

**Mentored by the Master**

□□□□□□□□ A Vocation – To Be a Disciple of Jesus

From the Pastor Part 1 of a Series by Fr. Paul

Introduction

As you may know, I am the Vocation Director for our Order of the Conventual Franciscans. Fr. Tom asked me to write to you something about Vocations. As a Vocation Director for our Order, I talk to young men thinking about becoming a Franciscan. But to be a Franciscan is only one of many possible vocations. I would like to share some thoughts on what is our common vocation, and how we go about fulfilling it.

Our common vocation is to be a disciple of Jesus. A disciple is a word for student. I like to best think of a relationship between a master pianist and a child protégé. The student learns from the master, both by instruction and imitation. The student spends many hours in the presence of the master, until they themselves become a master. Is our relationship with Jesus, the Master, like this? The story of Martha and Mary in the Gospel of Luke (10:38-42) is another example of a vocation. Are we simply about many things in life like was Martha, without focusing on the one (few) things the Lord is asking of us?

We all have a vocation. We are all disciples of Jesus. We are to spend this life, not just doing what we need to do to survive, but doing what we are created to do; that is, to fulfill our purpose in God's plan. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, will direct us to that purpose if we seek his guidance. But this takes much time, and we must be a serious student, to learn what he wants to show us.

Believer vs. a Follower

In my life, as I look back, I see two distinct stages of my faith. I've always believed in God, because on the day of my first communion, God answered one of my prayers in such a powerful and miraculous way, that I have never since doubted God's existence. However, after that wonderful event, much of my life was spent living as I wanted, and asking God to answer my prayers to give me more of what I wanted. As I look back now, I realize I was asking God to serve me! But are we not called to serve God? To find our vocation, I like to say we must "Flip our Prayer", that is, instead of asking God to give us what we want, we need to ask God to tell us what He wants, so we can in effect answer His prayer!

Prayer is Essential to Hear Your Call

If we pray to ask God what he wants, we must learn to listen to the voice of God. This takes time, to learn the language of God! My best advice is to pray daily, by meditating on the Gospels. It is best to pray an hour a day, but many find that difficult. So, you can, to start, commit 10 minutes every day. Schedule the time and place, and put it in your calendar. Pick a Gospel passage (one short scene). Ask for the Holy Spirit to be with you, to help you pray, to help you hear God's voice, to allow you to truly encounter Jesus, the Master. Imagine the scene as you slowly read the passage. Put yourself in the scene, as one of the characters in the story. Engage your senses; hear the sounds, see the colors, smell the smells, feel the emotions and struggle with the tensions in the scene. As you do this, the scene will start to "Come alive". Feel free to go with it; that is allow it to unfold with more detail than is in the text. Allow it to take a different direction. Trust in the Holy Spirit. As Jesus called His disciples and taught them along "The way" for years; so too Jesus will lead and teach you through this prayer.

Towards the end of my prayer time, it helps me to journal about what happened in my prayer. As I journal, I not only record what happened, but the process of writing additionally opens new insights into the passage and into my life. You might find this to be true for you too.

A regular prayer life, listening to Jesus, is essential to finding your vocation. The best books on prayer I think are by Thomas Green. The two I recommend are *Opening to God* and *When the Well Runs Dry*. In the next bulletin, I will share more on fulfilling your vocation. But I want to stop here to emphasize how important daily listening prayer is in finding your vocation. So, put your "prayer time" appointment for each day, on your calendar now, and be faithful to it!

Peace and All Good!

Fr. Paul

Gospel for the Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (October 22nd)**Matthew 22:15-21**

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech. They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status. Tell us, then, what is your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" Knowing their malice, Jesus said, "Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin that pays the census tax." Then they handed him the Roman coin. He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that he said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

HIGH SCHOOL TEENS: GOT QUESTIONS? ALPHA - October 15th

Join us tonight from 6-8pm in Stack Center to share a **Meal**, watch an exciting **Video** & discuss in small groups the video and **our Faith in God** as we have **Fun** & make new **Friends!** Our hope for those teens who attend ALPHA is to have a deep experience with God as we explore our faith and answer questions in a comfortable setting. Invite your friends, all are welcome!



