

CHILDREN RAISED OVER \$2,650 FOR MATERNITY HOME

Children in the Cathedral religious education program raised over \$2,550 for the Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home during Advent just passed. Some 230 families brought home bottles provided by Sr. Jenny and children filled the bottles with their nickels and dimes as a way of witnessing to the sacredness of human life. Over 200 bottles were returned by Christmas and the money still continues to come in. The program is called the Baby Bottle Project.

The Bishop Gallegos Maternity home provides shelter, food, and companionship to women who choose to have their babies rather than abort them. The home has private bedrooms, a



BABY BOTTLE PROJECT

shared kitchen, central heat and air, and a large backyard with a resident housemother. Childbirth coaching and adoption counseling are provided also. In addition, assistance is provided in accessing other services through local agencies.

Last year the money raised by the Cathedral children was given to the Sacramento Life Center. Last week marked the 32nd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision liberalizing abortion laws. Pro-life groups, local and national, marked the anniversary with rallies to educate the public about the sacredness of human life.

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TESTS

All Sacramento Catholic high schools (St. Francis, Loretto, Jesuit, and Christian Brothers) will conduct Catholic high school entrance placement tests on Saturday, January 29, 2005. All prospective students must register to take these tests with the Director of Admissions of the school desired. The tests are four hours long beginning at 8:00 am and concluding at 12 noon. There is a \$30 charge for the test. The registration packets for each school may be picked up at the individual school admissions office or you may call the school and have them mail it to you.

For your convenience, the telephone numbers of those directors are listed below:

Jesuit High School: 482-6060 ext 227
St. Francis High School: 452-3461 ext 195
Loretto High School: 482-7793 ext 103
Christian Brothers High School: 733-3690

**ASH WEDNESDAY, THE BEGINNING OF
LENT, IS FEBRUARY 9, 2005, JUST
TWO AND ONE-HALF WEEKS AWAY.**

THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD

THE MOVE TO THE NORMAL

Reverend George Dyer, S.T.D.

Medicine, psychology, and ethics have all recently made a remarkably similar move to the normal. Doctors, psychologists and ethicists are no longer concentrating solely on illness, pathology, and sin. All three respectively are showing an important new interest in the healthy, the happy, and the virtuous person. Preventive care has become an important part of the medical curriculum; psychology has begun to study the dynamics of a happy individual, and ethics has moved from parsing sins to fashioning a virtuous person.

Today's ethical thinkers are concerned not only with what the person does but who the person is. All of us face decisions daily (to cheat on taxes, to stop life support, to divorce a spouse). Those issues force us to examine our basic moral principles. They also test our identity or character. Character is that complex of traits that makes us recognizable for who we are. "Traits" are those habitual behaviors that give us our distinct identity. These habits can be either good or bad, vices, or virtues. Our actions and character are closely related. Who we are affects what we do and what we do affects who we become. (As Forest Gump said: stupid is as stupid does.) For years, Catholics have tended to divide the Christian life into separate, air-tight moral and spiritual

compartments. Our moral lives consisted in our recognizing and avoiding sin, while our spiritual lives focused on developing wholesome relationships to God and neighbor. The boundaries between morality and spirituality are blurring as attention has shifted from the actions of persons to persons themselves.

The shift in focus tends to make us more aware of the moral quality of our everyday living. Our moral lives go on continually. We don't switch them on and off with an occasional hard decision. The continuous, ordinary, uneventful actions of the day are the place where the moral life happens.

Every purposeful action affects not only the world around us. It also affects who we are becoming and how we might act in the future. If we daily treat those around us with honesty, truthfulness, and respect we become an honest, truthful, and respectful person. As Christians, our character and our choices ought to be the dynamic expression of our experience of being loved by God. We express our gratitude in the multiple choices we make every day. (Cf. Richard Gula. *The Moral Life. Church*, October, 2004).

3RD LITURGICAL ART WORKSHOP

Holy Trinity Education Center, 3111 Tierra de Dios Drive, in El Dorado Hills, will host the 3rd Annual Liturgical Workshop on Saturday January 29, 2005, from 9-12 Noon. Come and renew your commitment to the purpose, planning, and making of quality seasonal art for worship environments. \$10 per person. Contact Renee Healy at 530 676-4617.

EUCCHARISTIC HEALING MASS

The Cathedral Filipino Community will sponsor a special Healing Mass on Friday, February 4, beginning at 7:00 pm at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, 12th and S Streets. Anointing of the sick will follow Mass. For information, contact Jerry Pauly (452-6866), Charismatic Liaison of the Diocese of Sacramento or Mr and Mrs. Ely Madridejos (941-7205) Charismatic Liaison for the North & East Diocese of Sacramento.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK**MON 1/24/2004** **St. Francis de Sales**

7:00 am: Francisco Serrato +

12:00 noon: Carlos Ceja +

TUES 1/25/2004 **Conversion of St. Paul**

7:00 am: Anthony Mejia, S.I.

12:00 noon: Peter Ching +

WED 1/26/2004 **St. Timothy & St. Titus**

7:00 am: Dennis Conrad +

12:00 Noon: All Souls

THURS 1/27/2004 **St. Angela Merici**

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 noon: All Souls

FRI 1/28/2004 **St. Thomas Aquinas**

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 noon: All Souls