

A sower went out to sow.
Some seed fell on the path . . .
some fell on rocky ground.
. . . Some seed fell among thorns.
. . . But some fell on rich soil,
and produced fruit.

MATTHEW 13:3, 4, 5, 7, 8



NATURE'S BEAUTY

Our responsorial psalm today is a beautiful song of the joy of the Earth, putting forth its bounty and rejoicing in its fruitfulness. We are filled with joy when we see images of the earth blooming. So many people describe their experience of God's presence in their appreciation of nature's beauty. This alone is good reason to protect the beauty and wholeness of nature. "You have visited the land and watered it, / greatly have you enriched it. / God's watercourses are filled; / you have prepared the grain" (Psalm 65:10). Sadly, we do many things to destroy nature, even though it belongs ultimately to God and to all people: "[A]ll creation is groaning in labor pains even until now" (Romans 8:22).

YOU HAVE CROWNED THE YEAR WITH YOUR BOUNTY

"My word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). Nature and people rejoice at these words, for they not only describe the beauty and fruitfulness of nature's gifts, which "shout and sing for joy" (Psalm 65:14), but profess a profound truth. This truth is that God's word is living and effective; that is, it accomplishes what it says. When God speaks a word of comfort or correction, what is said is done in its fullness.

THE SOWER SOWS THE SEED

Haven't we all wondered sometimes which kind of ground we are as the seed falls? Do we spring up with joy, but then wither because the word has not taken root in us? Are we so tied up in worry and concern for material wellbeing that the word is choked off in us with cares? Or are we the rich soil on which the word of God falls, bearing rich fruit in our lives and making the lives of others better? We are probably all of these at one time or another in our lives. As we concern ourselves with these thoughts, we can hope that we are or are becoming the rich soil of open souls, open to God's effective word in us. If we are devoted to God, we ask God for help to be the souls who are receptive to God's word every day.

There are those who "shall indeed hear but not understand . . . look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people" (Matthew 13:14–15). They shall not be converted and healed. But those who concern themselves with the things of God "see what you see" and "hear what you hear" (Matthew 13:16) and rejoice in God's wonderful gifts on this Earth. Blessed are those who are the good soil who hear the word of God and keep it.

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 55:10–11
Psalm 65:10–14
Romans 8:18–23
Matthew 13:1–23 [1–9]

JULY 12
2020

FIFTEENTH
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME

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Una vez salió un sembrador a sembrar.
 Unos granos cayeron
 a lo largo del camino . . .
 Otros granos cayeron
 en terreno pedregoso.
 . . . Otros cayeron entre espinos.
 . . . Otros granos cayeron en tierra buena
 y dieron fruto.

MATEO 13:3, 4, 5, 7, 8



LA BELLEZA DE LA NATURALEZA

Nuestro salmo responsorial de hoy es un hermoso canto de la alegría de la Tierra, que ofrece su generosidad y regocijo en su fecundidad. Estamos llenos de alegría cuando vemos imágenes de la tierra floreciendo. Muchas personas describen su experiencia de la presencia de Dios en su apreciación de la belleza de la naturaleza. Sólo esto es una buena razón para proteger la belleza y la integridad de la naturaleza. “Has visitado la tierra y la has resacido, / en gran medida la has enriquecido. / Los cursos de agua de Dios están llenos; / has preparado el grano” (Salmos 65:10). Lamentablemente, hacemos muchas cosas para destruir la naturaleza, aunque pertenece en última instancia a Dios y a todas las personas: “Toda la creación está gimiendo en los dolores de parto incluso hasta ahora” (Romanos 8:22).

CORONASTE EL AÑO CON TU GENEROSIDAD

Mi palabra “no volverá a mí sin resultado, sino que hará mi voluntad y cumplirá su misión” (Isaías 55:11). La naturaleza y las personas se alegran con estas palabras, porque no solamente describen la belleza y fertilidad de los dones de la naturaleza que “aclaman y cantan” (Salmo 65:14), sino que profesa una profunda verdad. La verdad es que la Palabra de Dios es viva y eficaz; es decir, cumple lo que dice. Cuando Dios habla una palabra de consuelo o corrección, lo que dice se realiza en su plenitud.

