
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
February 5, 2006

Dear Parishioners,

Next weekend features the **Annual Bishops Appeal** that is so important for the life and ministry of the Church in the Diocese of Oakland and the two East Bay counties of Contra Costa and Alameda. You are especially encouraged to make not just a one time donation but a year long pledge that will support programs that continue throughout the year. Last year our parish raised \$62,205.00 for the Bishops Appeal; this year our parish goal is \$58,104. The Diocesan wide goal is 2.1 million. I encourage your usual and familiar generosity.

The programs supported and subsidized by the 2006 Bishops Appeal are Spiritual Ministries (7%), Educational Ministries (32%), Youth and Family Ministries (8%), Support to Parishes in need (17%), Diocesan Services (14%) and the final 22% for Lay Leadership Training and Clergy Support. **Spiritual Ministries** represent Hospital Ministry, support for parish and Diocesan Liturgy development, as well as Small Christian Communities; **Educational Ministries** include subsidies to schools in financial need, parish Catechetical resources and a department for Religious Ed Special Need Students; CYO, our Diocesan Youth Retreat Center in Lafayette and our program for Safe Environment for Children is part of the **Youth and Family Ministries**; under support for Parishes in Need is the necessary retrofitting of several

parishes, subsidies to very needy parishes and development of ethnic pastoral centers; **Diocesan Services** principally represent development of long term pastoral planning and the budget for our marriage tribunal and canon law department; finally under **Clergy and Lay Leadership** come our clergy retirement program, our school for pastoral ministry and seminary education and vocations department.

Your donation and pledge go entirely to the operating budget for these important programs and ministries. Two major Diocesan expenditures are not included in any way with the Appeal; they are the sad but necessary sexual abuse legal settlements and the projected expense for the construction of our beautiful new Cathedral Complex. You notice the biggest block of Appeal funds go to our neediest parishes and poorest schools. Your donation and pledge definitely helps the poor in parish life and in paving the way for high school and college education to help break the cycle of poverty. Again thank you for your generosity!

Your Pastor,

WEEK AT A GLANCE

- SUNDAY**
- The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time /2nd Collection for CTK School, Religious Ed, Youth Ministry**
 - Boy Scout Sunday, Celebration Mass, 9:15**
 - RE Program for 3 year olds (B), Room D, During 9:15 Mass
 - RE PreK/K Program: PreK, Parish Hall, A,B & C; K Program, CTK School; During 9:15 Mass
 - Children's Liturgy of the Word, During 9:15 Mass
 - RE Older Sacrament Class (Gr. 6-8), RE Office, 10:40 am
 - Jr/Sr. Confirmation, Parish Hall, 10:45-12:45 / Youth Group "BE" Night, Parish Hall, 7-9 pm
 - Taize Prayer Around the Cross, St. Mark's Lutheran Church (3051 Putnam Blvd), 7 pm
- MONDAY**
- RE Older Sacraments (Gr 3-5), Parish Hall, 4:00 pm
 - Evening Bible Study; "Wonderful Women of the Word", Parish Hall, 7-8:30 pm**
 - RE, CTK and Older Sacrament Parents, First Eucharist Parent Meeting , Church, 7:30 pm**
- TUESDAY**
- Legion of Mary, Ministry Center, Following 8:00am Mass
 - RE: Grades 1-5; Grades 1-3, School, 3:40-5:00 pm; Grades 4 & 5, Parish Hall, A, B, C, 3:40-5:00 pm
 - RE: Grades 7/8, Parish Hall, 7-8:30 pm
 - Rosary and Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion, VCMtg Rm, 7:00 pm, contact Andy @229-3038
 - School Educational Evening, Part II, Church, 7:00 pm, Advance registration required**
 - Spanish Prayer Group, Ministry Center (Common Rm), 7:30 pm
- WEDNESDAY**
- Bereavement Ministry, Ministry Center (Room C), 9 am
 - RE: Grades 1-5; Grades 1-3, School, 3:40-5:00 pm; Grades 4 & 5, Parish Hall, A, B, C, 3:40-5:00 pm
 - RE: Grade 6, Parish Hall, 7-8:30 pm / St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, Ministry Center, Chapel, 7 pm
 - Weekly Charismatic Prayer Meeting, 6 St. Lawrence Ct., 7:30 pm (for info. call 932-0395)
 - Centering Prayer, Resurrection Episcopal Church (399 Gregory Ln.), 7:30 pm
- THURSDAY**
- Centering Prayer, Ministry Center (Library), 10 am
 - Staff Meeting, Parish House, 10:30 am
 - RE: Grades 1-5; Grades 1-3, School, 3:40-5:00 pm; Grades 4 & 5, Parish Hall, A, B, C, 3:40-5:00 pm
 - RE: Grade 1-5 Catechist Meeting, Parish Hall, 7:00 pm
 - RCIA Inquiry, Ministry Center (Chapel & Dining Room), 7:15 pm
 - Liturgy Coordinating Meeting, Parish House, 7:00 pm
 - Volunteer Valentine Party, Parish Hall, 6 pm
- FRIDAY**
- SATURDAY**
- Men's Fellowship Group, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:30-8:30 am, Contact John at 372-7873**
- SUNDAY**
- Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time / Second Collection for Bishop's Appeal**
 - RE Program for 3 year olds (A), Room D, During 9:15 Mass
 - RE PreK/K Program: PreK, Parish Hall, A,B & C; K Program, CTK School; During 9:15 Mass
 - Children's Liturgy of the Work, During 9:15 Mass
 - RE Older Sacrament Class (Gr. 6-8), RE Office, 10:40 am
 - Youth Group Topic Night, Parish Hall, 7-9 pm
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Reminder: RE and 2 Grade Sacrament Parent Meeting –

