

ARCHITECTS OF 1939 DID ONE THING RIGHT

Architects and engineers at the Cathedral have tried to figure out why the renovators of 1939 took out the original inner dome. Maybe someone from that era found a crack and tried to do something about it. In any case, what they did added nothing to the structural safety of the building, engineers of today tell us.

What they were thinking is a bit of a puzzle but they did do one thing right. They left the skeletal wooden frame of the dome in place, thus leaving enough information about the shape of the dome for future architects if they chose to rebuild it some day. And to their credit, they went to considerable trouble to do this, as supervising

architect Harry Hallenbeck of Vanir Construction likes to explain when he gives tours of the cathedral. In order to keep that wooden frame in place, they had to put it on temporary supports while they were building the false dome under it. It would have been much easier to take down the whole thing, plaster and wood frame, in the first place.

Thank God they didn't do that! If that wooden frame were not in place today, we would never know the exact shape of the original interior dome, and plans to build a new one would be based largely on guesswork.

DIOCESAN SYNOD RECOMMENDATIONS TO BISHOP



Bishop William K. Weigand received several recommendations from the more than 400 members of the Diocesan Synod held in Yuba City in mid-October. After three days of prayer, reflection, and dialogue, clergy, religious, and laity brought forth several

issues they believe should be priorities for the Diocese of Sacramento in the next several years. Those issues were:

- (1) **FAMILY FAITH FORMATION**: Since parents are the primary educators of their children, develop programs to help parents with catechesis for themselves and their children to promote the Catholic family.
- (2) **VOCATIONS**: Increase efforts to inform and recruit more vocations to priestly and religious life through a program of prayer, education, and invitation.
- (3) **COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY**: Identify and promote welcoming activities for new parishioners, inactive Catholics, and faithful parishioners. Establish a welcoming committee.
- (4) **EUCARIST AND SACRAMENTS**: Capitalize on the fact that the Liturgy is the most common and central activity of Catholic life in a parish. Have priests set aside time and effort to make the celebration truly reflect the

spiritual reality that occurs during each Mass.

- (5) **LAY MINISTRY FORMATION AND TRAINING**: Reinstitute the Lay Formation Institute which will provide theological foundation and training for specific ministries.
- (6) **YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS**: Make a preferential option for the development, support, and funding of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.
- (7) **EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION**: Develop a plan for all parishes to have a basic understanding of all aspects of the liturgy and sacraments.

At the conclusion of the synod, Bishop Weigand assured members that he would study the recommendations fully and review them with attentiveness to social justice and the multicultural reality of the diocese. He also invited the Synod members to return to St. Isidore on January 9, 2005, when the document will be presented and formally promulgated. The Bishop will also establish an implementation commission to advise him, monitor the implementation process, and prepare for another synod session in October of 2005.

THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD

CATHOLIC MORAL LIFE, PART II

Reverend George Dyer, S.T.D.

Theologian Richard Gula thinks that many of us may know just enough about Catholic morality to make us miserable. If so, we missed the renewal of moral theology set in motion by Vatican II. We may still think the moral life consists exclusively in avoiding whatever breaks the law. Law has its place but contemporary thinking teaches us to see our moral life principally in terms of the sort of person God would have us become.

This focus on the person emphasizes the quality of our relationships with God, ourselves, and others. God, who calls us to intimacy, has sent Jesus to reveal both God's love and the full human response to that love. Our moral life, therefore, is a sacred relationship initiated by God and sustained by our loving response. Sin is "not bothering to love."

The "must" and the "ought" of our moral lives come from being in the presence of another, not from an externally imposed law. We tell the truth because we value relationships that would be undermined by a lie. We are faithful in marriage because we cherish the spousal relationship. Our moral life, therefore, consists in being faithful to these life-giving relationships.

This shows us that the moral life is fundamentally social. Morality grows from our awakening to the inherent value

and dignity of others. It requires empathy and openness and sensitivity to others. This perspective leads us out of the valley of our egos into the world of other people. As we make this move, we begin to see the full extent of the moral life. It is not only about right relationships among persons, but also about our right relationships with the earth and every other living being.

Prior to Vatican II moral theology was the work of priests who saw morality in terms of the confessional and thus focused on sin. After the Council, moral theology expanded beyond the confessional and the clergy to include a wide range of other viewpoints. Women particularly have been busy reflecting on their own experiences in order to build a community where all can flourish.

Perhaps the most significant recent development in Catholic moral thinking has been to reconnect the moral to the spiritual life. We have come to see that in all of our relationships we are responding to God revealed in Jesus and present in the Spirit. Next week we will look more closely at that idea.

MESSIAH "SING-A-LONG"

The Cathedral Choir and the Westminster Presbyterian Church Choir will join with the Camellia Symphony to lead a "Messiah-Sing" on Sunday, November 28th at 4:00 pm, at Westminster. 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.

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.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK**MON 11/15/2004** St. Albert the Great

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 noon: All Souls

TUES 11/16/2004 St. Margaret of Scotland

7:00 am: Carol Monahan, S.I.

12:00 noon: Carol Monahan, S.I.

WED 11/17/2004 St. Elizabeth of Hungary

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 Noon: Mary Guiney +

THURS 11/18/2004 Dedication of Sts. Peter & Paul Church; St. Rose Duchesne

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 noon: All Souls

FRI 11/19/2004

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 noon: Peter Ching +