EL SEMBRADOR SEMBRÓ LA SEMILLA

¿Será que alguna vez ya nos hicimos la pregunta acerca de qué tipo de tierra somos donde cae la semilla? Crecemos con alegría, pero entonces ¿por qué la Palabra no se ha enraizado en nosotros? ¿Estamos tan atados a la preocupación por el bienestar material que la Palabra se ahoga en nosotros con preocupaciones? ¿O somos la tierra fértil en la que la Palabra cae, produciendo abundante fruto en nuestras vidas y haciéndolas mejor para los demás? Probablemente somos todos esos tipos de tierra al mismo tiempo u otro en nuestras vidas. Al preocuparnos con estos pensamientos, podemos esperar que somos o estamos convirtiéndonos en la tierra fértil de almas abiertas, abrirse a la palabra efectiva de Dios en nosotros. Si somos devotos a Dios, pedimos a Dios su ayuda para ser las almas para que cada día sean receptivas a la Palabra de Dios.

Están aquellos que “viendo no ven y oyendo no oyen ni entienden. . . , porque este pueblo ha endurecido su corazón” (Mateo 13:14-15). Ellos no se convertirán ni sanarán. Pero aquellos que se preocupen por las cosas de Dios “porque sus ojos ven y sus oídos oyen” (Mateo 13:16) y se alegran en los dones maravillosos dones de Dios a la Tierra. Dichosos aquellos que son tierra fértil y escuchan la palabra de Dios y la guardan.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Isaías 55:10-11
 Salmo 65 (64):10-14
 Romanos 8:18-23
 Mateo 8:18-23

12 DE JULIO
 DE 2020

DECIMOQUINTO
 DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO
 ORDINARIO

Our Parish Financial Corner

Update

Sunday 7-05-2020:

Envelopes/checks: \$ 12,978.00
Plate: 378.00
Online Giving 7-05-2020: \$ 11,031.00

Total for 7-05-2020: \$ 24,387.00

JPII Debt Envelopes/checks: \$ 1,750.00

JPII Debt online: \$ 1,895.50

Total JPII 7-05-2020: \$ 3,645.50

Total Misc. Income: \$ 4,050.00

JPII

Parish Debt Elimination Campaign

June payment: \$13,000.00

Balance on Debt: \$213,228.72



Prayer to Saint Joseph for intercession in Financial Difficulty

Dear Saint Joseph, You were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with fatherly compassion upon those parish families in their anxiety over their present inability to support their families.

Please help them to find gainful employment very soon, so that this heavy burden of concern will be lifted from their hearts and that they are soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to their care. Help us to guard against bitterness and discouragement, so that we may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessings from God. Amen.

Dear Parishioners,

For your convenience we have provided several ways you can send us your offering.

- Safely drop off in the office between the hours 9 am to 2:30 pm Mon-Thurs.
- Drop in the mail slot in the Serra Building which is checked daily
- Mail in to St. Peter & St. Paul, 9135 Banyan St. Alta Loma, 91737
- Online giving via our website stpeterstpaul.com
- Through your bank

Thank you for your continued support of our parish and we all pray that we will be back together in our pews very soon. May God bless you and keep you and your families safe.

In Christ's Service

Father Henry



Diocesan Development Fund Campaign Progress

Diocese Goal: \$99,975.00

Pledges Made: \$125,722.00

Gifts Received: \$85,952.00

Donors: 426

Percent of Goal: 85.97 %

As of: Jul 06, 2020 8:36PM

Catholic Spirituality | Mass Schedule & Intentions



Susan Vogt—Author, Speaker, Coach
Helping couples & families foster their
deepest beliefs.

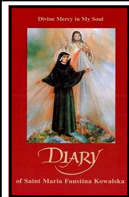
Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers

Love Begins at Home

Heaven on Earth ... Sign up for Eucharistic



The reason I keep up the Holy Hour is to grow more and more into his likeness. As Paul puts it: "We are transfigured into his likeness, from splendor to splendor." We become like that which we gaze upon. Looking into a sunset, the face takes on a golden glow. Looking at the Eucharistic Lord for an hour transforms the heart in a mysterious way as the face of Moses was transformed after his companionship with God on the mountain. Something happens to us similar to that which happened to the disciples at Emmaus. On Easter Sunday afternoon when the Lord met them, he asked why they were so gloomy. After spending some time in his presence, and hearing again the secret of spirituality – "The Son of Man must suffer to enter into his Glory" – their time with him ended and their "hearts were on fire" ...



