



From the Pastor

Earlier, Fr. Tom had asked me to do a short write up of the lives of Dorothy Day, and Thomas Merton, whom Pope Francis had acknowledged during his recent visit to the United States. Hopefully, you benefitted from my last article on Dorothy Day. Thomas Merton (1915-1968) is arguably the most influential American Catholic author of the 20th century. He wrote over 60 books, and hundreds of poems and articles on topics ranging from monastic spirituality to civil rights, nonviolence, and the nuclear arms race. After a rambunctious youth and adolescence, Merton converted to Roman Catholicism whilst at Columbia University and in 1941 he entered the Abbey of Gethsemani, a community of monks belonging to the Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance (Trappists), the most ascetic Roman Catholic monastic order.

Thomas Merton shows that those who are “enclosed” in a monastery and spend their days in prayer, can still be in touch with the world. Through reading, and listening to God in contemplation, was able to see the world with God’s eyes, and speak to us (in his writing) what he discerned God had to say about our world. Merton referred to race and peace as the two most urgent issues of his time. He was a strong supporter of the nonviolent civil rights movement, which he called “certainly the greatest example of Christian faith in action in the social history of the United States”, and he completely rejected any possibility that nuclear arms could contribute to either human or divine justice. Commenting on the many divisions of his day, he wrote; “...Contradictions have always existed in the soul of man. But it is only when we prefer analysis to silence that they become a constant and insoluble problem. We are not meant to resolve all contradictions but to live with them and rise above them and see them in the light of exterior and objective values which make them trivial by comparison.” (From “Thoughts in Solitude”.)

I would like to share, that I have benefitted from the writings of Thomas Merton, especially as he described how early in his life he would read the spiritual classic, “*The Cloud of Unknowing*”, over and over. I have found that book to be a profound help in contemplative prayer. In closing, I would like to share one of Thomas Merton’s famous prayers;

“MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.” (Also from “Thoughts in Solitude”.)

Peace, Fr. Paul

Gospel for Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 17th)

John 2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, “Fill the jars with water.” So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.” So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from — although the servers who had drawn the water knew —, the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.



OUR LADY OF GRACE CRAB FEED 2016 Saturday, January 30, 2016

Be **CRABBY** for a cause--join the fun at our Community Crab Feed Fundraiser! We will be receiving our crab from Canada or Washington state this year at an increased cost! However, the ticket price will be the same as 2014: \$40. Last chance --don't be left out there is limited seating and there is no better way to get the New Year going than eating crab and helping raise funds for **CYO**, the Church, and School.

Price of the ticket includes: crab or chicken, salad, pasta, garlic bread, and another year of great entertainment by OLG's local bands Triple Play and Rust! Instead of charging more for the event, we are asking groups of friends joining in this great evening of food and fun to bring appetizers and desserts to share at your table. Beer, wine and limited mixed drinks will be available at a cost.

Don't delay, please reserve your tickets today!

To reserve your ticket: Contact Jeanenne Deorsey (deorseyj@gmail.com).



January CYO SIGN UPS

It's time for Girls CYO Basketball (grades 2nd–8th) registration **today, January 10th**, in Stack Center from 9:30–12:30pm, and Tuesday, **January 12th** from 6:00pm–8:30pm in Stack Center. All non–OLG school students must bring a copy of their birth certificate and a currently dated copy of a utility bill (water, PG&E, garbage or cable) that list the property address. These will be the only sign up dates, practices begin the week of January 25th.

If you are interested in coaching or helping with CYO in another position please contact Elizabeth Antonio at olgcyo.registrar@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC FEDERATION

The ICF would like to say Grazie to all the parishioners for their support of our functions over the past year. Felice Anno Nuovo, 2016!

Come start off the New Year with ICF join us for our Ravioli dinner on **January 14th**, doors open at 6:00pm and dinner is served at 6:30pm.

Reservations are required by Monday, January 11th, please call Stella Taddei at 510-581-5863 or Juanita Madrid at 510-582-7242. See you in 2016!

I will send the SPIRIT to you



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY FAUSTINA: MESSENGER OF DIVINE MERCY JANUARY 31, 2016

Our Lady of Grace Church and School invite you to the live theatrical one-woman drama performed by actress Maria Vargo and directed by Leonardo Delfilippis of Saint Luke Productions, to be presented at Castro Valley Center for the Arts on Sunday, **January 31st** at 7:00pm. Tickets: \$15.00 Adult, \$12.00 Senior; \$40.00 Family of Four. \$12.00 Youth 17 and under. Suitable for ages 12 and up.

Experience firsthand the life and message of Saint Faustina whose personal encounters with Jesus have inspired a world-wide devotion to Christ's Divine Mercy. This drama also brings audiences a riveting modern story that makes Divine Mercy remarkably relevant and urgent for our world today. The program is filled with all the elements of professional theater, runs 90 minutes, and is suitable for ages 13 and up.

