

ORDINARY TIME

[The Christmas Season closes with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord today. Ordinary Time begins tomorrow, January 12.]

Wasted time is not a prized commodity in American society. We are a people ruled by the clock. Time is money because time is to be filled with purposeful controlled activity which is productive of things which can be sold. We are convinced that we must be in control of time. The last thing the productive American would want to do is waste time playing around with realities that do not produce a saleable commodity.

But the Creator of heaven and earth is described by the scriptures as the original and best of players. Creative activity is playful, and creative people do not feel that what they do is a job. Creative people also have a sense that their creativity and all that they fashion in the creative spirit are gifts they have received. The Christian can speak of this and the contemplative vision which sees all reality as gift or grace. Our thankful response we call worship or Eucharist.

We cannot speak of Ordinary Time without speaking of Sunday. The every seven-day celebration of the Lord's Day is the basic structure upon which the Church year is built. The great

liturgical seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent-Easter are more expansive celebrations of particular aspects of the one paschal mystery which we celebrate every Lord's Day. These special seasons focus our attention upon critical dimensions of one mystery, a mystery so overwhelming that we are compelled to separate out its various elements for particular attention. These seasons in no way minimize the critical importance of the Sunday celebration throughout the rest of the year.

Ordinary Time is not very ordinary at all. Ordinary Time, the celebration of Sunday, is the identifying mark of the Christian community which comes together, remembering that on this first day of the week the Lord of Life was raised up and creation came at last to completion. Sunday as a day of play and worship is a sacrament of redeemed time. How we live Sunday proclaims to the world what we believe about redeemed time now and for ever.

What happens in our churches every Sunday is the fruit of our week. What happens as the fruit of the week past is the beginning of the week to come. Sunday, like all sacraments, is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the kingdom. This is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living. St. Andrew Bible Missal

NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK

Next week, January 11-17, 2009, the Church celebrates National Vocations Awareness Week, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord which marks Jesus' initiation into public ministry. The Cathedral Parish Vocations Committee is asking all parishioners to pledge to pray for vocations every day of that week. Next week prayer cards will be distributed after most Masses to those who pledge to pray for an increase in religious vocations (priests, sisters, brothers, and deacons). Please remember that there are many ways to pray for religious vocations; some include praying the diocesan vocations prayer, Eucharistic adoration, fasting, and the Rosary. By praying in these ways you can make a difference in helping more men and women consider the call to these very special vocations.

MEXICAN STUDENT NEEDS PLACE TO LIVE

A 26-year-old Mexican student (Marce is her name) is seeking a place to live while she perfects her English skills at a language school in Sacramento. Marce already speaks functional English but she needs a higher proficiency level before she is admitted to Princeton University. She comes from a middle class family in Guadalajara, Mexico. If you would like to host Marce for a semester or two, please call Msgr. James Murphy at (916) 443-6475.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT (FOCA) POST CARD CAMPAIGN

Please set aside Sunday, January 11th at 1:30 p.m. to attend a meeting at the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Sacramento, 2110 Broadway, Sacramento 95818, to learn how you and your church or community can participate in a massive, nationwide postcard campaign to thwart FOCA, the Freedom of Choice Act:

"The Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), the most radical and divisive pro-abortion bill ever introduced in Congress, would create a "fundamental right" to abortion that government could not limit but would have to support. FOCA would overturn many existing widely supported policies, including laws protecting parental involvement and conscience rights and those preventing partial-birth abortion and taxpayer funding of abortion."

The meeting is free and important and all are welcome to attend. Below are links that will give you more information in order to prepare for this post card campaign. Numbers are important. The more of us that participate the better the results will be. The good thing is that you don't need to be an adult or registered voter to participate which means each family member can send their own post cards regardless of their age!

Please R.S.V.P. to Kathy Conner at kconner@diocese-sacramento.org. Kathy will have post cards for sale at the meeting. \$10 for 500, \$15 for 1,000. Post cards on line at <http://www.nchla.org/docdisplay.asp?ID=209>.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

"Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the Lord for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. As high as the heavens are above the earth so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts."