Divine Mercy in My Soul
from the Diary of
Saint Faustina Kowalska

"Jesus: 'My child, life on earth is a struggle indeed; a great struggle for my kingdom. But fear not, because you are not alone. I am always supporting you, so lean on Me as you struggle, fearing nothing. Take the vessel of trust and draw from the fountain of life – for yourself, but also for other souls, especially such as are distrustful of My goodness.'"
(No. 1488)

Every time we participate in the sacraments, God pours forth "a ray" of His "merciful grace". This summer, I encourage you to seek more opportunities to "set ajar the door" to your heart by participating more frequently in the sacraments. Consider attending daily Mass or receiving the sacrament of Confession more often. Through God's mercy, the sacraments give us grace to become better people.

Saturday, July 4	8:00 AM	For Religious Freedom Mario Zarate Jr. - Happy Birthday
	4:00 PM	†Maria Castillo †Adela Woiteshek
Sunday, July 5	7:30 AM	†Juana Alamillo †Lois Brennan
	9:00 AM	†Feliciano Misleng †Carlito Malonzo
	11:00 AM	Mirote Family †Kenneth Smith †Luisito Talusan
	1:00 PM	†Jose Orozco †Ignacio G. Aguirre People of the Parish
	5:00 PM	
Monday, July 6	7:30 AM	Evelyn Smith - Happy Birthday Andrew Alvarez
Tuesday, July 7	7:30 AM	Andrew Alvarez †Yvonne Steckler
Wednesday, July 8	7:30 AM	Andrew Alvarez †Manuel Valle
Thursday, July 9	7:30 AM	Andrew Alvarez Brian Patterson †Larry Dominguez
Friday, July 10	7:30 AM	Melissa Hartill Rachel Hawk Andrew Alvarez
Saturday, July 11	4:00 PM	People of the Parish
Sunday, July 12	7:30 AM	†James Andrewlaws †Daniel M Richter
	9:00 AM	†Frank Crapson †Joseph & Ida Braga
	11:00 AM	†Lorraine Navarro †Mr & Mrs Jose Cardoso †Carol Gaglio
	1:00 PM	
	5:00 PM	Victoria Patterson †John Eric Swing



Flowers on the Altar were Donated by

Vilma H. Ladores

In Thanksgiving

Please visit my blog www.priestmbp.com

To stay connected with you, the People of God.

May God help you to find whichever is lost in your life.

I just found some words and sentences instead of that missing back pack.

THE PRIEST OF THE MISSING BACK PACK

"I DID NOT FIND MY BACK PACK, BUT I FOUND MANY REASONS TO WRITE ABOUT THE LORD..."



St. Vincent de Paul's Corner

National SVDP has asked that our
helpline be closed
For the safety of everyone
due to the pandemic

For immediate assistance, dial 211 or
Catholic Charities (909) 880-3625
Questions about SVDP? Contact:

Scott, sandnsky8@gmail.com or Fred, Firetruckfreddy@earthlink.net

Food donations for those in need in our community can be placed at any time in the container in front of the office. A portion will be distributed to the food pantry at His Hands at St. Joseph's church in Upland. Questions about food donations? Sherry B. Busiabaer@outlook.com

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

Matthew 25: 31-46

Prayer for America

Dear God, we thank you for the bountiful blessings you have bestowed on us. Guide us in being good stewards of these gifts. Let us care for all of your beautiful creation, from the redwood forests to the gulfstream waters. Make us instruments of your peace in order to put an end to rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air.

Help us to love and care for all of our neighbors - locally and globally - so that we might be truly crowned with brotherhood from sea to shining sea. Amen.



The Military Ministry at St Peter St Paul is currently seeking parishioners with family members serving in the military.



