

POPE BENEDICT XVI CHRIST OUR HOPE APOSTOLIC JOURNEY TO THE UNITED STATES 2008

The message “Christ Our Hope” is the theme chosen by Pope Benedict XVI for his first apostolic visit to the United States, scheduled for April 15–20 of this year. The theme echoes his encyclical, Spe Salvi, issued late last year as an invitation for people to encounter Jesus Christ personally as the “great hope” that can sustain us through the trials of this world.

POPE BRINGS MESSAGE OF HOPE TO UNITED STATES

The papal journey will include visits to the Archdioceses of Washington, including Catholic University of America, and New York, where the Pope will also address the United Nations. Upon arrival in Washington D.C., the Pope will be greeted by President Bush and the First Lady; his visit will be just the second time in history that a pontiff has visited the White House. At the end of the welcoming ceremony, a private meeting is scheduled for the Holy Father and the President. Later that day, the Pope will take part in a private prayer service and meeting with 350 bishops of the United States at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The following day, April 17, the Pope will say Mass at the new Nationals Park in Washington—the first non-baseball event to be held in the park. Later, he will speak from Catholic University of America campus on the

importance of Catholic education, addressing leaders from American Catholic colleges and universities, and school superintendents from Catholic dioceses nationwide.

Following his address, the Pope will be joined by Buddhists, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindi, Jews and representatives of other religions for a prayer service at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, adjacent to the campus. On Friday, Pope Benedict flies to New York City to address the United Nations, followed by a prayer service with leaders from various Christian denominations.

On Saturday, following Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, the Pope will be joined by a group of young Catholics, including many with a range of disabilities, at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers. Thousands of youths are expected to participate in a rally/prayer service and to hear the pope speak.

On Sunday, the Holy Father will visit Ground Zero, the site of the disaster at the World Trade Center, before closing his journey with a Mass at Yankee Stadium to honor the anniversary of the designation of the (first) Baltimore Archdiocese.

Pope urges all global citizens to work for nuclear disarmament and care of the environment as a path toward world peace. For complete story, see page 4.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- PAPAL VISIT TO US 1
- VOICE OF THE BISHOP 2
- FINANCIAL UPDATE 2
- CATHOLIC LEGISLATIVE NETWORK 3
- FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP 3
- PAPAL MESSAGES 4
- POPE’S SECOND ENCYCLICAL 5
- FOCUS ON EVANGELIZATION 5
- DETENTION MINISTRY 6
- CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES 7
- HOPE WORKS WONDERS TOUR 7
- CATHOLIC SCHOOLS 8
- SPIRITUAL LIFE 10
- MISSION SUNDAY 11
- SR. MARGARET DRAIN OBITUARY 11
- IN MEMORIAM 12
- PARISH NEWS 13
- PARA LOS HISPANOS 14
- SPRING ENRICHMENT SERIES 14
- ANNUAL MINISTRY APPEAL 15
- ANNOUNCEMENTS 16

March, 2008



My Dear People,

The Holy Father will be visiting our country from April 15th to April 20th. This visit was announced last November. It is considered as the Pope's visit to the Church in the United States. Washington D.C. as our nation's capital and New York the home of the United Nations are the only cities which the Holy Father will visit.

His visit includes a meeting with our President; an ecumenical dialogue with leaders of several other faiths; and meetings with Catholic educational leaders and youths from around the country. *(For details, see page 1 — Ed.)*

This visit gives us all an opportunity to renew our understanding of the Pope's role as the successor of St. Peter. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: The Lord made Simon alone, whom he named Peter, the "rock" of his Church. He gave him the keys of his Church and instituted him shepherd of the whole flock. (#881) The Second Vatican Council in Lumen Gentium stated: The office of binding and loosing which was given to Peter was also assigned to the college of apostles united to its head." This pastoral office of Peter and the other apostles belongs to the Church's very foundation and is continued by the bishops under the primacy of the Pope.

Our faith reminds us that Jesus promised to build his Church on the rock of St. Peter's faith. Through all the centuries, in good times and bad, Christ has guided his Church through

the Bishop of Rome with the college of bishops in union with him. What a great gift papacy is to the Church and to guaranteeing our fidelity to the gospel that Jesus preached.

I ask all to pray for the success of the Holy Father's visit to our country. May his presence bring many blessings to all Americans as he teaches and guides us to the truth.

Assuring you of my prayers, I am
Your Brother and Servant in the
Lord,
Most Reverend Daniel F. Walsh
Bishop of Santa Rosa

FINANCIAL AUDIT GIVES DIOCESE HIGH MARKS

The 2006/07 financial statements for our Diocese (Balance Sheet and Operating Statement) are approved and now posted on our Diocesan Website (www.santarosacatholic.org/finance).

Again this year, the Audit Committee of the Diocesan Finance Council selected new external auditors, Boden Klein & Sneesby from Sacramento. Again, there were no management letter items needing attention in this audit. In fact, we were able to exclude the one item that had previously led to a qualified opinion by our auditors. There are now no qualifications to our audit.

Each parish has a complete copy of the final audit report you are encouraged to obtain a copy from your parish office. Questions about Diocesan finances are always welcome, and may be directed to me at (707) 566-3317 or via e-mail at mike985@comcast.net.

—Deacon Mike Urick, Diocesan Finance Officer

The **NORTH COAST CATHOLIC** is the official newsletter of the Diocese of Santa Rosa. Its purpose is to serve as a means of evangelization and as a channel of communication between and among the Bishop and the faithful regarding issues and events pertaining to the Church. Story ideas, comments and letters are welcome and should be directed to the Editor no later than 5 weeks prior to the next distribution date. Issues will be published in 2008 on June 1, Sept. 1, and Dec. 1. Issues are also posted to the Diocesan web site, www.santarosacatholic.org.

