
THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 2, 2009

Dear Parishioners,

Next week we get to meet and welcome our new bishop, Salvatore Cordileone, on two different occasions. On Monday morning he will be here for a Diocesan wide meeting of Catholic School principals and pastors, including an 11:30 a.m. mass which he will celebrate with us; then on next Sunday at 12:15, he will be with us for mass and following reception as we bless (and show off!) our newly redone church. I really look forward to his coming and the church blessing; however at quite another level I feel like we almost need a caution label reading: **Warning! This week may be harmful to your spiritual health!**

The reason I say that is, however delighted we may be with the bishop himself and with our newly redone church, being Church, being Catholic, and our spiritual life is not about hierarchy or bishop, and most certainly not about church buildings. Whether we celebrate in a tent or parish gym, in parish hall or out on the lawn, with or without any building at all, being Church means being a people (with Pope and bishops included) who encounter Christ, celebrate gospel and Eucharist, and witness through caring and justice.

The question I've run into repeatedly this summer from kind and thoughtful Catholics and grumpy, unhappy ones as well is "Why do I stay?" Some of you may disagree with me but I have never met anyone who stays in the Church because of a bishop (although some have left because of bishops or pastors-but that's quite a different issue). And although we all have our favorite and least favorite churches and our different preferences when it comes to design and architecture, I don't know anyone who stays or leaves the Church because of a given church building.

This summer I've heard two different sets of reasons "why I stay" which I find both interesting and helpful. The first I've already shared with you in two outdoor homilies which I repeat here from James Carroll's recent best seller, "Practicing Catholics".

He writes: **"We maintain our loyalty to the Church because we cannot live without it. The Church gives us a language with which to speak of God, it gives us a meaning that is God. The Church feeds us with the Eucharist, keeps the story of Jesus alive in the preaching of the Word, marks our journey through life with the Sacraments, and underwrites our participation in the community that transcends time and space."**

The second and more intriguing answer comes from Benedictine Sister, author, feminist and renowned spiritual guide, Joan Chittister, who was recently asked in a question and answer forum, "Why don't you leave the Church?" Given the setting, she listed her first reason as – the Catholic Church is the greatest treasury of spiritual traditions we have; secondly, the Catholic Church is the only real depository of great women through the ages that exists; thirdly, whatever our disappointments or complaints, the Church always has the capacity for self conversion (delayed though it may be); and finally, "it's my family".

You may or may not agree with these two sets of answers, but the real question is more personal than that. Why do you stay? And what does your staying demand of you?

Your Pastor,



WEEK AT A GLANCE

- 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
- MONDAY**
 -School Mass with Bishop Cordileone, 11:30 am
- TUESDAY**
 -Legion of Mary, Ministry Center, Following 8 am Mass
 -CYO Basketball sign-ups, Gym, 6-8 pm
 -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
 -Social Justice speaker Doug Grandt, on Climate Changes Issues, Parish Hall (A/B), 7 pm
- SATURDAY**
 -Men's Fellowship Group, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:30-8:30 pm, contact John at 372-7873
- SUNDAY**
 -**The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** / Summer Food Drive Continues
 -**Rededication of our Church with Bishop Cordileone at 12:15 pm Mass/Reception following**

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. Remaining dates are Sept. 12th, Oct. 3rd and Nov. 14th. 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.

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.

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.

Plea for Projectionists (especially at the 9:15) – We are in need of at least several more volunteers to advance the words when we sing at mass. The fancy title is "projectionist" but it just means push a button at approximately the right time. Anyone able to help us, please call Mary Ann Spicer at 935-5306.

Pastoral Ministries Program – Holy names University invites you to apply for the Pastoral Ministries Program. We are seeking candidates for lay ecclesial ministry who wish to grow in discipleship and service through preparation and formation. The program offers the option to take the courses for undergraduate credit and receive a certificate upon completion or obtain an advanced degree. For more info contact Mary Turowski (510-436-1139) or turowski@hnu.edu.

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration at the gates of Livermore Lab, 7:30 am Thursday, August 6th Vasco Rd and Patterson Pass. You are invited to stand in solidarity with the Hibakusha (survivors) in saying "never again" and to witness for the global elimination of nuclear weapons. The U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, took place on August 6th. Three days later a second nuclear bomb devastated Nagasaki. (Franciscan Friar Louie Vitale will travel to Japan to publicly commemorate this occasion).

Did You Hear What President Obama Said About Us Catholics?

Speaking to a small group of religion writers July 2nd, prior to his departure for Europe, President Obama said, “The American bishops have a profound influence in their communities, in the church, and beyond. I know the potential that the bishops have to speak out forcefully on issues of social justice.”

The president spoke of his experience as a Catholic church-funded community organizer, working out of Catholic church rectories, at the time when Cardinal Joseph Bernardin headed the Chicago archdiocese.

“When I was first becoming interested in social justice issues, the American bishops were talking about nuclear freezes and sanctuary for illegal immigrants, and protesting U.S. policy in Latin America. And there was ...a very different set of perspectives that were represented, arising out of the Second Vatican Council. And then there was a decided shift that I think took place...among church officials. And in some ways, that tracked changes in American society at large, or at least American politics.

“So there’s no doubt that I think responses to my administration mirror tensions within the church as a whole.

“Cardinal Bernardin was strongly pro-life, never shrank away from talking about that issue, but was very consistent in talking about a seamless garment and a range of issues that were part and parcel of what he considered to be pro-life. That meant that he was concerned about poverty, he was concerned about how children were treated, he was concerned about the death penalty, he was concerned about foreign policy.

“And that part of the Catholic tradition is something that continues to inspire me. And I think that there have been times over the last decade or two where that more holistic tradition feels like it’s gotten buried under the abortion debate.

“Now, as a non-Catholic, it’s not up to me to try to resolve those tensions. As I said, all I can do is to affirm how that other tradition has made me, a non-Catholic...reflect on how I can be a better person and has had a powerful influence on my life. And that tells me that it might be a powerful way to move a broader set of values forward in American life generally.”