Military Ministry Request

The Military Ministry at St. Peter & St. Paul is seeking anyone interested in being part of our team, which will be made up of parishioners who have family members actively serving in the military. As well as, those who have a love for our military and are dedicated to keeping those who have served in our prayers. Activities of this ministry will consist of mailing care packages to military family members of our parishioners, support for families that have a loved one serving in active duty, coordinating with past and present military families for parish events, organizing special Masses and events for the Military holidays and celebrations. you are interested in being involved in this ministry, please contact: Jonathan & Lynde Peralta (Jonathan @ 951-285-0270, Lynde @909-938-3243)

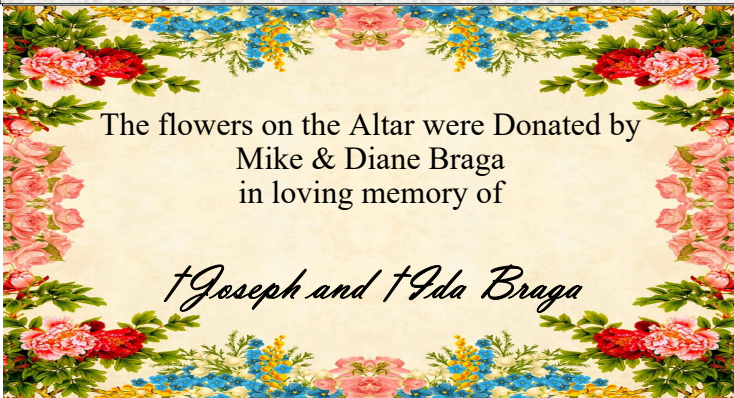
Military Prayer List Please pray for those serving our country

(PFC) Jacob Beaty
(AMN) Jacob Beckham
(MC) Hadji Cabangcalan
(MSG) Carlos Carrasco
(LTC) Jeffrey Combalecer
(PFC) Candace Cordero
(SGT) Christian Cortez
(SGT) Kurt Rehnburg
(SMCCA) Raymund Alvaran
(E3) Alexander Jimenez
(PFC) Jacob Rivas

(PFC) Christian Lopez
(SSG) Kamrin Pavlos
(PO) Matthew Peralta
(MSG) Victor Sanz
(SSG) Jordan Stone
(Specialist) Nathan Taylor
(Sgt) Riley Villapando
(SR) Nicole Woodall
(USMC) Joseph Luzzini
Daniel Duarte III

The flowers on the Altar were Donated by
Mike & Diane Braga
in loving memory of

†Joseph and †Ida Braga



ST. PETER & ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL ■ WHERE FAITH MEETS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE!

JULY CALENDAR

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY—WEDNESDAY | 8:30 AM—1:30 PM
6-10: SCHOOL OFFICE IS CLOSED



Do you need a Gift Card for a Birthday, Anniversary, Clothing, Gas, Food or Everyday items?

We sell Scrip gift cards for many retailers like Target, Arco, Walmart, Panera Bread, Arco, Starbuck's, etc. Stop by our school office from 8:30-9:30 am Mondays. The gift card rebates (% varies per gift card purchase) support our school. **Not a school family? No problem!** You may still buy gift cards to help our general fund or support a school family with their Tuition Support Obligation. See the Office for details.



ADMINISTRATION

- Kelly Burt—Principal
- Joann Losciale—Preschool Director
- Laura Onopa—Business Manager
- Maria Trujillo—Administrative Assistant

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE! #SPSPSAINTS

Thank You for Supporting our 31st Saints Gala Online Auction

All proceeds will directly benefit our academic & athletic programs.

♥ In Smaller Classes Students...
 Are Part of a Close-Knit Community ♦ Process More & Participate Frequently ♦ Speak Up & Are Higher Achievers
 Have More One-to-One Time w/Teachers ♦ Are More Likely to Excel in H.S. & Beyond ♦ Help Your Child Succeed in Life.

ENROLL NOW!



