

## From the Deacon's Desk

### **RCIA:**

Last Sunday on the First Sunday of Lent, Scott Smith and Kristen Smith, were sent to the ***Rite of Election*** and the ***Call to Continuing Conversion*** at the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption. Bishop Cistone called them and all those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion to the Easter Sacraments at the next Easter Vigil. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their preparation toward being fully initiated members of the Church.

### **Alpha:**

We had a very successful Alpha gathering last Monday, and the people I talked to thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We had both adults and children present. Anyone is welcome to join us at any time, even if you can't attend every session. If you attended last year, please consider inviting someone you know to give it a try. Child care is also provided for smaller children.

### **Alpha: Topic next week, "Who is Jesus?"**

#### **Talk summary:**

- Jesus is arguably the most significant human figure in history. Without having to travel more than 100 miles, and having really only three years of recorded history.
- Jesus claimed to be more than a great religious teacher – claimed to be 'the way, the truth, the life' and it seems clear from his claims that he considered himself to be the Son of God.
- Christians believe Jesus is God – a step of faith based on evidence. Actually, no good Jew would think of himself as God nor believe they could forgive sins, but for Jesus to

constantly remind people that their sins were forgiven, and for him to address the unpronounceable name of God (YHWH) as 'Abba' which means daddy, means he knew he had a special relationship to God.

- Christians came to believe that Jesus was the incarnation of God in the flesh – a step of faith based on the evidence of what they witnessed.
- Even so, a full understanding of Jesus can't happen historically or intellectually – still has to drop from head to heart – experience of a relationship.

### **The Traveling Last Supper Troupe:**

**We will be hosting a live-drama presentation of the Last Supper by a community theater group on Saturday March 24 at 7 pm in St. Vincent church.**

The Traveling Last Supper Troupe is an ecumenical group made up of a cast of 18 people, a narrator and a musical duo. The group has been performing since 2006, with 6 of the original members still in the cast. They are mostly Catholics from Hemlock, Merrill, Saginaw, Midland and the Auburn areas. The Last Supper presentation starts with Jesus informing the Apostles that He will be betrayed. In their horror they examine themselves to see if they might be that person. Admission is free but they do ask for an offering at the exits if you are able to contribute. The money they collect will go to area soup kitchens and food pantries, and they will keep a small amount for themselves for publicity materials and costume upkeep.

### **Prayers for Bishop Cistone:**

**Throughout the diocese we have begun to pray for Bishop Cistone who began his round of weekly chemo and radiation for lung cancer last Wednesday. His treatment will continue through the Lenten Season and we all pray for his healing and peace. I invite you all to join me in daily prayers for our chief shepherd, and you will find a prayer in today's bulletin to aid you in prayer. Perhaps you might want to send him a card for healing and support.**