

SERVANT LEADER

~ CELEBRATING CATECHETICAL SUNDAY ~

This weekend, those who have been designated by the Cathedral Parish community to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

The idea of establishing a catechetical day in each parish was presented by Pope Pius XI in his instruction entitled *On Better Care for Catechetical Teaching* (*Provido sane consilio*) published in 1935. The first celebration of a national catechetical day in our country is recorded to be on October 30, 1935, in Rochester, N.Y. By 1944, the practice was in every part of the union and by 1955 most dioceses celebrated the day on the third Sunday in September.

The third Sunday of September in the United States is celebrated as Catechetical Sunday in order to acknowledge, appreciate and commission those who are catechists. In his encyclical letter, *Redemptoris Missio*, Pope John Paul II, wrote:

“Among the laity who become evangelizers, catechists have a place of honor ... Catechists are among those who have received Christ’s command to ‘go and teach all nations.’”

~ THIS YEAR’S THEME ~

This year, Catechetical Sunday, September 20, 2009, will focus on the theme, “Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word.” The Ministry of the Word is a fundamental element of evangelization through all its stages because it involves the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God.

The word of God nourishes both evangelizers and those who are being evangelized so that each one may continue to grow in his or her Christian life.

Historically, the Catholic laity’s involvement with Sacred Scripture, with some notable exceptions, has been cautious and casual. Still, the fact remains that the Catholics are hungry not for “food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life” (Jn 6:27). What we have to do is to take the Bible out of the library and bring it back into the living room, the place where the family gathers.

As we struggle to engage the Word of God, we would do well to rediscover the wisdom of the Fathers of the Church, as well as the witness of the Mother of the Lord. In all of Christian life, Mary is our model and our mentor. Luke’s account of the Annunciation presents Mary as the first to hear the Gospel and take it to heart. The Word that she welcomes into her life by her fiat is not only enfleshed in her womb; it is embodied in her life. And so Mary becomes the first Christian disciple. But there is more. In the story of the Visitation, the first Christian disciple becomes the first Christian missionary who hastens to share—not her good news, but the Good News—with her

kinswoman Elizabeth. Elizabeth in turn declares Mary doubly blessed: for her unique privilege of being the Mother of the Lord (1:42-43), but even more for her faith in the Word spoken to her by the Lord (1:45).

When Mary responds to Elizabeth’s greeting with the canticle known as the Magnificat, she shows herself to be not only the first Christian disciple and the first Christian missionary, but also the first Christian catechist.

The Magnificat is a model of catechesis. First, it is biblical. It echoes the canticle of Hannah (1 Sm 2:1-10), and it also evokes the Exodus story in its declaration of the new “great things” that the Mighty One has done, in Mary and through her Son, for the salvation of God’s people. The Magnificat is a song of praise, a prayer and a proclamation. It is also a confident cry for justice for the powerless and the poor, praising God for lifting up the lowly and filling the hungry with good things (1:52-53). Finally, the whole canticle pulses with joyful hope as it looks to the future.

Mary’s embrace of the Word of God is not unquestioning or uncritical. Luke describes her pondering—not once, but over and over again—the unfolding revelation that transforms her life (Lk 2:19, 51). Luke also writes of Mary’s appearance with her family at the edge of a crowd listening to Jesus (Lk 8:19-21). He is teaching in parables and has just likened those who, having heard the Word, “embrace it with a generous and good heart” to “the seed that fell on good soil” (8:15). Then, learning that his Mother is in the crowd, he exclaims, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it” (8:21). May we learn from Mary so that he may say the same of us.

Thank you to Sr. Jenny, all our wonderful Catechists and faith-filled, loving parents for your service of our children.

~ PRAYER FOR CATECHISTS ~

Jesus, you told us that laborers for the vineyard would be few and that we should pray to the Lord of the Harvest in the hope that many might respond. You have answered our prayers by sending us catechists for your vineyard.