† FAITH IN OUR FUTURE! †

**Now Enrolling for SY 2020-21
 Preschool - 8th Grade**



"TO BE SAINTS IS NOT A PRIVILEGE FOR THE FEW, BUT A VOCATION FOR EVERYONE" - POPE FRANCIS

Smaller Class Sizes

- Preschool Classes = 12
- Average Grade School Classes = 16:1

Co-curricular Subjects:

- Computers, Music, Art, Spanish, and Sparks®
- Physical Education
- School Library & RC Book Mobile

- WCEA/WASC Accredited
- Diocesan & CA Common Core Standards
- Credentialed Teachers
- Weekly School Mass

- Accelerated Reader & Math
- ICSL Sports Program
- Before & after school 7 a.m.—6 p.m.
- Catered hot lunch program

- Renovated classrooms
- New S.T.E.A.M. Lab
- 100 Mile Club®
- AHA Kids Heart Challenge
- Community Service and Outreach



**9135 BANYAN STREET
 ALTA LOMA, CA 91737**

WWW.STPETERSTPAULSCHOOL.COM
SUMMER HOURS: MON-WED | 8:30 AM-1:30 PM

**TEL: (909) 987-7908
 FAX: (909) 987-6779**

July

Youth Ministry and Confirmation

Stuebenville Online!

Join us for an online retreat for all high school students July 17-18
Contact Maggie for more information.

Ministries offered by the Youth Office:

Youth Groups:

EDGE

Middle School

Edge is a Catholic middle school youth ministry program. It provides a safe fun place for youth to find solid Catholic community.

LIFE TEEN

High School

Life Teen is a movement within the Roman Catholic Church, Life Teen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

For more information please contact Maggie

Catechism:

Sacramental Prep.

Sacramental Preparation is available for all high school and middle school teens who are seeking to receive their First Communion.

For more information please contact Daniel



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is open for all teens ready to take a step forward in their faith and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your teen must be 14 at the time of enrollment.

Young Adults:

RENEWED

Renewed is a young adult group for anyone in their early stage of adulthood.

For more information please contact Maggie

Staff/Hours

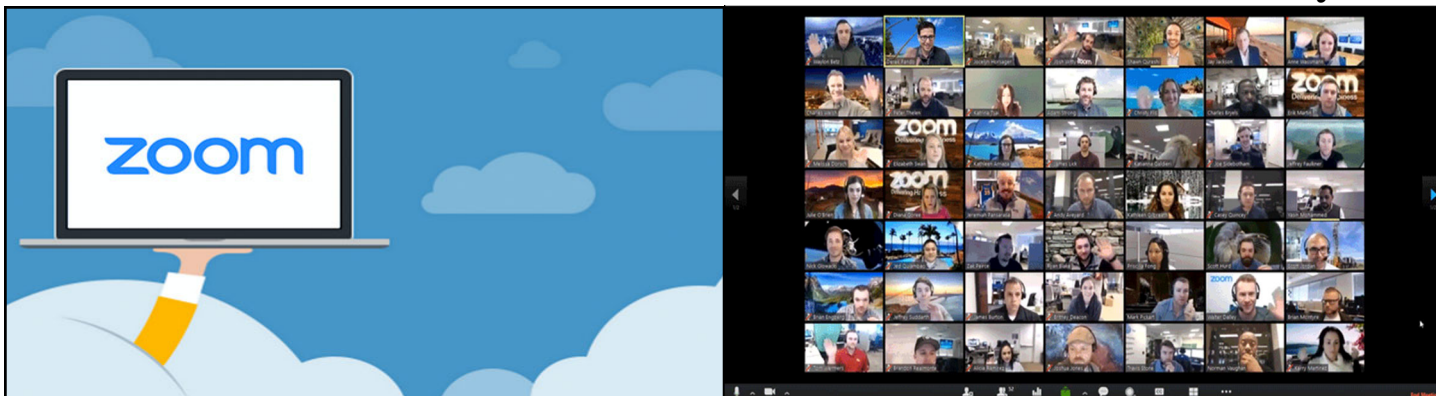
Father Juan Sandoval - Youth Office Supervisor ext. 304
Maggie Kelledy-Paroski - Youth Minister ext. 301
Daniel Manriquez - Youth Confirmation Coordinator ext. 300
Suzy Metzgar - Youth Ministry Admin. Assistant ext. 225

Office Hours:

Mon & Tues: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Wed & Thurs: Through phone only, use ext. 301 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Fri-Sun: CLOSED

