

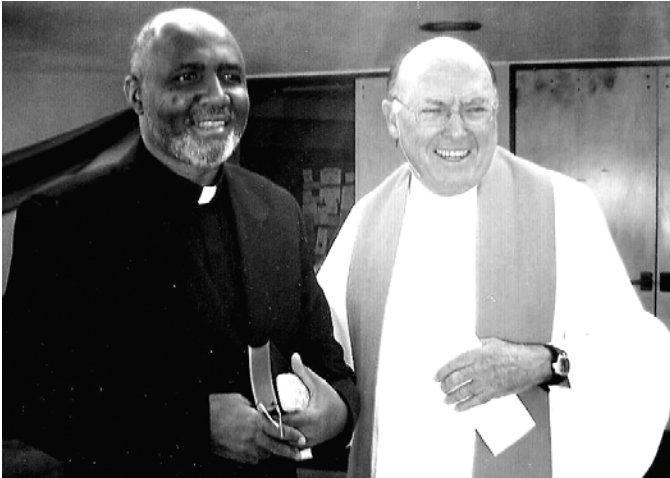
## MISSION STATEMENT

The Christ the King Social Justice Committee Exists to promote, nourish and sustain the ministry of Social Justice through the parish community by serving as a catalyst for and being an active participant in addressing social injustices within and outside the parish community.

# Just Us Parishioners

An Occasional Publication of Christ the King  
Social Justice Committee

October 2006



Father Jean-Juste and Father Brian Joyce

## Father Jean-Juste visits Christ the King Parish and the Bay Area

By Margaret Trost  
President, What If? Foundation

Many of you had the opportunity to meet Fr. Jean-Juste, pastor of St. Clare's Catholic Church of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. He was thrilled to be able to be at Mass and have the opportunity to thank you personally for the generous offering you gave to the What if? Foundation last January. The money gave a huge boost to the food program that takes place five days a week at the St. Clare's Rectory.

On Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Jean-Juste (a.k.a. Fr. Gerry) received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of San Francisco. As I watched him receive his degree, I thought about how I have never met in my life another person who so clearly and courageously lives his life following the teachings of Jesus: his love for the poor, his commitment to non-violence, and his challenging of the systems that oppress people. Fr. Gerry's faith has not led to an easy life. His life has been threatened countless times. He's spent months in prison as a political prisoner. He's been criticized by lots of people, including some of his peers. But what he has is the joy and peace of being in harmony with one's faith, not resisting God's will. Those of you who saw him at Christ the King could see this in his face and feel it from his heart.

When I expressed concern that he could be imprisoned again or killed when he returns to Haiti, he responded, "I'm not afraid to die doing God's will."

When he was diagnosed with leukemia last January, he said with a smile, "God gave me the experience of being a prisoner. Now He is giving me the experience of being a patient." And he meant it completely. Whatever comes his way, I've watched him receive it and find a way to serve others through it with joy and gratitude. I feel so blessed to know and work with Fr. Gerry. His example inspires me to have more courage in my life and to embrace whatever comes with an open heart.

## Nunsations! Benefit for *What If?* Foundation in Haiti

What are the Little Sisters of Hoboken up to now? Join us at the Willows Theatre in Concord for the West Coast Premiere of this all-new, 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Nunsense* series by Dan Goggin. If you have seen any of the other five plays, you know we will be kept in stitches. In this play a parishioner has promised the Little Sisters \$10,000 for their school if they will go to Las Vegas and perform at a friend's showplace. After convincing Reverend Mother that "what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas," the Sisters are off on another hilarious adventure.

We have reserved tickets for Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>. Bring your family. Invite your friends. Or give tickets to this play as a holiday gift. The ticket prices are what you would pay at the door. But because we are getting a group discount, we have a fun and easy way to raise money. The recipient of our efforts will be the *What If?* Foundation in Haiti and its educational outreach to children in Fr. Jean-Juste's parish.

