



Cardinal Gibbons Assembly 783
Newsletter
April 2021



REFLECTIONS FROM POPE FRANCIS

Find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world.

A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.

We all have the duty to do good.

Brainy Quote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/pope-francis-quotes>

ASSEMBLY MEETING

The next Assembly meeting scheduled for 18 April 2021 at 2:30 PM. Past State Deputy Colin Jorsch is hosting the meeting at his home. The directions to his home will be sent out via email.

THE SEASON OF LENT

Faithful Scribe Christopher R. Cooper

Lent is the season before Easter Sunday all good Catholics are familiar with. Catholics use this time to prepare for the Resurrection of Christ. It is a time for Penance and self-denial. The season of Lent stretches back to the earlier Church. The beginning of Lent is a movable date, but not all the Catholic Churches begin this season at the same time and the starting day has different names. Fasting and abstinence are different among the Catholic Churches. Let's look at the origins of Lent first.

The origin of the Lent goes back to the earlier Church. According to Father William Saunders there was some kind of Lenten preparation before Easter. (Saunders, 2002) These early Lenten traditions may have been tied to pre-baptismal Catechumens preparing to enter into the Church. (Bennett & Bennett, 2012) These Lenten traditions evolved into the forty days before Easter. The tradition of forty days comes from several passages in the Bible. One passage is from the Gospel of St. Matthew 4:2, "And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterwards he was hungry." (The Holy Bible; Douay-Rheims Edition, 2005) In the beginning only Catechumens practiced Lent, but the tradition was adopted by the entire Church. However, the entire Church does not call Lent, "Lent".

The term "Lent" does not appear in the Bible. The name for the forty days before Easter comes from the language of the Faithful. In the English speaking world the term Lent comes from Old English. "The word Lent itself is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words *lencten*, meaning "Spring," and *lenctentid*, which literally means not only "Springtide" but also was the word for "March," the month in which the majority of Lent falls. (Saunders, 2002) In many parts of the world that use one of the Romance languages it is variation of the Latin word, "Quadragesima" meaning forty days. (Thurston, 1910)

In addition the season of Lent goes by different names within the Catholic Church. The Maronite Church refers to Lent as "Great Lent." (Shaheen & Mansour, 2013) The Byzantine Churches call Lent the Great Fast. (Events Calendar, 2013) To keep things simple I will use the term Lent for the duration of this article. Now that that the origin of the name Lent is solved let's look at day to start Lent.

The day to start Lent is a movable date on the Church calendar. The name of the day and the day to start Lent depends on the Catholic Church the Faithful attends. The Roman Church begins Lent on Ash Wednesday. (Akins, 2013) The Eastern Catholic Churches keep with the older tradition of starting Lent on the Monday before Ash Wednesday. (Saunders, 2002) The Byzantine Churches call the beginning of Lent, "Clean Monday." Clean Monday symbolizes leaving behind non-fasting food and sinful behavior. (Great Lent and the Fast in the Eastern Churches, 2013) In the Maronite Church the beginning of Lent is called "Ash Monday." (Shaheen & Mansour, 2013) It is similar to Ash Wednesday celebrated in the Roman Church. The next item to explore is fasting and abstinence.

Fasting and abstinence varies among the Catholic Churches. In the Roman Church fasting is on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. (Akins, 2013) The fast applies to Roman Catholics who are eighteen to sixty years old. The fast is one single meal and two snacks. Abstinence in the Roman Church applies to Ash Wednesday and all Fridays during Lent and applies to Roman Catholics fourteen years of age and older. Abstinence is "...under the current discipline in America, fish, eggs, milk products, and condiments or foods made using animal fat are permitted in the Western [Roman] Rite of the Church..." (Akins, 2013) In the Maronite Church fasting is on Ash Monday and Friday of the Great Crucifixion (Good Friday). (Shaheen & Mansour, 2013). The fast begins at 12:01 AM (just after midnight) and ends at 12:00 PM (noon). No food or beverages are consumed during this time with the exception of water and medicine. Abstinence in the Maronite Church is not consuming meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. In the Byzantine Churches fasting a.k.a. a "strict fast" is on Clean Monday and Good Friday. (Events Calendar, 2013) The strict fast prohibits consumption of meat, eggs, or dairy products. Abstinence applies to all Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent. Abstinence in the Byzantine Churches is not consuming meat. One point all the Catholic Churches agree on is a person's health. Any Catholic who has health issues and cannot follow fasting or abstinence is granted a dispensation.

Lent has a rich history stretching back to the early Church. It started as a period of reflection for Catechumens entering the Church. Depending on the language of the Faithful Lent goes by different names and even within the Catholic Church Lent has different names. All the Catholic Churches agree that Lent is time of reflection and preparation for the Resurrection of Christ. Two traditions associated with Lent, fasting and abstinence, vary between the Churches, but serve as a reminder of Christ' sacrifice on the cross for the sins of mankind.