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The newsletter is mailed to every registered Catholic household in the Diocese.

If you wish to be added to the mailing list, or to change or delete a name or address, please contact the communications office above, or your local parish secretary.

NEW EFFORT WILL EDUCATE CATHOLICS ON SOCIAL TEACHING & ADVOCACY

The Catholic dioceses of California announced today a joint statewide initiative to educate Catholics on the social teaching of the Church and encourage them to advocate on public policy issues based on those principles.

“For Catholics, participation in the political process is a moral and ethical obligation,” explained Bishop Stephen Blaire of Stockton and president of the California Catholic Conference. “This program will help Catholics in the effort to sort through the often confusing rhetoric of political debate, and encourage them to take



Catholic social teaching into account when voting and communicating with elected officials,” he said.

Using an email alert system called the *Catholic Legislative Network*, the ongoing effort will highlight legislation, regulations and other issues in California, the nation and the world on which Catholics may want to take action. The Network will provide information on the relevant teaching and encourage participants to email, call or write their legislators or other officials.

All are invited to join. Sign up at www.catholic.org. You will be pleasantly surprised by just how much of a difference we can make.

A CHOIR OF VOICES WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN POLICY DEBATES

by Steve Pehanich

Few people appreciate just how significant democracy is in human history.

The United States of America, for instance, is the longest running democracy in the history of civilization. Yet we take it for granted. People in other parts of the world are not so lucky.

And we tend to make fun of the mess democratic government often creates, but only because we accept it without question and are collectively willing to help move it along. As Winston Churchill lampooned, “Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others.” Why? In part because when you have many voices being raised, it can be hard to be heard above the din.

Many people focus on elections as the way to participate in the “American Experiment.” But that only happens every couple years. An occasional vote for a candidate doesn’t carry subtleties a voter may want to communicate.

How else are officials to know what their constituents think? Where will they learn of the common good? Money and power buy access, but so do the sheer numbers of activists. It takes a brave politician to vote against a bill when he or she has received thousands of emails, calls and letters urging support for it.

For every communication an elected official receives, he or she knows there are many others



who believe the same way but have not taken the time to express their views.

The **Catholic Legislative Network** will help people sort through the morass of political debate and actually do something positive about issues important to them.

Participants will be able to contact their elected officials or government representatives using an email or letters already provided or they can write their own.

They will also receive periodic updates that will provide brief sketches of current issues, web links to learn more about a particular topic and Catholic thinking on particular topics.

The Network is not about telling people how to vote. To paraphrase *Forming Conscience for Faithful Citizenship*, it is about focusing more on moral principles than the latest polls; more on the needs of the weak than on the benefits to the strong; and more on the pursuit of the common good than on those of narrowed interest.

None of us is going to agree on every issue, but thousands of Catholics—and other faithful people—do feel the same way about the bulk of issues. This network will help all of us.



Steve Pehanich is in the process of joining the California Catholic Conference as Senior Director of Advocacy and Education. Contact him at spehanich@catholic.org.

POPE CALLS ON CHRISTIANS TO TURN TO MARY FOR HELP IN BUILDING PEACE

by Carol Glatz

Pope Benedict XVI called on Christians to turn to Mary, the Mother of God, for help in being true friends of Jesus and courageous builders of peace.

In his first general audience of 2008, the pope greeted thousands of ecstatic pilgrims Jan. 2nd in the Vatican's Paul VI hall, bestowing upon them his "prayerful good wishes" for the new year.

He said the new year had been ushered in "under the sign of the Virgin Mary" as the church celebrated the Jan. 1 feast of Mary, Mother of God.



He invited the faithful to "carefully consider the importance of the presence of Mary in the life of the church and in our own personal life" and prayed that Mary would help "make us more keenly aware of her maternal presence."

Mary's divine motherhood, her Immaculate Conception, and her assumption, body and soul, into heaven are privileges that do not remove Mary from her children, but rather bring her closer to the faithful, he said. "In fact, being totally with God, this woman is very close to us and helps us like a mother and like a sister," he said. Mary is also the mother of the church, the pope said, which makes her the mother of "every one of us who are members of the mystical body of Christ."

Pope Benedict asked audience participants to trust in Mary and pray to her to "guide our steps" during the new year and "help us be authentic friends of her son and that way also (be) courageous builders of his kingdom in the world, the kingdom of peace and truth."

PAPAL CHALLENGE ON THE WORLD DAY OF PEACE



In his message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI addressed the urgency of nuclear disarmament and of environmental stewardship as the path to peace. The letter, titled *The Human Family, A Community of Peace*, cited the need for a progressive and mutually agreed dismantling of existing nuclear weapons as an urgent matter that holds "the highest priority for citizens of the world," according to Cardinal Francis George, President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In related comments, Pope Benedict stressed the importance of the natural family as "the first and indispensable teacher of peace," adding that "whoever ... circumvents the institution of the family undermines peace in the entire community, national and international, since he weakens what is in effect the primary agency of peace."

The Pope also stressed the need to "intensify dialogue between nations (on) the stewardship of the earth's resources." And, he addressed the vast economic inequities among nations that contributes to poor management of energy resources, and to untenable models of development.

The Pope added that people are capable of discovering "this common moral law which, over and above cultural differences, enables human beings to come to a common understanding regarding the most important aspects of good and evil, justice and injustice. It is essential to go back to this fundamental law, committing our finest intellectual energies to this quest, and not letting ourselves be discouraged by mistakes and misunderstandings."

