

*Our motto:
"To the Lord I give the
hours of my life and
the use of my death"*

The Lamb

News and information for
St. Charles Borromeo Men of Manresa
and prospective members



Volume 9, Issue 9

September 2009

Men's August gathering helps strengthen and support

George Williamson consumes the Precious Blood of our Lord, ministered by Deacon Mike Stohlman. Also shown are Oswald Schexnayder, Paul Waguespack, and (kneeling) Warren Louque.



Earlier in the day on August 13, most of those present for the Men of Manresa monthly meeting had attended the funeral of **Mary Grace Waguespack**. That evening, Eucharist, prayer, fellowship and food helped strengthen and support those aching hearts.

At Mass, readings from Joshua 3 and Psalm 114 recalled the Hebrews' entrance into the Promised Land. In the Gospel (Mt 18:21-19:1), Jesus also preached compassion and forgiveness before He too crossed the river Jordan into Judea.

Father Harry Bugler focused his
(Continued on page 2)

- "Ain't There No More" -

VERSAILLES PALACE & WINDSOR CASTLE



Two groups of modular buildings were constructed at Manresa in 2003. Affectionately dubbed "Versailles Palace" and "Windsor Castle," they were used as temporary housing for retreatants until the renovations on St. Mary's Hall were completed in November, 2005. While they *were* marginally comfortable and they *did* allow retreats to continue during the renovation project, we're still glad they "ain't there no more."

- Coming Events -

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

MANRESA RETREAT

- All men of the parish are invited to experience a three-day retreat at Manresa House of Retreats
- Begins with dinner on Thursday and ends with lunch on Sunday. Brief lectures are built upon the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola.
- Opportunities for other spiritual activities, and plenty of free time for reading, prayer, enjoying the breath-taking grounds, resting and relaxing.
- Top-notch meals, private accommodations and bath.
- Contact Jeff Tully (764-6989) regarding vacancies.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP MEETING

- All men of the parish are invited to our monthly fellowship meeting.
- Begins at 6:00 PM with Mass and Rosary in church. Continues with dinner, dessert and fellowship in the cafeteria.
- Free dinner for first-timers, only \$3 thereafter. No dues.

“STRENGTH AND SUPPORT”

(Continued from page 1)

homily on the importance of the Ark of the Covenant as the people crossed the Jordan into Judea, and on the centrality of forgiveness for a people of faith. The Ark was an elaborate container holding the Ten Commandments, and it indicated the presence of God with them. Later on in a “bridge” of the Old and the New Testament, the Blessed Mother Mary becomes the Ark of the Covenant as she bears our Lord. Extending that thought, in the Church today the Eucharist is the Ark of the Covenant. Likewise, we ourselves become the Ark as we receive the Blessed Sacrament and exemplify the life and teachings of Jesus, which is characterized in our forgiveness of others. Forgiveness is essential in our lives as persons of faith. Father went on to say that the sacraments we receive are not for our own individual good, but more importantly are to advance the mission of the Church, that is, to proclaim the Lord Jesus.

Mass intentions included **Mary Grace Waguespack**, students and teachers, all who are considering the Catholic faith, and many other intentions.

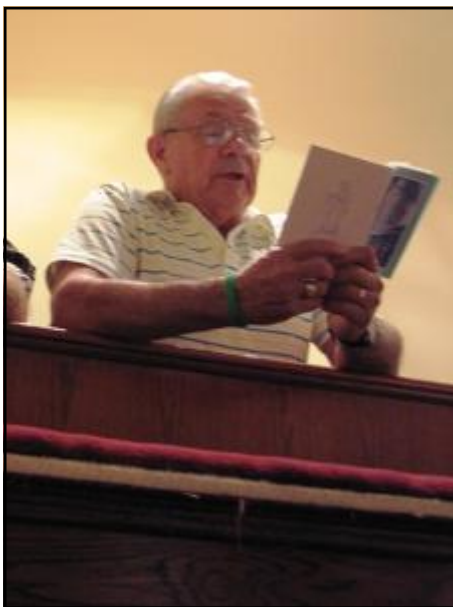
After Mass, the group of 25 or so men prayed the Rosary together, meditating on the Luminous Mysteries which celebrate the public ministry of Christ. We continue praying for members **Mule**

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— Meeting Highlights —



Praying the Scriptural Rosary at the Men of Manresa’s monthly gathering are (left) Don Montgomery, Alan Weber, Joe Peters, Irwin Waguespack; (below left) Irvin Naquin; and (below right) Butch Bonck.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Lamb is a monthly publication of the St. Charles Borromeo Men of Manresa. It intends to inform members and interest prospective members. Printed copies are available on the table in the back of our church on the first weekend of every month. Issues are also available on the Internet via our website at members.cox.net/SCBMoM.

