago, we pass Christ and do not recognize him. This unfortunate fact was so clear to Saint Augustine that he poignantly wrote, "The only thing I really fear is Jesus passing by."

From: [A Still, Small Voice](#) by Father Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R.