POPE'S SECOND ENCYCLICAL INVITES PEOPLE TO PERSONALLY ENCOUNTER JESUS

by John Thavis, Catholic News Service

It's difficult to select a single summarizing line in Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical *Spe Salvi* (on Christian hope), but a fundamental point is found in its first few pages. Christ's sacrifice, the pope said, overturned the pagan world view of the early Christian era. In Christianity's new vision, the universe was governed not by the laws of matter but by a personal God who revealed himself in the person of Jesus Christ. "And if we know this person and he knows us, then truly the inexorable power of material elements no longer has the last word; we are not slaves of the universe and of its laws, we are free," he said.

Throughout its 76 pages, the pope's encyclical on hope is not just an exposition of philosophical and theological arguments, but an invitation for people to personally encounter Jesus Christ.

That invitation has been the core of Pope Benedict's mission over the last two and a half years.

To read the Encyclical, visit http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20071130_spe-salvi_en.html.

FOCUS ON EVANGELIZATION: CHRISTIANS MUST SPREAD GOSPEL BY WORD, ACTION

Christians are called to evangelize, that is "to proclaim Jesus Christ by one's words and actions" to all people, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) emphasized in a recent "Doctrinal Note on some Aspects of Evangelization."

"Every person has the right to hear the Good News," the Note said. Every Christian has the corresponding duty to help people meet Jesus Christ, a task that must be accomplished not only by words, but also by one's actions, it added.

The CDF, headed by Cardinal William Levada, issued the statement because of "a growing confusion" about the Church's missionary mandate. For example, some maintain that "any attempt to convince others on religious matters" somehow infringes on the freedom of the person. Some argue that conversion to Christ and to the Catholic faith should not be promoted because it is possible for people to be saved without explicit faith in Christ or formal incorporation in the Church. The Note, CDF said, "is intended to clarify certain aspects of the relationship between the missionary command of the Lord and respect for the conscience and religious freedom of all people."

The Note said that human freedom cannot be separated from its integral reference to truth.

Teaching and dialogue, constitute "a legitimate endeavor and a service capable of making human relationships more fruitful." Communication of religious truths so that they might be accepted by others is also in harmony with the natural human desire to have others share in one's own goods, the Note said.

Evangelizers themselves benefit from evangelizing: "Every encounter with another person or culture is capable of revealing potentialities of the Gospel which hitherto may not have been fully explicit and which will enrich the life of Christians and the Church," the Note said.

The Note also warned against "relativistic theories which seek to justify religious pluralism, not only *de facto*, but also *de iure*." Such theories overlook the fact that human freedom is not indifference; it is rather directed towards truth. The CDF spoke of a close connection between evangelization and ecumenism; the more ecumenism brings about greater unity among Christians, the more effective that evangelization will be.

The CDF noted ecumenism's different dimensions: listening, "as a fundamental condition for any dialogue"; theological discussion, "in which, by seeking to understand the beliefs, traditions and convictions of others, agreement can be found, at times hidden under disagreement"; and witness and proclamation "of elements which are not particular traditions or theological subtleties, but which belong rather to the Tradition of the faith itself."





When mothers and fathers are in prison, their families are victims, too.

Get on the Bus brings children and their caregivers from throughout the State

of California to visit their mothers and fathers in prison. This annual event began nine years ago when one bus carried 15 children from Los Angeles. In 2007 there were 42 buses carrying over 600 children. On Friday May 9th, before Mother's Day, buses will leave Santa Rosa at 5:30 a.m. carrying children from throughout the diocese. We will arrive in Chowchilla, California where these children will be united with their mothers for four hours. Many have not embraced for a year or more, due to distance and expense.

We provide the free bus transportation for the children and caregiver, meals, comfort bags, teddy bears and post event counseling. Mothers hold, hug, kiss their children and send them home with a family photo and a letter to hold onto until the next bus ride. Chowchilla houses more than 8,000 inmates; 75% are mothers, and two-thirds of these are incarcerated for non-violent crimes. Buses will also take children to visit their incarcerated fathers the weekend of Father's Day in June.

How can you help? To volunteer or for more information contact Sister Claire Williams at (925) 335-9314 or www.getonthebus.us. Make a donation of any amount. Be a Child Sponsor, a Family Sponsor, or a Bus Sponsor. Sponsor an activity in your faith center, school or organization to raise money and awareness. Checks may be sent to Get on the Bus, 1125 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA 94553. (Mark your donation for Santa Rosa Bus U.)

A FORMER INMATE SAYS "THANK YOU":

"... I was having a terrible time trying to forgive myself and convinced myself that God wouldn't and couldn't forgive such an awful person—and for sure, I thought, my family would never see me as a good person again after what I had done. The shame was killing me.

A wonderful woman from your program came to talk to me after another inmate suggested I fill out one of your forms to ask for help. She explained forgiveness and shared her experience with me, let me say how I was feeling and thinking, and corrected my thinking that I was unforgivable. She gave me some very good and fitting booklets to read and a few days later I received a Good News Bible from your ministry. She prayed with me and most of all was an example of the strong faith in God that I hope to someday have so I may share with others.

As a result of this visit, I was finally able to begin the process of knowing that—at the very least—God is more powerful than any mistake I could ever make, and the love he has for me is very special. I began to feel bits of joy and before long I was able to agree that I am forgivable.

... I now understand that I can truly forgive myself because God loves me and makes everything possible. There is a value in this potentially horrible experience that is immeasurable. Although I shall never forget the crime I committed upon someone who trusted me, and the fact that I disappointed God, I am no longer finding it necessary to punish myself to the point of making myself physically and emotionally ill.

I thank your Ministry sincerely and I will thank God for you every day."



