

CONQUEST

NEWSLETTER

DEAR PROGRAM LEADERS,

I hope you are all doing well this Lenten season. Nationally, we are working hard beginning to prepare all of the materials for the new program year this fall. I am also excited to be launching our new Conquest Website in mid-April. Please continue to send me your groups news stories with pictures to share with all of the programs across the USA and Canada.

God bless!

Todd Brechbill
Conquest National Director

MARCH
APRIL
2015

Lent 2015

LENTEN IDEAS FOR YOUR CONQUEST GROUP

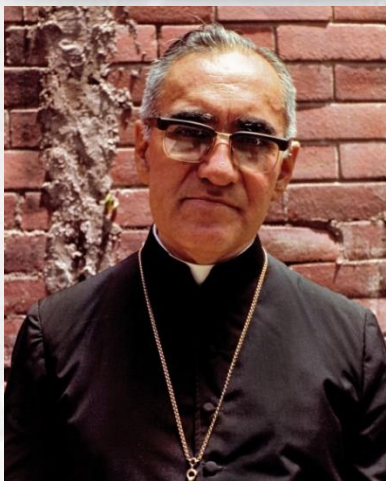
There are some simple but effective activities you can do with your Conquest group in the remaining weeks of lent. Here are some ideas:

1. Host a Lenten half day retreat (organized by older team leaders)
2. Pray the stations of the cross as a group or participate with the parish stations.
3. Go together as a group to confession.
4. Organize a service project (look at options on the Team Leader Resource Center)
 - Organize stations of the cross for kids at the parish – print the kids stations booklets from the club leader CD or online from the leader resource center.
 - Help decorate the Church / parish for Easter
 - Help organize a welcome reception with cake for RCIA candidates who are coming into the Church.
 - Organize “Fire Missions” – door to door missions during Holy week, to invite people in local neighborhoods to services / activities at the parish – especially Easter Sunday Mass.
 - Check with local Catholic Charities or diocesan organizations to see what needs they have that Conquest could help with.

Please remember to send a testimony / story / pictures of anything your Conquest group does this Lent!

MARCH SAINT OF THE MONTH

VENERABLE OSCAR ROMERO



Óscar Romero was born on in 1917 in El Salvador. He had 7 brothers and sisters. He grew up in a time when the church was being persecuted and many people were being killed or assassinated. He could often be found at one of the town's two churches during his free time. Óscar's father trained him to be a carpenter. He entered the seminary when he was young and then went to Rome to finish his studies to be a priest. He was ordained a priest there in 1942. On his way back home to El Salvador, he was detained in Cuba and placed in a prison camp because it was during WWII and the Cuban authorities thought he was coming from Italy as a spy or imposter. Finally, he was set free and Oscar returned to work in El Salvador for 20 years as a parish priest. He promoted various apostolic groups, helped in the construction of San Miguel's cathedral and supported devotion to the Our Lady of Peace. He also became the director of the archdiocesan newspaper

defending the traditional magisterium of the Catholic Church. In 1977 he became Archbishop of El Salvador, the capital. A priest and friend of his was killed for helping the poor and it had a deep impact on Oscar. In less than three years, he realized that more than fifty priests and nuns had been attacked, threatened, calumniated. The archdiocesan radio station and catholic schools that had also been attacked, threatened, and even bombed. So he spoke out openly against poverty, social injustice, assassinations and torture. Archbishop Romero had built up an enormous following among El Salvadorians. He did this largely through broadcasting his weekly sermon across the radio. In these sermons, he listed disappearances, tortures, murders and many of which were caused by the government. On Sundays, his sermons were estimated to have the largest listenership of any program in the country. He was assassinated in 1980 while celebrating Mass. Pope John Paul II bestowed upon him the title of Servant of God.

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH CONFIDENCE

For a Christian, our hope is heaven and being with God. Hope is the foundation for our confidence in God and in ourselves. We can be confident that God keeps his promises.

“Do not be afraid to go and to bring Christ into every area of life, to the fringes of society, even to those who seem farthest away, most indifferent.”

- POPE FRANCIS

YOUCAT # OF THE MONTH

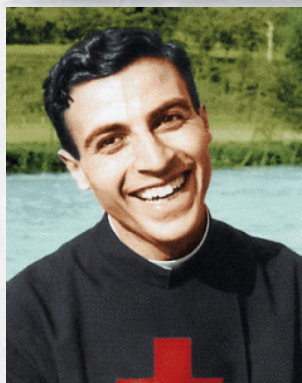
#40

Can God do anything? Is he almighty?

“For God nothing is impossible” He is almighty. Anyone who calls on God in need believes that he is all-powerful. God created the world out of nothing.

APRIL SAINT OF THE MONTH

VENERABLE NICOLA D'ONOFRIO



Nicola D'Onofrio was born on March 24, 1943 in Italy. His father was an honest and religious man, a good farmer. His mother, was a strong, considerate woman, known for her piety and Christian spirit. She was able to transmit to her son a genuine religious sense of life, and an outstanding kindness. In school, he distinguished himself for his diligence, kindness and availability for others. He never missed serving Holy Mass at the parish church, even in winter, though his home was several miles away. A priest invited him to join the seminary in Rome. Nicola immediately revealed his decision to his parents. Although they were reluctant at first because they did not want to see him go so far away, Nicola

entered the seminary in Rome in 1955 to study to be a priest. The other students noticed his determination to really become a saint. He took the vows of Poverty, Chastity, Obedience and Charity towards the sick even in cases of contagious diseases. He had a deep love for the Eucharistic Jesus, whom he received every day and he did an hour of adoration every day. A year after he joined, he started to feel the first symptoms of the cancer that would later lead to his death. He was operated on and in recovery showed his virtue always patient and smiling, careful not to disturb his brothers who were concerned for him. After numerous treatments, he decided to go back to the seminary to study but the cancer continued to spread into his lungs. People who lived with him remember that he gave them the impression of a person who was already living the reality of the life to come. His last days were surrounded by his friends and family. He died when he was only 21 years old. Pope Francis declared his virtues heroic and he as venerable in 2013.