Is 55:10

CHINESE NEW YEAR MASS

Bishop Jaime Soto will celebrate the Chinese New Year Eucharist with the Sacramento Chinese Catholic Community on Sunday, January 18, at 3:00 pm in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Nicholas Ho, Chaplain of the Chinese Catholic Community will concelebrate. The Chinese Catholic Community cordially invites all Chinese Catholics, friends, and parishioners to join in our celebration. A celebratory dinner with Bishop Soto will also be held that evening at the May Flower Restaurant at 5:00 pm. For information and reservations, please contact Gloria at 442-7178 or Barbara at 396-9783.



SOULJERS OF CHRIST (YOUTH GROUP)

The next meeting will be on Wednesday January 14. The Souljers of Christ meet every Wednesday throughout the school year from 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m. in the Lower Level.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Many of our neighbors and friends have lost everything in this recession—the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. With your help, they can begin to rebuild their lives, to turn a house, however humble, into a home for their families. We understand you are struggling to cope with the pain of the downturn, yet ask you to look around your home for some ordinary items that may ease the suffering of our less fortunate neighbors. If you can spare any of the following items, or any other usable goods, please call to donate or simply drop them off at our store: cookware, utensils, plates, towels, linens, home decorating items, sleeping bags. Thank you for any help you can provide. St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, 2275 Watt Avenue (near Butano Dr.) Sacramento (95825); 916-972-1212.



CREATIVE4LIFE

The 2009 Santo Are you between the ages of 14 – 18? Do you enjoy being creative? The Sacramento Life Center invites all high school students to show us just how creative you are! “Creative4Life” offers students the opportunity to showcase your creative talents in a number of ways: writing an essay, speech, or poem; painting; photography; music; dance; dramatic presentations; or a film/DVD presentation. Use your creative talents to express why you support the mission of the Life Center: to empower pregnant women to choose LIFE for their pre-born children. First place: \$1000; Second place: \$750; Third place: \$500. Information and Commitment Forms are on our website, under the Coming Events link or on the In the News page. You can also contact Debby or Colleen at 916-451-4357, or Debby by email at . Your Commitment Form is due: February 1, 2009! The Final Project is due: March 15, 2009.

ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST BUSES

The 5th Annual West Coast Walk for Life will take place in San Francisco on January 24, 2009. Last year, over 25,000 participated in this peaceful, prayerful 2.5 miles walk along the San Francisco waterfront in support of the sanctity of life in all its stages.

- (1) Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Cathedral Teen Bus leaves Our Lady of Guadalupe (711 T St.) at 8am. Bring your own lunch. \$25.
- (2) St. Mary’s Church leaves at 8:30am from the church (58th & M Streets). \$20.
- (3) St. Rose of Lima in Roseville (615 Vine Street, Roseville) Bus leaves at 8am and returns at 6:30pm from San Francisco. For more information, call Kelly Risse at (916) 783-5219 or David Coit at (916) 784-0765.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION (JAN 3-4)

Our collection last week was \$11,697.17. We wish to thank all those who made this collection possible. Because of the high upkeep costs at the Cathedral, our goal is to reach \$14,000 per week. To achieve this goal we encourage parishioners to donate one hour's pay per week to the parish or 3% of income. The motive for this generosity is thankfulness for God's goodness to us - an attitude of gratitude!



CATHEDRAL DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

MON 1/12/2008
 12:10 pm: Bishop Francis A. Quinn, S.I.
 5:10 pm: Cecilia Cardenas, S.I.

TUES 1/13/2008 **ST. HILARY, BISHOP**
 12:10 pm: Rita Guiney, S.I.
 5:10 pm: Debra Waltz, S.I.

WED 1/14/2008
 12:10 pm: Rita Guiney, S.I.
 5:10 pm: Ron and Moe Rodriiguez, S.I.

THURS 1/15/2009
 12:10 pm: Anthony Myczek +
 5:10 pm: Arthur Amanda Cardenas, S.I.

FRI 1/16/2009
 12:10 pm: Carolina Santiago +
 NO EVENING MASS ON FRIDAYS

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

GIFT SHOP HOURS
**MON-THUR 11AM-2PM, CLOSED FRIDAY, SAT
 11AM-4PM SUN 10AM-2PM**

New Parishioner Registration and Change of Address Form

Name: _____ **Envelope No.:** _____

Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ **ZIP Code:** _____

Fill out and deposit in Offertory Basket. Thank You!