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES' OPERATION RICE BOWL

GIVING HOPE TO A WORLD IN NEED

by Elizabeth Martin

This month, as Catholic communities across the country observe Lent, a national program lends real meaning to the season of prayer and reflection.

Operation Rice Bowl, CRS' annual Lenten initiative, encourages Americans to learn about the effects of global poverty and to pray for the people most affected by social injustice. At the same time, participants in ORB can have a direct impact on global hunger through their contributions, and play a part in CRS' vision of 'one human family' by supporting their brothers and sisters around the globe.

Every year, Catholics who participate in the program contribute about \$8 million to food security projects that help people in 40 countries where CRS works. To demonstrate the impact these contributions have, ORB highlights the stories of people

whose lives have changed as a result of this solidarity.

ORB has supported food security projects worldwide for more than 30 years. While seventy-five percent of the money raised is used to support programs overseas, the remainder stays in local dioceses. To learn more, visit <http://orb.crs.org>.



HOPE • WORKS • WONDERS
TOUR
 CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities invites you to a one-hour tour of their programs. Clients, staff and board members will share moving experiences that changed the lives of our neighbors in need—seniors, families and immigrants. Come learn about our homeless services and more. No fundraising, just inspiration! Tours are **first Wednesdays of every month. Next tours are March 5 and April 2 at 12:00 Noon and 5:30 PM at 987 Airway Court, Santa Rosa (northwest). RSVP to Amela at 528-8712 ext 160 or rsvp@srcharities.org**

Please sign up for Catholic Charities' short monthly E-News—email info@srcharities.org today! Thank you!

The Diocese of Santa Rosa is committed to providing a safe and welcome environment for all young people. We are also eager to reach out to any who have experienced past abuses through clergy, staff or volunteers.

If you or someone you know has been harmed by sexual misconduct by clergy or a church employee or volunteer please contact Julie Sparacio at (707) 566-3308.

CARDINAL NEWMAN STILL GROWING

On January 10, 2008 the Cardinal Newman High School community celebrated a Mass to dedicate the new Athletic and Convocation Center—the first new permanent structures added to our shared campus in over 40 years. The Center is now home to:

- Paul V. Wright Building (3600 square feet), which will be used for ecclesiastical convocations or Masses; for student presentations; for parent meetings or other assemblies; and of course for wrestling matches during the winter sports season.
- The Leandro/Keefer Family Courtyard, which contains a spacious restroom facility
- The Guggiana Family Piazza, which will host large gatherings of the school community
- And the weight room—a welcome addition for Newman athletes who will no longer “make do” with tight and outdated quarters for training.

School families, faculty and administrators extend their thanks to all those whose generosity has made possible this substantial campus improvement, for the present and future students of Cardinal Newman.



ST. EUGENE'S MARKS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

St. Eugene's School kicked off Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 27th, with a Mass and an Open House followed by a pancake breakfast. Celebrations continued Monday with an assembly and Career Day. Tuesday—Student Appreciation Day, Wednesday—Spirit Rally Day and Thursday—Teacher Appreciation Day. Festivities closed with Grandparent's Day on Friday, February 1st, celebrating their faith, students and their school.

ST. FRANCIS SOLANO & ST. JOHN'S NAPA SCHOOLS: ARTISTS & SCHOLARS



North Bay Catholic school students won numerous awards at the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) American History essay contest. The theme of this year's writing competition was I Spy, Espionage during the Revolutionary War.



JUSTIN-SIENA STUDENTS LEARN FAITH THROUGH ACTION

VENAVER, a combination of the Spanish words “ven a ver,” literally translated means “Come and See.” New this year at Justin-Siena, in continuation of a long-time tradition of learning and serving through immersion outside the classroom, a series of VENAVER Immersion Trips are taking place at locations from Mexico to Montana. VENAVER (ven-uh-veer) Service Trips immerse students in another culture where they live in service to communities and are educated on the realities of injustice, oppression, neglect and poverty. “To come and see, without judgment, how differently others experience life is one of the best educational experiences a Lasallian high school can provide,” said Andy Hodges, Justin-Siena's Director of Campus Ministry.

Nick Grgich, 7th Grade, St. Francis Solano School in Sonoma, and Annabelle Huffman, 8th grade, St. John the Baptist Catholic School, Napa, receive awards for winning t-shirt designs for the North Bay Catholic School Youth League.



HISTORY CHAMPIONS: ST. ROSE BROTHERS BRING HOME “THE GOLD”

“**C**onflict and Compromise in History” was just one of the themes presented at St. Rose Open House in the annual History Day projects. Research explored a range of subjects from *Ice Hockey & the Cold War*, to *The Salem Witch Trials*, *Women in Medicine*, and the *Watergate Conspiracy*. Some students will go on to compete at the county level and later for the state title.

In 2007, St. Rose brothers Brandon and Austin Calos took home the First Place medal and state title for their provocative website on the *Buffalo Soldiers*—minority regiments of the U.S. army, originally commissioned in the 1860s but fighting for American honor as late as World War II. The idea for the project was born as Brandon viewed the televised Winter Olympics, where the last known living Buffalo soldier, Vernon Baker, was interviewed.

The boys conducted live interviews with the granddaughter of Buffalo Soldier Ernest Stokes and with curators of the Buffalo Soldier Museum in Texas. Brandon and Austin also received helpful tips from their father, who taught them how to put together thousands of lines of code that would be readable on the web; and from St. Rose teachers Louise Craighead, Barbara Holleran, Julie Murphy, and Dave Laurice.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST 8TH GRADE BOYS ARE BASKETBALL CHAMPS

The St John the Baptist Catholic School 8th grade boys completed a perfect season with their 38-33 win against St. Francis for the basketball championship of the North Bay Catholic School League.

