


Mentored by the Master

 A Vocation – To Be a Disciple of Jesus

From the Pastor Part 2 of a Series by Fr. Paul
Introduction

As Jesus called, formed, and then sent his disciples, so too us. Through prayer, sacramental life and service, we are “Mentored by the Master”, and guided to our vocation. In last week’s article, I emphasized the importance of listening prayer as the first step of following Jesus. What are the next steps? Since I am the Franciscan Vocation director, I will offer the life of St. Francis as an example.

St. Francis’ Vocation

St. Francis was born in Assisi, over 800 years ago, into a family of a cloth merchant. This made Francis part of the upper middle-class. He was popular with the youth, and enjoyed a good party. He was also born at a very violent time, when war was common, and warriors were admired. Francis dreamed to be a soldier and a Knight. During a war with the neighboring town, Perugia, he witnessed many of his friends killed. He himself was taken prisoner and spent over a year as a Prisoner of War, and nearly a year longer at home recovering his health. It is believed that this time of crisis began a period of deep prayer, and the beginning of a time of questioning the values of his family, and the world into which he was born. However, after regaining his health, not knowing what God really planned for him, he continued his plan to become a Knight. On his way to serve in the Crusades, God began to speak to him in a series of dreams, indicating he was to be a Knight for God’s Kingdom, not man’s, and that he should return home. Not knowing for what God asked him to return home to do, and being less than well received by family and friends who thought he was a coward, Francis continued to pray regularly. One day in the little Church of San Damiano, the Crucifix spoke to him; “Francis Rebuild My House which you can see is falling into ruin.” Francis began to physically rebuild that church, and two others. As Francis continued to pray, and work, God revealed to him his selfish desires, and how he had espoused the values of the world, not God. Francis renounced wealth, and chose to be poor and dependent on God alone. He began to serve the poor and outcasts of his society (the lepers), those who were not seen as important in the world’s eyes. On the Feast of the Apostle Matthias, moved by the Gospel of Mt 10:7-19, Francis heard; “Go, preach, saying The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.... Take neither gold nor silver... nor shoes nor a staff.” Francis imitated what he heard, took a tunic (our habit) with a rope around his waist, and began to preach repentance and the Kingdom of God in the streets of Assisi. Soon others, impressed by his witness of Joy and total dedication to God, followed him. The Franciscan Order was born. St. Clare also followed, and the Poor Clares were formed. Then married and lay people followed, and the Secular Franciscans were born. Franciscans changed Europe, and the world. They rebuilt God’s home, the Church, which was falling into ruin at that time.

Our Vocation

Like St. Francis, our vocation must come from a life of prayer that leads us, step by step, in uncertainty and faith, to an end we never clearly see. Each step gives us new experiences to bring into prayer, and then the Spirit speaks to indicate what might be the next step. Our journey often begins with an event, or events, that cause us to question our world view, and invites us to see the world’s values from God’s point of view. Then, we must actively structure our life to reject what is contrary to God’s kingdom. (E.g. live simply, seeking to serve God rather than pursuing the world’s values.) This may cause those in the world to criticize us, or at least not understand us. Prayer guides one into action, but the actions we are called to take are usually only vaguely discerned. We act with uncertainty, in faith, and then prayerfully examine the results, and ask again, ‘What next Lord?’ The actions we take should be both within the church, such as volunteering in your parish community, and outside of the Church, such as directly serving the poor. Prayer and service together shape a person that is authentic, Christlike, and filled with Joy. Then, in God’s time, when God’s servant is sufficiently formed, God uses our specific gifts and talents, and the situations of our lives, to build up the Kingdom of God, by both word and deed. We become an Apostle, that is an Evangelist, in a way that is uniquely our own. God will offer us “Invitations” for new ways to serve. These invitations are usually subtle, requiring a listening and prayerful heart to hear. By first doing what was possible, following God’s voice the best we know how, we one day find ourselves doing what was impossible. We become Heralds of the King, like St. Francis, who at first built physical Churches, stone by stone, then on that foundation, God built His Church, the body of Christ.