Thanks for contributions to the production of this issue of The Lamb go to Rev. Harry Bugler, Kitty Faucheux, Marcia Hokanson, James & Barbara Jeanfreau, Nick Sardegna, and George Schlorff. Individual contributions are offered to the greater glory of God. *For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.* [Romans 11:36]

Our sponsor

150 copies of this issue of The Lamb have been printed free of charge through the generosity of Digital Legal Services, with locations at 650 Poydras St. and 1010 Common St. in New Orleans.



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— Meeting Highlights —



(Left) After Mass and Rosary, members enjoyed dinner and three desserts prior to a short meeting. Here, member Fred Jennings carries his dinner to the table.



Members Roy Trepagnier, George Wilkinson, George Schlorff, Mike Stohlman, N.J. Bourgeois, Henry Friloux and Pat Clancy (partially obscured) listen attentively and add to the discussion as plans were being made for the August 23 Top Chef social.

“STRENGTH AND SUPPORT”

(Continued from page 2)

Pollet, Ralph St. Ament and **Dennis Naquin**. They still need our prayers. Other intentions include recently deceased **June Heno**, the mother of member **Debbie Peters**; those who are unemployed or struggling with the economy; our troops serving in the armed forces; and all those currently on the group 33 retreat at Manresa with SCBMoM member **Ron Perry**.

The meeting then moved to the school cafeteria where Men of Manresa Number One Chef **Joe Ricks** had dinner waiting. After a prayer by **Deacon Mike Stohlman** thanking God for spiritual as well as physical nourishment, the guys dove in to a delicious meal of pasta shells with Italian sausage and red gravy, accompanied by fresh French bread. Asked what his dish was called, Joe replied that “when I cook it with bow tie pasta I call it Joe’s Bows.” Three desserts - **Don Montgomery’s** peach cobbler, **George Wilkinson’s** blueberry supreme, and **James Jeanfreau’s** lemon squares - satisfied sweet tooth and appetite alike. Thanks to all of our generous and talented cooks.

During the meal, an attendance book was passed around for the purpose of each member to sign his own name. As the book completed the circuit, several names stood out: Michael Jackson, Judge Sotomayor, and Irma Thomas. **Oswald Schexnayder** - who started the humorous sign-ins years ago - comically threatened a class action lawsuit for infringement of copyright.

It was rightly pointed out during group discussion that Mary Grace’s funeral was beautiful. Group leader **Nick Sardegna** commented that it may have been the biggest funeral choir he can ever remember. Father Harry thought it was outstanding. Another member added that it was “for someone very special,” and all present - including her husband **Irwin Waguespack** and son **Paul Waguespack** - agreed wholeheartedly.

A brief review of last year’s Top Chef social revealed that out of \$3,000 we earned in profits, we distributed \$3,700 to other ministries and spiritual causes. None of the money was directly

used by the Men of Manresa.

Plans for this year’s Top Chef were discussed. Arrangements for tickets, advertising, donations, set up, and dish selections were declared. Altar servers, readers, Eucharistic ministers, and choir practice were scheduled. Serving and clean up were planned.

Head SCB usher **Oswald Schexnayder** noted that additional ushers are needed, especially at 10:00 AM Mass. Please call Oswald (764-6412) if you would like to help with this ministry, or simply ask **Charlie Smith** or any of the other ushers if they need help whenever you enter the church for Mass.

Happy birthdays were wished to **Alan Weber** and **Irvin Naquin**.

Our October meeting is scheduled to be on the same night that Father has scheduled a speaker to talk about the Psalms. In order to attend the talk, we might not serve dinner at our meeting that night; possibly just snacks and drinks.

Our Lenten meeting next year may include a recorded scriptural reading by Max McLean. July retreatants at Manresa were so impressed with McLean’s reading from Mark’s Gospel that an effort is being made to acquire a copy of his recording. Member **George Schlorff** directs us to www.listenersbible.com for more information.