Please remember that tomorrow night, February 6th, at 7:30 pm, is our scheduled meeting for parents whose children are in RE or CTK School Sacrament Program. Fr. Joyce will be presenting “Eucharist in Our Daily Lives”!

Educational Evening –

Christ the King School Community presents a two part series celebrating the healthy development of children and the important role parents play in this critical process. The second series is February 28th at 7 pm in the church. Dr. Doreen Jones will be the presenter. Advance registration required (\$5 a person or \$8 a couple per presentation). For information or registration please call Suzie Stoddard 925-349-6770 or Janine Orr 925-935-1681.

The Grief Workshop

is still open to those interested. The new dates for the workshop are Tuesday, February 28th to April 11th, 7:00-9:00 pm in the Ministry Center. Call Sr. Joanne or Fr. Aidan at 682-2486 to register or email Fr. Aidan at ajmcaleenan@att.net to obtain additional information. The Divorce Workshop will be in the Fall of 2006.

Surfs Up:

This year we will not have a Country Store so we ask that your donations go to the St. Vincent de Paul store in Pleasant Hill instead; however, any Christmas donations will be gladly accepted by the Altar Society. Please call Gloria at 676-8519.

Faith Journeys,

a non-profit interdenominational Christian group invites you to join them in traveling to sites of the early church in Turkey: “In the Footsteps of Paul and the 7 Churches of the Revelation”. Dates for the trip are March 23-April 7 (optional Creek cruise including the island of Patmos, April 8-12). Base price of \$3377 includes airfare, accommodations, most meals, taxes, tips, etc. For more information please visit the website at <http://www.fieu.edu/turkeyfaithjourney.shtml> and/or call Forum Travel International at 925-997-1864 or 925-946-1500. One of the leaders of this trip is fellow parishioner Bible teacher, Kathy Roberts (925-939-0173). Flyers are available in the back of the Church.

Help Homeless Families –

We are seeking six families who would be willing to assist a homeless family from the Winter Nights Shelter into the mainstream. Training provided. If interested, please call 930-9965. Thank you.

A New Pope's First Evangelization Letter

Last week Pope Benedict XVI released his first encyclical, a 16,000 word letter to the whole Catholic Church. Entitled – “Deus Caritas Est” (God is Love), it calls for a deeper understanding of love by exploring the connection between human love, divine love and Christian charity. **According to one often critical reviewer this first encyclical** “confirms Pope Benedict as a man of humor, warmth, humility and compassion. On his election last spring, the former Cardinal Ratzinger was widely assumed to have as his papal agenda the hammering of heretics and a war on secular relativism. Instead he has produced a profound, lucid and at times witty discussion of the relationship between sexual love and the love of God. This is a document that presents the most attractive face of the Catholic faith.”

“About the only flaw in the English text is its non use of inclusive language: for “man” read “man and woman”. But he makes no other sexist point; there is no attempt to distinguish female sexual love from the male version, no judgmental talk of what sexual love is ordained for, nor even of exploitation and sexual sin. The second part of the letter ties up a loose end in Catholic social teaching by addressing the question of how, in a world seeking social justice, there is still room for charity. He warns that the Church cannot and must not replace the State but must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.”

Another prominent woman theologian comments that the encyclical “demonstrates an understanding of human love that has often been absent from church teaching. Its tone is poetic, its message is not prohibitive, the royal “we” is missing. Pope Benedict concedes that the church was often responsible for a negative attitude to the human body. This is a rare departure from an institution that seldom admits error.”

“He advocates as a core teaching of the church a love that is revealed in action on behalf of those in need. This leads him to an extended reflection on the place of charity and justice in the relationship between faith and politics, church and state.”

“Pope Benedict recognizes that politics is the responsibility of the state. He says that a just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the church. Where he sees the connection between faith and politics is in faith’s ability to inform consciences in political life. But he insists the church cannot and must not replace the state. This is light years away from the time when the church required the state to formulate policies in line with church teaching or face the consequences.”

“Christian charity, Pope Benedict says, as an integral part of the Gospel must never be used to impose faith, and should never be linked to proselytism. Love is free: it is not practiced as a way of achieving other ends; it must be done for its own sake.”

The entire encyclical letter is available on line at www.vatican.va under “latest updates”. In a future bulletin fold out we’ll print some key excerpts from “Deus Caritas Est.”