Lent

By Chaplain Donald Moss

God sent Moses down into the land of Egypt to liberate his chosen people, the Hebrews. God led them through the waters of the Red Sea into the wilderness where God sustained them with 'bread" from heaven. God also sustained them with the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are basically rules for living in a family, rules pertaining to a good relationship with God and with others. The Hebrew people were no longer slaves. God brought them out of slavery.

The Hebrew people were now family, the family of God. It is striking that the Ten Commandments are presented in the familiar form. They are addressed to "thou" not "you. In Spanish they would be "tu" not "usted." That is, they are rules of conduct for those in family relationships, for those loving one another. They are rules to love God and to love other human beings. They are not rules for slaves, but rules for those freed to worship and to love.

Christianity borrowed the use of ashes as a sign of repentance from the Hebrew culture. Christians use ashes on Ash Wednesday to signify repentance as well as the beginning of Lent. The reading for Ash Wednesday recall Christ's 40 days in the wilderness. Those 40 days recall the 40 years the Hebrew people were in the wilderness.

The Hebrew people were led through the waters into the wilderness for 40 years until they crossed over into the promised land. Christians use this journey as a metaphor for the life journey. Christians pass through the waters of baptism into the wilderness of the life journey until they cross over into the promised land of their rest.

Lent is the season in which we enter into the desert of our own lives. We pray. We fast. We ask ourselves what we need to do to follow the family rules. We look at how we are living in relationship with God and how we are living in relationship with one another.

The word "Lent" is from middle English. It means "springtime." Lent is intended to be a new season in our lives, a new spring time. Although it is a season of penitence, it is also a season of joy. It is a happy season because we turn away from sin and return to God. We renew our efforts to love God and to love others according to the family rules. Ashes are a sign of repentance, but out of the ashes comes new life, greater love. Greater love always makes us happy.

Have a happy and holy Lent.

Head's Up Yokosuka!

Community Announcements

Compass Program Night Class – The next available class will be held March 24 – 26 starting at 5 p.m. in the Take Room at the Fleet and Family Support Center Annex. Compass is a peer-to-peer mentorship program designed to help Navy spouses adapt to military life. Visit the Web site www.gocompass.org or contact Shelle at 264-7270 for more information or to register for the class.

Yokosuka Schools Mandatory Spring Re-registration – Re-registration will be at Kinnick High School (KHS) April 21 - 24 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The following is the re-registration schedule:

Date:	Last name begins with:
April 21	A - D
April 22	E - K
April 23	L - P
April 24	Q - Z

If your family will be in Yokosuka during the next school year, you must re-register to guarantee the availability of appropriate staffing. Otherwise, your child's class schedule will not be issued on the first day of school. If you will be leaving the Yokosuka area, come in with your transfer orders and fill out a withdrawal form. Contact KHS or your child's school for more information.

March USO Events – The following is a list of upcoming March USO events:

• St. Patrick's Day free corned beef and cabbage dinner will be offered to attendeee from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., March 17.

• Indian food and belly dancer presentation for single and unaccompanied Sailors will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., March 20.

• Birthday Cake Day for anyone celebrating a March birthday will be held March 24.

• Sesame Street TV Special at the Benny Decker Theater for attendees will be at 10 a.m., March 28. Free popcorn provided.

• Every Wednesday night in March is game board night for the entire family with a large selection of board games to play.

• Every Saturday night in March is new DVD release night. Rent a new release DVD and enjoy some popcorn. Come out and see the movies you missed at the theater.