

Courtesy and Safety at the Cathedral

The following article appeared in a recent issue of the Cathedral bulletin in Reno, Nevada, and was sent to us by someone who visited there. The suggestions are also useful advice for our Cathedral.

- Children should always be escorted to the bathroom. Many mentally ill people from the neighborhood use our bathrooms, and we do not have security there.
- Please turn off all cell phones before Mass begins.
- Children are a gift and we love to have them in

Church. If you anticipate that your child may cry during Mass, we suggest that you sit in the end of the pew near a door so you can step outside or into the vestibule if the child cries.

- Please dispose of gum before entering the church, and when you leave please tidy up the pew for the next Mass.
- Please try to maintain an atmosphere of prayer and meditation before and after Mass by keeping conversation low and brief. We encourage you to greet each other in the vestibule or outside.

CATHEDRAL MARDI GRAS DINNER



Mark your calendars for a fun evening of dinner and dancing. The Cathedral will sponsor their first Mardi Gras Dinner Dance on February 10, 2007, at 6:30 pm in the Cathedral Lower Level. Come mingle with your fellow parishioners, enjoy Cajun food and swing with your mate. Tickets are \$20 each and will go on sale after all Masses starting January 14. **Support**

your Cathedral Parish by getting a ticket today!

FEAST OF SANTO NINO JANUARY 20

The Filipino Community of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament will celebrate the Feast of Santo Nino on Saturday January 20, 2007, at a special 11:00 a.m. Mass. Please contact Ms. Vicky Bruce at (916) 726-6523 for more information about this yearly celebration and plan on attending the Mass and reception following.



ATTENTION PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

If you are planning to tour the Cathedral with your class or school this academic year, then this informative and meaningful workshop is for you. The Cathedral is offering a special 5-hour workshop for teachers for teachers who plan to visit the Cathedral with their class. This informative and meaningful workshop will help you prepare your class for touring the Cathedral. The workshop includes a complete unit with interactive lesson plans appropriate for grades 4-8.

Come and learn background information about Cathedral while earning 5 Catechetical hours. The Workshop will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2007, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm.. The cost is \$15 and includes materials and a light dinner. For more information, contact **Denise Fracchia** at **444-3071** (Rectory).

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM TODAY

On Thursday, February 1, at 7:30 pm, Rosalie Cuneo Amer, Professor Emeritus of Consumes River College, will present "Understanding Islam Today" at Holy Spirit Church Hall (3159 Land Park Drive & Cordano Way). Ms. Amer currently teaches a course on Global Islam. Admission is free. For more information, call **Fan Vitulli** at **(916) 443-7779**.

DEATH PENALTY AWARDS BANQUET

The 2nd Annual Death Penalty Focus Capitol Awards Banquet will be held on March 2 at the Radisson Hotel and feature Sister Helen Prejean, author of "Dead Man Walking" and Mike Farrell, President of Death Penalty Focus. This year's honorees are Rev. Dr. David Thomson, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Assembly Member Mark Leno, and Laura Magnani, American Friends Service Committee. For information and tickets, call **(916) 452-3806** or visit www.deathpenalty.org.

LAY FORMATION INSTITUTE 2007

The Lay Formation Institute has been designed and established as a program which provides opportunities for adults throughout the Diocese of Sacramento to become more knowledgeable about the Catholic faith, to grow spiritually, and to receive training for specific ecclesial ministries within the Catholic community. Courses may be taken individually or the entire institute. The cost is \$25 for each 8 hour course or \$175 for all 7 sessions. All courses are held on weekends at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 2110 Broadway with Session One from 7-9:00 pm (Fri) and Session Two from 9 am-4:00 pm (Sat). For additional information, contact **Kathy Wilson** at **(916) 733-0123** or kwilson@diocese-sacramento.org for a brochure of the whole year program. The first course begins next weekend:

January 27/28 **Foundations of Faith—Foundations of Christianity.** Rev. Ed. Fassett, S.J.