For tickets and additional information, contact Our Lady of Grace Church Office at 510-537-0806, email newsletter@olgcv.org, or visit our website www.olgcv.org.

Watch the trailer & learn more about St. Faustina at www.DivineMercyDrama.com

PLEASE NOTE

Due to the holiday schedule of our bulletin publisher we are not able to report the weekly offerings for most of December. The Sunday offerings will be updated after the first of the year along with the Christmas Offering

**CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION (CYO)
MASS--JANUARY 16th**

At the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, **January 16th**, our CYO athletes will be recognized in thanksgiving for talents and gifts given by God. The players will be blessed as they come closer to the end of their 2015-2016 season. The coaches and volunteers will receive a blessing as well for all they do to lead the young people in this ministry. Please join with us as we wish them well in their final games of the season.

**FESCO AND CASTRO VALLEY CHRISTMAS
OUTREACH RESULTS AND PRAISE**

This year's generosity of Our Lady of Grace Parish has assisted through the Giving Tree 8 families, 23 people total, with over 150 gifts and gift cards. Each family received approximately \$50 in grocery gift cards and \$50 in Target gift cards. The school's Thanksgiving Drive brought in between \$200 and \$300 in food for each family. We were also able to support Fesco with \$170 in checks, donated toys, and a \$50 Target gift card. Lastly, we were able to help with our own St. Vincent de Paul food pantry by donating \$100 Safeway gift card.

Donations are tax deductible: Castro Valley Outreach 94-3382914, FESCO 94-3029991

Thank you for your part in making a child's Christmas a Merry Christmas.

Wishing you all a Blessed 2016

**YEARLY CONTRIBUTION
STATEMENTS**

For your convenience in preparing your tax return, a contribution statement for 2015 will be prepared at your request. Please phone the Parish Office at 537-0806, with your name and envelope number. Your statement will be available for you to pick up once it has been signed.

**BECAUSE WE CARE
OUTREACH SUNDAY**

Next Sunday, **January 17th** is the third Sunday of the month, and therefore *Outreach Sunday at Our Lady of Grace*. Please consider making donations of non-perishable food items to St. Vincent de Paul, signing up to serve at Strobridge Senior Apartments, or exploring one of the many ways you can better serve those in need in our greater community. For additional information contact Colleen Lindberg at the Parish office, 537-0806.



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:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Dennis Cande | Elaine Jordan |
| Kathleen Denning | Richard Martin |
| Julie Dillon | Doree Rivera |
| Estela Enriquez | Florence Sharp |
| Juanita Estrellas | Iwan Tunggal |
| Mary Franks | James Van Wert |
| Theresa Fuller | Yvonne Wheeler |
| Byron Griffith | |



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.

- VIOLET RAFAEL
JERRY FAIN
FLORENCE GRASSI**

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank-you to all of the parishioners who made a donation towards the flower fund.

**IN LOVING MEMORY/
HONOR OF:**

**REMEMBERED
BY:**

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Anonymous | |
| Markie | |
| Juanita Estrellas | Estrellas Family |
| Bob & Katie Star | |
| Joe & Helen Lang | Barbara Lang |
| Tom & Anne | |
| Dianne Staszkow | Theresa Fuller |
| The Negri, Ferrario, Gaiera & Marzoratti Families | Rina & Jim Negri |
| John Ferrari | Trish Ferrari |
| Sherwood & Connie Burgess | Dennise Burgess |
| Ken & Claire Mallory, Olga & Wm. Carter | Jim & Phyllis Barthman |
| Marie & Harry Barthman | |
| Vertress & Giacomini Families | Bill & Lee Vertress |
| Jim Ferenz, Sr. | Kathleen Cande |
| Baty Families | Marge Baty |
| Robert & Josephine Holter, | |
| Elizabeth & Dominic Grieco | Pat Grasso |
| Frank & Angela Jardine, Bob & Grace Sharp | Bod & Sue Jardine |
| Dionisio & Jeanne Alcanara, | |
| Larry Richard | Jan & Chris Richard |
| Elaine & Joe Pasqual | Linda Pasqual |
| Barbuzano Families | John & Maria Barbuzano |
| Frank Bargiacchi | Theresa Erwin |
| Jack Vincent, Rick & Esther | |
| Buhr & Janice Mundil | Marylou Vincent |
| Henry & Lou Maravella | Anne Friedeberg |
| Robert, Ed & Minnie Bonato, | |
| Joe, Della, Ben & Lea Annunzio, | Barbara J. Bonato |
| Corolie Bernard | Catalina Laris |
| Jorge Laris | Dorothy Caldwell |
| Caldwell Families | Stan Futagaki |
| Futagaki Families | Ann Wright |
| Marion Pundee | |
| Marques, Silva, Mendes & Goncalves Families, and Maria Goncalves | Alice Goncalves |
| Ernest Selmeczki, Peter & Mary Selmeczki, Ulisse & Lucia Bevilacqua | Yola Selmeczki |
| Frederick & Carmine Speranza | Margaret Speranza |
| Antonio S. Barroso, Sr., James & Ann Conway, Nick Music | Jay Barroso |
| Hilda & Andrew Serpa | Gloria Serpa |
| Lolita de Cordova | Guillermo Cordova |
| Kinh Duong | John & Tracy |
| Violet Bartolf | Tom Bartolf |
| Maura Vanderpoorten | Vanderpoorten Family |



