St. Xavier Monthly Calendar

Cincinnati, March

Bicentennial Retrospective Edition – Issue No. 3

Before the St. Xavier Church website, Facebook page and email blasts—even before the weekly bulletin—there was the St. Xavier Monthly Calendar. The first issue, dated October 1888, announced:

This Calendar is published to keep the people informed on matters of Church and School. It is entirely gratuitous; and should not under any consideration be sold. We shall endeavor to put it into the hands of our parishioners on the last Sunday of each month, in order to remind them of the feasts and fasts, the advantages and obligations and other important features of the incoming month.

For eight decades, the Calendar, did just that. But like the St. Xavier parish community it served, it also evolved. The articles, written both in-house as well as sourced from local, national and international publications, humor, and advertisements, reflect the prevailing issues, sentiments, fashions and technologies of the day, providing a window through which to view that community as well as a mirror through which to see reflections of our current community.

As a way of sharing these "views", each month during our bicentennial year, St. Xavier will publish selections culled from the 952 published issues – We hope that you will enjoy these Retrospective Issues.

Rules For Lent

1.The use of meat is allowed at any time on Sunday, and at the one principal meal on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays except Saturday of Ember Week and Holy Saturday…Meat and fish must not be eaten at the same meal, not even on Sundays of Lent.

2. Eggs and butter, cheese and milk are allowed on abstinence days—at dinner and at the evening collation.

3. In the morning coffee, tea, chocolate, etc., may be taken with a small piece of bread, no butter nor other condiment.

4. Lard and suet may be used in cooking on days of abstinence.

5. When dinner cannot be had at midday, it is allowed to invert the order and take the collation in the morning and dinner in the evening.

6. Persons who are lawfully exempted from fasting may use meat more than once on the days when meat is allowed.

7. The evening collation ought not to exceed the fourth part of an ordinary dinner, or at most, eight ounces.

8. All persons who are twenty-one years old are bound to fast, unless hindered by hard work or by sickness. [March 1889]

Parish Notes

During Lent, Instructions every Wednesday night, and Way of the Cross on Friday nights. [March 1901]

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What are you going to do for the Master during Lent? Many cannot fast, some can not abstain, but all can give up worldly amusements, the theater, the dance; nearly all can attend the Lenten devotions. [March 1901]

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In some parts of the country a good practice is on the increase among practical Catholic layman of denying themselves all alcoholic beverages during Lent. They quietly avoid saloons for forty days. We would gladly see this custom prevail in our parish. How many blessings would be the result. [March 1901]

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Make life a ministry of love and it will always be worth living. [March 1902]

The Novena of Grace

The Novena of Grace in honor of St. Francis Xavier will begin on Mar 4 and close on March 12, the anniversary of the canonization of St. Ignatius and St. Francis Xavier.

ORIGIN OF THE NOVENA

The Novena of Grace owes its origin to the Saint himself. At Naples, in December, 1633, Father Marcello Mastrilli, S.J., was at the point of death. The Saint appeared to him, and bidding him to renew a vow he had made to labor in Japan, said: "All these who implore my help daily for nine consecutive days from the 4th to the 12th of March, inclusive, and worthily receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist on one of the nine days will experience my protection and may hope with entire assurance to obtain from God *any grace* they ask for the good of their souls and the glory of God." The Father arose instantly cured. So well has the Saint kept his promise, that this devotion in his honor became universally known as the Novena of Grace. Its efficacy is not restricted to the dates mentioned. [March 1931]

March is the month of St. Joseph. This great Saint is more honored in Church today than in any previous century. Do you wish health and strength for your work? Go to Joseph. Do you wish to find a way out of some business difficulty? Go to Joseph. Do you wish to learn that highest of lessons, the secret of praying well? Go to Joseph; he is the patron of the interior life. Do you wish a holy Catholic home? Again, go to Joseph. He was the head of the Holy Family.

[March 1920]

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Kneel Up In Church

"Kneeling in church has become quite an art," according to the "Freeman" of St. John, N.B. "The method in vogue in dozens of cases is a kind of loss, a spread-eagleing of one's self in a ridiculous manner," says our contemporary. "There is absolutely no necessity in seeking support from the seats. There is no need of spreading the elbows out on the back of the seat in front so as to compass as much space as possible. The seats are not there for use while kneeling—a bench is put there for that purpose. There is no necessity of our measuring our elbow reach; there are plenty more suitable places for such gymnastic exercises. A 'respectful posture on bended knees', which is the attitude for prayer, does not call for any such lazy and indifferent-looking stretching. Kneel up straight, resting the hands on the pew in front if necessary. There is no one so weak as to find this posture difficult We are in church but a very short time during Mass, and the kneeling portion of that time is infinitesimal." [March 1904]

Helping Others

The good things of this life are not only those that delight the eye or ear or commend themselves to the palate, but also those that cause a joyfulness in the heart. The world is a beautiful thing in itself, but we can apply its beauties direct to our own lives if we only heed a few little things in our every-day intercourse with others. The good things of life are for all of us to enjoy, and they are so easily to be had. Try for yourself a few golden precepts, and see if I am not right:

Be considerate of the feelings of others, and do not be led into making sweeping assertions that may hurt you know not whom.

Give a helping hand when one is needed.

Be merry with those who are happy. Give smile for smile. Let people know that you can find happiness in the world, and that all can share it.

Give words of praise—more people in this world do good work because of that which tells of their imperfections.

[March 1905]

[March 1922]

A Fake Prayer

An endless-chain prayer, coupled with threats and hinted dangers "too dreadful for words," has been recently strewn broadcast throughout the United States.

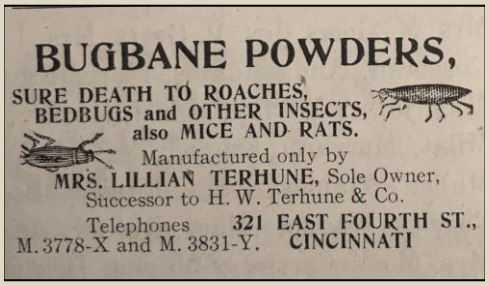
It is generally sent by mail with the notice that the prayer must be said each day for nine days.

Nine copies must be made, with copies of the commanding instruct-ions. Each copy must be sent to a different person, and failure to comply with the instructions entails, says the document, dire penalties.

Several copies of the alleged prayer were brought to us by persons who had received them through the mail. If these copies are fair samples of the general run, they furnish conclusive proof that only the ignorant are taken in by the evident fake. The writing is poor, the grammar is most erroneous, and the copies have that variety of wording which always creeps in when illiterates attempt to reproduce written text.

This so-called prayer was evidently started on its rounds by some poor, ignorant person, who was laboring under a religious mania; and its present vogue is undoubtedly due to the credulity of the ignorant, who are so sadly deficient in the principles of their faith that they are influenced by the threats of disaster, which the instructions, accompanying the screed, predict for those neglecting to circulate the alleged prayer. Catholics should pay no attention to prayers or devotions of any kind which are anonymously circulated. Consultation with their pastors would save them from making them-selves ridiculous, and would avoid false conceptions of our faith non-Catholics. – *CatholicTelegraph* [March 1906]

[March 1917]



March 1921]