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THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 22, 2010

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Dear Friends

*'These are the days of miracle and wonder, this is the long distance call'*. The words of Paul Simon from his classic Graceland's album. He salutes the high achievement of technology. At one time to be able to make that *'long distance call'* was a stunning achievement.

Fast forward to 2010 and the advent of the dot com era. Now we are wired for everything under the sun. We have the artificial intelligence of the computer, Internet, cell phone, texting, I pod, and I pad and so on. Indeed this onslaught of novel gadgets has their merits and demerits. We are indeed exposed to instant communication and an access to all kinds of everything.

Today I focus on the shadow side of this exciting new world and hot furnace of high tech info. The Internet has created an access to every possible way for people to explore, enjoy and exploit each other through some expression of sex. This has allowed some to find potential partners who share similar behaviors and offers a sense of safety due to the perceived anonymity of the internet. For others, it has been the destruction of their lives and the lives of their families. Pornography has found its niche and by all accounts is among one of the most profitable businesses on the Internet. But viewing and downloading pornography is not the only way people engage online in sexual behaviors referred to in a new coined term by the professionals as: Cybersex.

People also visit chat rooms, sexualize conversations in other chat rooms or exchange sexually explicit emails in the home, work place or where ever there is access to the Internet. The huge lure of this addictive behavior is that it may not stop here, add on child pornography, then mix this with alcohol and drugs and the result is serious and explosive.

These online activities are popular because the Internet makes them available 24/7. Also no passport is required and people can make believe, lie and create, change their own identity and present themselves as someone else.

I have tried briefly to outline how compulsive, dangerous and addictive Cybersex can be. It is morally wrong and indeed unhealthy. It chips at and exploits the dignity and sacredness of sexuality and humanity. It is a betrayal of trust and fidelity in any relationship. The premise of all our existence is that we are made for human relationships.

If you recognize similar negative patterns in your life, it is time to seek professional help.

The giant problem of the Internet is: it can attract the cheat, the weak and the vulnerable, the dysfunctional, the stressed, the unhappy and people with low social skills. In many ways it can be compensation for something missing in my life or present relationship.

How do I know I have a problem?

Compulsive behavior: is defined by the experts as: the loss of ability to stop engaging in certain behaviors. Usually the behaviors feel out of control and people have obsessive thoughts accompanied by distinct rituals. You find it impossible to break the pattern.

Addiction: a person engages in behaviors that results in mood change combined with a sense of mastery over something in life. The chemical changes that take place for a period of time make the person feel better for a time. However just like drugs or alcohol the high soon wears off and you seek more and take bigger risks to provide it. Some one is addicted when the behavior or ritual around the behavior becomes all encompassing. Despite negative consequences you still continue.



My friends the Internet is a powerful tool. It can help us manage our world of communication beyond our wildest dream. But it also can make life unmanageable; it can ruin family life, destroy our good health, betray and hurt the people around us. It can do as much damage as Crack or Cocaine can.

The fact is: life is fragile and easily quenches. Love and fidelity can also be wronged and torn apart by inappropriate and negative use of the dot com world. Like all of life: there is the light and the shadow. If you find yourself in the shadow side of dangerous addictive or compulsive behavior, take responsibility, make that call and seek help. Break the pattern.

Have a reflective week, blessings!

Your Associate Pastor,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donie Connor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

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| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | - <b>The Twenty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time/</b> Summer Produce Drive Continues  |
| <b>MONDAY</b>    | -RE PreK Catechists' Meeting, Room D, 7:00 pm  |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   | -Legion of Mary, Ministry Center, Following 8 am Mass<br>-First Day of CTK School, Church, 9:00 am<br>-CYO Basketball Registration, Gym, 6-8 pm<br>-Rosary & Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion, CV Meeting Room, 7 pm, Contact Andy @ 229-3038<br>-Spanish Prayer Group, CV Meeting Room, 7:30 pm<br>-Knights of Columbus, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:30 pm |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | -RE K Catechists' Meeting, RE Office, 7:00 pm<br>-Centering Prayer, Resurrection Episcopal Church (399 Gregory Lane), 7:30 pm  |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | -Centering Prayer, Ministry Center, 10:00 am   |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>    | - <b>Garden Café, Ministry Center, 7:30-9:30 am, Proceeds go to the nurturing and growing of the CTK Garden</b><br>-Welcome Back School Mass, Church, 8:00 am  |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>  | -Men's Fellowship Group, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:30-8:30 am, contact John @ 372-7873<br>-Bereavement Ministry, Ministry Center (Dining Room), 9:30 am<br>-ENCORE Potluck Supper, Following 5pm Mass (RSVP required – refer to article below)   |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | - <b>The Twenty-First Sunday In Ordinary Time//</b> St. Vincent de Paul Second Collection<br>-Summer Produce Drive Continues<br>- <b>CTK Back to School Mass, 3:00 pm, CTK Back to School BBQ, 4:30 pm</b>   |

**2010-11 CYO Basketball registration** will be held on Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm in the Christ the King gym. Boys and girls in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will have teams. Please contact Athletic director Rick Ramacier at 925-383-2268 or at [rickramacier@comcast.net](mailto:rickramacier@comcast.net) with any questions.

