

Dear Parishioners,

Please get those **parishioner surveys** in - your New Year's Resolution for 2012. Our Parish Council is busy compiling and reviewing them. We plan on a thorough report and appropriate response to each one of them. You can still fill out your survey long hand (copies in the vestibule) or on-line at www.ctkph.org. One interesting and timely comment received last week under "any concerns, suggestions, comments or questions about any part of our parish" was "Keep politics out!!!. . . politics turn off people and have an extremely negative effect." Timely because this weekend and later this month we're inviting your signatures on two California ballot proposals. Both are important, related to life issues, non-partisan and very controversial. It's the kind of thing we get caught up in when we try to be a faith community "that hears the gospel and makes a difference".

The two proposed propositions have to do with **Death Penalty Repeal** and **Parental Notification for minors having abortions**.

Breaking the long tradition of not taking any position on propositions before they have already qualified for the November Ballot, the California Conference of Catholic Bishops is asking for signatures as soon as possible on these two life related issues.

First, the Death Penalty Repeal asks to replace the death penalty with life imprisonment without possibility of parole; that wages earned while in prison be applied to victim restitution fund and to create a \$100 million dollar fund to be distributed to law enforcement agencies to help solve more homicide and rape cases. Controversial as it is for many Catholic citizens, the Church's official position in opposition to the Death Penalty is very clear; all of the Popes in our lifetime have favored abolishing the application of the death penalty. Pope John Paul II stated, "It is clear that...punishment ought not go to the extreme of executing the offender except in cases of absolute necessity: In other words, when it would not be

possible otherwise to defend society. Today however, as a result of steady improvements in the organization of the penal system, such cases are very rare, if not practically non-existent."

Personally I favor the anti-Death Penalty initiative for two reasons: **one highly non-Christian** and the other **thoroughly Christian and Gospel centered**. First my very unchristian approach does not want to see the killers of my loved ones, or of any one, die quickly and early with no time to consider and regret before meeting our most forgiving God and "Prodigal Father of forgiveness". How about years of life imprisonment without possibility of parole as a first step and a this world "purgatory". Secondly, and in a much more Christian view, I try at least to follow the Prince of Peace who teaches that becoming instruments of violence, for whatever reason, only makes our society and ourselves more violent. Please consider taking a few extra minutes after mass today to sign the proposal as a registered voter.

The Parental Notification initiative comes due a little later and we'll be inviting your signature for that later this month.

To me, and feel free to disagree, the Parents Notification Measure is a real "no brainer". Physicians and nurses cannot prescribe an aspirin or a session in a tanning booth to minors without parental consent (not just notification). Where there is danger of parental force, violence or abuse - a judicial bypass is provided.

Despite the "no politics" appeal, both issues are controversial and good practicing Catholics can come down on either side; but please consider your values, your views and your own judgment.

Politics (ugh!) sorry about that!

Your Pastor,



WEEK AT A GLANCE

- SUNDAY**
- The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time/2nd Collection for School, RE and Youth Ministry
 - Scout Sunday, 9:15 Mass / Death Penalty Initiative
 - RE Program for 3 yr olds, Room D, During 9:15 Mass
 - RE PreK/K Program: PreK Prgrm, Parish Hall, Rms A, B, D; K Prgrm, CTK School; During 9:15 Mass
 - CLOW (Children's Liturgy of the Word-Grades 1-5), During 9:15 Mass
 - RE Older Sacrament Class (Gr. 6-8), RE Office, 10:30 am
 - Jr/Sr Confirmation, Parish Hall, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- MONDAY**
- Taize Prayer Around the Cross, Christ the King Church, 7 pm
 - Bible Study for Men & Women, Parish Hall (Rms A & B), 8:30-10:30 am (Mary 946-9751)
 - RE Older Sacrament Class (Grades 3-5), Parish Hall, 4-5:30 pm
- TUESDAY**
- Parental Sacramental Meeting (Gr. 2-8), Church, 7:30 pm
 - Legion of Mary, Ministry Center, Following 8 am Mass
 - Staff Meeting, Parish house, 10:30 am
 - Grades 1-5: Grades 1-3 School, 3:40-5pm; Grades 4 & 5, Parish Hall, Rms A, B, C, D, 3:40-5:00 pm
 - RE Grades 7/8, Parish Hall, Rms A, B, C, 7:00 pm
 - Rosary & Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion, CV Mtg Rm, 7 pm, contact Shirley @ 957-0488
 - Spanish Prayer Group, CV Meeting Room, 7:30 pm
- WEDNESDAY**
- RE Grades 1-5: Grades 1-3 School, 3:40-5pm; Grades 4 & 5, Parish Hall, Rms A, B, C, D, 3:40-5:00 pm
 - RE Grade 6, Parish Hall, A, B, & C, 7:00 pm
 - Centering Prayer, Resurrection Episcopal Church (399 Gregory Lane), 7:30 pm
- THURSDAY**
- Centering Prayer, Ministry Center, 10:00am-
 - RE Grades 1-5: Grades 1-3 School, 3:40-5pm; Grades 4 & 5, Parish Hall, Rms A, B, C, D, 3:40-5:00 pm
 - RCIA, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:00 pm
- FRIDAY**
- Garden Café, Ministry Center, 7:30-9:30am, Proceeds go to the nurturing and growing of the CTK Garden
- SATURDAY**
- Men's Fellowship Grp, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:30-8:30 am, Contact John @ 372-7873
- SUNDAY**
- The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time/2nd Collection Bishop's Appeal
 - Women's Retreat Registration / See's Candy Sales
 - RE Program for 3 yr olds, Room D, During 9:15 Mass
 - RE PreK/K Program: PreK Prgrm, Parish Hall, Rms A, B, D; K Prgrm, CTK School; During 9:15 Mass
 - CLOW (Children's Liturgy of the Word-Grades 1-5), During 9:15 Mass
 - RE Older Sacrament Class (Gr. 6-8), RE Office, 10:30 am
 - Youth Group, 5th Jwalking-CTK, 7-9 pm

