

IN MEMORY
OF POPE JOHN
PAUL II
(1920-2005)



**WESTMINSTER
PASTOR'S
LETTER TO
CATHEDRAL**

On the passing of Pope John Paul II

Dear Father Murphy, Father Ho, Father Polycarp, and the members of the congregation of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament:

On behalf of the Session and Members of Westminster Presbyterian Church Sacramento, I wish to extend to you all our deepest sympathies on the passing of the Holy Father. He was a tireless crusader for the poor and underprivileged. He was a man of peace. He was an advocate for life in all its stages; from the unborn to those accused of murder. He forgave his would-be assassin. He was a huge factor in the fall of Communism in his own country of Poland. He traveled the world bridging cultures and Faith traditions. His gifts were as large as his heart. He followed humbly in the way of the fisherman Peter. We pray with you for the right person to succeed him, and to incarnate God's love among us.

Dr. David Thompson
Senior Pastor, Head of Staff,
Westminster Church, Sacramento

THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Reverend Lawrence E. Mick

Most Catholics are aware that we cannot celebrate the Eucharist without a priest. While this no doubt makes priests feel needed, it can have an unfortunate side effect. Sometimes it leads us to think of the Mass as something that the priest does for the rest of the church. In fact, the Mass is something that we all do together. We need a priest to lead us, but he needs us to worship with him, too.

The first part of the Roman Missal, called the General Instruction, says that "the celebration of the Eucharist is an action of the whole Church." It goes on to say that the people who gather for Mass form "the People of God, purchased by Christ's Blood, gathered together by the Lord, nourished by his word. It is a people called to bring to God the prayers of the entire human family, a people giving thanks in Christ for the mystery of salvation by offering his Sacrifice. Finally, it is a people made one by sharing in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood. Though holy in its origin, this people nevertheless grows continually in holiness by its conscious, active, and fruitful participation in the mystery of the Eucharist" (#5).

We've heard that term a lot in recent years, haven't we? "Full, conscious, active participation by all the people in the Mass-that's what the Second Vatican Council in the

1960's called the "aim to be considered before all else" (CSL, # 14) in the reform and promotion of the liturgy. The council was so concerned about this because it recognized that this kind of participation "is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit." It is by our taking part in the offering of the Mass that we are to become more and more like Christ. It is our primary path to holiness.

The council fathers insisted such participation is our right and duty by reason of our baptism, because through baptism, we have become "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Pet. 2:9). We all share in the priesthood of Christ, and it is Christ who offers his sacrifice to the Father whenever Mass is celebrated. Thus the council said this full participation is "called for by the very nature of the liturgy." All the baptized form Christ's body, and it is the whole Christ, head and members, who offers the sacrifice of the Mass.

Perhaps one of the most important things we might learn from this Year of the Eucharist is the importance of the assembly at Mass. Sometimes we think that our presence or our participation doesn't matter much. But each one of us is important to the celebration of the Liturgy. We each have a role to play that no one else can do for us. Only together can we offer God proper worship. Let us all lift up our voices and our hearts to the Lord as we share in Christ's sacrifice.

CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS BREAKFAST CLUB

The Catholic Professional & Business Breakfast Club will meet on Wednesday April 13 from 7-8:30 am at the Hilton Sacramento West, 220 Harvard Street. Guest speaker will be popular Catholic writer and speaker, Mark P. Shea, on the topic "This Is My Body." Call (916) 930-1144 to reserve.

DIOCESAN CHILDREN'S

HEALTH COVERAGE MEETING

The Diocesan Office of Social Service Ministry and Sacramento Area Congregations Together (ACT) invite you to a town hall meeting on children's health coverage to be held on Wednesday April 13 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Sacramento Convention Center, Exhibit Hall A. Please join us and urge California's top elected officials to take the necessary steps to ensure that all children have health coverage. For more information, call Sacramento ACT at (916) 488-1138 or visit www.picocalifornia.org.

MASSES FOR EASTER WEEK

- MON 4/11/2005** **St. Stanilaus**
 7:00 am: Anna Phat Nguyen +
 12:00 noon: Mary Maitland
- TUES 4/12/2005** **Easter Weekday**
 7:00 am: Anna Phat Nguyen +
 12:00 noon: All Souls
- WED 4/13/2005** **Pope Martin I**
 7:00 am: Anna Phat Nguyen +
 12:00 Noon: Gervasio & Sedelina Anub +
- THURS 4/14/2005** **Easter Weekday**
 7:00 am: Anna Phat Nguyen +
 12:00 noon: Victorine Carmichael +
- FRI 4/15/2005** **Easter Weekday**
 7:00 am: Anna Phat Nguyen +
 12:00 Noon: Victoriano Romo +