**The CTK Garden Café** invites you back for another year of good food, good coffee and good friends. We will be open beginning this Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9:30am. All donations go to the nurturing of the CTK School Garden and Stations. See you there!

**ENCORE is hosting a festive Potluck Supper** on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, after the 5 pm Mass, in the Ministry Center. All adults 55+ (married and single) are invited to attend and bring a favority dish to serve 6-8. (A-E: Appetizer, F-M: Main Dish, N-R: Salad, S-Z: Dessert). A \$5 per person donation is requested to cover the cost of beverages, paper goods and set up. If you are coming, please RSVP to Joan C. (934-0136 or Carolyn P. ([journeyon37@yahoo.com](mailto:journeyon37@yahoo.com) ) after August 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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. **Mon., Sept. 13 to Oct. 25, 7-9pm** at the Ministry Center. Call 682-2486 to register. **Registration required by Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>.** **There will be a table outside after masses today for more information or questions.**

**ChristLight VII** – Save the date: November 12-14. Details to follow. Please call Phil Tafoya (899-0451) or Stacie Baumgartner (932-6624) for more information.

**3 Yr Old RE Registration: Sunday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> after the 9:15 am Mass** – after evaluation of our 3 yr old Sunday program, there will be some changes this year: Children will attend **weekly**, not alternate weeks. Children must be 3 yrs old by September 1<sup>st</sup> and potty trained. Parents will continue to be assigned as assistants. Maximum enrollment 16. Questions? 686-1017.

**Confirmation Registration:** Are you are a junior or senior in high school and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year? You can register by downloading a registration form/calendar on our website at [ctkym.org](http://ctkym.org) or picking one up in the back of the church. If you have any questions, please call the youth ministry office at 676-0979. Registration deadline is September 17th.

**Christ the King Inaugural Oktoberfest-Saturday, October 2, 2010, 3-7 pm** on the CTK Lawn. Beer tasting, Food & Live Music. Tickets go on sale following the 5 pm Mass on Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup> and all masses (except the 7 am) on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> for \$35 per adult (21 and over). Tickets can also be purchased after August 29<sup>th</sup> from Jay Becker who can be reached at 925-818-1915 or at [scooners@comcast.net](mailto:scooners@comcast.net). For more info: [www.KofCPH.org](http://www.KofCPH.org).

**Msgr. Wade Golf Tournament** will be held Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at Diablo Creek Golf Course. For more info call Steve Murphy at 932-7608.

**Bible Study for MEN and WOMEN**-ten weeks Mondays beginning September 13, 2010, Book of Revelation. Gathering at 8:30 am, DVD Presentation at 8:45 am; Discussion 9:45-10:30 am. For more info call Mary Kerfs (946-9751)



**St. Vincent de Paul: A parish ministry and much more! Thank you for making it all possible.**

Our local St. Vincent de Paul ministry does incredible work here within our parish to support the poor and needy. Over 50 parishioners are active members of our local conference. In 2009 they helped over 17,000 to receive the assistance of food, clothing and financial support.

Beyond our local parish St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County consists of two thrift stores, 15 food pantries, a daytime shelter for the homeless, Oasis, coordinated with Winter Nights Shelter program plus the annual distribution of over 12,000 warm coats via the "One Warm Coat" program.

Now with our help St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa has carved out of its existing warehouse in Pittsburg, a **Free Dining Room** to provide 150 hot, nutritious meals, Monday through Friday. When not in use during the lunch-time meal, the facility will be used for job training, health education, AA and other community meetings. St. Vincent de Paul has also built a **Free Medical Clinic** and is in the process of recruiting volunteer staff and obtaining licenses.

**The cost for building the Free Dining Room** was over \$300,000 and the cost for building the **Free Medical Clinic** was \$20,000.

**Next weekend, in the second collection** of August 28-29, we invite you to help both our local conference and ministry here at Christ the King and also the challenging and ambitious project of **Free Dining Room and Free Medical Clinic**. In next weekend's collection the first \$18,500 (an average of your contribution in previous collections) will stay here for our local ministry. Anything beyond that, or any special designated checks, will go to the Free Dining Room and Free Medical Clinic. Please be generous next weekend and we'll have an information table after masses and a brief presentation by the Development Director of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County.