

For those parishioners who were unable to attend the first lecture of our Lenten Lecture Series, **Reclaiming Our First Love: God's Call to Holiness of Life, Conference #1 - Personal Evaluation (Inventory) - Where We Are as Lay Catholics?** I have provided a brief overview of my lecture.

From the Pastor

Lenten Lecture Series Introduction - Overview

Throughout the Lenten Season we will travel the journey of our calling, by God, to enter into a deeper and more profound relationship with the Most Holy Trinity, as Christian women and men. We will have the opportunity of participating with the Holy Spirit to enter into an honest and integral assessment of who we are at this particular moment in salvation history. We will reevaluate the intent and spiritual ramifications placed upon us as followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Jesus is our only Teacher, *De Magistra*, according to St. Augustine. How do we continue to enter into the mystery of Jesus as the model and goal of our religious life and existence? I hope to share observations and encouragement to enter more deeply into the mystery that is the Triune Godhead.

What does it mean to be a *Holy Saturday People*? How do we enhance or reactivate the true meaning of Hope and Joy in our lay religious life? Are we content with a life of complacency, a life possibly filled with monotonous or boring routines? How do we balance a family or single life while still **being** faithful to the ministry that Jesus has called us to share.

In all that we hopefully will encounter during the Lenten Season; in the desire for rejuvenation of our commitment to follow Christ more deeply, sharing this mystery with our family and our sister and brothers; are we ready to surrender to God? Are we ready to enter more deeply into our Baptismal Promises? Where do we go from here?

Introduction

When it comes to spiritual maturity, we can't simply take for granted that we're growing. To evaluate personal progress, I've compiled a brief inventory of spiritual benchmarks. Check the list for an idea of how you're doing: weekly Mass attendance, personal bible study, private prayer, moral conduct, evangelization, and giving. But remember, these items are just a place to start; see the Bible for a complete growth chart!

We know we're growing spiritually when we become increasingly aware of our sinfulness and weakness. As I read biographies of godly saints, it's clear that they don't "get better" with age and spiritual maturity. Instead, they become ever more sensitive to their dependence upon the Lord. Moreover, progress is apparent when we respond to sin with quick repentance. Failure to deal with sin is rebellion against God. Growing believers turn away from wrongdoing and embrace righteousness. As we live with the good results of dependence and repentance, our desire to obey intensifies and the attraction of sin lessens.

Growth is also marked by an increase in two things—joy and struggle. Faith is often developed through hardship because living out the principles of trust and endurance help us "get it." So we'll see maturity in our relationship with God when we view trials and temptations as opportunities for growth. Paul, David, Ruth, Esther and Daniel prove that adversity can help form spiritual giants. These women and men recognized sovereign God as the gatekeeper of their lives. We are maturing when we perceive whatever comes our way as being from Him, which also means that He's working it for good (Romans 8:28).

Let us pray for one another during this Holy Season, especially for the poor.

In Christ Jesus and St. Augustine,
Fr. Gregory Heidenblut, O.S.A.



The WORDS of the LORD
give us life

LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

*Reclaiming Our First Love:
God's Call to Holiness of Life*

All are invited to Fr. Greg's Lenten Lecture series following our soup meals.

This lecture series is intended to provide proven methods and examples, based on the teachings found in Sacred Scripture and the Church, on how to reclaim our first love - Jesus Christ - and how to live a life founded on God's word and the Tradition of the Catholic Church.

The lecture will begin at the end of our soup meal; around 7:15 p.m. and last until 8:30 p.m. The remaining evenings for this lecture series are as follows:

- Wednesday, **March 11th** - Where It All Begins: Following Jesus and Asceticism
- Wednesday, **March 25th** - Socio-political dimension of the radical following of Jesus



LENTEN WEDNESDAY SOUP MEAL

Please plan on joining us for a simple meal of soup and bread each Wednesday during Lent. It will be a time for fellowship and families coming together. Our Soup Meal follows the 6:00pm Mass. This Wednesday, **March 11th** Soup Meal is sponsored by our Hispanic Small Christian Community. We thank them for their ministry of hospitality for this meal.

Donations will be accepted to benefit Operation Rice Bowl.

BUNDLE SUNDAY IS COMING !

It's time for Spring Cleaning! The St. Vincent de Paul trailer will be at Our Lady of Grace the weekend of **March 14th & 15th** to accept your donations. Conference Members will be available to help you carry the items from your car after all the Masses on that weekend. Please note: Furniture, mattresses, appliances, and other bulky items cannot be accepted. However e-waste items will be accepted. Please do not drop off prior to March 14th or after 1:00pm on March 15th.