As we build our foundation of prayer, sacrament, simplicity of life, service in church and world, God will gently lead us into deeper service, our vocation.

Read more about St. Francis in a short biography I recommend: Saint Francis of Assisi A Life Inspired, by Wyatt North. A more in-depth biography is: St. Francis of Assisi A Biography, by Omer Englebert. Learn more about discerning a Franciscan Vocation at FranciscanDiscernment.org.

HIGH SCHOOL TEENS: GOT QUESTIONS? ALPHA - October 22nd

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 24th**. For more information, please contact Marie at comeandseelalpha@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, Catechesis, life sharing and community.

We will meet at Transfiguration Church
Marian Room (Hall)

Next Meeting: **November 2, 2017**
9:15am to 11:15am.

Speaker: Fr. Paul Gawlowski
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.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY & CATHOLIC HOME MISSION APPEAL

An envelope for this special collection is in the pews for the collection on **October 22nd**. Please note that 45.5% of the funds raised will go to the National Office for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, 4.5% to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, and 50% to the office of National Collections, Catholic Home Mission Appeal. Thank you for your response to this appeal.

The Lord IS CALLING You!?? MEN'S FAITH SHARING

All men of the parish are invited to join Our Men's Faith Share and Bible Study every TUESDAY evening from 7 – 8:15pm in Stack Center-Room 7. Each week Fr. Paul leads a discussion on the meaning and application to our lives for the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. **COME & YOU WILL SEE!** (Jn 1:39). Next meeting is **October 24th**.

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.

COME & SEE

The Life & Ministry of the Friars

We invite unmarried men, ages 18-50 to meet the Friars, pray with us, learn our Spirituality and learn more about our life! **November 24-26**, beginning on 11/24 at 4:00pm at the Holy Family Friary (19697 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley). For more information, call Fr. Paul at 510-671-0537.



**PRE-BAPTISM CLASS
FOR PARENTS
AND GODPARENTS**

If you are wishing to have your child, ages infant to six years baptized, parents and godparents need to attend a pre-baptism class. You also need to be registered members of the parish for at least three months. Call Jay at 510-537-0806 for more information.

The next Pre-Baptism Class will be held **November 1st** at 7:00pm in the OLG Room in Stack Center.

CASTRO VALLEY HOMELESS OUTREACH

We would like to thank those who volunteered for the Homeless Outreach this past weekend. You were very generous and the recipients of your kindness were incredibly appreciative. You indeed shared God's blessing with these people.

Just knowing that someone cares means the world to them. This is a continuing effort, there is still a critical need to expand this ministry, and we need your help. We plan to do another drop off on **October 28th**.

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, flashlights and batteries, plastic flatware, and camping equipment of all kinds, particularly lanterns. In addition, PARTICULARLY with cold weather coming, pallets, plywood or OSB sheets - full (4x8) or half (4x4), and tarps. We will arrange to pick-up your donation and deliver it directly to the people, in our own community, who are 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

**ANNUAL BISHOPS APPEAL
HEARTFELT THANKS!**

Many thanks to those who gave generously towards this year's Bishop Appeal. Our efforts resulted in raising \$29,710.00 and reaching 118% of our goal at Our Lady of Grace! The parish will receive back all funds collected over our goal for parish needs.

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:	\$ 8,310.00
Last Year this week	\$ 8,566.00
Weekly Budgeted Goal:	\$ 8,920.00
Year-to-date this year:	\$348,396.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$343,246.00

May God bless your continuing generosity.



Your Prayers Are Requested

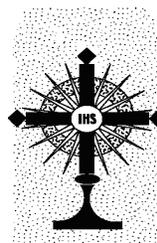
Please lift up in your prayer those many among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

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

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

DONNA BIDDINGER

VICTIMS OF NORTH BAY FIRES



**ADORATION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Join us every Saturday for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:15am Mass, and every Thursday at 7:00pm in the Church. Also, there will be Adoration every 1st Friday of the month at 7:00pm.