Regarding the prayer, fellowship, and service that our organization promotes, Nick mentioned that “this is where we’re at our best. Retreats at Manresa are more for us individually. Years ago we made a promise to Prof Hurst that we’d keep [these monthly fellowship meetings] going, and so far I think we’re doing pretty good.”

As we grieve the loss of Mary Grace Waguespack, we continue to give and receive strength and support through prayer, fellowship and service to others. Amen.

“The hand of the grace of God to us all”



Each year, Mary Grace Waguespack worked for months in advance to prepare an elaborate altar in tribute to St. Joseph on his feast day, such as this one in 2004.

MARY GRACE WAGUSEPACK

When Mary Grace Waguespack passed away on August 10, 2009, the Men of Manresa and the entire parish felt a great loss. The turnout and sincerity at her overflowing visitation and funeral evidenced the abundant love and admiration we had for this courageous lady who remains so much a part of parish history and so much a part of our memories and prayers.

At her funeral, the liturgical reading from the Book of Wisdom included these verses:

“As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love.”

As Father Harry said, “God tried her, and found her to be worthy of Himself...That should be our life’s mission. Those who trust in God understand truth. Mary Grace understood truth better than anyone. Truth does not come from preconceived notions of what is to be, real truth comes from trust in God. She had enormous wisdom, with the ability to see as God sees.”

Indeed Mary Grace was tried, but she shared so many joys as well. She was a member of the first graduating class of St. Charles High School, in 1952. She was the first bride of that class, and her son Joseph was the first baby born of those graduates. Mary Grace and her loving husband Irwin were married for 57 years, and were so close that they were always thought of as one. Irwin and his bride - he always refers to her as his bride - had six sons together.

Father Harry described her as an extraordinary person, a person many envied so much because she had it so well together. She was enormously empowered by her faith, by her confident trust in the Almighty.

As school secretary, she was the voice of St. Charles Borromeo school to faculty, staff, parents, and everyone else for 23 years.



In 2004, Irwin and Mary Grace Waguespack celebrated their sacramental marriage with other couples at St. Charles Borromeo Church.

In that role and all throughout her life, she touched the hearts of many people.

She was an integral part of the annual St. Joseph’s Altar at the home of Tony and Clara Perret, and her dedication to St. Joseph, to her family, and to her community led her to spend months in advance preparing delicate offerings for the altar.

But Mary Grace also knew grief, and she experienced challenges beyond imagination. Her son Perry commented that “if you look up the word ‘hero’ in the dictionary, it is defined as a person who shows great courage in the face of adversity.”

Mary Grace Waguespack was truly a hero.

She was preceded in death by two sons - Joey and Barry. We are also mindful of her other challenges but she was never ever defeated - physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually. She had bypass surgery in 2002 and later lost a leg to diabetes, but amazingly, she always came through a little stronger after each

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Mary Grace was always fond of our clergy. Above, she and Father Harry take a first look at a prayer plaque she had received for Mother's Day at the May, 2009, Men of Manresa meeting. Below, Irwin and Mary Grace bid farewell to Father Larry Hecker upon his departure in April, 2002.



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setback. She always had a smile on her face, had a great attitude, and never complained about the pain.

As if those challenges weren't enough, Mary Grace was in East Jefferson hospital during Hurricane Katrina, and for several additional weeks. During that time, she made such an impression on the staff there that some of them came to pay their respects when they learned she had passed away.

Through it all, Mary Grace truly trusted in God, like her patron saint Mary. She lived in the spirit of the beatitudes, and was, in the well-chosen words of Father Harry, "the hand of the grace of God to us all."

One of the largest funeral choirs ever assembled in our parish - including many Manresans - sang at Mary Grace's funeral. The Men of Manresa gathered together at around her coffin that day to pray our farewell, the prayer of St. Ignatius:

"Take Lord, receive all my liberty, my memory, understanding, my entire will...Your love and your grace are enough for me."

Amen. May God bless you and all your loved ones, Mary Grace.



