



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CHRIST JESUS ... IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY,

THE CHURCH — Colossians 1:15; 18

July 14, 2013

~ Parish Life and Activities... ~

LIVING GOD'S COMMANDS

The first reading forms part of Moses' farewell discourse, a call to the people to return to God. It is not a legalistic summons; rather, it is an appeal to heart and soul. It outlines a command that is not impossible to follow, or too difficult to undertake, or too expensive. Look into your hearts, says Moses; there you will find what to do. Paul sees Jesus Christ as the image of God, the agent of creation and preservation. We sense, in his words, things profound: "dominions or principalities or powers." But in the midst of that, Paul keeps his attention on Jesus Christ, head of the church. It is in Christ that we find fullness and reconciliation—in the blood of the cross. Luke's Gospel illustrates the double commandment of love with the story of the Good Samaritan. The story is a radical one, for it comes to focus on the question of who my "neighbor" is. That neighbor is not identified with any group, but rather by the scope of our compassion.

R.C.I.A. BEGINS TODAY

Our first RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) class will be held today, Sunday, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. If you have already spoken with Sister Sharon, please plan to attend this first class inside the Rectory at approximately 11:30a.m. If you have not yet spoken with Sister Sharon, you are welcome to attend this meeting to gather information in order to decide if you want to begin this faith journey.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Today we will take up the National Needs Combined Collection. This collection includes the Catholic Communication Campaign, The Black and Indian Home Mission, The Catholic University of America and the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Your generosity is appreciated.

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS...

The dignity of life ...

WE AS BAPTIZED CATHOLICS ARE CALLED TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD BY LIVING OUT OUR BAPTISMAL VOCATION, BEING AND BECOMING THE BODY OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD.

Did you know there is a group of **Eucharistic Ministers specially designated to minister Holy Communion to the ill and elderly of the parish?** According to parish need and personal preference, our ministers visit patients in their homes, 11 nursing facilities and Community Hospital of Long Beach. **We need your help.** If you think you have a calling to this ministry and would like information, please contact the parish office, 562.439.0931 x 0.

CONFIRMATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Today in the parish hall at 2:00 p.m., there will be an information meeting for students, accompanied by at least one parent, who are interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Those in attendance will learn about the required class-time and future commitments of this two-year program. **Parents must attend this meeting with their child (no substitute relatives, no friends).** Only those who attend the information session will be allowed to register in the Confirmation program.

CAN YOU HELP?

On the first weekend of each month, there is a market basket available outside the church for collection of food and hygiene articles which are then transported to the Catholic Charities food pantry. **Might you be willing to mind the cart before and after the Mass you attend?** Your help would be an important step in helping parents provide food for their families. Please give it some thought and call Claire at 597.4030 or 481.8894.

REFLECTIONS

THE 16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a **Second Reading:** Colossians 1:24-28

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

Jesus knows Martha is "anxious and worried about many things" just as we often are. Jesus antidote is to "sit beside him and listen to him speak" We can only listen if we quiet ourselves and put our anxiety and worry in his hands. Let me find 10-15 minutes each day to do this.