**Gospel for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
(October 29th) Matthew 22:34-40**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

**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 Sorrowful Mystery of The Scourging at the Pillar:

“The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Scourging at the Pillar -- Matthew 27:26

When we encounter difficulties that we are unable to overcome, or are beleaguered by temptation, let us not lose heart, but always turn to Mary in full confidence, as children toward their mother. She will infuse us with the light and the strength we need, will hold us close to her heart and sweeten the most bitter sorrows. No place on earth will ever be completely free of crosses: if we had no crosses, we would not have the chance to gain heaven. Therefore, let us not try to avoid the cross too much, and if we need to take it on our shoulders, let us carry it willingly out of love for the Immaculata. (KW 751).”

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

We extend a warm welcome to new parishioners and guests. Please stop by Stack Center on **November 12th** at 10:30am. to register or update your information. A Hospitality volunteer will greet you at the New Parishioner Registration Table. We are grateful to our volunteers for providing this ministry on our behalf.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 22nd:

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgy of the Word
9:30am--Augustine Center

Whole Family Catechesis
10:50am--Stack Center

ALPHA/Youth Ministry
6:00pm--Stack Center

Monday, October 23rd:

Women’s Evening Bible Study
7:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7

Tuesday, October 24th:

Tuesday Morning Bible Study
9:30am--Stack Center, Room 7

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

Men’s Faith Share
7:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7

Thursday, October 26th:

Adoration
7:00pm--Church

Knights of Columbus
7:00pm--Stack Center

AA Serenity Group
7:30pm--Augustine Center, Room A2

Saturday, October 28th:

Adoration
8:45am--Church

Sunday, October 29th:

The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgy of the Word
9:30am--Augustine Center

First Communion Class
10:50am--Stack Center

ALPHA/Youth Ministry
6:00pm--Stack Center

ROSARY BEFORE MASS



Come join in prayer of the Rosary 30 minutes before each of the weekend liturgies. Pray for our Parish and our youth as they journey with the Alpha Youth program. All are welcome!

Mass Intentions for the Week

All Masses are celebrated in the Church.

SUNDAY, October 22nd

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:30am Debbie & Doug Reetz & Family

1:30pm Jesus Lopez (D)

MONDAY, October 23rd

St. John of Capistrano, priest, OFM, Conv.

8:15am Rose Nicasio (D)

TUESDAY, October 24th

St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

8:15am Christian Calingo (D)

WEDNESDAY, October 25th

8:15am Dorothy & Manuel Callier (D)

THURSDAY, October 26th

Blessed Bonaventure of Potenza, priest, OFM, Conv.

8:15am Virginia Madden (L)

FRIDAY, October 27th

8:15am Paul & Gretchen Reetz & Family (L)

SATURDAY, October 28th

STS. SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES

8:15am Martina Tina (D)

5:00pm Angie Sinnott (D)

SUNDAY, October 29th

The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am Rosalie Gessman (D)

1:30pm Luis & Lucy Covarrubias (L)

EXECUTION ALERTS

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

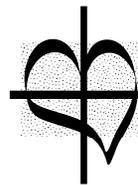
October 5th	Jeffrey Borden	AL
October 5th	Michael Lambrix	FL
October 12th	Robert Pruett	TX
October 18th	Anthony Shore	TX
October 19th	Torrey McNabb	AL
October 26th	Clinton Young	TX

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

October 23rd through October 29th

- Monday: Romans 4:20-25; Luke 12:13-21
- Tuesday: Romans 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Luke 12:35-38
- Wednesday: Romans 6:12-18; Luke 12:39-48
- Thursday: Romans 6:19-23; Luke 12:49-53
- Friday: Romans 7:18-25a; Luke 12:54-59
- Saturday: Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16;
- Sunday: Exodus 22:20-26; 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10; Matthew 22:34-40



The Lord is kind and merciful

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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 \$4.00. The glass globes in the candle stand must be left in the church.



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.

IMMACULATE HEART RADIO

Dedicated to sharing the heart of the Catholic Faith and changing lives, Immaculate Heart Radio brings you the best in Catholic Radio 24/7! Now playing 1260AM.

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:

CLAYWORTH HEALTHCARE PHARMACY