



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS ARIGHT,
 THAT WE MAY GAIN WISDOM OF HEART. — Psalm 90:12

August 4, 2013

Parish Life and Activities...

BARN FILLED WITH RICHES

The mortgage is paid off. So are the loans that were taken out for college tuition and children's weddings. The second home that was once a far-off dream is now so close that it seems safe to dig out the real estate magazines. And then . . . A daughter or son can no longer take care of a child. It's time to start over, this time as grandparents in the parent's role. Thousands of older adults face this situation today, becoming temporary or permanent guardians of their grandchildren. Vanity of vanities. The years of toil with sights set on a great reward now belong to someone else: food, clothing, braces, summer camps, and school tuition. But, as one grandmother said of her 13-year-old granddaughter, Megan, "It has all been worth it. She brings such joy. What would I do without her?" And so the barns filled with "riches" are again taken down and new and true riches are discovered. Once again a new self is found in Christ, and the storehouse is filled with life that is truly pleasing to God.

2013 SCRC CONVENTION AUG 30-SEPT 1

The 42nd Annual SCRC Catholic Renewal Convention will take place over Labor Day Weekend, August 30-September 1, 2013 at the Anaheim Convention Center. This year's theme is "TAKE COURAGE, HAVE FAITH." Over 40 speakers will be on hand including Bishop Bennett, John Michael Talbot, Fr. Stan Fortuna, CFR, Fr. Greg Bramlage, Fr. Michael Sears, Fr. Mike Barry. There will also be a John Michael Talbot Concert on August 31. A spiritually enriching weekend for all ages! For a brochure or info, please contact 818.771.1361 or email spirit@scrc.org. Online information and registration is available at www.scrc.org.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Registration for our parish high school students Confirmation program will take place on Monday and Tuesday, August 12/13. For time and other important information, please call Uriel Castellanos, Coordinator, at 562.436.6726.

HOW TWEET IT IS...

Pope Francis is the second most popular world leader on Twitter, according to a study conducted by Burson-Marsteller, a global communications firm. President Obama is still the most followed world leader on Twitter with 33,510,157 followers as of 1 July 2013," the study found. "Pope Francis is the second most followed world leader with 7,200,332 followers on his nine different @Pontifex accounts." "Despite his massive following, the President's tweets are on average only retweeted 2,309 times," the study continued. "By this standard, Pope Francis is by far the most influential tweep with 11,116 retweets for every tweet he sends on his Spanish account. His English tweets receive on average 8,219 retweets."

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Thursday, August 15, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a holy day of obligation. We will celebrate Mass at 8:00a.m. in English and 7:15p.m. in Spanish. There will be no Vigil Mass.

MARKET BASKET COLLECTION

TODAY is our monthly collection for Catholic Charities Market Basket. Originally we had hoped that each parish family would bring one item each month. While we have several extremely generous donors, we would love to involve more parishioners. **In addition to non-perishable food items and hygiene articles, the Catholic Charities Shelter also appreciates donations of coffee, 30-gallon trash bags, men's socks and sunscreen.** Thank you so much for your past help...and your *future* help!

REFLECTIONS

THE 19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
First Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9 **Second Reading:** Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
Gospel: Luke 12:32-48
 Our Father has prepared a place for us in Heaven. How am I preparing for the Kingdom?
 Will I be ready for the journey?

The Mustard Seed

"It grew and became a tree and the birds of the air made nests in the branches... Luke 13

Upcoming Events

- Aug. 15 – Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sept. 21 – Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- Save the Date: Sept. 28 2013
Regional Religious Education Congress. St. Pius X Downey
congress@sppr.org

Around the Parishes

- St. Cornelius - Bible Study. Weds. 7-8:45P.M. Call Erick or Barbara 562/425-5542
- Rosary for Life. 4:30 PM. 1st Sunday of the month. St Cornelius Church.

In the Area & On the Web

- www.bustedhalo.com: An online magazine for Spiritual Seekers
- Loyola Daily Retreat:
www.LoyolaPress.com
- "Losing Our Religion" - NPR Morning Edition series. Read a short synopsis and listen to and listen to reports. www.npr.org

For more information about the Faith Formation Committee or to volunteer to help at an upcoming program, please email Sister Sharon at sfrancis@stmatthewlb.org

Grow in Faith

WHAT IS THE MUSTARD SEED?

