
THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 26, 2009

Dear Parishioners,

The Pope didn't just break his wrist! He also broke his image. This July he issued his third and long awaited **social encyclical**; a personal papal letter on the social teaching of the Church and its application today. It will stand well in the series of such documents dating back to Leo XIII's "Rerum Novarum" (of New Things!); that 1891 document is the foundation stone of the Catholic social teaching tradition – a tradition that broke ground away from "thou shalt not lie", "thou shalt not kill" and "thou shalt not steal" to address the condition of labor and the need for everything from child labor laws, minimum and living wages, the right to organize (horror of horrors – unions!) and the right to collective bargaining. As one commentator writes "Benedict XVI has made a habit of refuting his own stereotype. None of his three encyclicals, least of all this one, confirms the image of "Ratzinger the conservative autocrat".

No, I don't expect many of you to run out and buy a copy of "Caritas in Veritate". I also don't expect this closely reasoned and thickly written document to make anyone's best seller list. Still it is an important landmark in the social justice teaching of the Church. It is one that will be hotly debated for years to come. One American neo-conservative has already written it off as a "duck-billed platypus!", consisting of agreeable (to him) lines that the Pope must have written mixed with "justice and peace" lines that someone else must have inserted! – shades of William F. Buckley dismissing the great social encyclical "Mater et Magistra" by Pope John XXII in the 60's with the snide remark "Mater (mother) Si: Magistra (teacher) No!"

If I had to summarize the ground breaking work in Pope Benedict's letter, it would be with three really deep and profound phrases: The first is "integral human development"; the second and third are simply "gift" and "fraternity".

"Integral Human Development" - Ever since Vatican II (1962-1965) and the writings of Pope Paul VI (1963-1978), the scope of evangelization (which all accept as the Church's job), has been pushed to bring social justice within the agenda of the Church's main business. However, "Preaching the gospel" and "working for social justice" still seem to be separate and apart. The Pope now brings the two halves emphatically together to make one whole. "The Whole Church, in all her being and acting - when she proclaims, when she

celebrates, when she performs acts of charities is engaged in promoting integral human development • • • authentic human development concerns the whole person in every dimension". There simply is no spiritual pathway that bypasses integral human development which leads to Christ and finds its measurement and criteria in Christ. This central idea, the fusion of spirituality and social action under the banner of integral human development enables Benedict to turn to contemporary crises: the current financial crisis, the crisis of globalization and migration and to judge the impact of each on integral human development.

"Gift and Fraternity" – Discussing modern finance Benedict draws a line between a capitalist economy aimed at maximum profit and a civil market economy aimed at the common good. It includes the concept of "gift", which is not oriented solely by profit, and it encourages "fraternity", a generalized sort of friendship between equals that respects diversity. A civil market promotes something for which people already possess an instinct; they need and want to be able to "give".

Pope Benedict also places his hopes in the United Nations. "There is an urgent need of a true world political authority to bring about integral and timely disarmament, food security and peace, to guarantee the protection of the environment and to regulate migration."

The Pope already has a reputation for being "green" and he puts his whole rhetorical weight behind it. He calls for a reform of life styles and the re-education of conscious choices as part of "a covenant between human beings and the environment." This too is the Church's business for the sake of integral human development.

As one editor has put it, "This remarkable and intelligent man, now in his eighties, seems to have regained the originality of mind that once made him one of the most innovative voices at Vatican II. Half a century later he still has new things to say, well worth hearing, well worth waiting for. And no stereotype could ever begin to describe him."

Your Pastor,



WEEK AT A GLANCE

- SUNDAY** -**The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** / Summer Food Drive Continues
- TUESDAY** -Legion of Mary, Ministry Center, Following 8 am Mass
-Rosary & Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion, CV Meeting Room, 7 pm, Contact Andy @ 229-3038
-Spanish Prayer Group, CV Meeting Room, 7:30 pm
- WEDNESDAY** -**Youth Ministry Summer BBQ's, Youth Ministry House, 6-9 pm, Questions? Call 676-0979**
-St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:00 pm
-Centering Prayer, Resurrection Episcopal Church (399 Gregory Lane), 7:30 pm
- THURSDAY** -Centering Prayer, Ministry Center (Library), 10:00 am
- SATURDAY** -Men's Fellowship Group, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:30-8:30 pm, contact John at 372-7873
-Women of Magdalene, Ministry Center (Chapel), 9-12 noon
-Bereavement, Ministry Center (Dining Room/Library), 9:30-10:30 am
- SUNDAY** -**The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** / Summer Food Drive Continues
-Second Collection for School, RE and Youth Ministry
-CTK 55+ Breakfast, Mimi's Restaurant (1631 Willow Pass Rd), 9:15 am (after 8:00 am mass), RSVP Brenda 687-1259 by August 1st
-Taize Prayer Around the Cross, Christ the King Church, 7:00 pm
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Religious Education Information – The R.E. Office is now closed and will re-open August 17th, at 9:30 am. We hope you have a wonderful summer!!

