



The FCA Newsletter

@GreenwaveFCA

March-April

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 15:57

FCA in Action

What's going on in the FCA?

- ❖ If you have written a student devotional and would like to put it in the newsletter, give it to Carrie!
- ❖ We will be participating in the Spring Craft Show at Narrows High School on April 30th. If you are interested and would like to volunteer, please see Carrie or Mr. Helvey.

The FCA Outside of NHS

"Albert Pujols." FCA Sports New Testament Holman Christian Standard Bible. Fellowship of Christian Athletes. FCA National Support Center. Kansas, MO. 2009.

It was once said of Los Angeles Angels' first baseman, Albert Pujols, "He is a man of few words, but if you want to get him talking, just ask him about baseball or about his faith."



Says Pujols, "Growing up in the Dominican Republic, I lived to play baseball. My wife, Deidre, who was my girlfriend at the time, shared how much Jesus loved me. I realized I needed more than religion. I needed a Savior. Jesus Christ wanted a personal relationship with me."

On November 13, 1998, Pujols made what he calls, "the best decision of my life." He gave his heart to Jesus Christ and asked him to become the Lord of his life.

From there, both Pujols' faith and his baseball career have taken flight. In 2005, at the age of 25, Pujols was named the National League Player of the Year and made his fourth All-Star appearance in five big-league seasons, while being named the St. Louis Baseball co-Man of the Year with teammate Chris Carpenter. And in 2006, Pujols continued his success, helping the Cards defeat the Detroit Tigers en route to a World Series title. He added a



second NL MVP award in 2008 and was named the greatest baseball player of the decade by ESPN.com (2000-2009).

"People ask me if I believe how quickly my career has taken off," says Pujols. "I just tell them that Jesus Christ is my strength. God has blessed me, and I will continue to do my best for Him. That is more important than anything I could ever do in baseball."

Student Devotionals

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE By: Carrie Orey

"Nothing in life is free. This fundamental truth defines every facet of how the world works. From snack vending machines, to college tuition, to the 99¢ apps for your phone, everything costs something." Although it may not seem like it at first, this statement is incredibly true: everything costs something, whether it be a form of monetary value, hard work, or even time. I've grown up in a Christian home throughout my entire life, and I've been raised to work hard for what I earn. When thinking about salvation, it has been incredibly hard for me to understand the concept of salvation. Sure, the Bible technically tells us that salvation is free, but is it really? This concept is hard for humanity to understand because we live in a world where everything comes with a price. Even when we are assured that salvation comes freely, the doubt that the only way we will get to Heaven is if we are "good enough" continues to linger in our minds. We try to figure out what we have to do in order to earn God's love. The truth is, everything does cost something – even salvation. Thankfully, we don't have to pay a price for salvation; someone already did it for us. His name is Jesus. "It turns out that salvation is free like Mom cooking dinner is free. She happily buys the groceries and puts in the time because she loves you. Even though it costs her something, she doesn't pass those costs on to you. You don't have to earn dinner." As Easter approaches each year, I am reminded of the price that Christ paid for me. Honestly, the crucifixion story makes me feel uncomfortable. I hate to hear about the suffering that Christ endured for me. As he was beat, whipped, spit upon, mocked, and nailed to

the cross, He was thinking about you and me. While reading this story in the past, I have often asked myself, "Did Jesus really *have* to die to save us? Couldn't God just give us salvation and spare Jesus from suffering such a horrible death since He is all-powerful?" I received my answer one day while reading in the book of Romans. Romans 6:23 states, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Thankfully, Jesus was willing to do whatever it took to pay the cost for our salvation. He conquered death when he rose three days later. He tore down the wall that we build between us and God when we sin and fall short of his glory. We don't have to pay the wages of sin because Jesus already has, and because He loves us, He chose not to pass those costs on to us. Throughout my life, I have often felt that I am unworthy of Christ's love and grace. In fact, I know I am undeserving of it. Romans 3:23 says, "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." I sin on a daily basis, and I'll never be able to completely get rid of my sinful nature. Thankfully, Matthew 9:12-13 reassures me that ALL of God's creatures are worthy of God's love and grace: "Healthy people don't need a doctor – sick people do. For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners." In these verses, Jesus tells us that he came to earth for US, the sinners. No matter what we have done or how badly we have messed up, Jesus continues to love us unconditionally. The truth is, none of us will ever be able to repay Jesus for what he did for us, but thankfully God was willing to pay the price for us. He doesn't want us to attempt to "pay" him back; He simply wants us to accept his unconditional love. The world continues to lie to us saying that we are unworthy and never "good enough," and sometimes we may even believe these lies. However, Jesus is always ready to welcome us into His arms just as we are. We don't have to change who we are in order to be loved by God; His love for us will always be incomprehensible. He loves us more than our parents, friends, boyfriend, girlfriend, husband, or wife will ever love us. God is waiting for YOU to come to Him and accept His love and forgiveness. Will you accept?

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? • He is not here; he has risen!"

Luke 24:5-6a

HOLY WEEK

Sunday – Palm Sunday

❖ Matthew 21:1-11



Monday – Jesus throws vendors out of the temple and tells the parables of the two sons and the tenants.



❖ Matthew: 21:12-46

Tuesday – Jesus confronts the Jewish leaders.

❖ Matthew 23-25



Wednesday – Judas agrees to betray Jesus.

❖ Matthew 26:14-16

Thursday – The Last Supper / Judas betrays Jesus / Jesus is arrested in Gethsemane



❖ Matthew 26:17-75



Friday – Jesus was crucified for YOU!

❖ Matthew 27

Saturday – Last day of Lent!

Christ is Risen!

Sunday – Mary Magdalene discovers that Jesus has risen!