We have a limited number of tickets, so be sure to reserve early by first calling Renie Caldwell at 933-4073 with your order and then mailing a check, payable to Christ the King, to Renie Caldwell, 230 Twinview Drive, Pleasant Hill, 94523. If you have questions, contact Renie (933-4073) or Vince (930-2898). We hope to sell out and have the tickets available for pick-up by mid-November.

Thursday, Dec 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.

Adults	\$32.50
Seniors (65+)	\$30.00
Students (18-)	\$20.00

Friday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 p.m.

Adults	\$35.00
Seniors (65+)	\$32.50
Students (18-)	\$22.50



Children served by the Monument Crisis Center enjoying Third Anniversary Celebration

## Monument Crisis Center

By Pat Kramer

This summer Monument Crisis Center left its very cramped quarters and moved into space triple its former size. Still located on Monument Blvd. but near Costco, it has enough room for a small classroom, storage, public and private areas, and big doors wide enough to unload pallets directly from delivery trucks. The Center opened for business at its new location on July 17<sup>th</sup>, thanks to so many volunteer hours and donations from local businesses.

Just a month later on August 19<sup>th</sup> the Center celebrated its Third Anniversary and Open House. Volunteers, clients, donors and civic leaders, including our own Congressman George Miller, enjoyed the afternoon touring the new facility.

For those not familiar with the Center its mission is to provide food, education, assistance, and referrals in crisis situations and to promote community awareness of needs and available resources to at-risk and low income people in Contra Costa County. It has become a focal point in the community for the elderly, the working poor, and others on limited incomes. Its primary service provides a three to four day supply of fresh and packaged foods once per month. The Center has over 2000 families registered and is now serving more than 900 families each month. In August its small paid staff plus 620 volunteers worked in the Center.

Many of you may remember our participation last year in the Adopt-a-Family Holiday Program. Of the 600 families in that program 120 were adopted by our parishioners. The Center is in the midst of soliciting family wish lists for this year's program. Our parish will participate again. The wish lists will be available at all the Masses on the weekend of **Oct 28-29**. To the **extent possible** you will be able to pick your family size and the range of ages of children. A little different this year is that the families are being asked to identify the gift that each member most needs and the gift that each would really like. This should reduce confusion about what to purchase. Then the family gifts, including a certificate for buying items for a holiday meal, need to be delivered the last week of November to a warehouse in the local area. Volunteers will make deliveries of the gifts the weekend of December 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>

and December 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Also new this year will be a phone number, called Holiday Hotline, designated just for those adopting a family. Your calls should be answered much faster this way and not be part of the Center's general calls.

In addition to the Adopt-a-Family Program described above, an additional 300 families receive gifts directly from the Center at the holidays. These gifts include food baskets, toys, and gift certificates, e.g. Safeway, Target, Rite-Aid. Very much needed are sleeping bags, backpacks, socks, knit hats, and flashlights.

Sandra Scherer, the Executive Director, recently told the story of a family, adopted last year, who came back to the Center with their child's gift of toys and asked if they could exchange them for a sleeping bag. Many families either do not have beds or do not have sufficient beds for their families, so the sleeping bags become the surrogate bed on the floor or the personal space for someone sharing a bed with maybe two other siblings.

In addition to adopting a family or providing gift items the Center needs volunteers to help at the warehouse (November 28<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup>) either answering the Holiday Hotline, checking deliveries in and out, or handling the packages themselves. Prior to November 28<sup>th</sup> the Holiday Hotline will be answered at the Center, so volunteers are needed for this.

The Center is supported by our parish's food collection on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month and its weekly summer produce, by volunteers helping during the day Monday through Thursday and at the Tuesday evening food distribution, by an after school tutoring program on Thursdays and adult English classes on Fridays and Tuesday evenings. And the larger new office is providing opportunities for even more services to the clients.

The new location is 2350 Monument Blvd, Suite B, Concord, 94520. Phone number: (925) 825-7751. Visit its website: [www.monumentcrisiscenter.org](http://www.monumentcrisiscenter.org)

Thank you to all who have given so generously to the Center. And did you know that our parish is identified as one of the Center's major funders!! Thank you.

The Center's mission: *No one should have to go hungry.*