



SPALDING ASSEMBLY 0206 4TH DEGREE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MARCH, 2009

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ON COURSE...SIR KNIGHT RONALD SWOLLEY



My Fellow Sir Knights:

Lent is with us already. It doesn't seem possible. What first comes to mind for you when you think of Lent? Ash Wednesday and charcoal on the forehead? Fish Fries every Friday? No more candy or beer for almost six weeks? I suppose a bit of each of those things.

I used to wonder a bit about Ash Wednesday and the wearing of ashes and the sacrifices made during Lent. When I first converted to our Catholic faith, no one had actually explained these things very clearly, and while I knew it was an act of humility and penance, I did not really know the roots of this custom. Did you know that the custom actually predates Christianity and began with both the wearing of sackcloth and the use of ashes? That these were used as a way for those that had strayed from the faith to gain re-admittance?

There are several Old Testament references, but I will use two. We read in the Book of Esther (Est 4:1-3): *When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.* In the book of Daniel (Dan 9:1-5) we read: *In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes, who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom--in the first year of his reign, I Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws.*

For us, the distribution of ashes and fasting on Fridays reminds us of our own mortality, and calls us to repentance and the need for forgiveness. It also ties our tradition to the ancient Faith of our Hebrew ancestors in the Old Testament.

So, why today do we "give up something" during Lent? Actually, these "sacrifices are really penance much like was the case of the Ninevites repenting after hearing the (Continued Page 2)

NOTICE!!

March Business Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Spalding Assembly 0206, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus will be Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Radnor Road in Peoria.

If anyone wants to bring a snack to share, please feel free to do so!!

MARCHING ORDERS SIR KNIGHT BAKHOS ALWAN



MARCH HONOR GUARDS

Sunday, March 1 - Rite of Election at St. Mary's Cathedral, Peoria - 11:00 a.m.

Dress at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 1 - Rite of Election at St. Mary's Cathedral, Peoria - 3:00 p.m.

Dress at 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 8 - Confirmation at St. Philomena, Peoria - 11:00 a.m.

Dress at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 8 - Confirmation at St. Thomas the Apostle, Peoria Heights - 3:00 p.m.

Dress at 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 15 - Confirmation at St. Mary's Cathedral, Peoria - 3:00 p.m.

Dress at 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 17 - St. Patrick's Day Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Peoria - 8:00 a.m.

Dress at 7:30 a.m.

Tuesday, March 17 - St. Patrick's Day Parade - 11:00 a.m.

Set-up at 10:00 a.m.

(NOTE: There will be **Confirmation at St. Mary of the Woods in Princeville on Sunday, April 19th**, at 2:00 p.m.; Dress at 1:30 p.m.)

SK Bakhos Alwan, Faithful Captain

ON COURSE (CONTINUED)

preaching of Jonah. Throughout our history, Christians have found prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to be an important part of repentance and renewal. Today, we are often challenged to add something during Lent rather than giving up something, either to address personal habits that need work, or to add some outreach to others in need. It is not necessary to "give up something", but it would be a tragedy to do nothing.

This is a long way of sharing with you the importance of the period of time that now takes us from Ash Wednesday to the Passion of our Lord and His glorious resurrection at Easter. As Knights, we have a golden opportunity to take the good works of our Order and apply them during the Lenten season, with renewed vigor and enthusiasm, as a sign of our humility and faith. It is my prayer that together, we will accept that challenge and grow together in our love for our Lord.

Vivat Jesus, Ron Swolley, FN

2009 DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE!!

2008 DUES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15.00 ARE NOW SERIOUSLY PAST DUE AND ARE IMMEDIATELY PAYABLE. THOSE OF YOU IN ARREARS ARE FACING IMMINENT REMOVAL FROM THE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP ROLLS.

THIS IS THE ABSOLUTE FINAL NOTICE.

SEND DUES TO:

SK TOM EATON, 211 EAST CRESTWOOD STREET, MORTON, IL 61550

March Dinner

Where: Bernardi's North

Lake of the Woods

Rte. 40 (North of Peoria)

When: March 15, 2009

Cocktails at 6:00 p.m./Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Menu: Chicken - Family Style

Au Gratin Potatoes

Spaghetti - Tortellini

Green Beans - Salad

Coffee & Tea

Cost: \$16.00 (Tax and Tip Included)

\$1.50 extra for ice cream

R.S.V.P.: Roger Sales at 309-467-6265 or 309-251-0693

Tom Martin at 309-385-2544

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:

All newsletter articles from the officers or other Sir Knights need to be received by the newsletter editor no later than the 25th of the month for publication in the next month's newsletter.

