

THIS PICTURE TELLS A STORY

There are four subcontractors working on the section of the Cathedral shown in this picture. At the bottom of the photo you can see the roof covered with a layer of structural plywood (which will help stiffen the roof and prevent the building from twisting in the event of an earthquake). The reroofing is being done by the Van Mulder Company (which also does sheet metal repair on the exterior of the building). When the plywood is fully in place, shingles will be placed on top by the Van Mulder workers.

The bottom section of the tower – the part surrounded by scaffolding – is being repaired by two other subcontractors: Giampolini/Courtney and Parc Specialty Contractors. Workers from these two companies are repairing the bricks and plaster on the outside walls of the building and towers. A



specialist in water damage taps every inch of the plaster and from the sounds of his hammer he is able to determine whether a particular section needs repair or not.

A fourth subcontractor is handling the upper section of the tower – the section not surrounded by scaffolding. That section of the tower (which is constructed of wood and sheet metal rather than bricks) is being repaired by a team of steeple jacks from New York. They began work last week. Their job is to repair everything that cannot be reached by scaffolding: the three towers and dome. In all, 12 subcontractors are working on the Cathedral at this time, with as many as 100 men on

site some days.

BETTER TO WRITE YOUR WILL WHEN YOU ARE CALM

The Stewardship and Development Office of the diocese has asked us to publicize their new brochure “Your Will, your wishes, in your words.” The office is happy to send it to anyone who requests a copy at (916) 733-0266.

Writing or updating a will is often something we put off until another time. Then we suddenly receive the needed nudge when we plan a journey overseas or an extended vacation. The recent death of a friend, especially the problems caused for loved ones when a

will has not been executed, can also give us the nudge to think about writing our own will. “Preparing or updating your will is very important,” Stewardship and Development Director John Rieschick says: “Doing so during a calm time when you have mental quietness, and not during a period of emotional reaction to happenings, enables you to make sound decisions regarding your estate.” The brochure on wills is available in English and Spanish at the diocesan office. We have samples at the Cathedral Rectory.

THE ASSUMPTION

REV. GEORGE J. DYER, S.T.D.

The Feast of the Assumption recalls the dogma that Mary, body and soul, was taken to heaven at her death. We say that Mary was “assumed” while Jesus “ascended.” The different verbs remind us that Jesus was the God-Man while Mary was completely human. Pope Paul VI tried to stress that final point. He felt that we had allowed Mary to become “idealized,” remote from our experience and our lives.

For most of the past 150 years Catholics have focused on the first and last moments of Mary’s history—her Immaculate Conception and her Assumption—and tended to forget everything in between. The Pope has attempted to counter the situation by recalling the Gospel portrait of Mary. A host of studies, mostly by women scholars, have followed his lead.

Anyone who pages through the four Gospels can see that Mary’s image improves remarkably as it moves from Mark, the earliest gospel, to John the last gospel to be written. Mark does not paint an idealized picture of Mary. He tells us that Jesus’ family came to take him home because “they

thought him out of his mind” (Mark 3:20 and 31). Before commenting on that text let us say a few words about Mark. He wrote at Rome about the year 65 when Nero’s persecution was raging. St. Peter had been crucified and his flock demoralized. Mark’s Gospel reflects the situation. The shadow of the cross hangs over it. Jesus had repeatedly said he must die but his disciples simply did not understand.

Discipleship means following Christ through death to resurrection.



THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

Mark paints less than ideal portraits of Peter, Mary, and the early disciples but he does so in a context. Peter was a martyr and Mary a revered part of the Easter community. Mark writes of an earlier moment, when Peter had rebuked Jesus for predicting his death and Mary worried that her charismatic son might bring down the wrath of Rome. Both followed Jesus along the way of the cross; only then did they learn the meaning of his dying and rising. Mark’s beleaguered flock must do the same.

In some ways Mark, more than the other evangelists, points to a very human Mary. The Council of Chalcedon (451 AD) affirmed that Jesus was “like us in all ways except sin.” We can say the same of his mother.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MON 8/16/2004	St. Stephen of Hungary
7:00 am: All Souls	
12:00 noon: Victor Pulmano	
TUES 8/17/2004	
7:00 am: All Souls	
12:00 noon: All Souls	
WED 8/18/2004	St. Frances de Chantal
7:00 am: All Souls	
12:00 Noon: All Souls	
THURS 8/19/2004	St. John Eudes
7:00 am: All Souls	
12:00 noon: All Souls	
FRI 8/20/2004	St. Bernard
7:00 am: Loreto Ferrer	
12:00 noon: Alice Mansuetti	

CONFIRMATION TEACHERS NEEDED

Catechism Classes begin September 14, 2004. Teachers for Confirmation and other classes are desperately needed. Wouldn’t you like to share your faith with the next generation? Call Sister Jenny at 444-5364.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning. The wife said: “You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don’t have to wait as long to get our coffee.” The husband said: “You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee.” Wife replies: “No, you should do it, and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee. Husband replies, “I can’t believe that, show me.” So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it, indeed, says HEBREWS!