

SERVANT LEADER

~THE CATHEDRAL AS SACRAMENT~

This weekend I share with you some thoughts on the beauty of a cathedral. Many of those came from my good friend, Msgr. Arthur Holquin, who is Rector of the Cathedral in the Diocese of Orange.

We are blessed with the rich and graced opportunities a Cathedral Church possesses in being a “sacramental presence” to the whole community. Within our sacramental perspective or through the gift of our imagination a cathedral church can be a powerful presence of the holy, revealing or disclosing the God of mercy, the God of justice, the Lord of beauty and the God of hospitality in the midst of the secular city.



Cathedral churches strive to be places of mercy and compassion. St. Augustine powerfully reminded the people of his cathedral church in Northern Africa in the 5th century “to be what you celebrate.” The cathedral church is the privileged place where our Bishop, shepherd of the local church, leads God’s holy people and nourishes them with the sacramental life of the church. At the center of our liturgical life stands the Eucharist which for 2000 years has shaped our identities as Catholic Christians. Augustine again reminds us, “What you receive is what you are, the Body of Christ—say ‘Amen’ to what you are; be what you celebrate.” The authenticity and true splendor of cathedral worship must be gauged by the splendor of its care for those who live on the margins of society—the sick, the elderly, the homebound, the homeless and helpless. The outreach ministries of our Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament continue to reflect that commitment.

Cathedral churches are a sacrament of justice in the quality and effectiveness in which God’s holy word, sharper than any two edged sword, is proclaimed day in and day out. From the cathedra—the bishop’s chair—the good news of God’s liberating love is proclaimed—bringing “good news to the afflicted ... liberty to captives, sight to the blind, letting the oppressed go free ...” In the midst of a world enslaved by the lie of self sufficiency, a culture of death that views the ultimate value of life from the perspective of

productively and expediency, a society that is so often addicted to its pursuit of finding love and fulfillment in all the wrong places, there is a hunger to hear the liberating word of God proclaiming what we need to hear rather than what we may want to hear. A cathedral church must be a place where the truth of the Gospel is proclaimed with integrity.

Cathedral churches are a sacrament of sign of God’s presence that comes to us in beauty. The language of sacrament is the language of sign and symbol. Words fail when we try to capture the meaning of life’s deepest realities. Can we capture in words the depth of the love between husband and wife? Can we explain in words alone the courage and commitment that brings a soldier to lay down his or her life in defense of their country? The most profound realities in life are more often than not expressed through sign and symbol—a kiss, an embrace, a flag at half staff, a lone trumpet playing taps.

The language of worship is so often the powerful and engaging presence of the beautiful in our lives. For centuries we Catholics have wisely shaped our liturgical celebrations and particularly those in our cathedral churches in beauty—the beauty of soaring architecture, of sacred imagery that spans the centuries, the beauty of the poetic word, and most especially the power and beauty of music.

Finally, a cathedral church is called to be a sacrament of hospitality in the midst of the city. It is truly to be a “Cathedral for All People.” I’m sure you are all familiar with the ancient concept of “sanctuary” that has its origins in the sacredness and inviolability of our places of worship. Those seeking refuge for whatever reason could find solace and safety in walls of our churches. While civil law technically no longer recognizes such a concept, nevertheless, our churches and most particularly the bishop’s church must continue to be a haven of hospitality where all God’s children have a place at the table and can feel safe in its sanctuary. In a society that is quick to judge, to segregate, to exclude, to marginalize, to characterize some as second class, whether overtly or subtly, in the cathedral church all should be able to find a place they are greeted with dignity that befits the children of God.

Let us be grateful—and supportive—of the priceless treasure that we have in our Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. What a beauty, joy and faith presence is this Temple of the Lord.

~PARISH STEWARDSHIP UPDATE~

This week’s report shows an income of \$9,142.07 in the regular collection and \$1,575.79 in the Catholics Come Home Appeal. Thank you and may God continue to bless you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

Religious education classes for children start September 19, 2009. Register your child today. Applications will be available after all Masses. Also, volunteers are desperately needed to teach religious Education on Sundays. Must be bilingual Spanish/English. Call Sister Jenny at 444-5364.