ALPHA MEETING & RCIA INQUIRY

ALPHA & the RCIA Inquiry Group has begun! We offer a warm, accepting setting in small group discussions to find ways to deepen our faith and to share the possibilities with those seeking membership into the Catholic Church. We meet on Tuesdays at 6:00pm in Stack Center, Rooms 8 & 9. Our next meeting will be **October 17th**. For more information, please contact Marie at comeandseealpha@gmail.com.

WINGS

WOMEN IN GOD'S SPIRIT

We invite all women to join us for WINGS (Women in God's Spirit).

WINGS is a faith enhancement group that encourages spiritual growth through prayer, scripture study, Catechizes, life sharing and community.

We will meet at Transfiguration Church
Marian Room (Hall)

Next Meeting: **October 19**, 2017

9:15am to 11:15 am.

Speaker: Fr. Michael Galvin

Topic: Spiritual Growth

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN TO DO NOW?

Recent Challenges in Light of our Faith

Pax Christi Northern California is hosting an assembly to address the Christian response to the critical issues of immigration, racism, nuclear war, non-violence, and the death penalty. There will be a knowledgeable facilitator on each topic and an opportunity for small, open-ended roundtable discussions. This event is **October 28th**, from 9:30am-12:15pm in the St. Leander's Parish Office Building at 475 W. Estudillo Ave. Registration begins at 9:00am. Free-will offering. Continental breakfast. For more info., contact Dennise at dcburgess1@juno.com or Pat at 510-471-5963.

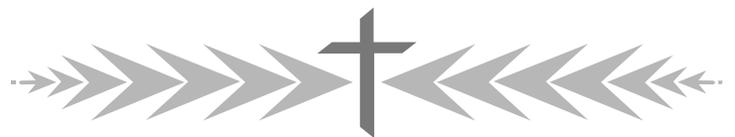
LISTEN FOR LIFE'S "NOTES FOR NOURISHMENT"

Listen for Life's "Notes for Nourishment" benefit concert series continues monthly on Sundays at 3:00pm. All concerts hosted at St. Joseph Basilica at 1109 Chestnut St. in Alameda. Renowned artist from all cultures and countries donate their time/talents to perform FREE one-hour, family-friendly concerts, where donations are collected to benefit nonprofits that nourish the hungry, homeless and hurting in our area. This series was recently voted a "Best Discovery of 2017" finalist in the San Francisco Classical Voice reader's poll! Upcoming concerts are:

October 15th (3:00pm) Kaleidoscope: A musical smorgasbord of renowned artists, instruments and music selections (Beethoven and Brahms plus 2 Jewish wedding dances, 2 versions of Ave Maria, 3 Yiddish melodies, one tango, and lots of joy!) Donations to Helping Hands East Bay and Mexico earthquake victims.

November 12th (3:00pm) Music for Veterans: Rick Harrell & Heroes' Voices, plus Dulcet Four vocal quartet and more, all doing Americana music from the 20's to the present. Donations to HeroesVoices.org

December 3rd (3:00pm) Rejoice! Rejoice!: Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble & the Jubilate Baroque Orchestra perform their annual concert for the holidays, this time as part of our NFN series. Beneficiary: AFB.org



GRATON CASINO RESORT OUTING

Enjoy the day at Graton Casino & Resort with OLG Parishioners on Friday, **November 17th**. We depart the Church at 9:30am. Cost is \$32 per person. **Please sign up by October 25th**. For reservations & more information, please contact Dorothy Cassani at 510-331-5553.



BOY SCOUT WREATH SALE

Boy Scout Troop 876 will be taking orders for Christmas wreaths on **October 29th** after the 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 Masses. Place your order for delivery the 1st week in December. Enjoy the smell of fresh greenery this holiday season while helping the Scouts earn money to support their troop in their only fundraiser of the year.