The team surmounted many obstacles, from playing their entire season “on the road” to losing a key player due to a broken wrist. With the help of three trusty 7th grade fill-ins, the team drew on their grit and determination to finish the season with an 11-0 record.



ST. VINCENT’S HIGH STUDENTS LOVE TO TALK

As this issue goes to press, the St. Vincent High School Debate Team—which includes more than 50 students, or one of every 8 of the high school’s students—heads to Las Vegas to test their oratorical skills at the Golden Desert Invitational tournament, soon to be followed by a similar Invitational at U.C. Berkeley, and later by the state and national qualifying tournaments.

Now in its 45th year, the team has already traveled to Wake Forest University in NC, to the Glenbrooks Invitational in Chicago, IL, to The University of Southern California, and to Santa Clara and Gonzaga Universities. Directed by Laila McClay, assisted by Steve Clemmons, the team has won national recognition for its success this year, with some members already fielding offers from top-tier universities.



THE LOVE LETTER

by Denise Bossert

The letter didn't come on Valentine's Day. I didn't receive it on an anniversary. The best love letter I ever received came from my husband a few weeks ago on Christmas Eve, and was brought to fruition on Easter Day.

While John was raised Baptist, much of his extended family was Catholic. His parents' siblings had married Catholics and raised their children in the Catholic Church. When John was in middle school, his mother died of breast cancer. He tried to go to church regularly for a while, but it just became too difficult without a mother's prompting. John's dad decided to send his son to a Catholic high school,

hoping it would be a soft, safe place for the boy who had experienced a terrible loss at such a tender age.

Like most students in Catholic high schools, John gained a strong identity by being part of a private school. He wore the school's name (St. John Vianney) with pride, even though he did not convert.

After high school, John headed off to college, but church wasn't a big part of this phase of his life. One day, while commuting to graduate school, the radio station paused its regular programming to announce that the Federal Building in Oklahoma City had been bombed. The tragic news made John take stock of his life, and he decided that it was time to return to his faith, because there are times when faith is simply all that's left to go on.

Like when a mom dies and a boy is only half-grown. Or when tragedy comes suddenly, and there is nothing anyone can do but pray.

John and I met about a year later. The timing was ideal. I needed some ballast in my life. John was rock solid, and that was an

important thing to a single mother of three small children.

After a brief engagement, we married. We attended the Presbyterian church where my father preached. When Dad became ill and left pastoral ministry, we attended the Baptist church where John's mother had taken him as a small boy. Then my father died, and I went searching for answers. I found a copy of *Dark Night of the Soul* by St. John of the Cross and eventually found my way to the Catholic Church.

"I think I'm supposed to become Catholic," I told John one day. He nodded and told me that was fine, but he wasn't interested in becoming Catholic. I agreed to keep my Catholic journey private and preserve our Baptist identity as a family. Back then, I thought that would be enough. I barely understood what was happening to me, and I didn't think I was in any position to help anyone else become Catholic. In time, however, things changed. I wanted all of us to be Catholic and on the same page with our faith.

But that doesn't always happen the moment you realize how much you want it.

Grace has its own timetable. Another's free will can't be forced. And while I prayed for this one conversion, I must admit, I didn't think it would ever happen. "Remember St. Monica," my parish priest said. "Would she have become a saint if she had not had a son who needed her prayers? And then we never would have had St. Augustine." Okay, fair enough.

So I prayed in earnest. At Mass. During my hour of Adoration. But it is very difficult to hope for something you cannot imagine.

On Christmas Eve everything changed. While waiting for Mass to begin, John passed me a card. I looked at it for a second, and while my heart filled with joy (because John's love letters are always very special), I still did not know what was about to happen. I opened the letter and began to read. I love

(Continued on next page)

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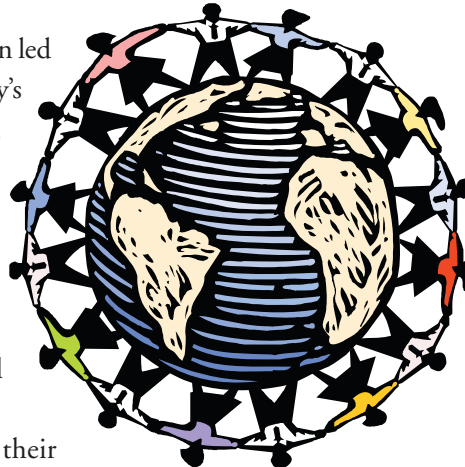
ST. APOLLINARIS PARISH IN NAPA CELEBRATES MISSION SUNDAY

by Frances Houser

Mission Sunday, the third Sunday of October, helps focus our attention on world missions and to keep Catholics mindful of the need for both our spiritual and financial support. This year, St. Apollinaris Parish in Napa celebrated Mission Sunday in a coming together of the families and friends of St. Apollinaris Parish to celebrate a diversity of cultures, *One Family of Faith*.

At the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, October 21st, approximately 100 children led the opening procession, dressed in native dress representing their family's cultural heritage or a country of their choice. Tawny striped cloth and headdresses from Africa, pastel muumuus with flower leis, jaunty French berets, Irish Dance Costumes, a Roman gladiator's toga and helmet, a blue Dutch dress with white collar and bonnet, full skirts rimmed by colorful Mexican ribbons, a red silk Korean dress, jewel-toned saris, turquoise and pink kimonos, checked shirts and jeans — whether clever, cute, rustic or elegant, the costumes represented ethnic groups from all corners of the world.

