
THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

June 18, 2006

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Father's Day! as we remember the unique and valuable contribution fathers make to the lives of their children and the heart of human society: the family. Our "Father's Day Prayer", read at all masses this weekend, acknowledges fathers, includes step fathers, fathers by adoption, divorced fathers, those who have "fathered" us as mentors and guides and "those fathers who have died but live on in our memory and whose love continues to nurture us". A copy of this "Father's Day Prayer" is available on our parish website (www.ctkph.org). We also received several requests for the prayer I shared on Pentecost Sunday from Chester Cathedral in England ("Lord give me a good digestion. . ."); it's available at our website under Homilies on Line, "Pentecost 2006".

Today is also the **Feast of Corpus Christi** ("The Body and Blood of Christ). "A Holy Day of Obligation" in many countries but not here in the U.S., it originated in the year 1246 in an age when Catholics rarely received communion, but adored the presence of Christ in the Eucharistic host from a distance. Fortunately we live in an age that has returned to the practice of the early Church where celebrating Eucharist normally includes participating in communion both as consecrated bread and consecrated wine. May this celebration deepen our faith in the family table of the Eucharist and the presence of Christ in gathering, word and above all in bread and wine of communion.

On Tuesday evening June 6th we had a meal and sharing session with representatives of many of the ministries that are part and parcel of our parish life. One goal was to reflect together on the recent Ministry Fair (April 30th) that we held in the gym, seeking feedback, evaluation and suggestions; another goal was for our many ministries to meet and find out about each other; finally we hoped to begin building a common vision of what and how we go about ministry. Although some could not attend, 72 representatives showed up and participated in a high energy, spirited evening. Some of the evening is captured in the brief report in today's fold-out. This past weekend our Parish Council reviewed the results and studied ways to enrich and develop parish ministries as well as where to find room to put them!

On Tuesday evening of this week, we're hosting a barbeque dinner for the ministers of our neighboring Pleasant Hill congregations: Hillcrest Congregational, Resurrection Episcopal, St. Mark's Lutheran, St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Faith Lutheran and Seventh Day Adventist. We meet together each month to discuss faith and community issues, jointly sponsor the annual Advent Concert and the once a month Taize prayer services.

All the priests of the Diocese of Santa Rosa are spending a "clergy week" at Clear Lake to discuss Trends in the Future Staffing of Parishes". I've been asked to make a three hour presentation on Wednesday morning on "The Pastor and Planning: Developments in Pastoral Theology and Practice".

By the end of the week, our summer visitor, Fr. Terry Loughran from Limerick, Ireland, will be arriving to help out for six weeks which includes the weeks I'll be taking vacation, the week Fr. Aidan will be spending in Mexico with our teens, and his vacation at the beginning of August.

Your Pastor,

WEEK AT A GLANCE**SUNDAY** -Feast of Corpus Christi**MONDAY** -Vacation Bible Camp Begins, Gym, 9-12 noon

-Rosary Bead Makers, Ministry Center (Dining Room), 7:30 pm, Contact: Jane at 825-2832

-Ad Ed Meeting, Parish House, 7:30 pm

TUESDAY -Legion of Mary, Ministry Center, Following 8:00am Mass

-Vacation Bible Camp Continues, Gym, 9-12 noon

-Work Camp Meeting, Ministry Center (Chapel), 6:00 pm

-Pleasant Hill Ministerial BBQ, 5:30 pm

-Rosary and Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion, VCMtg Rm, 7:00 pm, contact Andy @229-3038

-Spanish Prayer Group, Ministry Center (Common Rm), 7:30 pm

WEDNESDAY -Vacation Bible Camp Continues, Gym, 9-12

-Bereavement Ministry, Ministry Center (C), 9:00 am

-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 -Vacation Bible Camp Continues, Gym, 9-12

-Centering Prayer, Ministry Center (Library), 10 am

-Vacation Bible Camp Family Celebration, Gym, 6:00 pm

FRIDAY -Vacation Bible Camp Ends, Gym, 9-12**SATURDAY** -Men's Fellowship, Ministry Center, 7:30 am, Contact John Alonso @ 372-7873**SUNDAY** -Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time-Fourth Sunday Food Drive

Sponsors Needed for Exchange Students – Michael Cox from International Student Exchange is seeking Host Families for exchange students from France and Spain. The students are staying 3-4 weeks in both July and August. Contact Michael at (925)366-2257 for more information.

Registration RE Classes for Fall 2006-2007 (Children four years old through grade 8) **New and Returning Families:** wishing to enroll for the first time in RE may register in August:

August 15th from 10 am-4:30 pm and 6:30-7:30 pm RE Office

16-17th from 10 am-4:30 pm RE Office

August 21-24th from 10 am-4:30 pm RE Office
(RE Office **closed** from 12 noon -1:00 pm)

Christ the King Basketball CYO Sign-ups for the 2006-2007 Season – All sign-ups will be held in the gym on the following dates:

August 10, 2006, Thursday from 6-8 pm

August 22, 2006, Tuesday from 6-8 pm

Please call Mark Medeiros at 925-423-7118 with any questions or for further information.

