



Linwood Current

If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. – Luke 9:23

What is Lent? Reprinted from The Sourcebook

Lent is the season of grace and conversion, of penance and reconciliation, of renewal of our baptismal promises. Lent is marked with seriousness, consciousness of the poorest of the poor, attention to prayer and liturgy, attentive listening to the Word of God, and “looking forward to holy Easter with joy and spiritual longing.” (Rule of Benedict, 49)

The duration of Lent varied in history: one week, three weeks, and finally six weeks. Since the third century, it encompassed forty days of fasting. Because Sundays are not days of penance, the beginning of Lent was moved back to the Wednesday preceding the First Sunday of Lent at the beginning of the sixth century. Until the eve of Vatican II, *Septuagesima* (seventy), *Sexagesima* (sixty), and *Quinquagesima* (fifty days) were the three

Sundays preceding Lent celebrated with violet vestments, creating a sort of “pre-Lent.” By that time focus on the baptismal character of Lent had almost vanished. Preparation for Baptism was replaced by preoccupation with sin and penitence.

Lent originated as days of preparation for the Easter initiation of catechumens. Vatican II restored this baptismal character and the central importance of the catechumenate to the season, along with a call for penitential practices on the part of those already baptized. (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*, 27)

Even if there are no catechumens, the whole community is called to return to its baptism and to renew its profession of faith and commitment at

the Easter Vigil. The baptismal character of Lent is one reason why it is inappropriate to empty the font of holy water during this season. During Lent, the environment is pared down. We fast from decorations and flowers and lively music, but the primary symbols remain in place: altar and ambo, cross and font, water and oil, incense and candlelight, bread and wine. None of these are removed. Even during Lent, the font and holy water continue to mark our comings and our goings - babies baptized, the deceased sprinkled, and Catholics blessing themselves with the Sign of the Cross. Another very good reason is that the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship issued a statement (3/14/03: Prot. N. 569/00L) stating that removing

cont. page 2

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It is very easy to forgive others their mistakes; it takes more grit and gumption to forgive them for having witnessed your own. - Jessamyn West

Behind the Scenes

If you have been to Linwood, you know that sometimes one retreat is just ending and another begins. And just how do those beds get made, dressers dusted and bathrooms cleaned in time for the next group? That responsibility falls on the shoulders of Caroline Tumblety. She stopped by my office the other day to

answer a few questions....

LC: We know you are from Scotland, but what brought you to the United States?

Caroline: It was literally a holiday romance. I was 23 years old, living and working in London, and my cousin was

working in a hotel at a ski resort in Colorado. She was quite lonely and asked me to come for a visit. I did and fell in love with my ski instructor and have been here ever since.

LC: So what brought you to Linwood?

Cont. page 2

Inside this issue:

What is Lent?	1
Behind the Scenes	1
Notre Dame's 100th Anniversary	2
Online Registration & Payment	3
The Last Laugh	3
Upcoming Events	4

Lent, cont. from page 1

holy water from the fonts is not permitted except to clean them just before the Easter Vigil.

Now Lent is marked by two linked themes, the baptismal and the penitential. It is a time of purification and enlightenment for the elect, and a time for the local community to join them in a spirit of repentance and conversion. The already baptized, even if they don't remember their baptism, can renew the baptismal promises they or their parents made for them. This season shakes us out of our baptismal complacency to remember our ongoing conversion journey, the already and the not yet.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 22** this year, and ends before the Celebration of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Remember that Lent is a joyful march toward holy Easter, and that all readings, rituals and penitential practices are not done mournfully but with the Risen Christ in mind and heart. The Lent-Triduum-Easter cycle leads us to Pentecost (a total of 96 days) as the baptized people of God inspired to be church by God's Holy Spirit.

Yet, it is also a time of ritual lamentation, of acknowledging the brokenness and pain in our lives and in our world. At the time of this writing, terrorism and civil war rage on in Africa, in the Middle East, in South America, in Indonesia, and other places too numerous to count. Poverty, hunger and homelessness exist not only in third world countries but in our own cities and towns, perhaps even within view of our church doors. Racism, sexism and crimes against children are found in the very heart of our churches and organizations.

Perhaps some time at Linwood Spiritual Center would help you to re-focus on your own baptismal call. Some of our Lenten programs are on the last page of this newsletter or you might want to spend a few days apart here at Linwood to prepare for Easter in a quiet prayerful way. Our Holy Week Retreat offers an opportunity to experience beautiful liturgies for the Triduum. A blessed Lent to all!

