

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Divine Dust

BY NATHAN

One of the most embarrassing pastoral moments I have experienced was when reciting the liturgical phrase “dust to dust, ashes to ashes” while leading a worship service. For some reason in the rush of the service, my mind read the phrase but my tongue didn’t pronounce the ‘h’ in ashes as clearly as I should have and a very different word came out of my mouth.

I’m sure you can imagine how that went. Yes, it was very awkward.

This phrase, “dust to dust, ashes to ashes,” and the other common phrase “from dust you have come to dust you shall return” are both recited on the liturgical holy day of Ash Wednesday. Marking the beginning of the season of Lent, Ash Wednesday is, at its essence, a day commemorating our humanness.

In the Christian tradition, it is a day that reminds us we are human beings, not human doings. It acknowledges we are finite beings trying to live messy, yet sacred lives. It’s a reminder that we are not God, but mortals. Our greatest mistakes, failures, successes, and tasks do not define us. Instead, we are reminded that we are vulnerable, valuable, precious, and impermanent. We are dust, yet we are the Divine’s.

In some ways, it’s a day that encourages us to be; to be present, be human, be ourselves instead of striving to be something we can never attain. Through it all, there is a message of hope. Our mortality and suffering does not have the final say but allows us to live more fully. If I’m honest, I think we all need more presence, humanness, and hope in our lives.

A tradition of any Ash Wednesday service is the imposition of ashes on one’s forehead as a physical and tangible reminder of our humanness and our hope when we remember this. Next Wednesday, March 2nd, we will offer informal opportunities for members of the campus community to receive ashes, to be smeared, and have the reminder of our mortality. Our “Ashes on the Go” will be in Drysdale from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and from 3 - 4:30 p.m. in Schewel.

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Lenten Devotions



To receive email devotions during Lent,
send a message that reads "Send
Prayers" to rapp@lynchburg.edu

Divine dust (cont'd)

You are invited to stop by and see one of the chaplains on the go and let us remind you that you are dust, but you are the Divine's.

*From dust you have come, to dust you shall return.
Turn and have hope.*

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Events this week include:

- TODAY! Wednesday, February 23rd at 6:30 p.m. - (Virtual) COURAGEOUS CONVERSATION with Dr. Brenda DeLee on "Two Steps Forward and Three Steps Back: Examining the Relationship between Racism and Generational Trauma." [Link to register.](#)
- Sunday, February 27th at 5 p.m. GOSPEL SHOW in Sydnor Performance Hall, Schewel.

Sympathies, Concerns, and Congrats

Our sympathies are extended to:

- **Cheyenne Jibilikay** (junior, Alexandria, VA) on the death of her father.

Visitation and Memorial Service:

- For **Beth Marsh** '00, '05 M.Ed (formerly faculty in Psychology) who died on January 24, 2022. Visitation is on Friday, March 4th at 1:30 p.m. and the service is at 2 p.m., both in Snidow Chapel.

The Chaplain's Corner is a newsletter published by the Spiritual Life Center (SLC) at the University of Lynchburg. We share campus concerns and updates, spiritual life events and activities, and words for the journey. If you have a joy or concern you'd like to share, reply to this message, email the SLC office - spirituallife@lynchburg.edu, or call 434.544.8348. We only share with your permission. Current and previous issues are on the SLC page of the University website - www.lynchburg.edu/spiritual-life. Click on "Newsletter."

For a list of regularly scheduled fellowship group meetings, go to the [Spiritual Life webpage](#) and click on "Student Spiritual Life Groups."

Helpful Links on LinkTree at - SpiritualLifeCenter

Dates to Remember

Sundays at 4:30 p.m.
Weekly ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS
Snidow Chapel

Friday, February 25th
5 p.m.
MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION
INTEREST MEETING
Genworth Room,
2nd floor Drysdale

Monday, February 28th
6:30 - 8 p.m.
SOUND BATH
Hall Campus Center
Memorial Ballroom

Tuesday, March 1
7 p.m. in Schewel 231
CAKE CHAT
on Gender and Spirituality

March 2
ASH WEDNESDAY