The youth proclaimed the scriptures and led singing of the psalms; their Prayers of the Faithful included intentions linked to the world's continents *"May we learn from the peoples of Europe the traditions of our Christian heritage. May we learn from the peoples of Central and South America how to walk with those who are poor."* The children's choir included songs from various cultures and languages, and our new priest from Kenya, Fr. Dominic Maile, joined the pastor, Msgr. Joseph Alzugaray, in concelebrating this truly memorable Mass.



IN MEMORIAM: SISTER MARGARET DRAIN, BVM

The St. Vincent de Paul school community and the Sisters of Charity, BVM mourn the passing of Petaluma educator Sister Margaret Drain, who died Dec. 22 in Dubuque, Iowa.



Born in 1920 in Yates County, Kansas, Sr. Margaret entered the BVM congregation on Sept. 8, 1937, and professed her final vows on Aug. 15, 1945. Sister Margaret taught music at St. Vincent, Petaluma, from 1940-47 and 1959-62. She was also an educator and social services administrator in Colorado and Iowa.

Memorials may be given to the Sisters of Charity, BVM Retirement Fund, 1100 Carmel Dr., Dubuque, IA 52003.

The Love Letter, (Continued from previous page)

John's handwriting; it's so familiar to me, like all the other things about him after eleven years of marriage. I read the words, about how deeply he loves me, and how that had prompted him to consider the Catholic Church.

And so, I join the Church this coming Easter. I read the final sentence.

He smiled as the tears gathered in my eyes. I tried to wrap my mind around this news. "When are you going to begin?" I whispered, unsure that the unfolding miracle could really be true. And he told me that he had been secretly studying with our parish RCIA leader for months.

The impossible had happened. And I realized that his life, like my own, has been dotted by one grace after another. Some moments had seemed very good, some very difficult, but all of it pointed to conversion, our "yes" to the great call of divine love—God's love letter to us.

Ms. Bossert is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary in New Melle, Missouri. Her articles have appeared in many diocesan papers and in Canticum Magazine. Past articles are available at her website www.catholicbygrace.org.

REVEREND MONSIGNOR ANDRE TOURNIER

Monsignor Andre Tournier, a devoted, prayerful and faithful priest in his ministry died in San Rafael on Nov. 11, 2007. He was always a gentle soul, well respected and loved by his fellow priests and parishioners. Born in San Francisco on May 24, 1923, Andre was baptized at L'Eglise de Notre Dame des Victoires which served the French community in San Francisco in those days, and received his early education in Berkeley. Later, he entered St. Joseph's College, Mountain View, completed his high school and college education, finally entering St. Patrick Seminary, Menlo Park to complete his studies in theology. He was ordained to the priesthood on December 18, 1948 for service in the Archdiocese of San Francisco.



His first priestly assignment was as an associate pastor at Star of the Sea parish, San Francisco. In 1953 he was assigned as associate pastor at St. Sebastian parish, Sebastopol, where he served for five years. His next assignment was at St. Francis de Sales parish in Oakland and then in 1960 he became the chaplain at the Sonoma Development Center, Eldridge. It was during this assignment that the Diocese of Santa Rosa was established (1962), and thus he became a priest of this new diocese.

In August 1963, he was appointed the first pastor of the newly established parish of Sacred Heart in Eureka, where he built the present church, school and rectory. In 1973 he was appointed pastor of St. Mary of the Angels Parish in Ukiah where he served for eight years. In 1981 he was appointed pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Yountville where he refurbished the church. He ministered there until his retirement in 1994. When he retired he resided at Nazareth House, San Rafael, until his death.

Monsignor Tournier served the Diocese of Santa Rosa as an Episcopal Vicar, as a Dean in five counties of the diocese, as a member of the College of Consultors, and as a member of the Presbyteral Council. He also served as a judge, assisting the Diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal. He was recognized for his priestly ministry by the late Pope Paul VI who, in 1968, bestowed on him the honor of Chaplain to His Holiness, with the title of Monsignor.

The sisters and staff at Nazareth House in San Rafael provided a hospitable place for him in his retirement and cared for him in these last few years as he suffered with Parkinson's Disease.

REVEREND MONSIGNOR WILLIAM SERADO

Msr. William Serado was born in Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania, February 26, 1914 and was baptized on the same day at our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania. He passed away on Monday, January 7, 2008 at Nazareth House, San Rafael CA.



Monsignor Serado was educated in Pennsylvania, entering the seminary with the Maryknoll Fathers in Ossining, New York in 1934. After two years he transferred to the diocesan seminary of Our Lady of the Angels in Niagara Falls, New York; it was there that he began to consider ministry in the west and on December 21, 1940, he was ordained a priest in Buffalo, New York, for ministry in the Diocese of Sacramento.

In that Diocese he served as associate pastor with various parishes, and as diocesan director of youth ministries (C.Y.O.). He also functioned in the matrimonial tribunal as a judge and notary, and as assistant director of St. Patrick's Home in Sacramento.

Fr. Serado was named pastor of St. Therese's in Isleton, and finally of St. Mary's in Arcata where he served until 1970. During this time the Diocese of Santa Rosa was established; Fr. Serado went on to serve as pastor of St. Helena parish in Napa County for 10 years, and for nine years as pastor of St. Sebastian, Sebastopol, until his retirement in 1989. He continued in his retirement to minister when called upon, celebrating Mass and the other sacraments, both in English and in Spanish, until last November. In recognition for his priestly endeavors he was given the honor of Chaplain to His Holiness by Pope Paul VI in 1968 with the title of Monsignor.

The priesthood was the focus of Monsignor's life and he was highly respected by clergy and laity alike.