Thank you for helping us to help others.

**FROM BISHOP MICHAEL C. BARBER, SJ
BISHOP OF OAKLAND**

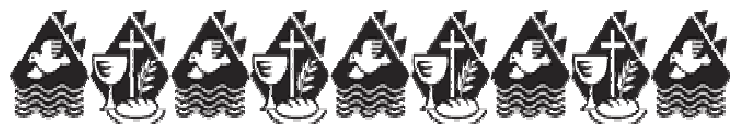
In the midst of the political complexity surrounding immigration in this country I am very pleased that the social service arm of our diocese, Catholic Charities of the East Bay (CCEB), is fully engaged. They have attorneys, law students, accredited paralegals, teachers and counselors providing legal, resettlement and employment services to very needy refugees and immigrants, our neighbors.

On Ash Wednesday I was happy to hear their fine work highlighted on a national NPR news broadcast. Parishes can reach out to CCEB to connect parishioners who need legal help by calling Maciel Jacques, Legal Services Program Coordinator, at (510) 768-3137.

Cardinal Sean O'Malley is co-chair of the US Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. He reminds us, "Immigration is not primarily a political problem, but rather a deeply human and profoundly moral challenge facing our nation." Catholic social services provide one of the refuges for those grappling with these very human challenges.

These challenges are world-wide. Speaking on the Italian island of Lampedusa, at the borders of Europe, Pope Francis said "We have lost a sense of responsibility for our brothers and sisters. We have fallen into the hypocrisy of the Priest and the Levite whom Jesus described in the parable of the Good Samaritan: we see our brother half dead on the side of the road and perhaps we say to ourselves, 'Poor soul' and then go our way." His words resonate in our part of the world as well.

I invite all to join voices with the California bishops: "We call on Congress and the President to work together toward a more comprehensive response to the humanitarian crisis of a broken immigration system. We will work with the California Congressional delegation and the President to accomplish that goal."



NEWS FROM FESCO

Why FESCO is Exploring a Strategic Alliance with Abode Services

All over the country, community-based organizations that combat homelessness are striving to get more bang for the buck. We in the Bay Area face an especially dramatic escalation in housing costs. The times call for innovation and creativity. The good news is that difficult situations inspire ingenious solutions.

How can we accomplish more with less? Our answer is to consolidate the operations of two organizations with complementary missions. After months of exploration and discussion, the Boards of FESCO and Abode Services propose forming an alliance between their agencies to gain leverage. By joining forces, both organizations gain in at least three ways:

- We improve management efficiency by enhancing our ability to achieve economies of scale, reduce overhead costs, maintain a reserve, and manage risk.
- As a regional organization, we gain visibility and credibility for fund raising, for applying for grants, for development applications, and for speaking out on preventing the causes of homelessness.
- We aggregate the skills that enable us to implement a new model for ending homelessness: affordable, well-managed housing combined with supportive services.

The heart of the matter for all of us is providing a stronger, more effective way for people at risk to get a new start. Want to know more? Contact name, phone #, and email address), or you can contact FESCO's Executive Director, Gay McDaniel, at gmcdaniel@fescofamilyshelter.org or 510-886-5473. ext. 107.

FROM THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION

Calling all Irish and those who wish to be Irish, come join the ICF as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Our Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner will be Thursday **March 12th** at 6:30pm. For dessert we have our St. Joseph's table from which you can purchase homemade goodies. The proceeds from this sale are donated to St. Vincent de Paul at Transfiguration parish. Please call either Stella Taddei at 510-581-5863 or Juanita Madrid at 510-582-7242 for reservations. Deadline is Sunday, **March 8th**. Happy St. Paddy's Day!

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give ten percent of your income to the Church and charity for example, God will help you live on the rest.

Offerings of March 1st:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 9,714.00
Last Year this week	\$ 7,780.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,815.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$ 75,981.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$ 70,988.00

February Budgeted Expenses \$60,000.00

May God bless your continuing generosity.



Your Prayers Are Requested

Please lift up in your prayer those many among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Jose Cisneros | Raymond Lowe |
| Kathleen Denning | Richard Martin |
| Estela Enriquez | Florence Sharp |
| Mary Franks | Josephine Sisler |
| Byron Griffith | James Van Wert |
| Liz Griffith | Yvonne Wheeler |
| Nicholas Guinea | |

As we pray for an end to war and violence in our world, let us remember in prayer those family members of our parish community serving on active duty, including:

DAVID SANCHEZ MICHAEL SANCHEZ

Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.

