

CEREMONIES SET FOR REDEDICATION

There are 38 weeks left to the reopening of the Cathedral. The rededication date is November 20, 2005—the Feast of Christ the King. The rededication ceremony will be at 3:00 pm that day, with Bishop William Weigand as the main celebrant and Archbishop William Levada preaching. Places will be allotted by ticket, with a small number of places designated to each parish in the diocese. About 40 bishops are expected to attend. Cathedral parishioners who cannot get into the rededication ceremony will also have a chance to see the newly restored Cathedral later that day. We will have a

Cathedral Parish Mass that Sunday evening at 7:00 pm.

On Monday, November 21, there will be a special Mass to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Bishop Weigand's ordination as a bishop. Retired Bishop Richard Hannifan of Colorado Springs will preach at that Mass. And on Monday evening there will be a Vespers service for civic and inter-religious leaders, with Cardinal Roger Mahony preaching.

ADULT CONFIRMATION SET FOR MAY 7

Bishop Weigand is extending an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to practicing, adult Catholics, who have received religious instruction previously, but for some reason were not confirmed.

The celebration of the Sacrament will take place on Saturday, May 7, 2005, at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish. At 9:30 am, the candidates and their Confirmation sponsors will gather at the Our Lady of Assumption Parish for final check-in, reflection, and rehearsal. Confirmation will be conferred by Bishop Richard J. Garcia during the celebration of the Eucharist at 12 noon. A light reception will follow Mass.

This opportunity is presented for those informed, adult Catholics, who practice their faith in their local parish community. The local parish is responsible for providing appropriate instruction, and for the reception of the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation prior to receiving Confirmation. Sister Jenny has arranged classes for those interested in receiving Adult

Confirmation. Please call her office at 444-5364.

To participate, a candidate must be a baptized Catholic who has received catechetical instruction at least up to receiving First Communion. A baptismal certificate is required. In addition, candidates must either be unmarried or in a marriage recognized as valid by the Catholic Church. Candidates must choose a Confirmation sponsor who must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic, at least 16 years of age. Sponsors cannot be the parents of the candidate, but other relatives, including grandparents, may be sponsors.



Registration forms are available at the Cathedral Rectory. These forms must be signed by Fr. Murphy. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Linda Shumate of the Department of Catholic Faith Formation (916) 733-0132.

THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD

THE NATURAL LAW

Reverend George Dyer, S.T.D.

A Catholic politician asked: “When should I vote to make my religious values on abortion your morality?”

The Roman Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith addressed that question in November, 2003. Catholic moral teaching on abortion, it said, is not specifically “Catholic” religious belief. Rather, it derives from the reasoned study of human nature. The idea of human nature as a source of ethics goes back to the Roman lawyer, Cicero (49 BCE). A study of human nature, he said, tells us that men and women are fundamentally equal; therefore, women must not be seen as subservient to men.

Over time the principles that emerged from the study of human nature became known as “the natural law.” St. Thomas Aquinas employed it in his writings on society and law. So did Thomas Locke in 17th century England. From there it made its way into the Declaration of Independence. “We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights.”

The suggestion made by the Roman Congregation can be invaluable in our pluralistic society. It points to

moral values and norms that emerge from a reasoned consideration of the human person and therefore transcend confessional differences. In 1993 the World Parliament of Religions provided added credence for the idea.

Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and Confucians all agreed that there are common threads in all their religious traditions. These are equality, compassion, honesty and love. They spelled out these values in a series of commitments: to a reverence for life, to a culture of tolerance and a life of truthfulness, to nonviolence, to equal rights and partnership between men and women; and to the demand that every human being be treated humanely.

The very fact that those values are common to the religions of the world suggests that they are part of the human fabric. As such, they are open to study and analysis by anyone. Religious conviction illuminates and emboldens us to proclaim what reason tells us; it does not replace our reason.

The idea that morality is rooted in the dignity of the human person provides a basis for public discourse in our country and our world—whatever our religious belief—or lack thereof.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MON 2/28/2004 **Lenten Monday**

7:00 am: All Souls
12:00 noon: All Souls

TUES 3/1/2004 **Lenten Tuesday**

7:00 am: All Souls
12:00 noon: All Souls

WED 3/2/2004 **Lenten Wednesday**

7:00 am: All Souls
12:00 Noon: Maria Vong Ching +

THURS 3/3/2004 **St. Katherine Drexel**

7:00 am: All Souls
12:00 noon: All Souls

FRI 3/4/2004 **World Day of Prayer**

7:00 am: Carolina Santiago +
12:00 noon: Carolina Santiago +

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.

CATHOLIC PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS CLUB

The next meeting of the Catholic Professional and Business Club will be Wednesday, March 9, 2005, at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West from 7:00 am to 8:30 am. Bob Dunning, host of the Bishop’s Radio Hour on Catholic Radio 1620 will speak on “From Secular to Catholic Radio: Discovering God’s Plan for Our Lives.” To reserve your place, call (916) 930-1144.