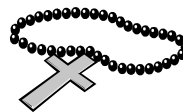
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|---|------------------------|
| Ed Winkenbach | Peg Winkenbach |
| Rico & Emily Santos | C. Reynaud |
| John Mc Cann, Ban Family | Kaye Mc Cann |
| Skokan & Wiedeman Families | M/M Charles Wiedeman |
| The Devine, Dolan & Gessman Families | Patrick & Kathy Devine |
| Garcia Family | Stella Taddei |
| Doug Foxworthy | Serena Foxworthy |
| Lilia Sousa | Jose A. Sousa |
| Cabardo, Noveda, Lopez, Manuel, Maquiling, Coneson & Reyes Families | Virginia Cabardo |
| Lucia P. Dellosa | Carmen Riel |
| Al & Ann Johnson | Veronica Jenning |
| Walter Klas & Nancy Smith | Susan Klas |
| Ludy Tielses | Williams Family |
| Jose Jiao, Jr. & Elena De Mesa | Maria Soledad Jiao |
| Louise Canifax, Delores Orozco, | |
| Elbert Busch | Rich & Ann Ensel |
| Mr. & Mrs. Macario Zaldivar | Mr. & Mrs. Herma Ruiz |
| Kennedy Family | John Kennedy |
| Francis Family | Anastasia Francis |
| Frank Lumsden | Maritza Lumsden |
| Bob Jerome | Anne D. Jerome |
| Robert Dennison & Madge De Vilbiss | Vickie Carrier |

DEVOTIONAL CANDLES



Candles for our candle stand are available for purchase in the Parish Office or in the Sacristy after mass on Sundays. The candles will burn for 5 days. The cost per candle is \$3.00.



ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE

The rosary will be recited for World Peace after the 8:30 am Mass each Monday in the Church. Please join us.

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:

EDEN VILLA ASSISTED LIVING

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 10th:

Coffee & Donuts After All Masses

Children's Liturgy of the Word

9:00am--Mass

CYO Girls Basketball Registration

9:30am--Stack Center

Youth Ministry

After 9:00am Mass--Gym

Religious Education Classes

10:30am--Stack Center

Parish Registration

10:00am--Stack Center

Monday, January 11th:

Women's Bible Study

7:00pm--Stack Center

Tuesday, January 12th:

Bible Study

9:30am--Parish Office

Religious Education Classes

3:45pm--Stack Center

CYO Girls Basketball Registration

6:00pm--Stack Center

Men's Bible Study

7:00pm--Parish Office

Wednesday, January 13th:

Pax Christi/Social Justice Meeting

7:00pm--Augustine Center

Thursday, January 14th:

Italian Catholic Federation Dinner

6:00pm--Stack Center

Serenity Group

7:30pm--Stack Center

Friday, January 15th:

Hispanic Music Rehearsal

7:00pm-- Augustine Center

Saturday, January 16th:

CYO Pizza Party

After 5:00pm Mass--Stack Center

Mass Intentions for the Week

Please note: All weekday masses will be celebrated in the Church until further notice.

MONDAY, JANUARY 11th (CHURCH)

8:30am Deon Roland (D)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12th (CHURCH)

7:00am Jean Morris (D)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13th (CHURCH)

St. Hilary, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

7:00am Helen Maes (D)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14th (CHURCH)

7:00am Rudy & Augie Enriquez (D)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15th (CHURCH)

7:00am Dianne Staszkow (D)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16th (CHURCH)

8:30am Madge Basuino (D)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17th (CHURCH)

11:00am Elisa Gonsalves (D)

EXECUTION ALERTS

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

January 20th Richard Masterson TX

January 21st Christopher Brooks AL

January 27th James Freeman TX

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

January 11th through January 17th

Monday: Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20

Tuesday: Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday: Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39

Thursday: Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45

Friday: Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12

Saturday: Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a

Mark 2:13-17

Sunday: Isaiah 62:1-5; 1Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11