CAMP RECREATION ADMINISTRATOR

This is a part time position which provides the day to day management of the Camp ReCreation program for the Diocese of Sacramento. Camp ReCreation is a summer camp experience for persons with developmental and physical disabilities that is operated under the auspices of the Diocese. Coordinate all aspects of the camp program including, but not limited to, budget, fund raising, recruiting and training volunteers, and insuring a quality program by maintaining American Camp Association accreditation. Bachelor's degree, experience working with people with disabilities, at least 2 years of related work experience in administration, camping or with special needs. Submit a resume by Sept. 30 to: irosene@diocese-sacramento.org or Camp ReCreation: Lori Rosene, 2110 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95818

ATTENTION MARRIED & ENGAGED COUPLES:

Learn a method of Natural Family Planning (N.F.P.) that is safe, extremely effective (98%) and in accord with Catholic moral teaching. Great for achieving as well as postponing pregnancy. Classes begin Thursday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Rose Parish on Franklin Blvd in Sacramento. \$135 for the series of 3 classes and free optional classes on Postpartum and/or Premenopausal N.F.P. For more information or to register, please call Suzanne at (916) 498-8309.

RETREAT: VICTIMS OF CHILDHOOD ABUSE

All adults who have been touched or affected by childhood abuse or violence are invited to attend a special retreat. Join us **Friday October 2, 2009** for Healing the Mind, Body and Spirit—a Faith Based Response for Adult Survivors of Childhood Trauma at Christ the King Retreat Center, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. For more information and registration please contact Esther Castillo at 916-733-0142.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Need some quiet time away from the noise and distractions of life? Spend **one hour** in silent Adoration to Adore Christ, truly present, to thank him for his love for us and the whole world. Wed & Thurs 12:40 to 4:45pm Fri 12:40 to 3:45pm. To sign up call Isabella Cazares @ 391-1760 or 883-1948 or becaz96@sbcglobal.net.



DIVINE MERCY CONFERENCE 2009

When your life is crashing do more than throw up your hands in despair turn to God's Divine Mercy. Saturday September 12, 2009 Sacramento Convention Center 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (check-in 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Tickets: \$15 advanced registration, \$20 at the door, \$5 for youth up to 17. Further info at www.DivineMercy Sacramento.org or 530-677-2805.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Catholic Charities of Sacramento is looking for volunteers for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program which helps low-to-moderate income families file tax returns and secure special credits and deductions for which they are eligible. Services are offered free of charge. Volunteers are needed to serve as tax assistants, site coordinators, screeners and interpreters. Training and certification are provided to volunteers. For information, please call Lupe Hernandez at 916-974-5436.

CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE

- MON 8/31/2009** **22ND WEEKDAY**
 12:10 pm: Melissa Huckaby, S.I.
 5:10 pm: Luis Raul Rodriguez +
- TUES 9/1/2009** **22ND WEEKDAY**
 12:10 pm: Oscar & Cristina Gamboa, S.I.
 5:10 pm: Joseph Anthony Corova, S.I.
- WED 9/2/2009** **22ND WEEKDAY**
 12:10 pm: Maurice Roberts +
 5:10 pm: Sherie Usi +
- THUR 9/3/2009** **ST. GREGORY THE GREAT**
 12:10 pm: Barbara Jeong, S.I.
 5:10 pm: Estelita Cunanan +
- FRI 9/4/2009** **22ND WEEKDAY**
 12:10 pm: Rosalia Morales +

NO EVENING MASS ON FRIDAYS

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WED & THUR 12:40PM-4:45PM FRI 12:40PM-3:45PM

TO SIGN UP CALL ISABELLA CAZARES 391-1760 OR 833-1948,
 OR E-MAIL BECAZ96@SBCGLOBAL.NET

**CATHEDRAL TOURS EVERY SUNDAY
 AFTER 9:00 AM AND 11 AM MASSES**

New Parishioner Registration and Change of Address Form

Name: _____ Envelope No.: _____
 Phone: (____) _____
 Address: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Fill out and deposit in Offertory Basket. Thank You!