

# PROGRAM ON THE EUCHARIST PLANNED FOR LENT

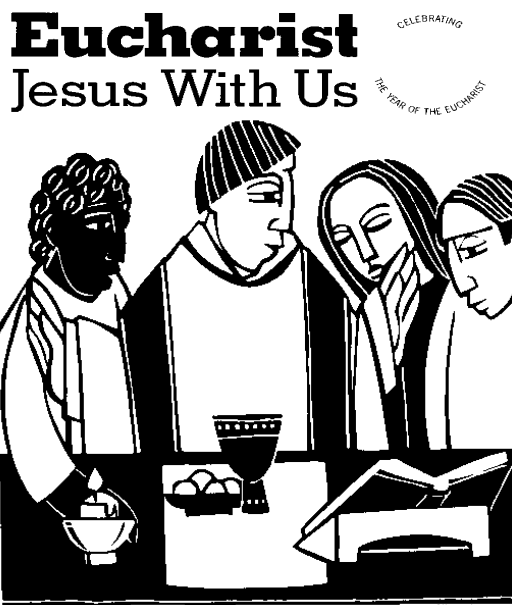
The Cathedral parish will celebrate the "Year of the Eucharist" proclaimed by Pope John Paul II by sponsoring a six-week group-sharing program in the homes of parishioners. For the six weeks of Lent parishioners will be invited to join one of several small groups meeting in homes once a week to reflect on the history and meaning of the Mass. Those interested may sign up after Mass today or next Sunday, February 6.

The purpose of this program is to help participants come to a greater knowledge and appreciation of the Eucharist as the sacrament of Christ's sacrifice on the cross and his real presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Participants will also pray together and strengthen the bonds that begin to form when people meet in small groups in the

home. This program, which was written by officials of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, is an

excellent way to observe the "Year of the Eucharist" called for by the Holy Father. "It is my hope that through sharing your faith in Christ in a small group, and in learning more about the sacrament which is the source and summit of the church's life, you will be able to articulate your belief more clearly in the world," Archbishop Timothy Dolan writes in the introduction to the booklet participants will use each night they meet. Parishioners will have a choice of several different nights of

the week from which to choose when planning to join a group. Weekly meetings will last about one and a half hours.



## ST. VALENTINE DAY GIFTS TO HELP DOWNTOWN HOMELESS



To raise money for the Cathedral's bag lunch program - which provides over 300 lunches a month to the downtown homeless, the St. Vincent De Paul Society is selling California grown nuts, dried fruits, chocolates and wine. They make perfect gifts for Valentine's

Day! Prices range from \$15 to \$100. Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be selling items and taking orders after the 8:00 a.m.; 10:00; 12:30 and 5:00 Masses on Sunday, February 6th and 13th. You

can also telephone 457-6719 or order the higher priced items on the Web at <[www.californiaseason.com](http://www.californiaseason.com)>.

### HEALING MASS NEXT FRIDAY AT ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

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 Madrdejos (941-7205) Charismatic Liaison for the North & East Diocese of Sacramento.

THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

(JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 5)

*Reverend George Dyer, S.T.D.*

The little boy's grandfather told me the story. Ryan, he said, found the first day of Kindergarten stressful enough. The little fellow did not need to hear that he would take part in a fire drill on the following day. Fire drills meant fires, he insisted with the logic of a five year old; and he was terrified at the prospect of a fire in school. The next day, he stood just inside the school's front door, refusing to let go of his mother's hand. The Principal saw the scene, said a few words to the mother, then took the little boy's hand and led him into her office.

Fire Drills, she told him, were just practice for leaving the building quickly in the unlikely event they ever had a real fire. She showed Ryan the alarm she would pull to begin the exercise. Then she promised him that he could be with her when she pulled the alarm. You know, she told him, your cousin helped me do this very same thing just a few years ago.

The principal was true to her promise; and the little guy took his place in that long line of children who have gone through St. Patrick School in the 26 years Marcie Bosnak has been its principal. Her tenure has been characterized by a single theme that she

phrases as a question: What is best for the children?

Typically, the Principal gathers her staff a week before school opens in August. They spend five days in intensive preparation for the year to come. They hear motivational speakers and academic specialists who bring them abreast of the best in educational techniques. They meet in unit groups to discuss strategies and they spend time alone preparing for the opening day of class. They also hear the Principal speak of the importance of seeing each day as a gift from God who loved them into existence and now invites them to respond by being better men and women, better Catholics and better teachers. All this they must share with their students because those children are their only reason for being there.

This is a sketch of the one school I know best. It helps me understand why Catholic schools are celebrated as the most effective tool we have for passing the faith along to the next generation. Research has also shown that they are academically as good as the best of their public counterparts and better than most. I can see why the bishops have urged the "fundamental right (of parents) to choose the education best suited to the needs of their children, including private and religious schools."

### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

**MON 1/31/2004** **St. John Bosco**  
 7:00 am: All souls of the forgotten people  
 12:00 noon: Margaret Decker +

**TUES 2/1/2004**  
 7:00 am: All Souls  
 12:00 noon: Beatrice Ferrer +

**WED 2/2/2004** **Presentation of the Lord**  
 7:00 am: All Souls  
 12:00 Noon: Elvira & Cherry Pie Solomon +

**THURS 2/3/2004** **St. Blase**  
 7:00 am: All Souls  
 12:00 noon: Amparo & Enrique Domingo +

**FRI 2/4/2004** **St. Agatha**  
 7:00 am: 50th Wedding Anniversary for Alan & Susan Branigan  
 12:00 noon: Andres Zepeda +

### GIFT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FOR TAX YEAR 2004

IRS guidelines require the Diocese of Sacramento to acknowledge for tax purposes all individual gifts of \$250 or more. By the end of January, we will be mailing statements for those who contributed to Preserving Our Past....Building Our Future, the Annual Catholic Appeal, and or special collections.

If you would like to receive a statement of any contribution under \$250, please contact the Development and Stewardship Office, Diocese of Sacramento, 2110 Broadway, Sacramento, Ca 951818-2541. Phone 916 733-0266. Fax 916 733-0224. E-mail: mehinger@diocese-sacramento.org