

YOU WILL HAVE SEATS FOR THE OPENING

Cathedral parishioners will be given priority when tickets are distributed for the opening of the Cathedral on November 20. There will be a 6:30 pm Mass on that day to celebrate our return to the Cathedral after a long pilgrimage away from home. And with about 1,200 seats in the Cathedral, there will be enough tickets for everyone, and then some. We will inform you when the tickets are available.

A limited number of parishioners will also have a chance to attend the 3:00 pm ceremony that day—the two-and-a-half-hour Mass at which the building will be rededicated. The number of places will be limited because the 3:00 pm ceremony will be a



diocesan celebration, with all parishes in the diocese being allotted a number of tickets in proportion to the parish's size. The Cathedral Parish Council will decide how to distribute the limited number of tickets available to us for that 3:00 pm ceremony.

Because of the intense interest in seeing the newly restored Cathedral, we expect high demand for tickets to the 6:30 pm Mass. You will be invited to contact us as soon as the tickets are available. When all

our regular parishioners have received tickets, seating will be opened to people outside the parish.

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.

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

THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

WELCOMING THE LORD

Reverend Lawrence E. Mick

Imagine that you are coming to church next Sunday. As you come through the door, you realize that someone is right behind you and you naturally hold the door open for that person. As he comes in behind you, you suddenly realize that it is Jesus himself, looking just as you always imagined him. What do you do now? What do you say?

I suspect most of us would do whatever we could to make Jesus feel welcome in our community. Of course, it's not very likely that he will show up next Sunday, looking like a first-century Jewish rabbi. He will show up here, but he'll probably look different from our usual image of him. Christ will arrive looking like your neighbor or your friend, or perhaps like a person you've never met before. He might look like a member of your family, or he might look like a homeless person who needs a bath and a haircut.

Our faith tells us that Christ dwells in every member of his body, that we can find him in the people who gather with us here every Sunday. That's the deepest reason for us to be hospitable to one another as we assemble for the Eucharist.

So often, we hear people say that the Catholic church is not very friendly. When strangers visit a Protestant church, they are usually warmly greeted and made to feel quite welcome. Many people report a very different experience in the Catholic Church. Of course, many Catholic parishes are very large, which makes it harder to know who is a visitor and who is a member of the parish. Maybe that just gives us even more reason to be hospitable toward everyone around us, whether stranger or friend.

Through the week, all of us who are members of the Body of Christ are scattered throughout our community. On Sunday, when we come to Mass, we need to reconnect with the other members of the body. Smiling and saying hello to those who gather with us can help us to connect again. Brief conversations about family members and other concerns can express the love of Christ that binds us to one another.

This is not irreverent in church, because it is the way that we welcome the Lord into our midst. Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20). His presence in one another is the first way that he reveals himself to us at Mass. Reverence requires us to recognize him there and to respond to him in one another. This doesn't have to be loud and raucous, but it does have to be sincere and caring.

This gathering and reconnecting with the other members of the body is an important step in getting ready for Mass. Christ invites all of us to share in his sacrificial offering to the Father. We can only do that as members of Christ's body, so linking up with the other members of the body helps us to get ready to worship together. How will you welcome Christ the next time we gather here?

THANKS PAUL

Paul Gaviglio was the one who made that sign you saw on the Cathedral scaffolding last week announcing the new pope. Paul is a Cathedral parishioner and has his own sign business in Sacramento. He had only two hours to get this sign made on Tuesday morning, the day Pope Benedict XVI was elected.

The sign (twenty feet long) says "Habemus Papam" which means "We have a pope." It was hung over the K Street Mall, and made the front page of the Sacramento Bee and CNN. The bells were also rung that day. Two men, who are working on the Cathedral restoration, climbed up and rung the bells by hand, using large sledge hammers.

PASTORAL ASSISTANCE

The Diocese of Sacramento provides pastoral care to persons who have suffered sexual abuse by members of the Catholic clergy or other Catholic Church workers. The Pastoral Care Coordinator maybe reached through a toll-free number at (866) 777-9133. Staff persons are available to take reports in English and Spanish. If you are seeking assistance in coping with this tragic situation, please call the toll-free number.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MON 4/25/2005 **St. Mark, evangelist**

7:00 am: Helen Le Donne, S.I.

12:00 noon: Robert J. Stefani +

TUES 4/26/2005 **Easter Weekday**

7:00 am: Anna Phat Nguyen

12:00 noon: All Souls

WED 4/27/2005 **Easter Weekday**

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 Noon: All Souls

THURS 4/28/2005 **St. Peter Chanel**

7:00 am: 32nd Anniv. to Priesthood Fr. Polycarp

12:00 noon: Jose Maciel, S.I.

FRI 4/29/2005 **St. Catherine of Siena**

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 Noon: All Souls