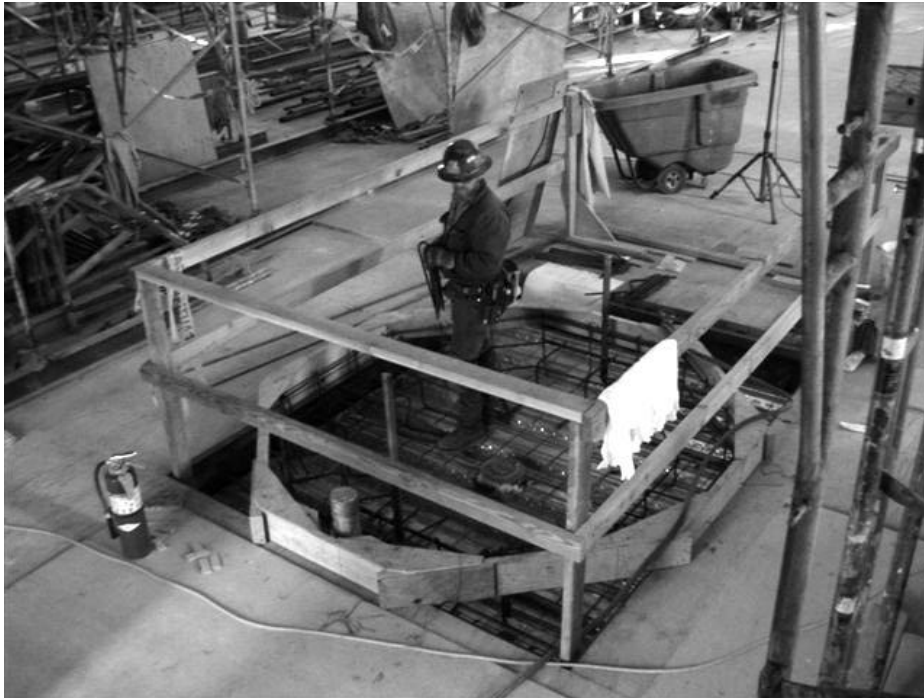


# BAPTISM FONT TAKING SHAPE

Shown here is the outline of the new Cathedral Baptism font as workers this month work on its completion. The font will be a floor level pool with a mosaic bottom. It will have an octagon shape (eight foot in diameter) and will hold 14 inches of water. White marble will form the edges and sides of the pool.

An ornate iron railing will surround the pool in the same design as the iron grill outlining the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, and the railing around the ambo. Three feet above the pool,



embedded in the railing, will be a large polished marble bowl from which water will fall into the pool.

As people enter the Cathedral they will be able to bless themselves with water from that bowl. The font is being built at the entrance to the Cathedral as a reminder that Baptism is the sacrament through which we enter the church. When people bless themselves with water from the font they will be reminded of their

obligation to live out their Baptism commitment in their daily lives.

## FIRST SCRUTINY FOR RCIA NEXT SUNDAY

With the Rite of Election, which was celebrated at St. Clare's in Roseville on the First Sunday of Lent, the Catechumens and Candidates for Reception into the Church entered the Period of Purification and Enlightenment which corresponds to the Season of Lent. To inspire in the Elect a desire for purification and redemption by Christ, three Scrutinies are celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent.

The Scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal, all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the Elect and bring out, then strengthen, all that is upright, strong, and

good. Thus, the Scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the Elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. During these weeks, the Church lovingly entrusts to them the Nicene Creed and the Lord's Prayer, the ancient texts that have always been regarded as expressing the heart of the Church's faith and prayer. For us, the Faithful of the Assembly, Lent is no less a time of scrutiny in our own lives, and we should be seeking to exorcise all that is "weak, defective, or sinful" in our own hearts as we approach the mountain of Easter.

THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD

## CATHOLIC CHARISMS

Reverend George Dyer, S.T.D.

We are routinely reminded that the Catholic Church faces a "personnel crisis." The crisis involves a paradox. Dwindling numbers of priests are serving a Catholic population approaching 70 million. At the same time surging numbers of Catholic laity are engaged in the work of the Church. "Ministry" and "Charism" are two words most often used to describe what they are doing.

"Ministry" translates the Greek word *diakonia*. A simple word without strong religious overtones, its basic meaning was "to serve at table." In time it came to mean other kinds of service like teaching or preaching. "Charism" comes from a Greek word meaning "gift". Thanks to the grace of Christ, said Paul, *each Christian* is endowed with a gift designed to be of use to the whole community. These gifts are the work of the Holy Spirit. As a consequence, the Christians who possess them (*and all of us do*) are instruments of the Spirit in the service of the Christian people.

In his letter to the Romans (12:6-8) St. Paul gives some examples of the gifts with which Christians are endowed: prophecy, service, teaching, exhorting, contributing, caring, doing acts of mercy. What he

describes here are not offices or office holders. They are ways in which the Spirit acts through Christians "to build up the Body of Christ."

"Prophecy," means speaking under the prompting of the Spirit and thus helping the community to discern God's will. "Service" refers to the practical ways in which Christians serve others (hospitality or caring for the unfortunate). "Teaching" involves instructing converts or sharing insights into the Old Testament or the Gospel. "Exhorting" might have meant giving encouragement or advice. "Contributing" refers to sharing possessions or money. "Caring for others" could mean championing the defenseless or overseeing the community's affairs. "Acts of mercy" would include almsgiving or any other act of compassion.

Paul gives two criteria his Christians could use for assessing the genuineness of these "gifts." The first of these is love. If those with the gifts lack love, they do no good for themselves or others. The second criterion is the good of the community. If the "gift" hurts or bewilders the community, it is suspect. For each person is called upon to build a community that is bound together by love.

### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

**MON 2/21/2004** President's Day Holiday

7:00 am: NO MASS

12:00 noon: NO MASS

**TUES 2/22/2004** Lenten Tuesday

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 noon: John Sabala S.I.

**WED 2/23/2004** Lenten Wednesday

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 Noon: All Souls

**THURS 2/24/2004** Lenten Thursday

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 noon: All Souls

**FRI 2/25/2004** Lenten Friday

7:00 am: Kenneth Clark +

12:00 noon: All Souls

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAYS

Deacon Allan Pierre will lead the Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent beginning on February 18 at 6:30 pm in St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church (12th & S Streets). Please join us this year.

## LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION FOR SINGLE ADULTS

The Single Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Sacramento will host a Lenten Day of Reflection on Saturday February 26 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 2110 Broadway beginning at 9:00 am with a continental breakfast, through lunch (provided) and concluding with Mass at 4:30pm. Facilitator will be Jane Hetherington. For information, contact Steve Oldham at (916) 445-1912. To RSVP, call Maria at (916) 733-0123,