(909) 987-9312



Ministry ZOOM Meeting Contacts

St. Joseph Covenant Keepers

Saturday @ 7:30-9:00 am

Contact: Chuck Denise. cfdinise@gmail.com

Adult Bible Study

Wednesday @ 9-10:30 am and 7-8:30 pm

Contact: Jenny Campbell. jcampbell@stpeterstpaul.com

Boy Scout Troop

Monday @ 6:55 pm

Contact: Marc Cobb. Marccobb@verizon.net

*Note: Knights of Columbus meetings are for members only Contact Marc Cobb

Catholic Daughters- Our Lady of Fatima Court #1387

3rd Monday @ 7 pm with rosary at 6:30 pm

Contact: Yvette Weilacker. yweilacker@gmail.com

Hispanic Community

Daily rosary in Spanish

Friday June 5 at 7pm

Contact: Mercedes Aschenbrenner. mercedesasch@icloud.com

St. Vincent de Paul Member Meeting

Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

Contact: Scott Schwartz. sandnsky8@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday @ 10:30-12:00

Contact: Mary Jo Kunkel. mjkunke155@gmail.com

ACTS

Women - 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 7:00 pm

Men - 3rd Thursday of the month @ 7:00 pm

Contact: Tiffany Wulkopf. tiffanywulkopf@gmail.com or 909-565-3348

Virtual pre-baptism classes

Once a month beginning June

Contact: Aileen Gamalinda for more information. agamalinda@stpeterstpaul.com

**REV. HENRY SSERIISO
PASTOR**

**REV. JUAN SANDOVAL
PAROCHIAL VICAR**

**DEACON
JOHN BARNA**

**DEACON
ROBERT BEIDLE**

Our Pastoral Clergy / Staff 987-9312

Fr. Henry Sseriiso Ext. 223
hsseriiso@stpeterstpaul.com

Fr. Juan Sandoval Ext. 304
jsandoval@stpeterstpaul.com

Deacon John Barna
john.w.barna1969@gmail.com
Deacon Bob Beidle
bob.beidle@gmail.com

Saint Peter and Saint Paul Roman Catholic Church
9135 Banyan Street, Alta Loma, Ca 91737
909-987-9312 FAX 909-980-9404

Faith Formation for Children (Grades 1-5)
Baptism (909) 980-9423

School (Preschool - Grade 8)
(909) 987-7908

During hours the office is closed, call
909-477-3362 for Emergencies.

<http://www.stpeterstpaul.com>
<https://app.flocknote.com/spspaltaloma>
www.facebook.com/spspaltaloma

Regular Parish Office Hours (909) 987-9312

Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - 2:30 pm
Friday Closed

Children's Faith Formation & Baptism (909) 980-9423

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Or by appointment
CLOSED Fridays

Youth Ministry

Sun: Closed/Mon: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm/ Tues. 1:30 pm 4:30 pm /
Wed: Closed / Thurs: 1:30 pm -
4:30 pm/ Fri: By Appointment / Sat: Closed

Our Parish Office Staff 987-9312

Business Manager	Karen Hein	Ext. 230
IT (Support Specialist)	Jason Cary	
	jcary@stpeterstpaul.com	
Liturgy Administrative Assistant	Carolina Menendez	Ext. 303
Life Teen Music Coordinator	Melissa Acosta	Ext. 227
Matrimonial Sacraments	Aileen Gamalinda	Ext. 231
Music Director	Audrey Donaldson	Ext. 227
Pastoral Care	Debby Leonardo	Ext. 302
	Gloria Rivera	Ext. 222
Parish Admin. Assistant /Bulletin	Alex Zarate	Ext. 242
Parish Office Secretary	Ann Hogan	Ext. 221

Kindness is the Language

Which

THE DEAF CAN HEAR AND THE BLIND CAN SEE

Parish School / Preschool through – 8th grade: 987-7908

Principal – Preschool Director	Kelly Burt	Ext. 235
Business Manager	Laura Onopa	Ext. 245
Administrative Assistant	Maria Trujillo	Ext. 234

Parish Mission Statement

We the people of St. Peter and St. Paul Parish, as members of the Roman Catholic Church, are a sacramental, worshipping community on a journey towards the fulfillment of Christ's Kingdom. We strive to provide a spiritual haven for all people without distinction. We are equally committed to the challenges of the gospel message. We accept its call to ongoing conversion, the use of our gifts for the benefit of our community, and loving service to one another.