REVEREND DOMINIC MAILE

Father Dominic Maile has recently been assigned as Associate Pastor at St. Apollinaris in Napa. Like Fr. Nzomo, he comes to us from Kenya. Fr. Maile, the middle of ten children (he has seven brothers and two sisters, was born in Machakos, the diocesan seat. He was educated in Machakos and Nairobi, where he majored in Theology. In 1990 he was ordained at the Cathedral in Machakos and served in three parishes before coming to our diocese.

He was requested by his bishop to come to Santa Rosa to assist in a parish here. He responded positively to his bishop's request and arrived here via Amstertam and Los Angeles. He was warmly received in Santa Rosa by Bishop Walsh. He and Father Nzomo were given time to rest and settle in after their long journey before they travelled to their assigned parishes.

Of his impressions of life here in this part of the United States, Fr. Maile says many things are not so different, but points of view and some programs are new to him. He looks forward to his three years here, and although he drinks little wine, he has enjoyed the wines parishioners have shared with him. "All the people I have met — Bishop Walsh, my fellow priests, parishioners and others — have been so welcoming to me. They have shared warm hospitality and have made me feel so much at home. I truly appreciate their kindness. It has really touched me."



FR. BONIFACE NZOMO

Father Boniface Nzomo, Associate Pastor at St. James Parish in Petaluma, hails from the Diocese of Machakos in southern Kenya. One of eight children (six of whom are living), he was born and raised in a rural village near Machakos, the major town in the area. His father, now 98, still tends the family farm. He attended the Junior Seminary, graduating to St. Augustine's Senior Seminary (Mabanga, Kenya) in 1977. Later he studied at St. Thomas Seminary (Nairobi, Kenya), and was ordained for Machakos Diocese June 8, 1986, celebrating his first Mass at his home parish of Kola.

Fr. Nzomo's initial assignment was as Associate Pastor in Muthetheni Parish; he was named Pastor there in 1992. In 1995 he was appointed Pastor of Cathedral Parish, and in 2004 as Pastor of Kanzalou Parish, where he served until September 2007. At that time, his Bishop consulted with Fr. Maile and him: "It was the wish of our Bishop that we serve in Santa Rosa and we obliged. We were very interested in this new assignment."

For his personal and pastoral life, Fr. Nzomo emphasized the centrality and the vital importance of prayer, "You cannot be successful in life without praying; it enables you to get in touch with Christ. As a priest, my emphasis is the apostolate, my work is to be available to the people. I strive to live according to what I promised God at my ordination." "In Kenya, our at-home life as priests is different from what I have experienced here; there it is much like that of a religious community — for example, two priests living in the same house pray together in the morning and evening, share meals, have only one common room (with one television), which is their living/social room, library and place for conversation."

Fr. Nzomo is very happy in Petaluma. As he said, "I found a lot of good things here, more than I expected. The people are very friendly, prayerful, and engaged in the sacramental life of the Church. Unfortunately, due to the high cost of living, we have fewer young people and young families, but we have many active parishioners — for example — more than 100 attend daily mass. We (Fr. Maile and Fr. Nzomo) are treated as brothers by our fellow priests, and Bishop Walsh has been most welcoming and supporting. He often calls just to chat and to see how we're doing."





Mis Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

El Santo Padre visitará nuestro país del 15 al 20 de abril. Esta visita fue anunciada en noviembre pasado. Es considerado como la visita del Papa a la Iglesia en los Estados Unidos. D.C. de Washington como nuestra capital nacional y Nueva Cork en la casa de las Naciones Unidas son las únicas ciudades que el Santo Padre visitará.

El Papa Benedicto XVI llegará a Washington D.C. durante la tarde del 15 de abril desde Roma. Durante abril 16 el ha programado una visita a la Casa Blanca para una reunión con nuestro presidente. Más tarde ese día se encontrará con los Obispos de los Estados Unidos en la Basílica de la Inmaculada Concepción. Al día siguiente habrá una misa en el Estadio Nacional, una reunión con los presidentes de Universidades Católicas y líderes de la Educación Católica Diocesana en la Universidad Católica de América. Durante la tarde esta programada una reunión con los representantes de otras religiones en el Centro Cultural Papa Juan pable II cerca de la Universidad Católica

El 18 de abril el Santo Padre viajara a Nueva York para dirigirse a la Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas. Más tarde él se encontrará otra vez con líderes ecuménicos en una Parroquia de Nueva York. Él ha planeado una misa en la Catedral de San Patricio con sacerdotes, diáconos y religiosos el 19 de abril. Durante el mismo día tiene una reunión con la juventud en El Seminario de San José en Yonkers.

Durante el día anterior él visitará “La zona cero”, el sitio de las torres gemelas, y celebrará la misa en el Estadio de los Yanquis. Luego de esto volverá al Vaticano.

Esta visita nos da a todos nosotros una oportunidad de renovar nuestro entendimiento del papel del Papa como el sucesor de San Pedro. Como el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica establece: el Señor hizo a Simón solo, a quien él llamó a Pedro, “la roca” de su Iglesia. Él le dio las llaves de su Iglesia y lo instituyó el pastor de la multitud entera.(#881). El Concilio Vaticano Segundo en “Lumen Gentium” establece: El don de atar y desatar que fue dado a Pedro fue también otorgado a los apóstoles en unión con él.” Este oficio pastoral de Pedro y de los otros apóstoles pertenece a la fundación de la Iglesia y a su continuidad a través de los obispos bajo la cabeza del Papa.

Nuestra fe nos recuerda que Jesús prometió construir su Iglesia en la roca de la fe de San Pedro. Durante todos los siglos, en tiempos buenos y malos, Cristo ha dirigido su Iglesia a través del Obispo de Roma con el colegio de obispos en comunión con él. Qué gran regalo es el papado para la Iglesia y para garantizar nuestra fidelidad al evangelio que Jesús predicó.

