

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

TODAY'S MESSAGE

FOOD FOR THE POOR – FEEDING THE HUNGRY by Gary Zimak.

On Sunday, I had the chance to listen to Fr. Robert White, a representative from Food For The Poor, Inc. He spoke at my parish and his message was powerful. While I am saddened to hear about the plight of the “poorest of the poor”, I am also humbled to know that The Lord entrusts their care to those of us who may have some resources to share. Many of our poor brothers and sisters can’t even provide food for their own children, let alone themselves. All of us who are parents know how painful it is when we can’t help our children with certain issues. Can you imagine the anguish of parents who can’t even provide food for their family?

Food For The Poor, Inc. has been feeding the hungry since 1982. They are one of my favorite charities and a link to their website appears on the Catholic Truth’s Catholic Web Window site, as well as on this blog (on the right hand side of the page). In 2007, Forbes Magazine awarded them a 97% fundraising efficiency rating. More than 96% of all donations received go directly to programs that help the poor. You can’t get much better than that!

Many of us are appalled at the extravagant wealth and excess that we see flaunted on a daily basis by our “celebrity culture”. Movie and TV stars, sports figures and company executives selfishly squander millions of dollars on self-indulgent activities and purchases. We think, “if only they could give some of that to charity.” However, that line of reasoning only leads to frustration because we have no control over their money. We can, however, control our own funds. Even if we have very little, Jesus teaches us the importance of sharing with “the least of our brothers and sisters.”

Fr. White will be visiting our parish to tell the story of Food for the Poor and how we can share in the mission of caring for the “least of our brothers and sisters.”

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Thank you to everyone for practicing good stewardship in support of the mission and ministries of our parish. Our average weekly collection for December was \$13,831 — a 43% increase vs. 2011. We are extremely grateful to all those who made generous end-of-the-year gifts which helped us close our large Sunday Offertory deficit. Our goal for Jul – Dec was \$275,000. Our actual collection for Jul – Dec was \$262,000. We have reduced our deficit in half to \$13,000! Remember, we need an average of \$11,000 a week in order to meet all of our financial responsibilities— including the blessing

a 3rd priest. We encourage everyone to consider using the Sunday Offertory Envelopes or Online Giving as a way of giving to the Lord the “first fruits” of the “treasure” we have received.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING GOD’S GIFTS!



Our Weekly Offering

Goal / Dec. 25th .. \$70,000 / 65,000.00
Goal / Jan. 1st \$11,000 / 9,250.00



Please Pray

FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND — Msgr. William Lenane, Fr. Thierry Geris, Diane Zscheile, Sr. Jeannette Donnelly, Norman Swope, Mary Fong, Devin Wakefield, Des Fitzgerald, Robert Kerrigan Sr., Frank Briggs Sr., Kathleen Briggs Kerrigan, Frank Ventura

FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED — Charles Horngren, Ramona Thille, Venerando Baltazar, Maria Marszal, Patricia Tighe, Fr. Raymond Maher, Vera Leung, Lawrence Barrett Jr., Clothilda Rita Wait, Verna Ogren, Irene Butler

Pray For Lists guidelines: • Have permission from the person to be listed. • Go through the Pastoral Home Ministry to list the names. • Names will be on the list for 3 months and then be removed. • Can request names to be continued after 3 months. Contact the Pastoral Home Ministry 650-494-2496 x22 or fongmt@hotmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 15:
9:00 am SAG ... Ignacio Manzano †
10:30 am OLR .. Vera Leung †
10:30 am STA. ... Michael Jek, Wye Thong †
12:00 pm STA .. Benjamin Cittadino (health)
Readings: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

Monday, January 16:
8:30 am OLR ... James Chin †
Readings: 1 Sm 15:16-23; Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday, January 17: St. Anthony
8:30 am OLR ... Madalena (sp. int.)
12:15 pm STA .. Bertha Gretz †
Readings: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday, January 18:
8:30 am OLR ... David & Imelda Cummins (sp. int.)
12:15 pm STA .. Bill Ilaculla (health)
Readings: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mk 3:1-6

Thursday, January 19:
8:30 am OLR ... Doris Haggard (sp. int.)
12:15 pm STA .. Fr. Matthew D. Stanley (sp. int.)
Readings: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mk 3:7-12

Friday, January 20: St. Fabian; St. Sebastian
8:30 am OLR ... Patrick O'Mallan (sp. int.)
12:15 pm STA .. Comm. Service
Readings: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Mk 3:13-19

Saturday, January 21: St. Agnes
12:15 pm STA .. Vincent Ponsono †
5:00 pm SAG ... Beverly Martinez †
Readings: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mk 3:20-21

PRESIDERS SCHEDULE

Saturday & Sunday Jan 21 & 22, 2012
St. Albert the Great
Sat 5:00 pm Fr. Valenton
Sun 9:00 am Fr. Seimas
Sun 11:00 am Fr. Hernandez

St. Thomas Aquinas
Sun 7:30 am Fr. Hester
Sun 8:45 am Fr. Brown
Sun 10:30 am Fr. Seimas
Sun 12 noon TBA

Our Lady of the Rosary
Sun 9:00 am Fr. Valenton
Sun 10:30 am Fr. Stanley
Sun 6:00 pm Fr. Valenton

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, January 15: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:30 am ... Byzantine Liturgy (SAGH)
3:30 pm ... STAYouth (OLRH/DC)