**Pray for the dead
and
Fight to the end for the living**



HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

Solemnity of Pentecost
Vatican Basilica
Sunday, 31 May 2020

“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit” (1 Cor 12:4), as the Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthians. He continues: “There are different forms of service, but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone” (vv. 5-6). Diversity and unity: Saint Paul puts together two words that seem contradictory. He wants to tell us that the Holy Spirit is the *one* who brings together the *many*; and that the Church was born this way: we are all different, yet united by the same Holy Spirit.

Let us go back to the origin of the Church, to the day of Pentecost. Let us look at the Apostles: some of them were fishermen, simple people accustomed to living by the work of their hands, but there were also others, like Matthew, who was an educated tax collector. They were from different backgrounds and social contexts, and they had Hebrew and Greek names. In terms of character, some were meek and others were excitable; they all had different ideas and sensibilities. They were all different. Jesus did not change them; he did not make them into a set of pre-packaged models. No. He left their differences and now he unites them by anointing them with the Holy Spirit. With the *anointing* comes their *union* – *union* in diversity. At Pentecost, the Apostles understand the unifying power of the Spirit. They see it with their own eyes when everyone, though speaking in different languages, comes together as one people: the people of God, shaped by the Spirit, who weaves unity from diversity and bestows harmony because in the Spirit there *is* harmony. He himself *is* harmony.

Let us now focus on ourselves, the Church of today. We can ask ourselves: “What is it that unites us, what is the basis of our unity?”. We too have our differences, for example: of opinions, choices, sensibilities. But the temptation is always fiercely to defend our ideas, believing them to be good for everybody and agreeing only with those who think as we do. This is a bad temptation that brings division. But this is a faith created in our own image; it is not what the Spirit wants. We might think that what unite us are our beliefs and our morality. But there is much more: our principle of unity is the Holy Spirit. He reminds us that first of all we are *God’s beloved children*; all equal, in this respect, and all different. The Spirit comes to us, in our differences and difficulties, to tell us that we have one Lord – Jesus – and one Father, and that for this reason we are brothers and sisters! Let us begin anew from here; let us look at the Church with the eyes of the Spirit and not as the world does. The world sees us only as on the right or left, with one ideology or the other; the Spirit sees us as sons and daughters of the Father and brothers and sisters of Jesus. The world sees conservatives and progressives; the Spirit sees children of God. A worldly gaze sees structures to be made more efficient; a spiritual gaze sees brothers and sisters pleading for mercy. The Spirit loves us and knows everyone’s place in the grand scheme of things: for him, we are not bits of confetti blown about by the wind, rather we are irreplaceable fragments in his mosaic.

If we go back to the day of Pentecost, we discover that the first task of the Church is *proclamation*. Yet we also see that the Apostles devised no strategy; when they were locked in there, in the Upper Room, they were not strategizing, no, they were not drafting any pastoral plan. They could have divided people into groups according to their roots, speaking first to those close by and then to those far away, in an orderly manner... They could have also waited a while before beginning their preaching in order to understand more deeply the teachings of Jesus, so as to avoid risks... No. The Spirit does not want the memory of the Master to be cultivated in small groups locked in upper rooms where it is easy to “nest”. This is a terrible disease that can also infect the Church: making her into a nest instead of a community, a family or a Mother. The Spirit himself opens doors and pushes us to press beyond what has already been said and done, beyond the precincts of a timid and wary faith. In the world, unless there is tight organization and a clear strategy, things fall apart. In the Church, however, the Spirit guarantees unity to those who proclaim the message. The Apostles set off: unprepared, yet putting their lives on the line. One thing kept them going: *the desire to give what they received*. The opening part of the First Letter of Saint John is beautiful: “that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you” (cf. 1:3).

