



ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

I LIVE, NO LONGER I,
BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME.

— Galatians 2:20

June 16, 2013

~ Parish Life and Activities... ~

<p>HAPPY FATHER'S DAY</p>	<p>God our Father, you govern and protect your people and shepherd them with a father's love. You place a father in a family as a sign of your love, care, and constant protection. May fathers everywhere be faithful to the example shown in the Scriptures: steadfast in love, forgiving transgressions, sustaining the family, caring for those in need. Give your wisdom to fathers that they may encourage and guide their children. Keep them healthy so they may support a family. Guide every father with the Spirit of your love that they may grow in holiness and draw their family ever closer to you. Amen</p>
<p>HOPE AND FORGIVENESS</p>	<p>There were some interesting conceptions of sin prevalent in the time of the Hebrew scriptures. There was the belief that God punished sin immediately. Those who suffered disease or misfortune were, therefore, sinners getting their due from the Almighty. Today's first reading hints at another kind of God. When David admits his sin, Nathan declares, "The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin" (2 Samuel 12:13b). Here was not a vengeful God but a merciful God. What good news that must have been to David and those who, like him, could be honest enough to admit their sinfulness! Jesus is the good news of God's mercy and forgiveness incarnate. Without Jesus, perhaps the Good News would have been too good to believe, too difficult to imagine. But there he is in today's Gospel, the God-man, forgiving a sinner and declaring that she is forgiven because of her great love. There is hope, then, for the rest of us sinners, if only we love enough!</p>
<p>THANK YOU!</p>	<p>On behalf of AIDS Walk Long Beach, Comunidad thanks the parishioners of St. Matthew's for your generous contributions throughout the month of May. St. Matthew's team raised approximately \$2,200 to support the work of the Long Beach AIDS Foundation which supports services to persons affected by AIDS and HIV. Over \$1,800 was collected here after the Masses and another \$400.00 was raised by those who took part in the Walk on June 2nd. Thank you for your continued support for this very important cause.</p>
<p>OFFERING OF LETTERS</p>	<p>We need to speak out on behalf of the hungry in our country to make sure the nutrition programs SNAP and WIC will be included in our federal budget. There will be a petition to the President and letter to Congress to sign after Mass. Please join us to ensure "a place at the table" for one and all.</p>
<p>SPEAKER HERE THIS MONDAY</p>	<p>Join us this Monday, June 17th, 7:00p.m. to hear Tricia Mora talk about Catholic Charities of Long Beach. She will detail the effective and efficient programs they provide including Project Achieve and the Guest Chef Program. You will learn that you can make a difference. Call Claire for more information at 565.597.4030.</p>
<p>CELEBRATE OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM</p>	<p><i>"A just laicism allows religious freedom. The state does not impose religion but rather gives space to religions with a responsibility toward civil society, and therefore it allows these religions to be factors in building up society."</i> Joseph Ratzinger</p> <p>Let us all plan to joyfully celebrate our freedom of religion together on Thursday, July 4th at 9:00a.m. with a meaningful bilingual Mass. See you there!</p>
<p>REFLECTIONS</p>	<p>THE 12TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME First Reading: Zechariah 12:10-11; 13:1 Second Reading: Galatians 3:26-29 Gospel: Luke 9:18-24</p> <p>"Who do you say that I am?" Jesus asks his apostles. Peter answers "The Christ of God." Jesus warns that to follow him means we must take up our cross daily and whoever loses one's life for him will save it. Pray each day for strength to carry the crosses we have been given.</p>