Searching for a spiritual home? Has your faith journey led you to worship with us? We welcome you and invite you to our “no strings attached” Spring/Summer Inquiry Series. Ideal for those wishing to learn about Catholicism and for adult Catholics who have not completed their sacraments. For information, contact Al Garrotto at 252-1008.

One Last Request: We have been asking your support in providing small boxes/tablets of stationery and/or a book of postage stamps for homebound seniors in Contra Costa County as part of our camp’s summer outreach. We have received some help but, we still need more. If you are able to help us, please bring your donations to the Religious Education Office **thru June 20th** - Help! Help! Questions 686-1017.

Scrip Summer Schedule – Scrip will be sold after the 5:00 pm Saturday mass, and before and after the 9:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday Masses. The items that will be carried in the mass box are: Arco / Barnes & Noble / Borders / Burger King /Chevron /Dennis Uniform / Home Depot /Jamba Juice / JC Penny / Longs / Lunardi / Macys / McDonalds / Peet’s / Safeway /Shell / Starbuck’s / Sweet Tomatoes / Toys R Us / Walgreen. There will be a limited amount each weekend. Any other eitems not in the mass box, but listed on the school order form, will be filled by arrangement. Please call Rosana Gastello 709-8662 or e-mail rsagastello@sbcglobal.net with a detailed message with your order. You will receive a call back with a delivery date. Take into consideration, it may take up to one week to fill your order.

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat June 30-July 2 – Do you know someone hurting after abortion? Still seeking peace years later? Experience the healing of love of Jesus at Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat, June 30-July 2 in the Sonoma Wine Country. Sponsored by After the Choice, the Diocese of Oakland’s post-abortion outreach. Retreat includes sharing of stories, scripture-based spiritual exercises, sacraments and a memorial service. Cost: \$150 per person, \$200 per couple. Financial assistance available. For a complete information packet, call 510-267-8335 or e-mail Monika at Mrodman@oakdiocese.org. Inquiries and participation are strictly confidential.

The Fish, the Fish, Who’s Got the Fish? Our offertory or gift table in the center aisle always has a fish on it in addition to the bread and wine for mass. Any parishioners are welcome to pick up the fish before mass as a sign that they will bring up the gifts during the mass. Just return the fish and bring the gifts forward at the end of the collection time when the presiding priest moves to the main aisle.

Ministry Connections

Do you see a value in having your ministry displayed at the Ministry Fair? Did it serve any value to your ministry? Great value. . . Gave us the opportunity to find out, in depth the other ministries that are in the parish. . . Helped create a bond between ministries. . . Not everyone attended or some were missing that weekend . . . Gave us some idea about how many ministries there are.

How many new people signed up? Full report pending, examples include: Just Faith 3. . . Sr. Service Van 3. . . Social Justice 22. . . Music Ministry 15. . . LifeWorks 24. . . MOMS' 10. . . Altar Society 8. . . Hospitality 6, Environment /Liturgy 4. . . Rosary Makers 17.

How does the Ministry Fair approach compare with the former practice of a “sign-up and recommitment” in church during the homily every two years? Suggested to combine both. . . have map of gym combined with call to action homily. Follow-up next Sunday with sign up cards in pews. . . Not sure but the visual “witness” of 50 ministries was a powerful PR event. . . Homily approach good for shy or undecided. Fr. Joyce explains well. . . Suggestions of sign-ups the following Sunday . . . Not all people are available on one Sunday, have two with another Sunday for sign-up. . . Suggestions to give written information in bulletin, previous Sunday about the different ministries and its requirements/time etc.

What went well and what needs adjustment? Each ministry should follow up with “icebreaker events” for sign ups. Do more of these dinner/ministry connections dinners. . . Have people at all ministry tables wear badges. . . Disperse the refreshments throughout the gym/hall. . . Have takeaways at every table . . . Maybe should be in fall . . . Need more than once per year. . . cards in the pews. . . homily information. . . and tables in front of the church. . . or add to parish festival. . . Centrally locate refreshments. . . get word out via parish bulletin and web site. Ministry follow up parties like this evening. Also include some of the resource ministries of the Diocese. . . Not everyone is around in one week-end, so we should have it over several week-ends. Many people were not aware that they needed to resign or recommit to ministries. . . Distribute written material, brochures etc. the week before the ministry fair. Follow up quickly so as not to lose enthusiasm and momentum. Sign-up following week. Recruiting should be done continually.

How often should we have a fair? Everyone agreed that it should be done annually and some suggested twice per year . . . spring and fall.

Are you familiar with the other ministries in our parish and how could we communicate better as a parish family? Not as familiar as we would like to be. . . Similar ministries should work together. Plus have prayers of faithful for each ministry. . . It was suggested that newcomers may not feel too welcome, given the intimidating size of the parish. What happens when someone signs up in the parish – are they offered ministry opportunities?

Additional comments: Have a different name, e.g. “Ministry Connections”, Ministries Display”. . . Have Diocesan Ministries highlighted such as Retrouvaille. . . Have a follow-up weekend. . . Some suggested to alternate years. . . Have it (Ministry fair) at the church and the gym. . . Have more take away literature/brochures/web/expectations etc.