Here we come to understand what the secret of unity is, the secret of the Spirit. The secret of unity in the Church, the secret of the Spirit is *gift*. For the Spirit himself *is* gift: he lives by giving himself and in this way he keeps us together, making us sharers in the same gift. It is important to believe that God is gift, that he acts not by taking away, but by giving. Why is this important? Because our way of being believers depends on how we understand God. If we have in mind a God who takes away and who imposes himself, we too will want to take away and impose ourselves: occupying spaces, demanding recognition, seeking power. But if we have in our hearts a God who is gift, everything changes. If we realize that what we are is his gift, free and unmerited, then we too will want to make our lives a gift. By loving humbly, serving freely and joyfully, we will offer to the world the true image of God. The Spirit, *the living memory of the Church*, reminds us that we are born from a gift and that we grow by giving: not by holding on but by giving of ourselves. Dear brothers and sisters, let us look within and ask ourselves what prevents us from giving ourselves. There are, so to speak, three main enemies of the gift, always lurking at the door of our hearts: narcissism, victimhood and pessimism. *Narcissism* makes us idolize ourselves, to be concerned only with what is good for us. The narcissist thinks: “Life is good if I profit from it”. So he or she ends up saying: “*Why should I give myself to others?*”. In this time of pandemic, how wrong narcissism is: the tendency to think only of our own needs, to be indifferent to those of others, and not to admit our own frailties and mistakes. But the second enemy, *victimhood*, is equally dangerous. Victims complain every day about their neighbour: “No one understands me, no one helps me, no one loves me, everyone has it in for me!”. How many times have we not heard these complaints! The victim’s heart is closed, as he or she asks, “*Why aren’t others concerned about me?*”. In the crisis we are experiencing, how ugly victimhood is! Thinking that no one understands us and experiences what we experience. This is victimhood. Finally, there is *pessimism*. Here the unending complaint is: “Nothing is going well, society, politics, the Church...”. The pessimist gets angry with the world, but sits back and does nothing, thinking: “*What good is giving? That is useless*”. At this moment, in the great effort of beginning anew, how damaging is pessimism, the tendency to see everything in the worst light and to keep saying that nothing will return as before! When someone thinks this way, the one thing that certainly does not return is hope. In these three – the narcissist idol of the mirror, the mirror-god; the complaint-god: “I feel human only when I complain”; and the negativity-god: “everything is dark, the future is bleak” – we experience a *famine of hope* and we need to appreciate the gift of life, the gift that each of us is. We need the Holy Spirit, the gift of God who heals us of narcissism, victimhood and pessimism. He heals us from the mirror, complaints and darkness.

Our Parish Financial Corner

Update

Sunday 7-12-2020:

Envelopes/checks: \$ 12,958.00

Plate: 421.00

Online Giving 7-12-2020: \$ 7,821.00

Total for 7-12-2020: \$ 21,200.00

JPII Debt Envelopes/checks: \$ 1,680.00

JPII Debt online: \$ 798.00

Total JPII 7-12-2020: \$ 2,478.00

Total Misc. Income: \$ 1,628.00

JPII

Parish Debt Elimination Campaign

June payment: \$13,000.00

Balance on Debt: \$213,228.72



Prayer to Saint Joseph for intercession in Financial Difficulty

Dear Saint Joseph, You were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with fatherly compassion upon those parish families in their anxiety over their present inability to support their families.

Please help them to find gainful employment very soon, so that this heavy burden of concern will be lifted from their hearts and that they are soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to their care. Help us to guard against bitterness and discouragement, so that we may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessings from God. Amen.

Dear Parishioners,

For your convenience we have provided several ways you can send us your offering.

- Safely drop off in the office between the hours 9 am to 2:30 pm Mon-Thurs.
- Drop in the mail slot in the Serra Building which is checked daily
- Mail in to St. Peter & St. Paul, 9135 Banyan St. Alta Loma, 91737
- Online giving via our website stpeterstpaul.com
- Through your bank

Thank you for your continued support of our parish and we all pray that we will be back together in our pews very soon. May God bless you and keep you and your families safe.

In Christ's Service

Father Henry



Diocesan Development Fund Campaign Progress

Diocese Goal: \$99,975.00

Pledges Made: \$125,722.00

Gifts Received: \$86,323.00

Donors: 426

Percent of Goal: 86.34 %

As of: Jul 12, 2020 2:39PM