

MESSIAH "SING-A-LONG" TODAY AT 4:00PM

The Cathedral Choir and the Westminster Presbyterian Church Choir will join with the Camellia Symphony to lead a Messiah-"Sing-A-Long" today at 4:00 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Under the direction of Cathedral Music Director Jackson Schoos, the Orchestra and choirs will perform the first part (Christmas section) of Handel's immortal work *Messiah*; audience members are invited to sing along on the choruses, if they wish. You may bring your own *Messiah* score, or scores will be available for purchase at the site. Non-singers are also welcome to come and hear the performance.

MESSIAH

The tenor and bass solos will be performed by Cathedral Choral Scholars, and the Soprano and Alto soloists are outstanding young artists from our area.

The event is a fundraiser for the Camellia Symphony; tickets are \$10.00, and local television station NEWS10 is co-sponsoring the event as part of their annual

"Coats for Kids" drive. If you bring a coat for donation, you will receive a \$2.00 discount on your ticket.

Come and begin your observance of the Advent Season with this very special event.

HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT HELP THE DOWNTOWN HOMELESS

To raise money for programs for the downtown homeless, the St. Vincent De Paul Society is selling gift boxes of California grown nuts, dried fruits, chocolates and wine. They make perfect gifts for the holidays! Prices range from \$15 to \$100. Members of the society will be selling items and taking orders after the 8:00 a.m., 9:30 am; 12:30 pm and 5:00 pm Masses on Sunday, December 5. You can also telephone 457-6719 or order some higher priced items on the web at <www.californiainseason.com>.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

The Saint Vincent De Paul Society of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament will be providing Christmas baskets to needy parishioners. If you would like to receive a basket please call the St. Vincent de Paul Society at 447-3780 and leave your name and phone number. Please make your requests by December 15.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN FOR BISHOP

GALLEGOS MATERNITY HOME

Sister Jenny, Religious Education Director at the Cathedral, has distributed baby bottles to Catechism Students to help the Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home. Students are asked to fill the baby bottles with donations from family and friends with all proceeds going to the home. The Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home provides shelter, food, and companionship. There is a resident housemother and services which include childbirth coaching and access to adoption counseling. The home has private bedrooms, a shared kitchen, and all other normal home facilities including a large back yard.. The home is totally funded from private donations.

Please be generous to the children trying to fill their baby bottles or make a donation directly to the Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home. Info? Call 395-9370.

THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD

LIVING WILLS*Reverend George Dyer, S.T.D.*

“Living wills” are directives we sign indicating the medical measures to be taken if we are gravely ill and unable to make our wishes known. Are we to be kept alive at whatever cost, no matter what our condition? The question can be contentious. A parent or spouse may ask the court to discontinue treatment, or not, when a patient is persistently comatose. The living will is designed to avoid this painful situation. The “Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care” is another option. This legal instrument designates someone to carry out our wishes when we cannot do so ourselves. We may request all possible care, regardless of cost or our medical condition. Or we may ask that all care (save for comfort) be discontinued. But are we morally free to refuse a medical procedure that will keep us alive? In general, the answer is YES.

Catholic ethical thinking makes a clear distinction between ordinary and extraordinary measures for preserving life. We are obliged to make use of ordinary means to preserve our lives: food, drink, rest, medicine. We may also take extraordinary measures to preserve our life, but we are not obliged to do so. Human life is sacred but it need not be preserved at all cost. Indeed, we honor those who give their lives for others e.g. police and firemen.

Who makes the determination to continue or to withhold treatment? The Sacred Congregation of the Faith said that it should be the patient, or the patient’s family in consultation with the physician. The Congregation noted that it is not always easy to distinguish between ordinary and extraordinary measures. We must ask whether the treatment improves or restores the health of the patient. If it does not, it may be discontinued. Recently, Pope John Paul II stated that artificial nutrition and hydration are ordinary means of preserving life for a patient in a persistent vegetative state. It need not be used, of course, if the patient could not assimilate it or if it caused pain or suffering. This follows from the earlier teaching of Pope Pius XII that a treatment need not be used if it were “a grave burden to the patient or others.”

Would the price of artificial nutrition and hydration constitute this “grave burden”? One physician estimated that costs might reach \$1,000 a day (monitoring, turning the patient and testing for infections). He felt that expenditures of those dimensions might well place a “grave burden” on a family or even on a rapidly graying society where medical dollars are limited.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MON 11/29/2004	Advent Weekday
7:00 am: All Souls	
12:00 noon: All Souls	
TUES 11/30/2004	St. Andrew, apostle
7:00 am: All Souls	
12:00 noon: All Souls	
WED 12/1/2004	Advent Weekday
7:00 am: All Souls	
12:00 Noon: Harold Leeroy Goodman +	
THURS 12/2/2004	Advent Weekday
7:00 am: Remedios A. Ferrer, S.I.	
12:00 noon: Jorge Usi, S.I.	
FRI 12/3/2004	St. Francis Xavier
7:00 am: All Souls	
12:00 noon: All Souls	

“PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF MINISTRY” WORKSHOP

Fr. Kenan Osborne, OFM, author, professor, and theologian, will facilitate a one day workshop for liturgical ministers on Saturday, December 4, 2004, at Holy Cross Parish Church in West Sacramento. The workshop begins at 9:00 am and will include breakout sessions for lectors, altarservers, hospitality, music, and ministers to the sick. Registration at the door is \$10 per person. Call 371-1211 for info.

ADVENT SERIES**“SAYING ‘YES’ TO GOD”**

Sr. Catherine Doyle, RSM, will facilitate a workshop at the Pastoral Center on Sunday December 5 from 1:00 pm-6:00 pm that explores saying “yes” to discipleship, which is never easy. The series will focus on the three fold experiences of Annunciation, Visitation, and Incarnation. Cost \$15. Contact Jeannette Holmes at (916) 733-0117 for information and registration.