Work Cited

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CARDINAL GIBBONS ASSEMBLY HONOR GUARD

4TH DEGREE UNIFORM

The 4TH Degree uniform and accessories are available to order at the following link:

<https://kofcuniform.com/CustomPage/OrderNow>

UPCOMING HONOR GUARD EVENT(S):

No Events Scheduled.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 2021

April 4	Easter Sunday
April 15	Family of the Month Form Due
April 18	Assembly Meeting
April 18	Retention Meeting
April 24-25	Day of Reflection & Membership
April 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due

May 2021

May 9	Mother's Day
May 15	NC State Convention (Virtual)
May 15	Family of the Month Form Due
May 16	Retention Meeting
May 20	Assembly Meeting
May 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due
May 31	Memorial Day

June 2021

June 1	Basic DD Training
June 5-6	Fr Bill Membership Drive Council 17501
June 5	Council Leadership Training West
June 15	Family of the Month Form Due
June 19	Council Leadership Training East
June 19	4 th Degree, Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd, Charlotte, NC
June 20	Father's Day
June 20	Assembly Meeting
June 20	Retention Meeting
June 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due
June 30	Columbian Award Due

DATES TO REMEMBER (Continued)

July 2021

July 1	Report of Officers Due
July 4	Independence Day
July 9-11	DD Meeting
July 15	Family of the Month Form Due
July 18	Assembly Meeting
July 18	Retention Meeting
July 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due

DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATIONS

IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ!

3/14/2020 – Governor Roy Cooper has issued an executive order banning mass gatherings of 100 people or more. Before attending any of the Degree Ceremonies listed below, please contact the host council to be sure that the event will still be held.

Further details for upcoming degree ceremonies are available on the K of C State Council Website:

Degree Exemplifications: <https://kofcnc.org/ceremonials/degrees/>

Degree Exemplifications On-Line: <https://kofcnc.org/ceremonials/upcoming-online-exemplifications/>

Fourth Degree Exemplifications: <https://kofcnc.org/4th-degree/4th-degree-exemplification/>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Council – Location</u>
None.	None.	None.

FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATIONS

19 June 2021 @ 11:00 AM, Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd, Charlotte, NC

EASTER

Faithful Scribe Christopher R. Cooper

Easter is the holiest day of the year for the Catholic Church. (Tucciarone, 2013) The day the Faithful celebrate our Lord's Resurrection and victory over death. As with many traditions, Easter originated in the early Church and is based on Scripture from *The Holy Bible*, "...Be not affrighted. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen: he is not here..." (The Holy Bible - Douy-Rheims Edition, 2005) The Holy Bible does not address all the traditions associated with Easter. The early Church Fathers settled several disputes concerning Easter. Easter does not go by the same name in every country. Until the mid-19th century the literacy was very low. The Faithful used symbols to identify with Easter. These symbols survived into modern times. The first item to consider is the day to celebrate Easter.

In the early Church there was no standard method to calculate when the Easter Celebration occurred. The Church in Alexandria would celebrate Easter on different date than the Church in Antioch. (Thurston, 1909) The Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. established the dating system for Easter. The date can be as early as March 22 or as late as April 25. (Saunders, 1995) The formula to calculate the date is "...the Sunday that follows the first full moon after March 21, the vernal (spring) equinox." (McNamara, 2011) For 2013, according to the *Farmers' Almanac* the next full moon is March 27 making Easter Sunday, March 31. (Full Moon Calendar for 2013, 2013) In case you are wondering, Easter Sunday 2014 is April 20. The next item to consider is the names Easter and Pascha.

In many parts of the world Easter is referred to as Pascha. (Saunders, 1995) Pascha comes from Greek. It means Passover. Pascha connects the Church to her roots in Judaism. Passover represents the Old Covenant with God. Pascha represents the New Covenant with God and Christ' victory over death. In the early Church Pascha was

the word for Easter. Easter came about when Christian missionaries encountered the Germanic speaking people. Easter is derived from *Eostre*, a pagan Saxon goddess. (Juergens, 1963) This goddess symbolized spring and the coming of life. *Eostre* was Christianized into Christ bringing life to the world and to the Faithful entering the Church. Over the evolution of English *Eostre* became Easter. The next topic to discuss is Easter symbols.

Since the literacy rate was very low through most of history the early Church used many symbols for Easter. One symbol is the peacock. (Tucciarone, 2013) In the ancient world people believe a peacock's flesh was incorruptible. From this belief the peacock became the symbol of the Resurrection and immortality. Images of the peacock can be found graves from the ancient world as a symbol of the Faithful joining Christ in his victory over death. Easter Eggs are another tradition from the earlier times. (Tucciarone, 2013). Eggs at first were painted red to represent Christ' sacrifice on the cross and rebirth. This tradition evolved into the modern Easter Eggs with different colors and patterns.

Easter is a happy time of year and the holiest day for the Church. The date of Easter Sunday can be calculated for a given year with a few basic variables. The name, Easter, has long and interesting history. The name, Pascha, with its Greek origins and the Christianized name, Easter, in the English speaking world. The symbols and customs surrounding the Easter originated from long ago. The peacock is the ancient symbol of the Resurrection. A favorite tradition among children is coloring Easter Eggs originated in ancient times to symbolize rebirth and Christ' sacrifice on the cross. I will leave you with one last item. An old Easter greeting I found in my research from the Gospel of St. Luke 24:34 (Tucciarone, 2013):

Surrexit Dominus Vere, Alleluia!

("The Lord is risen indeed!")

Et Apparuit Simoni, Alleluia!

("And hath appeared unto Simon!")

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Full Moon Calendar for 2013. (2013). Retrieved from Farmers' Almanac: <http://www.farmersalmanac.com/full-moon-dates-and-times/>

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IN MEMORIAM:

Please keep in your prayers for the repose of the soul of:

All Deceased Knights of Columbus.

All Members of the U.S Armed Forces.

All First Responders.

ARTICLES FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP

Any Sir Knight who wants to submit an article to the Newsletter, turn the article into Faithful Scribe Chris Cooper at the next Assembly meeting or send it via email to COOP5614@yahoo.com.