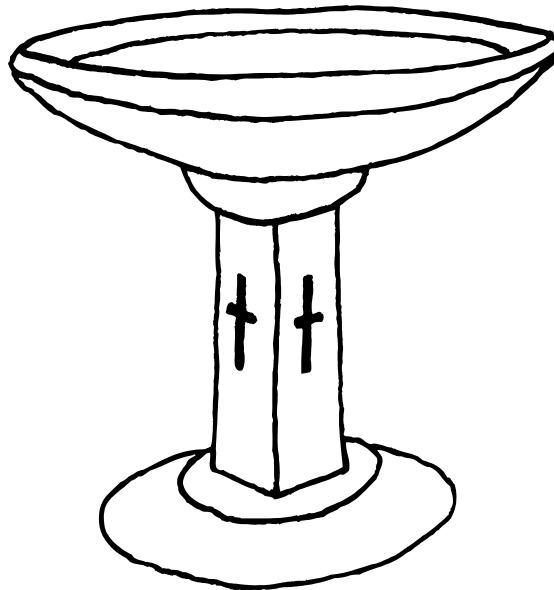


NO COINS IN THE BAPTISMAL FONT PLEASE!

Some well-intentioned visitors are still throwing coins into our Baptismal font. If you see people doing this, please exercise brotherly or sisterly correction and ask them to stop.

Explain to them that the Baptismal font is not a fountain. It is the place where new Catholics encounter the light of faith for the first time. The mosaic design in the bottom of the pool, with dark shades and light shades behind a cross, symbolizes the journey of Christians from darkness to light, through the cross of Christ.

Furthermore, the water in the font is a symbol of the new life of Baptism. Notice the Scripture quotations from Book of Ezekiel, the Book of Revelation, and John's Gospel



carved in the marble in the floor surrounding the font: "I saw water flowing from the right side of the Temple; it brought God's life and his salvation" (Ezekiel). "To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water" (Revelation). "The water I shall give will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John). Catholics entering the Cathedral dip their fingers into the bowl and bless themselves with the water, thus reminding themselves of the mystery of which they are a part.

Visitors will respect this sacred space if its true meaning is explained to them. Please help us break the habit of throwing coins in the Baptismal font!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

To celebrate Black History Month, the Black Catholic Council and the Africa Solidarity Initiative Committee are sponsoring several events during February.

The feast day of Saint Josephine Bakhita will be celebrated at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday February 8 at the 5:10 pm Mass. St. Bakhita was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000. She was a black African slave who became a member of the Daughters of Charity (Canossians). The Canossian Sisters staff the Cathedral to this day. Sr. Jenny, our Religious Education Director, is a continuous link to St. Bakhita.

On Saturday, February 11, at 9:00 am, the "Call for Action in Darfur" will be held at Immaculate Conception Parish, located at Broadway and 1st Avenue.



SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

On Sunday, February 19, individual Diocesan Masses will be held for African solidarity.

On February 26, a "Day of Prayer" Mass and reception will be held at 3:00 pm at St. Lawrence the Martyr Church, 4325 Don Julio Blvd, North Highlands. Speaking at the Mass will be Hippolyt Pul, deputy director of Catholic Relief Services West Africa regional office.

In addition, the Black Catholic Council is sponsoring an essay contest for Catholic and public high school students entitled "The Catholic Church in Africa." Three winners will be selected and prizes awarded at the February 26 Mass at St. Lawrence.

Please join in celebrating Black History Month at any and all events. For detailed information, call Charlene Harris at (916) 733-0160 at the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

WIVES AND HUSBANDS TO RENEW VOWS WITH BISHOP



Bishop Weigand will preside on Sunday, February 12, at the 11:00 am Mass to celebrate World Marriage Day in which couples married in the Church will renew their vows. An informal reception will follow in the Cathedral Lower Level for couples and their families sponsored by Marriage Encounter. Any couple interested in attending this special occasion is asked to register (names and anniversary year) with the Department of Catholic Faith Formation and call Claudia at (916) 733-0138.

CHINESE NEW YEAR MASS AND DINNER

The Sacramento Chinese Catholic Community cordially invites all Chinese Catholics and interested parishioners to their New Year's Celebration on Sunday February 5, 2006, at Holy Spirit Church, 3159 Land Park Drive at 3:00 pm. Bishop Garcia will be the main celebrant. Dinner will follow the Mass at the May Flower Restaurant located at Alhambra and "L" Streets. For more information and dinner tickets contact Gloria Fong at 442-7178 or Pearl Young at 421-8138.

CATHEDRAL PARISH SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE FORMATION

A Social Justice Study Group is meeting weekly every Wednesday in the Lower Level of the Cathedral at 7:00-8:30 pm. Social Justice is a major ministry of the Catholic faithful. Parish members are invited to attend and participate while they learn the Church's teaching and ministries of Social Justice. Please contact David L. Clements, Committee Chairman, at 916-646-1800 for sign up and additional information.

DIOCESAN RCIA WORKSHOPS

The Diocesan Committee on Christian Initiation of Adults will hold three regional workshops to give a presentation and overview of diocesan guidelines for the implementation of RCIA. Major topics will include the vision of the Church for the ritual process, resources and content for scriptural and doctrinal formation, the process of discernment, and ample time for questions.

The Sacramento area workshop will be held at St. Anthony Parish on Saturday March 11, 2006 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. The northern California workshop will be held at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Redding on Saturday April 29, 2006. And a third workshop will be held on Saturday May 13, 2006, at St. John Parish in Quincy.

For information and registration, contact John Rieschick at (916) 733-0133 or jrieschi@diocese-sacramento.org.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MON 1/30/2006

12:10 pm: John Kilfoil +
5:10 pm Sarah Lopez, S.I.

TUES 1/31/2006

St. John Bosco, priest

12:10 pm: All Souls of Ancestors +
5:10 pm All Souls in Purgatory +

WED 2/1/2006

12:10 pm: Phillip Fernandez +
5:10 pm: Peter Edwards +

THURS 2/2/2006

Presentation of the Lord

12:10 pm: Heinrich Christ +
5:10 pm: Italia Giarrisso, S.I.

FRI 2/3/2006

St. Blaise, bishop & martyr

12:10 pm: Andres Zepeda +
7:30 pm: Geneoveva Briseno +