Notre Dame School Celebrates 100th Anniversary in Spain

Founded in 1912 by the Sisters of St. Ursula, Notre Dame celebrates its 100th birthday with 25 happy people traveling to Spain and Lourdes, France this summer. Flying out of JFK on June 28, this anniversary tour has them visiting Barcelona in Catalonia, Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Bilbao, Burgos, and Madrid. They will explore the architecture of Gaudi, the Guggenheim and Prada Museums, famous shrines, churches and cathedrals, even the birthplace of the famous 11th century knight El Cid. What a grand way to celebrate one hundred years of educating young women. For information e-mail Sr. Maureen Davey, mpdavey@st-ursula.org or refer to the Notre Dame website at cheznous.org.

Springtime at Linwood

Photos by
Kathleen Donnelly, SU



On Line Registration and Payment Launched

To take advantage of our new on-line system, go to the "Register" page on the Linwood website. Registrations for all retreats and workshops must be received at least **ONE MONTH PRIOR** to the weekend or program date. If it is less than one month prior, please call the office at 845-876-4178. Fill out your personal information, choose the retreat for which you would like to register and select the appropriate deposit amount. That registration is then forwarded to Linwood and you will be directed to a payment page.

Method of Payment

1. All fees are expressed in U.S.\$ currency
2. Payment may be made by:
 - On-line payment via Paypal
 - Credit Card (Visa or Master Card)
 - Check or Money Order

When paying online, please indicate for which retreat you are paying for in the memo/notes field. Checks should be made payable to Linwood Spiritual Center. Please send Check or Money Order with copy of completed Registration Form to Linwood.

3. Cancellation Policy

Linwood reserves the right to cancel programs due to insufficient registration. A non-refundable and non-transferable deposit is required of each attendee when registering: \$50.00 for weekend programs; \$100.00 for all five-to-eight-day programs.

The Last Laugh

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17.

Every hand went up.

The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

Behind the Scenes, Cont. from page 1

Caroline: I was a manager at a local hotel, working long hours that kept me away from my family and I was completely stressed and burned out. So I quit! I was drawn to Linwood for the view and the peace and quiet. That was four years ago.

LC: What inspires you?

Caroline: My kids. They are my reason for getting up. Also the sun and being in nature and people who are not afraid of making mistakes.

LC: Where can we find you on your day off?

Caroline: Either walking or doing yoga at the Chocolate Factory in Red Hook.

LC: Other than the Hudson Valley, where would you like to travel?

Well, I would like to go back to Scotland to see my family and I'd like to see the ancient sites like in Egypt and the Great Wall.

LC: Name three people you would like to share a meal with, past or present.

Caroline: Since I am an artist at heart, I would invite Toulouse Lautrec, because of the bohemian



time period when he lived and he captured the people of the street and made them beautiful and immortal. I also think Margaret Meade would be a great dinner guest; she is such a strong woman, and Maya Angelou for her candid support of minorities and women.

Special points of interest:

- Like us on Facebook at Linwood Spiritual Center



- And follow us on Twitter @LinwoodRetreats



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WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
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Upcoming Programs

February

10-12.....PRIVATE GROUP (HYDE PARK METHODIST MEN)
12-18.....PRACTICUM IN GIVING THE DIRECTED RETREAT
20-27.....IGNATIAN DIRECTED/PRIVATE RETREAT WEEK

March

2-4.....HEALING OUR SPECIALNESS: A SPIRITUALITY OF BECOMING ORDINARY
9-11.....ALL-A WOMEN: STEP 11 AND THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS
16-18.....PRIVATE GROUP (WOMEN WITH WISDOM)
23-25.....PRAYER FROM THE HEART
30-April 1.....PRIVATE GROUP

Join us for a Lenten Retreat

Healing our Specialness: A Spirituality of Becoming Ordinary, March 2-4

Lent is a time to be grounded in reality, a time to heal distortions and false living. This retreat invites us to heal our entitlements and cultural inflations and embrace our authenticity as ordinary men and women on the spiritual journey in need of God. This will be a SILENT retreat, with quiet, personal time to reflect on the stirrings of the soul. There will be opportunities for individual spiritual direction throughout the weekend, offered by Don Bisson, FMS and a team of spiritual directors. The fee: is \$225.00

Prayer from the Heart:

A Call to Renew My Prayer Experience, March 23-25

When we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit expresses our plea and God who searches our hearts knows perfectly well what the Spirit means.
Romans 8: 26-27

Many people desire to deepen their prayer life. This weekend offers a "starter kit" for first timers and also for those wishing to rekindle their prayer experience. The presenters, trained in Ignatian Spirituality, will offer suggestions, new and old, for prayer. There will be opportunities to practice prayer and reflect on one's experience.

The weekend will provide spaces of silence and sharing, with quiet personal time to reflect on the movements within. Opportunities for short one-on-one spiritual direction sessions will also be available with Kathleen Donnelly, SU and Maureen Steele, SU. The fee is \$195.00