Religious Education News – Our Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) will begin again during the 9:15 mass in September. We are in the process of planning our teams and need generous volunteers as **guides** (set up room prior to 9:15 am Mass) & **assistants** (help supervise children at CLOW) commitment is one Sunday each month, September–April. All 6th graders through adults are invited to join us in this ministry. Just give a call to Sr. Maureen at 686-1017. Thank you.

RE Registration: Last Chance for 4 yr old-Grade 6 – Re registration for 2009-10 classes was held throughout May and June. We will offer one more opportunity to register on **August 20th, 6:30 pm-8:00 pm in rooms A/B**. After that, we will be placing children in classes and finalizing our set up for next year. Grades 7 and 8 are presently filled. If your child has had no previous RE classes, but needs to receive sacraments, please inquire at this time. Detailed info will be provided. Questions? 686-1017.

Women's Reading Group – Join us for the reading and discussion of *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter* by Sue Monk Kidd. Meeting times will be Saturdays from 9:30-11:30 in the Ministry Center. Dates are August 1st, Sept. 12th, Oct. 3rd and Nov. 14th. First meeting will be the discussion of Part One, pages 1-82. Any questions, contact Sandy Lione @ 925-370-6389.

CYO Basketball Sign-Ups for 2009-10 to be held in the CTK gym on August 4th and August 20th from 6-8 pm and August 27th, 6-6:45 pm. CYO basketball is for grades 3 through 8 for both boys and girls. Call CYO Athletic Director Rick Ramacier 925-383- 2268 if you have any questions.

Empowering the People of Faith – Please join us for an evening workshop on Just Faith. Anyone interested in developing a passion and thirst for god's justice should attend. Jack Jezreel, popular national speaker and justice educator, will facilitate the workshop at St. Raymond's Church in Dublin on August 5th from 6:30-9:30 pm. For more information contact Kathy Schuenzel at 969-1964 or ctkjustfaith@hotmail.com.

Social Justice would like to invite everyone to hear Doug Grandt, TheClimateProject.org speaker update us on climate changes issues, and discuss local initiatives and U.S. energy & climate legislation. Please join us Thursday, August 6th at 7 pm in rooms A & B.

Grief Workshop – The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Whether the death was sudden and tragic, or one with warning and preparation, the reality of death leaves most of us shocked, confused and sad. These feelings may linger for years. Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief. Your loss may be recent or it may be years ago. Sr. Joanne Gallagher and a team of peer ministers will facilitate a seven week workshop to help you begin the healing process. Dates and times: **Monday, September 14 to October 26, 7:00-9:00 pm** at Christ the King Church, Ministry Center. Call 682-2486 to register. **Registration is required.**

The Latest from Fr. Aidan! - Aidan has been appointed acting pastor of St. Columba Church in North Oakland (once led for years by Msgr. Wade!). He plans a housewarming party in the near future, so we can celebrate with him and help him get settled in. We'll let you know the date soon. Meanwhile he has an immediate request – he's looking for the loan of a used car in working condition just for now until September for a visiting seminarian; he'll take care of the insurance etc. any offers call 650-248-8355.

Mass times for traveling Catholics www.masstimes.org

A Quiet Place

Last weekend Fr. Declan suggested we find “a desert place” where we can be people of prayer, however near or far. Beginning with the beautiful prayer of St. Teresa of Avila, we suggest a few resources to add to your own imagination and resourcefulness.

*Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you.
All things pass. God alone abides.
Patience achieves everything.
Whoever has God lacks nothing.
God alone suffices.*

Prayer Groups at Christ the King

Our parish has two **Centering Prayer Groups** that meet weekly. On Wednesday the group meets at 7:30pm at Resurrection Episcopal Church. On Thursday the group meets at 10:00am, in the Ministry Center.

Contact: Jodi Henrekin-Runyon 939-0859

Men’s Prayer Group

Each Saturday morning our parish hosts a men’s prayer group at 7:30 am in the Adult Ministry Center.

Contact: John Alonso 372-7873

Filipino Prayer Group

The group meets every Friday at 8:00 pm in the home of a host family. Members also visit the sick and pray for them.

Contact: Rudy Bautista 372-6227

Morning Prayer of the Church

At Christ the King parishioners gather to pray the Liturgy of morning prayer Monday through Friday at 7:30 am in the parish church.

Contact: Carol Alonso 372-7873

Mother of Perpetual Help

This group meets every Tuesday from 7:00 to 7:30 pm in the vestibule meeting room in the church.

Contact: Andy Ryncarz 229-3038

Spanish Prayer Group

Spanish speaking parishioners meet Tuesday evening from 7:30-10:00 pm in the vestibule of the church to join together in prayer.

Contact: Silvia Morales 827-4455

Taize Prayer Around the Cross

On the first Sunday evening of each month, four of the Christian Churches of Pleasant Hill sponsor one hour of devotional prayer in the spirit and music of Taize (the ecumenical monastic community in Southern France). Watch the parish bulletin for the schedule of locations.

Contact: Zeny Zabala 683-3699