WE THANK OUR 2017 FESTIVAL FRIENDS AND DONORS

We are grateful to the many individuals and businesses who donated goods and services to our 2017 Festival! Their efforts and donations were most appreciated by the Festival Committee and in turn, we especially encourage your consideration and support of them.

- Alameda County Sheriffs
- Al's Market
- Boy Scout Pack 722
- C&L Produce
- CV Tire Pros
- Castro Valley Sanitary District
- Castro Valley School of Music
- Castro Valley Village Bowl
- Chris Zaballos
- Cresco
- Dark Horse Lounge
- Debbie Laughlin at Barretta Design
- Great America
- Holy Angels Funeral and Cremation Center
- JP's Family Lounge
- Karin Johnson Specialty Cakes
- Knights of Columbus
- Lagunitas Brewery
- Little Sunshine Learning Center
- Luckys
- Massage Envy
- Miraglia Catering
- Musicians & Entertainers
- Norwex Independent Consultant
- Opie's Gourmet Burgers
- Portales Taqueria
- Richardson Family
- Safeway
- 76 Gas, Castro Valley Boulevard
- Shasta
- Sprouts
- Stephen Kwok Photography
- Target
- The Conventual Franciscan Community
- Trader Joe's
- Volunteers, Booth Chairs, and Coordinators
- Waste Management
- Woodbridge Winery

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 October 8th:

Sunday Plate:	\$ 7,369.00
Last Year this week	\$ 9,030.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,920.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$340,086.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$334,680.00

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:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Glen Alcorn | Don Jordan |
| Kathleen Andrews | Elaine Jordan |
| Susanna Ax | Alice McLaughlin |
| James Barthman | Rosy Pereira |
| Leonardo Cabardo | Stephanie Rosevear |
| Jose Cisneros | David Rountree |
| Claudia Dobbs | Florence Sharp |
| Lynn Franks | Mercedes Tellez |
| Byron Griffith | Iwan Tunggal |
| Dieter Hahn | |

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

**VICTIMS OF NORTH BAY FIRES,
SHOOTING IN LAS VEGAS,
HURRICANE HARVEY, IRMA & MARIA
EARTHQUAKES IN MEXICO**

HEARTFELT THANKS!

Thank you to our OLG Community who have donated generously to the Hurricane Response Relief & through Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrimage Petition towards rebuilding the lives of those deeply affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.





**ROSARY MEDITATIONS
FROM ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE**

Militia Immaculata Celebrating 100 years!

100 years ago St. Maximilian Kolbe along with 6 other Franciscans began a prayer movement of Consecration to the Blessed Mother to evangelize the world and lead people through Mary and her mission of bearing Christ to the world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In honor of this anniversary and the witness of the life and heroic death of St. Maximilian Kolbe we will use his reflections to help us enter into the mysteries of the Rosary. Our Reflection this week is the Luminous Mystery of The Institution of the Eucharist:

“The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in the Garden -- Matthew 26:36-46

Let us trust in God, trust Him without limits. Let us be confident that, if we are concerned only with doing His will, no real harm will ever come to us, even if we were to live in times a thousandfold harsher than the ones we live in now. In all things let us not forget to repeat with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane: “Not My will but Thine be done” (Luke 22:42). And if, as happened in the Gethsemane, God were to see fit not to grant our requests and send a cup to drink to the last drop, let us not forget that Jesus not only suffered, but then was also gloriously risen, and that we long for resurrection even through suffering. (KW 1264).”



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CASTRO VALLEY HOMELESS OUTREACH

The OLG community is very blessed in many ways, and we have the opportunity to share God’s blessing with others. For the last several months we have provided food and supplies to the homeless in Castro Valley. There is a critical need to expand this ministry, and we need your help. Their needs are simple - food, canned or prepared - pretty much anything that can be cooked or reheated on a camp stove. Food is shared, so don’t worry about quantity, anything is greatly appreciated. Other key items include propane for camp stoves, AAA batteries, flashlights and batteries, black garbage bags (30 gallon), plastic flatware, tarps, and camping equipment of all kinds, PARTICULARLY with cold weather coming. We will arrange to pick-up your donation and deliver it to those in need. Please contact Ken White at k2rm@comcast.net at (510) 909-5774. or Sean Nalty at sean.nalty@ogletree.com at (415) 369-3552 . Thank you and God Bless!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 15th:

