

Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

July 11, 2010

Call us, Lord, to be your own!

Good Samaritan: A Way of Seeing a Neighbor

Our Gospel this weekend tells us a story about a good Samaritan, a story which raises a question, "Who is a neighbor?" The answer to this question is a matter of perspective, and requires a certain way of seeing.

In the story, there was a wounded man in the ditch who needed help because he was robbed. A priest passed by. And so did a Levite. Both just passed by, unheeding of the need of the man who was robbed. Then there came a Samaritan, who took care of the needs of the man. In this situation, a question re-echoes, "Who is a neighbor?"

Simplifying the meaning of neighbor will shed light here. The word neighbor has a basic meaning in Greek which means "to be near." Coming back now to the question, "Who is a neighbor?" the answer certainly has to be the third person, the Samaritan. The other two stretched the gap between themselves and the man in the ditch. They would not come near to him. Definitely, they would not be a neighbor to him.

The story may have happen in our parish life, too. Perhaps one may say, "I am willing to love my neighbor as myself. I want to go near to everyone in need, for we are all in need when we come to the church. But please don't get me involved with the wrong neighbor." Hey, there is nothing wrong with one's neighbor inside the church, but perhaps one gets his or her neighbor wrong because the other is seen not as of one's same color, race, ethnic group, culture or language. One can easily fall into this trap of seeing a neighbor in a wrong way.

The story of the good Samaritan, then, provides us a perspective of seeing a neighbor. To see a neighbor is to look at the other in good faith. To be a neighbor is "to go near" to the one needing help and act according to their need instead of acting with grabbing over the other. To be a neighbor is not a matter of who and what we are in our status to others, but who and what we are on the basis of our actions, responding and doing unselfishly the good for others. Neighbor love knows no boundaries.

Fr. Bart
Parochial Vicar

Mass Intentions for the Week

July 10 – 17, 2010

		Intention	Requested By
Saturday, July 10	5 p.m.	Claire Gorin †	Mildred & Frank Gardner
Sunday, July 11	8 a.m.	Personal Intentions	Jean Coppock
	9:30 a.m.	Elizabeth Thomas †	Sherly & John Arouge
	11 a.m.	Eugenio Artiaga †	Reyline Artiaga
	12:30 p.m.	Penafrancia Balmeo †	Michelle Sy
	6 p.m.	St. John's Parishioners	Brazilian Community
Monday, July 12	8 a.m.	Aida A. Joshi †	Alcala & Barce Families
Tuesday, July 13	8 a.m.	Laverne Parrish †	Mary Huang
Wednesday, July 14	8 a.m.	Menci Ferreros – Thanksgiving	Menci Ferreros
Thursday, July 15	8 a.m.	Enzio Lencioni †	Gina Lencioni
Friday, July 16	8 a.m.	Jo Sudall †	St. John's Senior Center
Saturday, July 17	8 a.m.	John Miché †	Evelyn Miché
	5 p.m.	Omar S. Fortich †	Ens Fortich & Family

Stewardship

Envelopes & EFT (190)	\$7,049
Loose Donations	<u>1,462</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$8,511
Parish & School Development	\$1,584

Next Weekend: The Church in Latin America

Please remember your parish in your will.

Message of Stewardship

The good Samaritan was also a good steward, giving his time and his treasure to meet his neighbor's need. At the end of this familiar story, Jesus urges His hearers – and us – to go and do the same!

The Church in Latin America

The second collection next weekend will be for the Church in Latin America. The Church is facing serious challenges in the region. There are many pressures on its resources, even though Latin America is home to the world's largest Catholic population.