February 2/3 **Life in Christ: The Moral Life.**
Rev. Loreto Rojas

PRO-LIFE MASS TUESDAY JANUARY 23

The diocesan Respect Life Office and Catholics for Life are jointly sponsoring the annual Pro-Life Mass on Tuesday January 23, 2007, at 10:30 am in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. In the celebration, we mark the 34th anniversary, and pray for the overturn, of Roe v. Wade and its companion decision which allows abortion at any time and for any reason during the nine months of pregnancy. Bishop-Elect of Monterey Richard Garcia will preside. Please join all the deacons, religious, students, and the laity of our diocese who will attend this Mass to demonstrate their belief in the sanctity of human life. More information is available from **Mike Schaefer, Pro-Life Coordinator** at (916) 988-3171 or **Reverend Loreto Rojas, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis** at (916) 442-8315.

This Mass is a prelude to the California Pro-Life Council's annual Rally for Life at noon on the west steps of the Capitol. The rally features several pro-life legislators and other speakers who will inform and inspire us. For more information on the rally, contact **Kathy Markle of the California Pro-Life Council** at (916) 442-8315.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY JAN 18-24

Like yeast in dough, for 40 years ecumenism has been quietly leavening the life of the churches. It is so much taken for granted that we often do not recognize how different the shape of Christian life is today from 50 years ago and how close the churches have grown. For centuries, hymnody divided Catholics from Protestants. Today we sing one another's hymns. Catholics prize "Amazing Grace" and belt out "How Great Thou Art," and Protestants can be heard chanting *Ubi Caritas and Veni, Sancte Spiritus*.

Today, among the churches splintered by the Reformation, liturgies are looking more and more alike. Since the Second Vatican Council, Catholics have put more emphasis on the Liturgy of the Word. At the same time, the council's revision of the Lectionary helped inspire a parallel text, the Common Lectionary now used by several Protestant denominations. Revisions of Protestant orders of worship reflect a classic Christian focus on the Eucharist; many churches that had Communion services only infrequently now hold them monthly. Albs and stoles, even chasubles, are found in churches that once saw only pulpit gowns.

As the Catholic Church marks the 40th anniversary of Vatican II's "Decree on Ecumenism" (*Unitatis Redintegratio*), we should bear in mind that the Council intended ecumenism to be integral to its

understanding of the church. From the floor of the council meeting hall, Pope Paul VI declared that the decree "explained and completed" the "Constitution on the Church." In his encyclical *Ut Unum Sint* (1994), Pope John Paul II made clear the centrality of ecumenism to the postconciliar agenda of church renewal. "Ecumenism," he wrote, "is an organic part of [the church's] life and work, and consequently must pervade all that she is and does: (No. 20). Underscoring the point, where the council wrote of "separated brethren," Pope John Paul II spoke of "our fellow Christians."

As the churches work to achieve the full visible unity for which Christ prayed, Acts 15:28-29 provides the working rule: "It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and ourselves not to impose on you any burdens beyond [the] essentials..." Unity is necessary only in essentials; in other matters there may be legitimate diversity. "In everything," the council said, "let charity prevail." In the United States, the Catholic-Orthodox dialogue has made serious progress in recent years on Orthodox recognition of Catholic baptism and on the 1,000-year-old credal difference over the term filioque, the word in the Catholic version of one of the ancient creeds that proclaims belief that the Holy Spirit "proceeds from the Father and the Son."

The U.S. Catholic-Lutheran dialogue prepared the way for the landmark *Catholic-Lutheran Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification* (1999), which addressed perhaps the most fundamental controversy of the Reformation. The dialogue with the Reformed Churches in the United States has made significant progress on the question of the Eucharist; and the 2005 report of the International Catholic-Mennonite Dialogue opened the way to more Catholic collaboration with the peace churches and the Anabaptist tradition. In our own diocese Bishop Weigand has participated in pulpit exchanges with a number of denominations. We have an active Ecumenical Commission and a number of leaders from various Christian denominations were observers at our First Diocesan Synod during the past two years.

Like a seed growing unseen, the Holy Spirit has been at work bringing Christians closer together. Discerning eyes can begin to make out the lineaments of the one Church of Christ of which we all are a part. As our differences diminish, it is time to appreciate better the gifts we bring one another. For as the Council wrote, "Catholics must gladly acknowledge and esteem the truly Christian endowments for our common heritage which are to be found" among our fellow Christians. "It is right and salutary to recognize the riches of Christ and virtuous works in the lives of others who are bearing witness to Christ, sometimes even to the shedding of their blood."

New Parishioner Registration and Change of Address Form

Name: _____ Envelope No.: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Fill out and deposit in Offertory Basket. Thank You!