Monday, January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

7:00 pm ... RCIA (PC)
7:30 pm ... TMC (STAH)

Tuesday, January 17:

7:00 pm ... Spirituality Tuesday (SAGH)
7:30 pm ... Human Concerns (OLRH)

Wednesday, January 18: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

10:00 am ... Adult Spirituality (DC)
6:00 pm ... RCIC (PC)
6:00 pm ... SOUP (OLRH)

Thursday, January 19:

10:00 am ... Faith Sharing (SAGH)
12:00 pm ... Ignatian Spirituality (STAH)
5:30 pm ... STAYouth (DC)
7:00 pm ... Centering Prayer (OLR)
7:00 pm ... Comm. Board (PC)
7:00 pm ... First Comm. Catechesis (PC)

Friday, January 20:

7:00 pm ... Sp. Young Adults (OLRH)

Saturday, January 21:

8:00 am ... Environment Team (OLR)
9:00 am ... Confirmation Mtg (DC)

MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

The Pastoral Center will be closed on Monday, January 16th in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our Daily Mass schedule remains unchanged.

WONDERFUL WORLD OF MINISTRY

Annual Volunteer Appreciation
Social SAVE THE DATE

Feb. 11, 2012 3pm - 5pm

Elizabeth Seton School Auditorium
RSVP to Sandra : 650-494-2496
By February 3rd

SPIRITUALITY TUESDAYS

January 17th: CREATING A SOLID MARRIAGE; Our speaker: Father Peter Seimas

Increase respect, affection and closeness; Break through and resolve conflict when you feel stuck; Generate greater understanding between you and your partner; Keep conflict discussions calm

Fr. Peter, a practicing clinical psychologist, will present the Gottman Model to couples counseling. Unequivocally, John Gottman Ph.D. is the leading research therapist for couples counseling, with longitudinal studies encompassing 30+ years of research. Research shows that to make relationships last, couples must become better friends, learn to manage conflict, and create ways to support each other's hopes for the future. Fr. Peter will present the "meat and potatoes" of The Gottman Theory for Making Relationships Work.

The Gottman Theory for Making Relationships Work

- * Build Love Maps
- * Share Fondness and Admiration
- * Turn Towards Each Other
- * The Positive Perspective
- * Manage Conflict
- * Make Life Dreams Come True
- * Create Shared Meaning

7:00 – 8:30 pm St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center. Concludes with refreshments.

2012 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

OUR PARISH – OUR DIOCESE – TOGETHER IN CHRIST

The 2012 Annual Diocesan Appeal will be soon underway. Our parish portion of the Annual Diocesan Appeal is \$120,000— 2% of the overall diocesan goal of \$5,489,484. We are so appreciative that you share with us a heartfelt belief in the work and ministry that is made possible by your pledge. Please consider joining other parishioners in making a gift to the ADA in 2012. *Pledge Sunday is February 5th.* Please pray over the size of the gift you will be able to make and bring your pledge envelope to Mass that weekend. Early pledges will also be gratefully accepted.

RCIA

DO YOU KNOW ANYBODY INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?
DO YOUR FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS WANT TO BE CONFIRMED?

If the answer to either of these questions is "Yes" then please encourage them to call and make an appointment with Jean at 650-494-2496 X34. Adults already-baptized in other Christian traditions who are interested in Catholicism are also candidates for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

Help bring people to the Way of Jesus. With our own baptism comes the grace of the Holy Spirit that gives us the courage to be evangelists and help lead others to Christ. Often it only takes asking: "Have you thought about becoming Catholic?" or, "Have you ever considered completing your Initiation Sacraments?" Do not be shy. Be bold in the vineyard of the Lord.

January 15, 2012

SUPPORT THE "TRUST ACT"

A social justice action to stop the separation of our families
Save the date. On Saturday, Jan 28, join San Francisco
Archbishop Niederaur and other bishops, clergy and lay
people from all over the Bay Area to call on Governor Brown
and Attorney General Kamala to end the separation of our
families due to deportations.

This action is in support of the "Trust Act" in the State Senate.
This act will end the excessive deportations due to the
"Secure Communities Act". The Action will be at St. Mary's
Cathedral at 2 pm. Busses will be available. For information
call George Chippendale 856 6350

PRAYER CIRCLE AND PRAY FOR LISTS

As a parish community we should pray for each other in
our special needs. You can join our Parish Prayer Circle and
be updated weekly by e-mail or biweekly by regular mail if
there are any changes to our published and confidential lists.
We also try to give current information on friends on the
lists when available.

To add names to our bulletin lists and to keep the lists
manageable we should follow these guidelines:

- Have permission from the person to be listed.
- Go through the Pastoral Home Ministry to list the names.
- Names will be on the list for 3 months and then be dropped.
- Can request names to be continued after 3 months.

For more information please contact the Pastoral Home
Ministry at 650-494-2496 X22 or fongmt@gmail.com

SOUP IS ON

A new year and SOUP is being served at OLR Hall on January
18th. 6 pm, bring a friend, a bowl, a spoon, something to
pass around, and a desire to enjoy both good soup and good
friends. - *Jim and Joyce McLaughlin*

THANK YOU

Many, many thanks to all the very generous, thoughtful
parishioners who put Christmas toys under the Giving Trees.
There were at least 900 children in East Palo Alto who had
a happy Christmas because of your help. Thanks also to the
folks who came and helped pack bags and deliver toys.

St. Vincent de Paul, East Palo Alto