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Bread for the Word “Offering of Letters”

7:30am--Prayer Garden

Liturgy of the Word

9:30am--Augustine Center

Coffee & Donuts

After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center

Whole Family Catechesis

10:50am--Stack Center

ALPHA/Youth Ministry

6:00pm--Stack Center

Tuesday, October 17th:

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

9:30am--Stack Center, Room 7

Alpha/RCIA

6:00pm--Stack Center, Rooms 8 & 9

Men’s Bible Study

7:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7

Wednesday, October 18th:

Strobridge Dinner

5:30pm--Strobridge Apartments

Thursday, October 19th:

Adoration

7:00pm--Church

AA Serenity Group

7:30pm--Augustine Center, Room A2

Saturday, October 21st:

Adoration

8:45am--Church

Sunday, October 22nd:

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgy of the Word

9:30am--Augustine Center

Coffee & Donuts

After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center

New Parishioner Registration

10:00am--Stack Center

Whole Family Catechesis

10:50am--Stack Center

ALPHA/Youth Ministry

6:00pm--Stack Center

Mass Intentions for the Week



All Masses are celebrated in the Church.

SUNDAY, October 15th

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Martyr Martin (D)

1:15pm Rafael Valenzuela Medina (D)

MONDAY, October 16th

St. Hedwig, Religious

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

8:15am Mark Kochel (D)

TUESDAY, October 17th

St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr

8:15am Maria & Jose Pangelinan (D)

WEDNESDAY, October 18th

ST. LUKE, EVANGELIST

8:15am Debi Telles (D)

THURSDAY, October 19th

St. John de Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues, Priests & Companions, Martyrs

8:15am Dorothy & Manuel Callier (D)

FRIDAY, October 20th

St. Paul of the Cross, Priest

Blessed James of Strepar, OFM, Conv., Bishop

8:15am Mark Kochel (D)

SATURDAY, October 21st

St. Callistus I, Pope, Martyr

8:15am Danae Zytrowskie (D)

SUNDAY, October 22nd

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:30am Debbie & Doug Reetz & Family (L)

1:15pm Jesus Lopez (D)

EXECUTION ALERTS

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

October 5th	Jeffrey Borden	AL
October 5th	Michael Lambrix	FL
October 12th	Robert Pruett	TX
October 18th	Anthony Shore	TX
October 19th	Torrey McNabb	AL

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

October 16th through October 22nd

Monday: Romans 1:1-7; Luke 11:29-32
 Tuesday: Romans 1:16-25; Luke 11:37-41
 Wednesday: 2 Timothy 4:10-17b; Luke 10:1-9
 Thursday: Romans 3:21-30; Luke 11:47-54
 Friday: Romans 4:1-8; Luke 12:1-7
 Saturday: Romans 4:13, 16-18; Luke 12:8-12;
 Sunday: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b; Matthew 22:15-21

"WHEN I WAS HUNGRY, YOU GAVE ME TO EAT"

OLG Parish is participating in the annual Bread for the World "Offering of Letters" next week-end, **October 14 - 15**. Bread for the World is an inter-faith Christian based group that lobbies our nation's decision-makers to pass legislation that will end hunger both at home and abroad. We are asking you to take a few minutes next weekend after Mass to stop at one of the tables set up near the entrances to the church to sign a letter or write your own letter to our Senators and Representatives asking them to support bills that will help the most vulnerable in our nation and around the world.



FLOWER REMEMBRANCE FUND

Flower donation envelopes can be found at the entrances of the church to make a donation in memory of or honor of a loved one or other occasion. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jay at 537-0806. Your donation in honor of your loved one will be mentioned in the bulletin.



COME JOIN US

All are invited after the **9:30am** Sunday Mass to gather in Stack Center or coffee and donuts.

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:

CFCS - OAKLAND c/o CMS