(Above) Cheerful and courageous just months after losing a leg to diabetes and spending Hurricane Katrina in East Jefferson Hospital, Mary Grace attended the December, 2005, Men of Manresa meeting, along with her sister-in-law Patty Waguespack. (Below) The loving couple, always bride and groom, always together, attended the Men of Manresa Fellowship Day in September, 2003.



SCB parishioners tour St. Catherine of Siena church

On December 30, 2008, Father Harry Bugler led SCB parishioners on a tour of seven area churches. The seventh church we visited was St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, on Bonnabel Blvd. in Metairie..



St. Catherine of Siena has an interesting parish history. In the early 1900's, when the surrounding neighborhood was rural and sparsely populated, it was part of Mater Dolorosa parish. A chapel was built on Labarre Avenue in 1909, but it wasn't until 1921 that St. Catherine of Siena became a parish. The Codifer family donated the large parcel of land on which construction of basic parish buildings began. As the number of parishioners grew, an early auditorium was soon converted to a church, in 1926 nuns arrived to staff the school, and in 1947 the church was expanded. The current church was built in 1957.

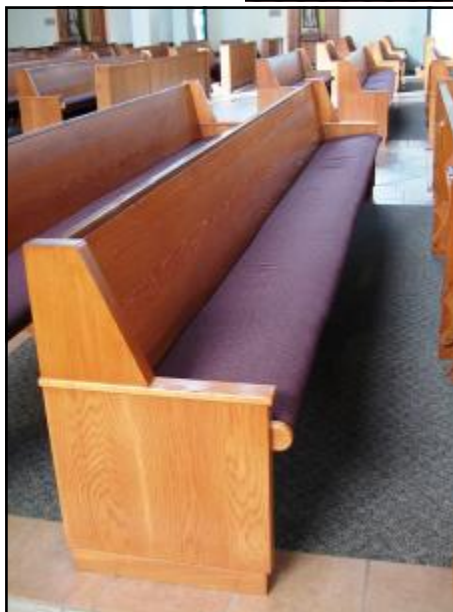
Many local churches built in 1950's and 60's were erected as "temporary" structures, designed to be adaptable to other uses in later years when it might be affordable to build a more elaborate church. That may be true of St. Catherine church, but a gracious 2004 renovation and the construction of many modern parish buildings over the years makes it a beautiful place to worship our Lord.

Upon entering the church, focus is drawn past low brick walls and high flying-buttresses to the simple altar and the elaborate stained glass arch just beyond it. Windows on the side walls and behind the altar let in natural light and seem to add to the vertical dimension.

Born in 1347, St. Catherine herself was the 25th child in her family, and had sacred visions from early childhood. She had no formal education and never learned to read and write, but dictated her letters and writings to others. She served the sick and the poor, and her religious writings and good works brought her to the attention of the pope. She convinced Pope Gregory XI to move the papacy from Avignon back to Rome in 1377, and was consulted by the Vatican about the affairs of the Church. She was very devoted to the Eucharist, sometimes going long intervals with no other nourishment. She died at the age of 33, and is one of only 33 Doctors of the Church, of which only three - Catherine, Teresa of Avila, and T r se Lisieux - are women.



(Left) The exterior of St. Catherine of Siena Church features a modern form of flying buttresses. This feature is continued in the interior of the church (above), where windows at various heights let in natural light and seem to add to the vertical dimension.



The church's original Stations of the Cross (above) were maintained during a series of renovations.

Handsome wooden pews (left) are set on a carpeted floor that help muffle noise, and feature a padded seat that adds comfort during services.

“Why We Believe What we Believe”

MINIMUM EFFORT, QUOTES TAKEN IN ISOLATION ARE NOT ENOUGH

In past years individuals have asked me if I'm saved. Instead of a definite yes, I usually say I think so!! That's primarily because being saved to me has always meant heaven without time in purgatory. Some of my non-Catholic friends say yes with conviction because they contend that if you accept our Lord Jesus as your Savior that will do it. If that's all it takes I've been saved and really didn't know it. I personally think there is some truth to that if you mean in accepting Jesus you also live the commandments, forgive others, are in service to others, and are fully sorry for your sins. Now there is that place called purgatory which Catholics believe and they don't because it's not in the Bible. I always wondered why they pray for deceased family and friends because if they are in heaven, they don't need prayers and if they are in hell, prayers can't help, so they must be praying for those souls somewhere else whether it's called purgatory or not.

