

# GABRIEL MORAGA CALLED IT SACRAMENTO

Two historic figures will grace the vestibule of the newly restored Cathedral when it reopens in November. Fr. Peter Anderson, who celebrated the first Mass in Northern California, will be on one wall. (See last week's bulletin for more on him). Gabriel Moraga will be on the other wall. Moraga was the 39-year-old Spanish sea captain who gave the Sacramento River its name. Trekking up the big river on a horseback expedition one October morning in 1808, Moraga and his companions were struck by the beauty of the scene before their eyes. This is how one local writer imagined the scene:



“Canopies of oaks and cottonwoods, many festooned with grapevines, overhung both sides of the blue current. Birds chattered in the trees and big fish darted through the pellucid depths. The air was like champagne, and the Spaniards drank deep of it, drank in the beauty around them. “Es como el sagrado sacramento! (This is like the Holy Sacrament.)” Moraga burred. So the river got its name, and likewise the lusty village that one day would hunker on its banks.”

← ARTISTS CONCEPTION

## 2ND COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

The special Second Collection for Catholic Relief Services (formerly the Bishops' Overseas Appeal) will be taken up this weekend, March 12-13. This collection helps build the Church's international social ministry. Catholic Relief Services was recently cited for its outstanding support during the Tsunami Crisis. The funds will be used to assist victims of natural disasters worldwide, support Catholic programs directly representing poor immigrants, provide advocacy and pastoral care to migrant workers, and respond to global concerns such as religious freedom and debt relief to poor countries.

This collection funds five agencies of the Church: Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Migration and Refugee Services, Social Development and World Peace, and the Holy Father Relief Fund.

In addition, a portion of the Catholic Relief Services collection will be allocated for the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Please be generous in your

support of Catholic Relief Services.

### CONFIRMATION OF ADULTS 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 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. Contact Linda Shumate of the Department of Catholic Faith Formation (733-0132) or call Sr. Jenny at the Cathedral at 444-5364.

*THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD*

## EVERYMAN

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

“Morality Plays” were a favorite form of entertainment during the Middle Ages. Townspeople gathered in the Cathedral square to watch wandering troops of actors perform their favorite plays; one of their favorites was entitled “Everyman.” As the play opens, we find the lead character (his name was “Everyman”) walking home at day’s end. Lost in his thoughts of dinner, family and fireside, he nearly bumps into a tall, dark figure standing directly in his path. Startled, he asked the stranger’s name.

“My name is Death,” he replied; “And I have come to take you with me.” Everyman was horrified. There must be some mistake, he pleaded; “I’ve never felt better in my life.” Death shook his head: “There is no mistake. You must come with me.” Desperate, Everyman pleaded: “At least let me bring a friend with me. I don’t want to go alone.” Death smiled. “If you can find a friend who will go with you, he may come. I will give you one hour; then meet me here.” Everyman hurried back toward town, to the house of a friend he knew well, knocked on the door and poured out his story. His friend looked at him with mingled sadness and terror. “I cannot come,” he said at last. “It is impossible.” The friend’s name was

“Riches.” Not yet discouraged, Everyman hurried off to the house of a second friend, then a third. In each case the answer was a frightened: “I’m sorry. I cannot come.” Their names were “Fame” and “Pleasure.”

Slowly Everyman turned back down the path to his rendezvous with Death. As he walked along, he came upon another old friend, one he had not seen lately. Without much hope, he told his story again. To his utter amazement, this last friend replied: “Of course, I’ll go with you.” His name was “Good Deeds.”

During the Middle Ages average life expectancy was less than forty and infant mortality was fearsome. Without hospitals or nursing homes, people cared for their dying and their dead; and death was a familiar figure. Today we keep it slightly removed, cordoned off by a cohort of caregivers: doctors, nurses and attendants. We live in a far more violent world but still we manage to keep death at a distance. Stalin once said that a single death was a tragedy, a million a statistic. Here we have another device to shield us from our own mortality, a way of avoiding Everyman’s question: Who will go with us on our final journey?

## SYNOD IMPLEMENTATION SERIES ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES 2005

The Diocese of Sacramento will present several sessions to implement Diocesan Synod Initiative No. 5 which states, in part, that we “provide opportunities for adults throughout the diocese to become more knowledgeable about the Catholic faith, to grow spiritually, and to receive training.” The following workshops cost \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. They will all be held at the Pastoral Center, 2110 Broadway, Sacramento. For information, call the Department of Faith Formation at (916) 733-0117.

March 19 (Sat. 9-3pm) “A Spiritual Journey” Christian prayer. Sr. Maura Power, RSM.

April 10 (Sun 1-4pm) “Spirituality in the Workplace” Fr. Jim Clarke.

April 16 (Sat 9-3pm) “Praying the Psalms and the Liturgy of the Hours” Sr. Katherine Doyle, RSM.

### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

**MON 3/14/2005** Lenten Weekday

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 noon: All Souls

**TUES 3/15/2005** Lenten Weekday

7:00 am: Harry Valencia S.I.

12:00 noon: All Souls

**WED 3/16/2005** Lenten Weekday

7:00 am: Lillian Olinger +

12:00 Noon: All Souls

**THURS 3/17/2005** St. Patrick

7:00 am: Presentacion Diva +

12:00 noon: All Souls

**FRI 3/18/2005** St. Cyril of Jerusalem

7:00 am: All Souls

12:00 noon: All Souls