Bless these men and women who have responded to your call to the ministry of catechesis. May they be filled with zeal for your Church, with care for those they catechize, and with love for your Word of Life. Let your Spirit come upon them so that your Word may echo through their teaching and through the witness of their lives. Through our catechists, may the members of our parish whom they teach be transformed into witnesses to your Word. And may these catechists receive the blessing your Son promised to all who labor in your vineyard.

We pray to you, gracious Father, in the name of your Son, Jesus, the Word of Life, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit who transforms us by that Word, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION

Register your child today. Applications will be available after all Masses. English Religious Education classes began yesterday Sept. 19. Spanish Religious Education begins at 11:15am today, Sunday Sept. 20. English Confirmation begins this Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 7pm; Spanish Confirmation on Thursday, Sept.24, at 7pm.

BISHOP’S WEBSITE OFFERS

BACKGROUND ON HEALTH REFORM

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has launched a website that seeks to clarify its position on the health care reform debate and to help Catholics add their voices to the discussions. The website at www.usccb.org/healthcare features videos addressing various aspects of the health reform debate, answers to several frequently asked questions, copies of bishops’ documents and letters to Congress, facts and statistics about Catholic health care in the United States, and links to send messages to members of Congress. The bishops also plan to offer specific “action alerts” on the site when Congress returns to work on health reform legislation in September. The site urges Catholics to tell Congress that “health care reform” should:

(1) Include health care coverage for all people from conception until natural death, and continue the federal ban on funding for abortions.

(2) Include access for all with a special concern for the poor.

(3) Pursue the common good and preserve pluralism, including freedom of conscience.

(4) Restrain costs and apply costs equitably among payers.

I hope you find this information helpful and let us pray that the right action will be taken.



TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3: 8 PM
CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
 OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Featuring the Orchestra, Chorus and Soloists of the Academy at All Hallows with the choirs of Jesuit, St Francis and Sacramento Adventist Academy High Schools.
www.AcademyAtAllHallows.org Tickets \$10-\$100 at Ticketweb.com or 916 486 8538

CATHEDRAL CHOIR AUDITIONS

Rex Rallanka, Cathedral Choir Director, will conduct auditions for the 2009-2010 Cathedral Choir season. For inquiries, call Rex Rallanka at 444-3070, ext. 38 or email rrallanka@cathedralsacramento.org

LIFE CHAIN: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

The Sacramento Life Chain will be held on Sunday, October 4 from 2:00pm—3:30pm at one of 10 locations throughout the greater Sacramento area. Please come and give public witness through silent prayer for the conversion of minds and hearts for an end to abortion in our nations. For a list of locations, view www.LifeChain.net or call Jan England at (916) 749-6719 or by email at janengland09@gmail.com

NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

Chancellor Kathy Conner has announced that Ms. Sandra Holland has been selected as the new Director of the Office of Worship. Sandi has been serving as the Director of Music for St. Joseph Parish in Vacaville and has over 10 years in various positions throughout the diocese. Sandi has a BA in Music from Westmont College and a MA from Santa Clara University. Ms. Holland will assume her new duties on October 1, 2009.

CATHEDRAL MASS SCHEDULE

MON 9/20/2009 ST. MATTHEW, APOSTLE

12:10 pm: Melissa Huckaby, S.I.

5:10 pm: Jesus Ayon Arana +

TUES 9/21/2009 25TH WEEKDAY

12:10 pm: Juan Vasquez +

5:10 pm: Jenaro Castro +

WED 9/22/2009 ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA, PRIEST

12:10 pm: Linda O’Connell, S.I.

5:10 pm: Hector Guerrero, S.I.

THUR 9/23/2009 25TH WEEKDAY

12:10 pm: Tai Vo +

5:10 pm: Frank Vicencia +

FRI 9/24/2009 25TH WEEKDAY

12:10 pm: Policarpa Miranda +

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!