In growing up with my first eight grades in Catholic school with nuns using the Baltimore Catechism we were taught mortal sins confessed with complete sorrow was necessary. Mortal sin not confessed with deep sorrow could keep you out of heaven. Even though you believed in Jesus as your Savior that was not mentioned as necessary in those days. This teaching about being free from mortal sin always made me devalue my spirituality and I seldom felt saved unless I had just walked out of confession.

The Adoration Chapel has a series of small pamphlets that document God the Father speaking to a Franciscan lay person named Anne. She supposedly documents every so-called meeting. The following is one page on this subject in one of her pamphlets:

If you were asked to hand your life to Me this day, and account for it fully, how would you feel? Would you feel

*calm? Would you feel confident that while you have made mistakes you have done your best and can offer Me a fair trade for your eternal reward? Could you even say, 'God, I have wasted much of My time here on earth but I see that you are the Creator and I bow before you?' **That is all that is necessary for your salvation.** child, but you are going to wish that you had a small bit of something to give Me. You might give Me your years parenting your children. You might offer Me your service in your job or your obedience and respect for your parents. You might give Me your patience with sickness or depression. You might say, God, I have risen every day and tried not to be dishonest or hurtful to others, despite my pain and misery. To all of these things, and to nearly every life that holds dignity and some measure of effort to be honest, I will say, "Welcome, Well done. It is over now and you are safe and loved." I will hold you against Me and heal all of your wounds and pain. You will be lovingly prepared to enter into the Kingdom. Children, do not be afraid of leaving this world and entering the next. I will be there, waiting to receive each one of you."*

Wow!! Those powerful words make me feel very good about my life because I know I can say, "God, I have wasted much of my time here on earth, but I see that you are the Creator and I bow before you."

Now these writings by Anne have **not** been sanctioned by the Church. This usually takes many years of research, etc. Personally, I don't believe that it could be so easy, especially for us humans who kill, steal, cheat, and are unforgiving and lack true sorrow for our sins. All of this adds to the confusion about salvation and we know Jesus will be the final judge, so I suggest we spend the remaining years on this earth doing the things suggested in this article so everyone of us can be told, "Welcome, well done. It's over now and you are safe and loved."

We Catholics refer to the Eucharist as



At the time of our Final Judgment we don't want to be among those who kill, steal, cheat, and are unforgiving and lack true sorrow for our sins.

the source and summit of our faith. This sharing in Jesus' Body & Blood is closely linked with our salvation. Primarily because Jesus told us, "Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you will **not** have eternal life." Many of these so-called saved Christians don't even believe in the Eucharist. To support the significance of the Eucharist to our salvation, we have received many signs over the years (over 125 miracles concerning the Body & Blood). These were displayed in the Vatican exhibit at our church this year. The Eucharist is key to our salvation and that requires confession to a priest (present day apostles who Jesus gave the power to heal and forgive sins) along with sincere sorrow for those sins.

To pick one line out of the Bible and disregard others about salvation is not the answer. It's the easiest thing to do and feel satisfied, and this could be discussed forever, however, I'll close here and thank the nuns for making me more aware of mortal sin, confessing, seeking forgiveness and living my life in daily talking to my God in prayer. Thank you nuns for making me try harder to be saved and not be satisfied with a minimum effort suggested by a quote or two from the Bible.

Are you smarter than a 6th grader?

“OPEN BOOK” TEST ENCOURAGES LEARNING

The Bible is at the core of our faith, but how much do we really know about it? With credit to the television show of a similar name, we invite you to join us as we explore the Bible - from Genesis to Revelation—via a series of quizzes that were actually administered to 6th grade students.

Directions: This is an “open book” test. Use your Bible to answer each question on your own before reading the answers we have provided. We also encourage to share your knowledge and consult with family and friends before answering. Note that there may be more than one answer for each question.

