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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25: ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES SLATED AT UD

Students, faculty and staff members at the University of Dayton will celebrate Ash Wednesday, the holy day that marks the beginning of Lent, at Masses slated throughout the day on Wednesday, Feb. 25, on campus.

Masses will be celebrated at 10 and 11 a.m., noon, and 4:30, 7 and 10 p.m. in the Immaculate Conception Chapel. Ashes will also be distributed at a morning prayer at 8:10 a.m. in the chapel and at a Mass at 9 p.m. at the McGinnis Center, 301 Lowes St.

As part of the Mass, participants will approach the altar, where the priest will dip his thumb into ashes and then mark the sign of the cross on each participant's forehead, saying, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return."

It's a symbol of mortality that encourages people to examine how they should live in order to gain eternal life, says the Rev. Jerry Chinchar, S.M., campus minister at UD who will celebrate the 4:30 p.m. Mass. "It's not morbid," he says. "It's a reminder that, in view of eternal life, if you're aiming at eternal life, how do you live your life now?"

Lent is the 40-day "renewal" period that prepares people to celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, he says.

For media interviews, call **Father Jerry Chinchar, S.M.**, at (937) 229-2725. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the UD campus ministry Web site will feature a Lent page, located at <http://www.udayton.edu/~campmin/lent.html>.

THURSDAY, FEB. 26: UD STUDENTS SLEEP IN CARDBOARD BOXES DURING VIGIL

Despite rain, sleet, snow or freezing temperatures, about 30 University of Dayton students will take part in an all-night vigil and sleep-out beginning at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus.

The sleep-out is one part of a weeklong series of events designed to raise awareness and educate the UD community about the realities of homelessness. The "Week In Solidarity With The Homeless" is sponsored by Campus Ministry and the Center for Social Concern. This year's theme is "Turn the W.I.S.H. Into Reality."

Thursday's activities will include a soup line, movie about homelessness and a simulation game depicting the growing disparity between the poor and the wealthy from 8:45 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Kennedy Union's Torch Lounge. A prayer service will be held at 10 p.m. in the chapel. Students will sleep in cardboard boxes outside the chapel in the Nazareth Courtyard.

On Saturday, Feb. 28, UD students will learn about homelessness firsthand when they work at local shelters and soup kitchens.

For more information, call **Courtney Carlson** at (937) 229-3973.