**MILDRED "MILLIE" CUTTS
TONY FAGUNDES**

Gospel for The Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 15th) John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —. So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him."

He said, "I am." They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The Hayes Family is most appreciative to the community of Our Lady of Grace for their kindness, generosity and prayers during our mother's passing. For over 50 years she shared this community's mission and, when she needed you the most, you were there for her. She loved being a part of your lives and appreciated the goodness of sharing time with such wonderful people...

God Bless you all...The Hayes Family

BOOK SIGNING FOR OUR PARISHIONER

The Book Shop at 1007 "B" Street in Hayward is hosting a Book Signing for Ms. Terry and her children's book Sheba's Miracle on March 15th at 2:00pm. All are invited!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 8th:

Coffee & Donuts After All Masses

Children's Liturgy of the Word
9:00am--Mass

Religious Education Classes
10:30am--Stack Center

Youth Ministry
After 9:00am Mass in the Gym

Monday, March 9th:

Women's Bible Study
7:00pm--Parish Office

Tuesday, March 10th:

Bible Scripture Study
9:30am--Parish Office

Religious Education Classes
3:45pm--Stack Center

Wednesday, March 11th:

Lenten soup Meal
Following 6:00pm Mass

Lenten Lecture Series
Following Soup Meal

Thursday, March 12th:

Serenity Group
8:15pm— Stack Center

Friday, March 13th:

Stations of the Cross
2:30pm--Church

Spanish Stations of the Cross
7:00pm--Church

Sunday, March 15th:

Coffee & Donuts After All Masses

Children's Liturgy of the Word
9:00am--Mass

Religious Education Classes
10:30am--Stack Center

Youth Ministry
After 9:00am Mass in the Gym

Spanish Mass
2:00pm--Church

Mass Intentions for the Week

Please note: During the school year, our 8:30am Monday Mass will be celebrated in the Church. Unless otherwise noted all other weekday masses will be held in the Chapel.

MONDAY, MARCH 9th (CHURCH)

St. Frances of Rome, Religious
8:30am Louis Rodrigues (D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 10th

7:00am Lilia Sousa (D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11th

7:00am Lee, Yaka & Frank Music (D)
6:00pm Elaine Keogh (D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 12th

7:00am Joan Dexter Hallett (D)

FRIDAY, MARCH 13th

7:00am Joe & Marie Silveria (D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 14th

St.'s Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
8:30am Joyce West (D)



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross are offered at Our Lady of Grace, Fridays at 2:30pm by our school community and 7:00pm in Spanish by our Hispanic Small Christian Community. Transfiguration Church offers Stations of the Cross at 7:30pm on Fridays.

EXECUTION ALERTS

The following executions are scheduled to take place in **March**:

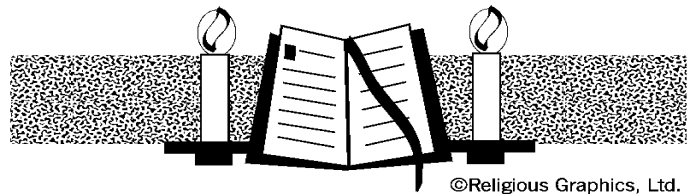
March 11th	Manuel Vasquez	TX
March 17th	Cecil Clayton	MO
March 18th	Randall Mays	TX
March 19th	Bill Kuenzel	AL

We ask your prayers for these persons, for the victims of their crimes, and for their families.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

March 9th through March 15th

- Monday: 2 Kings 5:1-15b; Luke 4:24-30
- Tuesday: Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35
- Wednesday: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19
- Thursday: Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23
- Friday: Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34
- Saturday: Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14;
- Sunday: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21



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HOMELESSNESS IN OUR MIDST

Are you concerned about the growing problems of poverty and homelessness in our community? Do you wonder about the primary causes of homelessness today? Do you know how agencies in our area help the homeless and those at risk for becoming homeless? Are you interested in being part of the solution?

If so, then come to a Forum on Homelessness at OLG Church. Listen to first hand accounts of people who have struggled with poverty and homelessness as well as to representatives of 3 agencies who serve the poor in our community - FESCO, St. Vincent de Paul, and South Hayward Parish.

There will be time for discussion and questions. Wednesday, **March 18th**, 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. immediately following the 6:00 Mass and 6:45 soup meal to which all are welcome in Stack Center. Sponsored by the Pax Christi/Social Justice Group of OLG. For more information, call Denise at (510) 538-6071.

THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Please support our advertisers who make our weekly bulletin possible and so generously support our parish. We are grateful to them !

This week we extend our gratitude to:

GRAVITY +2