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD – The CTK Parish Auction 2012 *Saturday, March 10, 2012.* This year's Auction will feature an amazing **HOLLYWOOD RAFFLE with 2 prizes of DIAMONDS and SAPPHIRES and MOVIES OH MY!** In addition, new this year there will be some **"Sign-me-ups"** available on preview weekend & on the website, **A Hollywood Trivia Contest** on the website & pre-Opening Night registration...Details to follow! Preview the fun at **CTKAUCTION.ORG**. If you have questions, please contact Dan & Darlese Ohrman at ohrmandf@gmail.com

Women's Retreat – Christ the King Women's Retreat will be at San Damiano Center on March 9-12. The theme will be "In His Image" with Kathy Roberts as the presenter. Save the date. Registration will take place today after all the masses next weekend, February 11/12, 2012

CTK Men's 5th Annual Retreat – He's back! Fr. Aidan McAleenan will be the retreat master on March 23rd-25th at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville. The topic is "Embracing Life". Contact Pete O'Brien (899-6662) or Doug Hughes (922-2243) to reserve a spot. The cost for the weekend is \$200 for double occupancy.

Encore meets Saturday, Feb. 11th – Join us after 5 pm Mass at the Ministry Center for wine and cheese. This is a great opportunity to visit with other parishioners and catch up, or if you are looking to meet people, here's your event! Come over after Mass, get out of the rain or cold, and enjoy yourself! If you have questions, call Julie Conroy at 925-381-0422.

Creek Monkey Tap House (downtown Martinez) is hosting the **St. Baldrick's Foundation** Head-Shaving Event on Sat., March 3, 2012, starting at 12noon. In solidarity with the brave kids fighting cancer, St. Baldrick's head-shaving events work to raise money for life-saving childhood cancer research. You can donate, sign up to shave, volunteer & help spread

St. Patrick's Day Celebration at CTK on Saturday, March 17th in the gym at 5:30 pm. Tickets: \$25 adults/\$15 children. Contact Jay Becker 925-818-1915 or www.kofcph.org

Remember to complete the parish survey - Please take the ten or fifteen minutes necessary to fill out the parish survey. Copies are available in the vestibule after mass or go on line (www.ckph.org) and fill it out from your computer. The Parish Council will be going over the results and appreciates your response. Thank you.

**Congratulations to the Adults Confirmed
on January 28th at the Cathedral:**

Robert Burke
Kristin DeBello
Armida Marshall
Frank Meranda
Myrna Sandoval
Stephanie Whitsitt

Next weekend – the Annual Bishop’s Appeal –

Beyond being a parish community, with all its connections, ministries, history and life story – there is a much bigger picture. We belong to the wider Roman Catholic Church, with its joys and sorrows, proud moments and ministries – its mistakes and problems; But more locally we are part and parcel of the Catholic Church of the entire East Bay, known as the Diocese of Oakland. This represents our community along with 85 neighboring Catholic parishes in Alameda and Contra Costa counties – and our common mission to support one another and the people of the East Bay with service and concern which includes liturgy, sacraments, education, faith formation and outreach to the poor and neediest among us. It involves us and challenges us to reach out to poorer parishes, and to ministry and services which no one parish can supply alone. **The parish goal of this year’s Appeal is \$63,073.79** – (anything over and above that goal will be returned to our parish). Checks and pledges, made out to either the Diocesan Appeal or Christ the King, may be dropped off in next weekend’s second collection, or left at the parish house during the following week. This is not a request for a one time second collection donation, but for a year long pledge. Thank you for considering either a pledge or a one time donation. We are part of a community, a ministry and a story much larger than ourselves.

Those were the days my friends. A time to remember. Once upon a time not very long ago the most famous and dynamic place of worship in the U.S. was our own Oakland Cathedral (St. Francis de Sales 1967-1986). On Wed. evening on Feb. 8th, a time for reunion and remembering will be held at the new Oakland Cathedral. All are invited, the old timers and the curious new. Bishop John Cummins, Fr. Don Osuna, Mr. John McDonnell & Sr. Maureen Delaney will help us celebrate. All are welcome! Feb. 8th at 7:30 pm in the newly built Oakland Cathedral at Lake Merritt and Harrison.