Pido a todos rezar por el éxito de la visita del Santo Padre a nuestro país. Que su presencia traiga muchas bendiciones a todos los americanos mientras nos enseña y guía hacia la verdad.

Su hermano y sirviente en el Señor,
Reverendo Daniel F. Walsh
Obispo de Santa Rosa

Spiritual Enrichment: Spring Series

THE ENNEAGRAM

The Enneagram is a very ancient spiritual tool, developed over centuries and very popular in spiritual circles today. It helps us to meet the Lord. It does this by helping us to recognize the blocks, the biases, and the compulsive ways we have of looking at life and ultimately prevent us from meeting the God within.

The Enneagram helps us to read and receive reality objectively. Today, because there are many religious movements in the world, knowledge of self is profoundly necessary. “No one can know God who does not know him/herself.” — Meister Eckhart

Place: The Spiritual Enrichment Center, 360 Farmer’s Ln, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 707-546-1781.

Dates: April 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th. Time: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Registration appreciated



Ministries Supported by the Appeal:

- *Camp St. Michael*
- *Campus Newman Centers*
 - Sonoma State Newman Center*
 - Humboldt State Newman Center*
 - Cardinal Newman Retreat Center*
- *Child & Youth Protection Office*
- *Continuing Clergy Formation*
- *Department of Catholic Schools*
- *Department of Communication*
- *Detention Ministry*
- *Diocesan Pastoral Council*
- *Hispanic Ministry*
- *Native American Ministry*
- *Permanent Diaconate*
- *Religious Education*
- *Tribunal*
- *Vocations/Seminarians*
- *Youth Ministry*

Development Office
Debbie Drago 566-3344
Renee Van Esso 566-3303

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The time has come again for our Annual Ministry Appeal, *One Family in Mission*. I want to sincerely thank all who continuously support our Appeal each year. Because of your generosity, the Ministries are able to continue to teach the New Evangelization and Catechesis, promote vocations and serve those in need throughout the six counties in our Diocese.

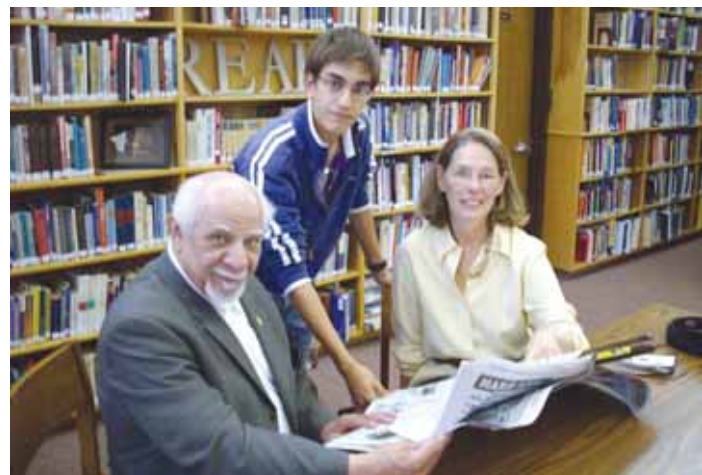
Deuteronomy 16:17 says *“You shall give as you are able, according to the blessings which the Lord your God has given you.”* I ask you to reflect, with a grateful heart, on how you will support the good works of our ministries this year. As family we are all called to share our gifts with others. Your contribution, regardless of size, makes a difference in our mission.

It is with heartfelt thanks that I keep you and your families in my prayers, I am

Your Brother and Servant in the Lord,
Most Reverend Daniel F. Walsh
Bishop of Santa Rosa



*Pictured above: Generations of Faith;
below: Communications Team members*





ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF SANTA ROSA

NORTH COAST CATHOLIC
NEWSLETTER OF THE DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **POPE BENEDICT
UPCOMING VISIT TO US**
- **LEGISLATIVE NETWORK
UPDATE**
- **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**
- **FINANCIAL UPDATE**
- **OPERATION RICE BOWL**
- **DETENTION MINISTRIES**

What Have You Done for Your Marriage Today?



Explore what's possible for you through *The Christian Family in the Modern World*, a weekly class on God's plan for marriage and family, based on

John Paul II's writings. The instructor is John Galten.

When: Saturdays, April 19 – May 31; 9:30 – 11 a.m.

Where: St. Joseph's Parish Center, 150 St. Joseph Way, Cotati

Tuition: None required, but a free will offering is gladly accepted.

For more information, contact Cindy : 592-9833.

Discover Rome, the Eternal City — Monastery Stays Can Make it Happen

Monasteries and convent guest houses have been looking after the needs of travellers for centuries.

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Facilities are safe, affordable, well located, family friendly. Email info@monasterystays.com for more information.



Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Annual Spring Luncheon meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 3 at St. James, Petaluma. The program features speakers from Catholic Relief Services, focusing on the CRS and National Council of Catholic Women's *Water for Life* project. Everyone is welcome (women and men!). Nominal cost for the luncheon. For details and reservations, contact Patricia Wapp, (707) 762-1673 or email jollygreen1168@sbcglobal.net.

Catholic Professional Club

As Catholic professional and businessmen and women, we are called to live our Christian ethics not only on Sundays, but daily at home and at work.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month at the Hilton Sonoma Wine Country, 3555 Round Barn Blvd. in Santa Rosa. Registration begins at 7:00 am; the meeting runs from 7:30–8:30 am. Check www.srcatholicbusinessbreakfast.org for calendar of events and reservation information or call (707) 523-8355.