

POVERTY, CHASTITY AND OBEDIENCE WHAT'S THE POINT?

If there's one thing that "everybody knows" about members of religious orders, it is that they are the Church's experts in poverty, chastity and obedience. They have, after all, stood up in public and taken vows to that effect. But, like most things that "everybody knows", that's at best a half-truth. For one thing, *not* all religious orders require their members to make exactly these vows out loud. The Dominicans, for instance, only promise obedience explicitly - though we have to sign something beforehand confirming that we do understand we have to be poor and chaste as well!

Much more importantly, poverty, chastity and obedience are not only for members of religious orders, but for all Christians, and many who have never taken vows are far more "expert" in them than we are. The clue is in the name. Poverty, chastity and obedience together are called the Evangelical Counsels, gospel counsels in other words: advice on how to live in accordance with gospel values. And that advice, obviously, is relevant not only to monks, nuns, friars and sisters, but to every member of the Church.

But that statement only makes sense if we know what poverty, chastity and obedience really are. All three words have, in many people's minds, very negative connotations; all three need to be reclaimed and understood in the light of the gospel, if they are to be properly understood.

Gospel poverty is not about abject material misery - which is why, of course, Christians have always been at the forefront of efforts to alleviate the destitution that eats away at the God-given dignity of so many of our brothers and sisters.

Gospel chastity is not a puritanical approach to human sexuality, nor is it a matter of forbidding its physical expression - the very significance the Church places on marriage and family life, after all, would hardly be possible if that were the case.

And Gospel obedience does not turn people into robots, complying thoughtlessly with commands at whatever cost to conscience and common sense. If it were, the saints would be dull and stereotypical rather than the vibrant, exciting and sometimes frankly weird collection of human beings that they are.

Some Christians, those who are vowed to religious life, *are* called to give up the possession of private property, to refrain from marriage, and voluntarily to relinquish total control over certain other aspects of their lives: where, for instance, they live, or with whom. But this is not because material possessions, a loving relationship with a life partner and the exercise of autonomy are bad things, to be fled from or denied.

On the contrary, the religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience witness positively to the beauty and goodness of all these things. If you would like to find out more about how this is so - why not come along on Thursday evening to our Round Table Discussion for the Year of Consecrated Life?

Sr Ann



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 18 October - 29th Sunday of the Year

CALENDAR - TERM WEEK II

Sunday 18		TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00	Sung English Mass
Monday 19	12.30	Mass <i>S. John de Brebeuf & companions</i>
Tuesday 20	1.05	Mass
Wednesday 21	1.05	Mass
	12.30	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 22	1.05	Mass <i>St John Paul II</i>
Friday 23	1.05	Mass
	7.30	Mass (& 'Crumbs')
Saturday 24	1.05	Mass in Extraordinary Form (Tridentine)
	4.30—5.30	<i>Confessions</i>
	6.00	Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 25		THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
	9.00	Sung Latin Mass
	11.00	Sung English Mass

FR MARK LANGHAM - SR ANN SWAILES OP - FR PHILIP MOLLER SJ
Also in residence: FR JOE INGUANEZ

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Study 1 Tim 2:8-15 with Fr Bruno OP, beginning Monday 19 October in the library. You don't need to have read the text beforehand, but it helps!

APOLOGETICS

The group meets on Saturdays at 7.00pm in the Library to discuss a range of controversial issues. Contact Hania Wyciszczok (hmw56)

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Meets Fridays at 6.00pm in the Fisher Room, helping those in Cambridge less fortunate than ourselves. Contact Fiona Doherty (ftd21).

EXTRAORDINARY FORM

The EF (Tridentine) Mass is celebrated on Saturday at 1.05pm.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

A one-day course of marriage preparation will be held at Fisher House on Saturday 21 November. Please contact Fr Mark (ml709) if you are interested in taking part.

FACEBOOK & WEBSITE

Keep up to date with announcements on the Fisher Society Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/fishersociety/ - and don't forget the Fisher House website, with its useful calendar of events www.srcf.ucam.org/fisherhouse

CONSECRATED LIFE

Sr Ann has arranged a 'round table' for you to hear from different traditions of religious orders, and learn something of their charisma. Thursday 22 October, 8.00pm in the Fisher Room.

CONCERT

The Fisher Consort will hold a concert of polyphonic music relating to Mary in the Fisher House-Chapel on Saturday 24 October, at 7.30pm. Entry is free – there is a retiring collection.

CATHOLICISM FOR THE CURIOUS

A series of talks over lunch on Mondays, given by Fr Mark in the Fisher Room at 1.15, on a range of topics to do with Catholicism. This week: *Laudato Si' - care for our common home.*

GRADUATE SOCIETY

The GradSoc will meet on Wednesday at 8.00pm in the Maypole Pub, behind Portugal Place.

ALTAR SERVERS

If you would like to serve at Sunday or weekday Mass, please sign up outside the chapel or contact Natalia Deja (nad35) or James Munro (jpm82).

SAINTS AND SINNERS!

Get your halo (or your pitchfork) ready! S&S party on 30 October.

REGISTRATION FORM

If you are new to Fisher House, in any capacity, please fill in the a registration form outside the chapel, and leave it in the box, give it to a chaplain, or post it through the letter box.

LUNCH

is available in the Fisher Room every weekday during term, following the mid-day Mass, for £1.50.

DANTE SOCIETY

An informal discussion and reading of Dante, especially aimed at beginners, under the expert guidance of Prof. Robin Kirkpatrick. First meeting Tuesday 20 October, 7.30pm Great Chamber, on: *Dante the Great Hater*. Texts will be provided, knowledge of Italian not necessary!

BLACK SWAN BAR

On Friday nights, Fisher House reverts to its former identity, and the bar opens in the Fisher Room. All are welcome. From 8.30pm

MEDICAL ETHICS GROUP

Of special, but not exclusive, interest to medics, this group will meet to discuss big issues facing medical practice from a Catholic point of view. Next Tuesday 20 November, in the Library. Contact Monika Kondratowicz (mk772).

QUIZ NIGHT

Come and measure your skills against some of the greatest minds in the country - at least as many of them as make it to Fisher House. Friday 23 October, 8.30pm, Black Swan Bar.

ENGLISH MASS CHOIR

Singing at the 11.00 Mass on Sundays, with a practice on Sunday mornings at 10.00. New members always welcome. Contact Stephen Bick (sb982)

SCHOLA CANTORUM

Providing Gregorian chant and polyphony for the 9.00 Latin Mass each Sunday. New members always welcome. Contact Nic Walker (nghw2) or Sam Fouts (sfouts@cord.edu).

FRIDAY NIGHT CHOIR

If you are a singer or instrumentalist and would like to help in the Friday evening Mass, please contact Katie Griffin (k22r@hotmail.co.uk).

SUNDAY LUNCH

Following the 11.00 Mass today lunch will be provided by the Fisher Committee. Free for all!

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£465.02

Thank you!