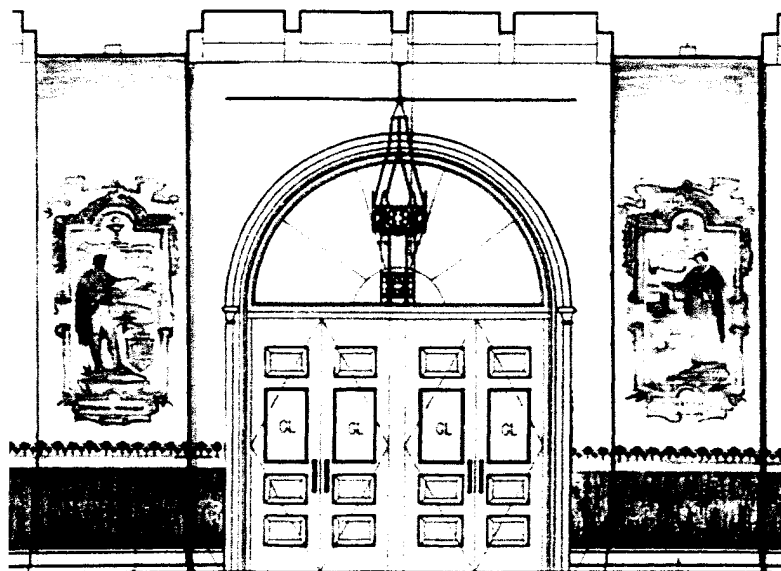


TWO HISTORIC FIGURES IN THE VESTIBULE

When you enter the vestibule of the newly restored Cathedral, you will see a feature that was not there in the past: two cartouches on the walls between the main doors will evoke the memory of two historic figures in the history of the Catholic Church in Northern California.

On the left side will be a cartouche of Fr. Peter Anderson, the Dominican priest who celebrated the first Mass in Northern California 155 years ago. Fr. Anderson celebrated the first Mass on August 10, 1850, in a private home on 5th and L Streets, in Sacramento. He had been sent to California by his provincial, Father Joseph Sadoc Alemany, OP, who later became the



ARTISTS CONCEPTION OF NEW CATHEDRAL VESTIBULE

first American Bishop in California. Present in the congregation of the Mass that day was the Honorable Peter Burnett, the first governor of California. He was so convinced that Catholicism had to come to Sacramento to stay that he gave Father Anderson a plot of land on 7th and K Streets. That plot became the site of St. Rose of Lima Church, the first Catholic church in the city. The site is now a mini park. Fr. Anderson died of typhoid fever after only six months of ministry in

Sacramento! The other cartouche is of Gabriel Moraga. More on him next week.

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.

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 (733-0132).

SECOND COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

A special collection for Catholic Relief Services will be taken up next weekend, March 12-13. This is a new name for the Bishops' Overseas Appeal, which helps build the Church's international social ministry by funding five agencies: Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Migration and Refugee Services, Social Development and World Peace, and the Holy Father Relief Fund. Catholic Relief Services received national acclaim recently as one of the agencies to support during the tsunami crisis.

THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD

APOLOGIES

Reverend George Dyer, S.T.D.

We can find Big Macs and Cokes wherever we travel on the planet. I wonder whether we will soon be exporting our culture's most recent product: "The Apology".

One author noted that President Clinton apologized; so did Secretary Rumsfeld and Kobi Bryant. Oddly, the apologies themselves seem to be the only real consequence of their actions. Clinton's book is a best seller, Bryant is a free man and the President praised his Secretary of Defense for his integrity.

"The apology" is evidence of our society's growing reluctance to pay the piper for its behavior. Any schoolteacher has anecdotes to illustrate the point. Does little Titus noisily and continually disrupt the class? Not his fault, say his parents. If only Titus had a better teacher, he would pay closer attention. Titus' parents are not exceptional. Educators say they are part of a parental rush to shield children from the consequences of their actions. Parents are worried that Titus' self-esteem will be damaged.

Self-esteem ought to be rooted in our ability to think clearly, to choose freely and then stand ready to accept

the consequences of our actions. These glorious human traits are the reason we praise heroes and punish malefactors. Our society is backing away from this cultural heritage; observers have pointed to one possible reason. We seem to have hijacked the notion of addiction in order to escape responsibility for our behavior. Did I embezzle money to pay off my bookmaker? My gambling addiction made me do it. Have I maxed out my credit cards—*again*? My shopping addiction is at fault. The list goes on.

There are true addictions (drugs and alcohol, to name two); and they need professional help. However, we seem to be abusing this valuable noun. What we once called bad habits we now name "addictions." The semantic shift lets us off the hook, transforming us from culprits to victims. We are also shaping a society where people are reluctant not only to admit their mistakes but to accept the consequences of their actions.

Centuries of Western culture have insisted that we are responsible adults—free to choose and ready to accept the results of our choice. This ethical heritage seems to be breaking down—a dangerous situation in a post 9/11 world.



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MON 3/7/2005 St. Perpetua & St. Felicity

7:00 am: Greg Valencia, S.I.

12:00 noon: All Souls

TUES 3/8/2005 St. John of God

7:00 am: Clare Jabro +

12:00 noon: All Souls

WED 3/9/2005 St. Francis of Rome

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 Noon: In thanksgiving for St. Jude

THURS 3/10/2005 Lenten Weekday

7:00 am: Margaret Pitruzzello, S.I. (95th birthday)

12:00 noon: All Souls

FRI 3/11/2005 Lenten Weekday

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 noon: Claudio Guillen, S.I.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAYS

Deacon Allan Pierre will lead the Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent at 6:30 pm in St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church (12th & S Streets).

PLEASE JOIN US THIS YEAR!

EUCCHARISTIC HEALING MASS

A special Healing Mass will be held at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church on Friday, March 11, 2005, at 7:00 pm following the Stations of the Cross. Please contact Deacon Jerry Pauly at (916) 452-6866 or Ely and Lucy Madrideojos, Charismatic Liaison of North/East Diocese of Sacramento at (916) 941-7205. Father Nicholas Ho, Parochial Vicar, will be the main celebrant.