We are all called by our Baptism to continuing conversion and a closer relationship to Jesus. We hope this "Mustard Seed" will be a vehicle for informing and inspiring us to proclaim the Kingdom of God in our words and actions wherever we are.

COOKING UP AN ANSWER TO PRAYER

We can compare God's answering a prayer to a person cooking a meal. Three common ways to cook are with a microwave, a stove or a slow cooker. Each makes a great symbol for how quickly God may respond.

Microwave cooking is nearly instantaneous: you put in the food, push a few buttons and in no time the food is hot. Sometimes God seems to put our prayers in the microwave: we may just finish asking St. Anthony to help us find our keys – and there they are!

Most people cook their meals on a stove, a method that takes a little time. The "watched pot" takes time to boil and the turkey takes time to roast. When God answers our prayers "on the stove" so to speak, He lets them run their natural course. The baby takes nine months; the student has to wait for the exam to be given.

Sometimes God seems to say yes, but it will take a long time. The slow cooker symbolizes those prayer requests that are too important, in fact, too precious to hurry. God wants to give a savory gift and sometimes this involves significant religious experiences, especially a person's conversion. Think how long St. Monica prayed for her son Augustine's conversion – in church, twice a day, for about sixteen years.

And sometimes, the answers to our prayers involve an element of surprise. God gives us much more than we ever thought possible. He may give us something we need but we might not have known we did. And we also know God answers every prayer in SOME way and at SOME time.

Paraphrased from [Walk Humbly with Your God](#) – Fr. Andrew Apostoli, CFR



The Mustard Seed con't.

"It grew and became a tree and the birds of the air made nests in the branches... Luke 13

PARISH FOOD PROGRAMS

MARKET BASKET COLLECTION:

The first weekend of the month collection is for non-perishable food and hygiene articles for Catholic Charities. Comunidad and Peace & Justice share "manning" the basket and collecting food and monetary donations. Items are delivered to Catholic Charities on the following Monday by Peace and Justice

ST. LUKE'S SHOWER PROGRAM:

Parishioners make sandwiches & buy bananas, soup mixes and coffee items to be served at St. Luke's on the third Saturday of the "even" months 7 AM-10 AM (February, April, June, August, October & December). Sandwiches are made on the third Friday 8:30-9:30 AM.

GUEST CHEF PROGRAM:

Several parishioners prepare casseroles, salads and desserts to be served to the Project Achieve Shelter run by Catholic Charities on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Two teams of three people take turns on this project. Sixty people are served. They spend 90 days in this shelter preparing to move from being homeless to getting housing. For more information contact Linda at 562/493-9898

World Youth Day 2013

The 28th World Youth Day, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, just concluded. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, had many inspiring and challenging things to say to the young people who attended – and to all Catholics. Go to the following link to see videos of many of the events:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/speeches/2013/july/index_en.htm

Interested in knowing more about World Youth Day? Check out the official website:

<http://worldyouthday.com/>

More Good News

SEEING IN THE YEAR OF FAITH

Faith calls us to believe without seeing. Even blessed with the gift of sight, we still need the gift of God's light to see what we possess. We ask for a faith-filled way of looking at life so that we can see the Lord at work in our lives. And so we pray:

I want to see your purpose, Lord, in the problems I face in life because I know your providence is real and overflows with mercy.

I want to see myself the way that You see me when all I see is my worthlessness and inadequacy.

I want to see your mercy and how You use even my sins to draw me to yourself.

I want to see - past my selfishness, past my willfulness, past my self-absorption - to You who alone bring me the newness and fullness I crave in life.

I want to see that You are the truest priority of my life, and that prayer is my most important activity.

I want to see the poor, the needy, the lonely, and the suffering, and I want to help them so that they see You in the solace they receive.

I want to see You, Jesus, looking at me the way that no one else has ever looked at me, and I want to use the healing of my sight to look at others with the same gaze of love.
In faith I pray, Amen.

Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed. - John 21:29