“THE GOSPELS” THE PASSION

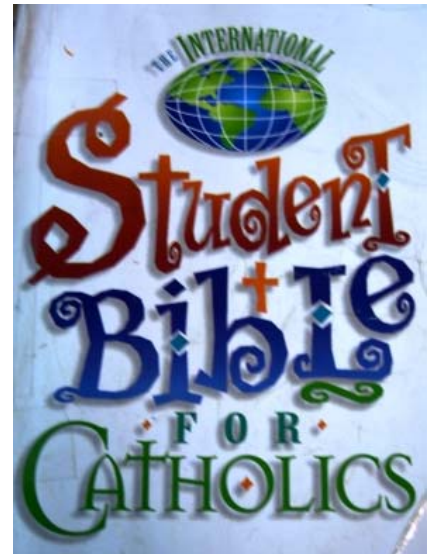
1. [\[Mt 26:27\]](#) The events of Jesus' Passion include his (a) birth (b) childhood (c) baptism (d) public ministry (e) many miracles (f) arrest (g) trial (h) suffering (i) death (j) burial (k) resurrection from the dead (l) ascension into heaven.
2. [\[Jn 6:51\]](#) Jesus gave his life (a) so that he could become famous (b) because he was depressed that he didn't have much money (c) so that all people could live (d) because he had no free will and had no choice.
3. [\[Mt 26:36-46\]](#) Following the Last Supper, (a) Jesus went to bed early to prepare for the next day (b) Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray (c) Jesus wanted to be alone (d) Jesus asked his apostles to accompany him, and asked three of them to stay close by (e) Jesus was just a little bit nervous about what was about to happen (f) Jesus felt great sorrow and distress about what was about to happen (g) he asked the Father for something to drink (h) he asked the Father to prevent what was about to happen.
4. [\[Mt 26:47-68\]](#) Just after midnight, long before the sun came up on Good Friday, (a) Judas used a kiss to point out Jesus to the officials, who arrested him for murder (b) Judas used a kiss to point out Jesus to the officials, who arrested him for crimes against the religious law © the apostles stayed by his side (d) the apostles scattered.
5. [\[Mt 26: 69-75\]](#) As the sun came up on Good Friday, (a) Peter asked the soldiers if he could visit Jesus (b) Peter tried to rescue Jesus (c) three times, Peter denied he even knew Jesus (d) Peter told the soldiers, "Don't take him, take me!"
6. [\[Mt 27:11-26\]](#) The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, (a) thought that Jesus had done something wrong (b) was afraid that the crowd would start a riot (c) condemned the murderer Barabbas to death (d) condemned our Lord Jesus Christ to death.
7. [\[Mt 27: 27-32\]](#) The soldiers (a) immediately nailed him to the cross (b) put him in jail for a while (c) stripped him, beat him, tortured him, and mocked him (d) were polite and sad that such a good person would be sentenced to death.
8. [\[Mk 15:25\]](#) Around noon on Good Friday, Jesus (a) had the

Last Supper with the apostles (b) was led off to be crucified at Golgotha (c) rose from the dead (d) ascended into heaven.

9. [\[Mt 27:45-50\]](#) In the middle of the afternoon on Good Friday, (a) the sun was shining and the birds were singing (b) darkness had fallen over the land (c) Jesus freed himself from the cross (d) Jesus cried out in agony and died.
10. The "Triduum" (a) refers to the three holiest days of the Church year (b) includes Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday (c) includes Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday (the Easter Vigil) (d) is when Catholics celebrate Jesus' loving sacrifice.

ANSWERS

1. *The events of Jesus' Passion include His arrest, trial, suffering, death, and burial. (f,g,h,i,j)*
2. *Jesus gave His life for the life of the world. (c)*
3. *Jesus took His apostles to Gethsemane to pray. He felt great sorrow and distress and asked Peter, James and John to stay close by. He prayed to prevent the crucifixion. "Yet not as I will, but as You will." (b,d,f,h)*
4. *Judas used a kiss to point out Jesus to the officials, who arrested him for crimes against the religious law before the apostles scattered. (b,d)*
5. *As Jesus foretold, Peter denied Him three times. (c)*
6. *Pilate was afraid the crowd would start a riot so he condemned Jesus to death. (b,d)*
7. *The soldiers stripped Jesus, beat Him, and placed a crown of thorns on His head. They mocked Him, saying "Hail, king of the Jews!" (c)*
8. *"It was the third hour (between 9 a.m. and 12 noon) when they crucified him." (b)*
9. *"From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon...But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up His spirit." (b,d)*
10. *The Triduum includes the Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil liturgies. On these three holiest days of the Church year, Catholics celebrate Jesus' loving sacrifice (a,c,d)*



So...are you smarter than a 6th grader?