HAVE YOUR EVER LOST YOUR NEWSLETTER (OR DID NOT RECEIVE ONE):

The 4th Degree Newsletter is on the web. Go to the Spalding Council web-site - - - (www.kofcspalding.com), and click on the 4th Degree pages. The monthly newsletter is usually on the web-site before you get yours by mail, thanks to the web-master, Paul Sullivan.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES?

If you have e-mail, and would like to receive the newsletter in this manner, please send me an e-mail and let me know your address. My e-mail address is: janeandtom@verizon.net

If you decide you want to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please be advised that when it is sent it will show that it is coming from Jane Martin.

I am not a mindreader. If you change your e-mail address, please let me know. It is best you do this by sending me an e-mail with the new/correct address. Thanks.

GOD'S GLUE

A Doctor wrote:

A couple days ago I was running (I use that term very loosely) on my treadmill, watching a DVD sermon by Louie Giglio...

He (Louie) was talking about how inconceivably **BIG** our God is...how He spoke the universe into being...how He breathes stars out of His mouth that are huge raging balls of fire...etc. etc. Then he went on to speak of how this star-breathing, universe creating God **ALSO** knitted our human bodies together with amazing detail and wonder. At this point I am **LOVING** it (fascinating from a medical standpoint, you know.) ...and I was remembering how I was constantly amazed during medical school as I learned more and more about God's handiwork. I remember so many times thinking....'How can **ANYONE** deny that a Creator did all of this???'

Louie went on to talk about how we can trust that the God who created all this, also has the power to hold it all together when things seem to be falling apart...how our loving Creator is also our sustainer.

And then I lost my breath.

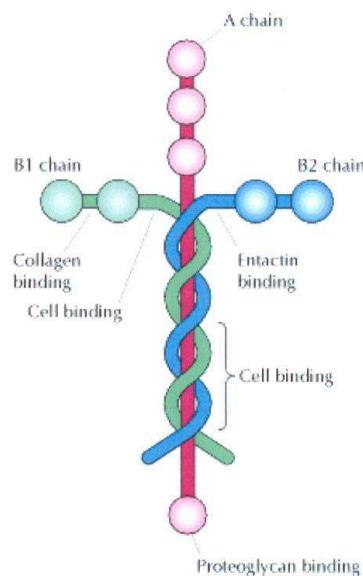
And it wasn't because I was running my treadmill, either!!!

It was because he started talking about laminin.

I knew about laminin. Here is how wikipedia describes them: 'Laminins are a family of proteins that are an integral part of the structural scaffolding of basement membranes in almost every animal tissue.' You see....laminins are what hold us together....**LITERALLY**. They are cell adhesion molecules. They are what holds one cell of our bodies to the next cell... Without them, we would literally fall apart. And I knew all this already But what I didn't know is what laminin **LOOKED LIKE**.

But now I do. And I have thought about it a thousand times since (already)....

Here is what the structure of laminin looks like...**AND THIS IS NOT** a 'Christian portrayal' of it.... If you look up laminin in any scientific/medical piece of literature, this is what you will see...



(God's Glue - -Continued from Page 4)

Now tell me that our God is not the coolest!!!

Amazing.

The glue that holds us together...ALL of us....is in the shape of a cross.

Immediately Colossians 1:15-17 comes to mind.

'He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

For by him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,

whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;

all things were created by him and for him.

He is before all things,

and in him all things HOLD TOGETHER.'

Colossians 1:15-17.

Call me crazy. I just think that is very, very, very cool.

Thousands of years before the world knew anything about laminin, Paul penned those words. And now we see that from a very LITERAL standpoint, we are held together...one cell to another....by the cross.

You would never in a quadrillion years convince me that it is anything other than the mark of a Creator who knew EXACTLY what laminin 'glue' would look like long before Adam even breathed his first breath!!

"Faith is not knowing what the future holds, but knowing who holds the future."

I wanted you to know and to understand that YOU are being held together by the cross of Jesus Christ! His love! His forgiveness and

His marvelous power!