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH PERSEVERANCE

We need to persevere in order to be virtuous people because virtue is the habit of doing good - and habits come about because we repeat something over and over again, persevering and not giving up at the first difficulty.

“Dear young people, do not be afraid of making decisive choices in life. Have faith; the Lord will not abandon you!”

- POPE FRANCIS

YOUCAT # OF THE MONTH

#158

What is heaven? Heaven is the endless moment of love. Nothing more separates us from God, whom our soul loves and has sought our whole life long. Together with all the angels and saints we will be able to rejoice forever in and with God.

CONQUEST NEWS

LENT CONTEST



The Lent contest has kicked off! Do you have a Junior or Father & Son program competing? It is not too late, as there are still a few weeks left! Contact info@conquestclubs.com to find out how to get in the game!

THE EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM!



Early Bird registration is right around the corner! Early bird will be kicked off in mid-April through the end of May (email announcement and instructions will be sent). This year, we are launching a new online store as well as new Conquest and Challenge websites, so your user experience will be much more simple and easy for you to renew your annual membership. All products will ship in July 2015. Make sure to sign up early to save \$100!

CATHOLIC INTEREST:

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE OF SERVICE

Pope Francis gives an audience every Wednesday and usually speaks about a certain theme. Over the past few weeks he has been speaking about the family and on March 4th he spoke about caring for the elderly. It can be found [HERE](#). In Conquest we have many projects geared around serving the elderly and this message from the Pope just emphasized what a wonderful experience it can be for the boys to reach out to those who are older or alone.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH MARY

The USCCB has recently published new stations focused on justice and service on their website. The Vatican will soon release the text of the stations that the Pope will pray in the Coliseum on Good Friday. Meanwhile, this special version of the stations from Mary's perspective are also a great mediation for Lent. Read them [HERE](#).

Special Poll:

**WHAT SOCIAL MEDIA
OUTLET WOULD YOU
MOST PREFER TO
RECEIVE UPDATES
ABOUT CONQUEST?**

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Linked In

Email: info@conquestclubs.com
your preferred pick!

CONQUEST NEWS

Conquest National Camp 2015 – Call & Duty! BUILDING MODERN DAY KNIGHTS



Conquest National Camp for 2015 – Call & Duty – Building Modern Day Knights is open for registration!

The camp will be held July 11-19, 2015 in Mount Joy, PA. Please pass the link to your Conquest families! It is filling up quick and early bird prices end April 30th!

www.conquestclubs.com/events

- **Laser Tag (onsite)**
- **Knight Games**
- **Leadership Activities**
- **Spiritual Talks**
- **Horseback riding**
- **Sports & Fun!**

TRACKS:

\$349 - 10-14 year old boys – REGISTER [HERE](#)

\$199 - 15-17 year old officers – APPLY [HERE](#)

\$75 - Fatherhood Track – REGISTER [HERE](#)

Click [HERE](#) to view the official flyer!

28 Conquest Summer Camps in 2015!



Conquest will offer approximately 28 summer camps for boys June ~ August 2015. Check the Conquest website in early February for a complete list of dates and locations around the USA and Canada. This is a great opportunity for boys to receive excellent Catholic formation while having a great time with sports, fun and friends! [CLICK HERE](#) to check for updates!

DID YOU KNOW?

NEWSLETTERS: You can use this template to create your own Club Newsletter. You can find the editable PPT file on the CL Resource Center.

INFO PRESENTATION: The updated presentation about Challenge & Conquest can be found [HERE](#).

FATHERHOOD FORMATION SMALL GROUP:

BLACK-BELT DAD COURSE– ON FATHERHOOD AND LEADERSHIP

In preparation for the Feast of St. Joseph this week, I thought it would be good to include this great opportunity for you to call some dads together for a small group – perhaps a Fatherhood study to be done alongside the regular weekly Conquest meeting. This FREE Study Circle GUIDE is a perfect way to follow St. Joseph as a model to be the authentic man and father we are all called to be.

The FREE Study Circle Guide is a pointer to a ready to-go resource designed to help men reflect seriously on and, with the help of peer accountability and God's grace, to rise to the challenge of applying gospel principles more intentionally to their critical roles as fathers, husbands, parishioners, and professionals.

The Black-Belt Dad Small Group Discussion resource is part of the Fatherhood and Leadership Initiative, started by a team of men in the Philadelphia area, some of whom are involved in Conquest leadership.

The Black-Belt Dad resource contains four series (called "sessions"), each of which consists of a discussion guide for six meetings. A group can get together for one series (six meetings), and decide whether to continue with the remaining three series.

Dads and husbands. The approach and substantive content of the discussion guides is Catholic, but the emphasis is on applying gospel values to real life. Therefore, the values and virtues have universal applicability and would be of interest even to non-Catholic men who felt a need to improve their fatherhood and leadership.

Each meeting focuses on a real-life case study, analyzed in light of the gospel and discussed in terms of growing in virtue.

This is offered through the RC Spirituality Center – [CLICK HERE](#) if you are interested.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Anna Kulway at:

customerservice@missionnetwork.com

or call (855) 556-6872

