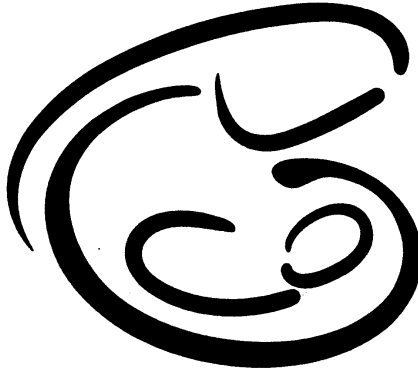


## OUR CHILDREN RAISED OVER \$1,000 FOR LIFE

Children in the Cathedral religious education program raised over \$1,000 for the Sacramento Life Center, we learned recently. In a letter to Sr. Jenny, Director of Religious Education, Kathleen Buckley of the Life Center thanked our children for their “wonderful participation in our Baby Bottle Project.” During Advent some 130 families took baby bottles home so that the children could fill the bottles with their nickels and dimes as a way of supporting the sacredness of human

life. About 80 bottles were returned to Sr. Jenny full of money.



SACRAMENTO LIFE

“What a wonderful response,” Buckley wrote. “The money raised from this project helps us to continue to work with young women who are faced with a crisis pregnancy and offer support to help them choose life for their unborn child... We look forward to having you participate again next

year.”

## STATIONS OF CROSS FOLLOWED BY BENEDICTION

Stations of the Cross are held on the Fridays of Lent at St Elizabeth’s Church (12th and S Streets) beginning at 6:00pm. The stations are followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. In addition, we will have “open air stations” in downtown Sacramento on Good Friday, beginning at 8:45am. (More on that later.) We encourage parishioners to attend this traditional devotion during the 40 days of Lent.

The Stations of the Cross are given added significance this year because of the appearance

of Mel Gibson’s movie “The Passion of the Christ,” currently showing in Sacramento theatres. The movie, about the last 12 hours of the life of Christ, is an unusually graphic depiction of the suffering Christ went through on Calvary. It got an R rating because of violence. Some have worried that the movie could inflame hostile feeling against the Jewish people. Gibson’s response: “To do that would be to crucify Christ all over again. Christ died for everybody,” he said, and “by his wounds we are healed.”

## SEXUAL ABUSE PROCEDURES IN THE SACRAMENTO DIOCESE

Figures on sexual abuse released this week in the John Jay Study are, as Bishop Wilton Gregory predicted ahead of time, startling. While even one case is too much, it is gratifying that the figures in the Diocese of Sacramento are considerably less than the national average. In Sacramento 17 priests have been accused over 50 years, which is about 1.4 percent of the total number of priests serving in that period of time.

Following the provisions of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" adopted by the United States bishops in Dallas last year, the Diocese of Sacramento has taken the following steps:

We have a victim assistance coordinator. We set up review board whose members were chosen for their expertise in various fields to advise the bishop on the diocese' overall sex abuse policy and with individual

allegations.

We permanently remove all offenders from ministry, if an appropriate investigation under canon law established that a person is an offender. The charter also rules out transferring a cleric who has committed abuse to another diocese for an assignment in ministry.

We are instituting a safe environment program and are presently training facilitators to launch the KidWise program (grades pre K to 8) and the Boy Scout Venturing program (Jr High and High School).

We carefully screen candidates for holy orders.

We thoroughly screen diocesan personnel who have regular contact with children.

### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

**MON 3/1/2003** Lenten Weekday

Rdgs: Lv 19: 1-2, 11-18; Mt 25: 31-46

7:00 am: Vern Bowie

12:00 noon: All Souls

**TUES 3/2/2003** Lenten Weekday

Rdgs: Is 55: 10-11; Mt 6: 7-15

7:00 am: Anna Nguyen Mao

12:00 noon: Maria Vong Shing

**WED 3/3/2003** St. Katherine Drexel

Rdgs: Jon 3: 1-10; Lk 11: 29-32

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 Noon: All Souls

**THURS 3/4/2003** St. Casmir

Rdgs: Est 12: 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7: 7-12

7:00 am: Carolina Santiago

12:00 noon: All Souls

**FRI 3/5/2003** World Day of Prayer

Rdgs: Ez 18: 21-28; Mt 5: 20-26

7:00 am: Remedios A. Ferrer, S.I.

### THANKS TO WESTMINSTER

We owe a "thank you" to the Westminster Presbyterian Community for their help on Ash Wednesday. Normally the Presbyterians have a free concert in their main sanctuary on Wednesdays at Noon, with our Noon Mass celebrated upstairs in the community hall. They agreed to hold no concert on Ash Wednesday, however, so that we could use the main sanctuary for our services on that important day.

### SACRAMENTO YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

**Attention young adults, both married and single!** Young adult Catholics from throughout the area gather on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm to socialize, pray, grown in faith, and just enjoy the company of their peers. If you are in your 20s or 30s, or at least feel like you are, places join us at St. Elizabeth's at 12th and S Streets in downtown Sacramento. Come meet other young adult Catholics and bring your friends. For more information, and to confirm location, visit our Web site at [www.sacyam.org](http://www.sacyam.org) or call Chris McFadden at (916) 374-9216.