

CORNICES MADE OF FOAM?

One of the photos on the fence outside the Cathedral shows an artists rendering of how the newly opened interior dome will look when the Cathedral reopens in November. If you look closely at that picture of the dome you will see that the drum of the dome has two cornices – horizontal molding projecting along the top and bottom of the drum.

Believe it or not, those cornices are made of foam that is mass-produced in a factory. The architects simply produced a drawing of the shape they wanted and the factory produced as many yards as was needed to make two cornices around



the inside of the huge dome. Once the foam was nailed into place it was covered in an acrylic based plaster to harden it. In their finished state, those cornices are strong enough for a man to stand on. All modern buildings today that have ornate features on the outside or inside use this same process. Foam is cheap to produce, and it is lighter than plaster would be.

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SISTER JENNY AND SEMINARIAN URIEL OJEDA LOOK AT A SECTION OF FOAM USED TO MAKE THE CORNICES IN THE DRUM OF THE CATHEDRAL DOME.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS NEEDED

The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Religious Education Program is recruiting volunteers for the next pastoral year (2005-2006). The Program is now ministering to more than 200 children and their families. Vacancies exist in all areas of program support, i.e. secretarial, fundraising, and operations. Qualified teachers and teacher's aids are desperately needed. The Program has a place for you no matter what your talents are.

Beginning September 17, 2005, classes are offered every Saturday morning at Immaculate Conception School at 1st Avenue and Broadway from 9:30 am to 12 Noon until the Cathedral re-opens on November 20,

2005. All interested persons are asked to call the Religious Education Office before May 15, 2005 at 916-444-5364 to request an application form.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK FOR CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS

Next weekend, April 24, 2005, the monthly Diocesan Second Collection will be taken up for Catholic Home Missions (with Black and Native American Indians). This collection supports places where the Church struggles to just keep parishes open and to education people in the faith. Please be generous.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

One of the most popular images of pastoral care is that of the shepherd, who leads his large flock and protects them from harm. There are many depictions of the Good Shepherd in our churches. Sometimes he is a tender figure holding a young lamb close to his breast. In the time of Jesus, many herds consisted of thousands of sheep, their sheer number requiring highly skilled men to look after them. The flocks spent most of the year on open uplands, from March through mid-November, and the winter was spent under whatever cover they could find or construct. The shepherd's care and courage were legendary.

The wandering figure of the Good Shepherd, anxiously tending his sheep to the point where he was willing to surrender his life for his sheep, is the image John uses in today's Gospel. That mixture of tenderness and toughness, care and self sacrifice, is one that summarizes Jesus' practice of leadership. It is not a leadership of detachment and defensiveness. Rather it is a leadership of physical involvement and self sacrificial love. In the good shepherd's foolish extravagant love, his own life matters less than that of his sheep. The so-called leaders in the time of Jesus enjoyed the status and privileges of authority but did not go out of their way to lift the burdens of God's people. They are compared to hands who are most likely to think of themselves first. Jesus, in contrast, will give everything that we might be saved. He

calls each of his disciples by name. He will freely endure the cross that the lost might be saved in every generation.

Being a true shepherd for Jesus is both a human and divine task. It means walking with his sheep, comforting our fears, enduring the mud and mess with us, and dignifying our humanity by being stripped of his in a most humiliating way. He still does so as he continues to call others by name to be his presence in the world today.



We are asked to pray for vocations. Our Church needs dedicated women and men who believe their call to the married life, the single life, the priesthood, or the religious life is a call from God. All vocations are essential and sustain the life of the People of God. We all

benefit when people are willing to respond generously to God's call to service within the family, community, and Church.

The voice of Jesus is calling out today as clearly as two thousand years ago. Today, Christ reminds us that we are all called to be good shepherds. Nourished by the Good Shepherd, we can become a community of good shepherds by encouraging and calling forth others.

MASSES FOR EASTER WEEK

MON 4/18/2005	Easter Weekday
7:00 am: Anna Phat Nguyen +	
12:00 noon: Abel & Rosalba Gonzalez, S.I.	
TUES 4/19/2005	Easter Weekday
7:00 am: Ruben Romo, S.I.	
12:00 noon: Joseph McElligott +	
WED 4/20/2005	Easter Weekday
7:00 am: All Souls	
12:00 Noon: Alba Mejia, S.I.	
THURS 4/21/2005	St. Anselm, bishop
7:00 am: All Souls	
12:00 noon: Dan Forester +	
FRI 4/22/2005	Easter Weekday
7:00 am: All Souls	
12:00 Noon: Dan Troung	

CATHOLIC LOBBY DAY

On Tuesday, April 26, 2005, at 9:30 am, concerned Catholics from all over California will gather at the Crest Theater (1013 K Street) in downtown Sacramento for the opening of an urgent call to action sponsored by the California Catholic Conference. The California Catholic Conference represents all the bishops of the State of California. We will celebrate Mass together, learn about issues that are important to us as Catholic citizens, rally at the Capitol, and dialogue with our Legislators. Registration forms are available at the Cathedral Rectory or by calling Sue Schneider at the Diocesan Office of Social Service Ministry at (916) 733-0253. The registration fee of \$5 includes the cost of lunch. No onsite registration.