

WORK HAS BEGUN ON THE CATHEDRAL CEILING

Artists from EverGreene Studios in New York have begun restoration work on the ceiling of the Cathedral. Preserving the frescos on the ceiling involves a five-step process. First the ceiling has to be dry cleaned with sponges to remove the dust and grime that has collected over the years. Then workers have to stabilize the plaster by screwing it to the lath (wood frame) in the attic in those places where it has begun to separate.



EVERGREENE STUDIOS WORKING ON CEILING

When that is done they will cover the frescos with a transparent solution that binds the paint so it will last. The cracks in the ceiling (caused by age) are then filled

in with new plaster. The final stage is the restoration of the art itself. Armed with new paint and fine brushes, artists touch up the frescos, camouflaging the cracks and repainting parts that have been water damaged. They do this by standing on scaffolding that is close enough to the ceiling that they can reach above their heads to do the work which is something like what

Michelangelo had to do in the Sistine Chapel.

SANTO NINO 4TH ANNUAL FEAST & CELEBRATION

Every year at this time, Filipino families observe a novena of the Rosary which commemorates the miraculous preservation of the statue of the Holy Infant from the fire in Cebu in the Philippines during the war between the Spanish and the natives. The Rosary is held every night at St. Elizabeth's Church at 7 pm until January 21 in preparation for the Feast of Santo Nino de Cebu on January 22.

On Saturday, January 22, a special Mass will be held at 11:00 am with a potluck and cultural activities after the Mass at St. Elizabeth's. Mr. & Mrs. Renee Cruz and Mr. & Mrs. Erickson Velasco have donated the traditional roast pig (called Lechon) for the meal. A-M families should bring salad or desert. N-Z families should bring a main

course. All are asked to bring two bottles of soda. For info, contact Delia Cruz (419-0785), Guida Velasco (359-1646), or Rod Maulino (419-7358). "VIVA PIT SENOR!"

All Cathedral Parish members and families are cordially invited to attend these wonderful festivities.

ANNUAL PRO LIFE MASS

Bishop Richard Garcia will celebrate the annual diocesan Pro-Life Mass on Tuesday, January 18, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (711 T St.) beginning at 10:30 am. The St. Francis High School Chamber Singers will provide music accompaniment. Please join us in prayer as we pray to promote a culture of life in our state and in our nation.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Like yeast in dough, for 40 years ecumenism has been quietly leavening the life of the churches. It is so much taken for granted that we often do not recognize how different the shape of Christian life is today from 50 years ago and how close the churches have grown. For centuries, hymnody divided Catholics from Protestants. Today we sing one another's hymns. Catholics prize "Amazing Grace" and belt out "How Great Thou Art," and Protestants can be heard chanting "Ubi Caritas" and "Veni, Sancte Spiritus."

Today, among churches splintered by the Reformation, liturgies are looking more and more alike. Since the Second Vatican Council, Catholics have put more emphasis on the Liturgy of the Word. At the same time, the council's revision of the Lectionary helped inspire a parallel text, the Common Lectionary now used by several Protestant denominations. Revisions of Protestant orders of worship reflect a classic Christian focus on the Eucharist; many churches that had Communion services only infrequently now hold them monthly. Albs and stoles, even chasubles, are found in churches that once saw only pulpit gowns.

As the Catholic Church marks the 40th anniversary of Vatican II's "Decree on Ecumenism" (*Unitatis Redintegratio*), we should bear in mind that the Council intended ecumenism to be integral to its understanding of the church. From the floor of the council meeting hall, Pope Paul VI declared that the decree "explained and completed" the "Constitution on the Church." In his encyclical *Ut Unum Sint* (1994), Pope John Paul II made clear the centrality of ecumenism to the postconciliar agenda of church renewal. "Ecumenism," he wrote, "is an organic part of [the church's] life and work, and consequently must pervade all that she is and does" (No. 20). Underscoring the point, where the council wrote of "separated brethren," Pope John Paul II speaks of "our fellow Christians."

As the churches work to achieve the full visible unity for which Christ prayed, Acts 15:28-29 provides the working rule: "It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves not to impose on you any burdens beyond [the] essentials ..." Unity is necessary only in essentials; in other matters there may be legitimate diversity. "In everything," the council said, "let charity prevail."

In the United States, the Catholic-Orthodox dialogue has made serious progress in recent years on Orthodox recognition of Catholic baptism and on the 1,000-year-old credal difference over the term "filioque," the word in the Catholic version of one of the ancient creeds that proclaims

belief that the Holy Spirit "proceeds from the Father and the Son." The U.S. Catholic-Lutheran dialogue prepared the way for the landmark *Catholic-Lutheran Joint Declaration on the Doctrine Justification* (1999), which addressed perhaps the most fundamental controversy of the Reformation. The dialogue with the Reformed Churches in the United States has made significant progress on the question of the Eucharist; and this year's report of the International Catholic-Mennonite Dialogue has opened the way to more Catholic collaboration with the peace churches and the Anabaptist tradition. In our own diocese Bishop Weigand has participated in pulpit exchanges with a number of denominations. We have an active Ecumenical Commission and a number of leaders from various Christian denominations were observers at our Synod this past October.

There continue to be setbacks, of course. Pope John Paul II made clear, in a joint message issued in 1996 with George Carey, then Archbishop of Canterbury, that problems should not impede the quest for unity and there has been no change in this position since then.

Like a seed growing unseen, the Holy Spirit has been at work bringing Christians closer together. Discerning eyes can begin to make out the lineaments of the one Church of Christ of which we all are a part. As our differences diminish, it is time to appreciate better the gifts we bring one another. For as the Council wrote, "Catholics must gladly acknowledge and esteem the truly Christian endowments for our common heritage which are to be found" among our fellow Christians. "It is right and salutary to recognize the riches of Christ and virtuous works in the lives of others who are bearing witness to Christ, sometimes even to the shedding of their blood."

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MON 1/17/2004	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
7:00 am: No Mass 12:00 noon: No Mass	
TUES 1/18/2004	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
7:00 am: Caroline Santiago + 12:00 noon: Caroline Santiago +	
WED 1/19/2004	
7:00 am: All Souls 12:00 Noon: All Souls	
THURS 1/20/2004	St. Fabian & St. Sebastian
7:00 am: All Souls 12:00 noon: All Souls	
FRI 1/21/2004	St. Agnes
7:00 am: All Souls 12:00 noon: Erica Maciel, S.I.	