Let Us Pray for the Sick:

Josephine Abbissinio, Dorothy Abel, Dorothy Alexander, Evelyn Baker, Bill Brazil, Barbara Brendlinger, Elizabeth Brown, Josephine Canepa, Jeffrey Chavez, Steve Connell, Isabella Kristine Cruz, Deloris Davis, Juanita Estrellas, Norte Estrellas, Walt Faria, Louis & Sally Fernandez, Michael Fleming, Emilio Gallegos, Ann Gerletti, Fran Giachino, Teresa Grant, Domingos Gregorio, Joe Gressel, Betty Harrell, Frances Haynes, Joanne Hockman, Steve Jeffre, Emmanuel Johnson, Adie Kasari, Tom Kennedy Jr., Marsha Lightfoot, Maria Impang Lozada, Eric Lubrano, Evelyn Miché, Lolita Parafina, Stephen Pellingra, Dina Pieroni, Leola Richardson, Sr. Mary Soong, Julie Spotts, Amy Stymer, Marilyn Sutton and Helene Wulbern.

Please call the rectory to add or remove names.

No More Clothes, Please

We have a new policy for the bins outside the Conference Room and at the San Pablo Ave. church entrance. We are only accepting non-perishable food. No clothes, please.

The reason for this is that the church has no storage space.

Please take your clothes directly to the recipient agency, such as the Bay Area Rescue Mission at 2114 Macdonald Ave. in Richmond

Anxiety Runs High in the Gulf in Wake of Oil Spill

By Catholic News Service

The ultimate tally of the devastation wrought by the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion in April could be “worse than hurricanes,” says the director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, La. “The level of anxiety is incredibly high,” said Rob Gorman, who has been with Catholic Charities since 1982 and married the daughter of a French-speaking bayou fisherman.

“If you’re a trawler, you don’t know if you’re going to be able to trawl this year, or if you’re going to be able to trawl next year, or the year after that, or the year after that.” The same, Gorman said, applies to fishermen, crabbers and shrimpers. While “we all get very anxious at the start of the

hurricane season,” he said, “folk here are adept at recovering from hurricane damage,” since they know what to expect should a hurricane come.

If hit, “we start rebuilding and recovering,” he added. “It’s all very predictable.” It’s not knowing the extent of the continuing crisis in the Gulf of Mexico that is ratcheting up anxiety in southern Louisiana, Gorman said during a conference call with reporters arranged by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change.

The missions of gallons spilled into the Gulf linger in the water as “not one solid blob, (but) hundreds of thousands of little, smaller blobs (which) when gathered together can go in any direction,” Gorman said.

GRIP Staging Food Drive

The Greater Richmond Interfaith Program is feeding lunch to an average of 250 hungry people each day, compared to 200 people per day last year. The homeless shelter is always nearly full to capacity. GRIP is running low on food and is asking its member congregations to support efforts to feed the hungry in a variety of ways:

1. Become a walker for the annual Harmony Walk to End Hunger Oct. 9. Ask friends, family and businesses to sponsor your walk with cash donations. Aim to raise at least \$1,000 each.

2. Bring canned vegetables and spices to the barrels outside the Conference Room and the San Pablo Ave. entrance of St. John's Church during the month of July. Large cans are preferred but all sizes are welcome, but please no glass containers.

3. Volunteer to prepare and serve a nutritious dinner at the GRIP homeless shelter on the third Saturday of each month. Thanks especially to Olivia and Walter Wong, with help from Jean Bush, for providing a six-course Chinese takeout dinner to the shelter guests on June 19.

4. Write checks to GRIP for general GRIP needs or to Joseph Orr of St. John's to help pay for the dinners.

For more information, please call Joe Orr at work 450-7933 or at home 237-5568.

Garage Sale Set for July 31

St. John's Parish will hold a white elephant garage sale on Saturday, July 31, on St. John's School grounds.

Contributions of reusable items are welcome. If you would like to donate, please drop them off at the church office weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. For any large items, please contact the rectory office at 232-5659.

Donated clothes should be clean and hung on a hanger.

All proceeds from this sale and any monetary donations will benefit St. John's rectory improvements and will be greatly appreciated.

Volunteers for this event are welcome. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Bart.

Composer To Visit San Ramon

Spend an afternoon of spiritual renewal with hymn-writer Dan Schutte, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 25, at St. Joan of Arc Parish in San Ramon.

Hear Dan speak of the place of prayer in a life of faith. Experience first-hand a sampling of these 30 beautiful prayer exercises that are designed to draw one into a deeper relationship with God. The book and CD set will be available for purchase.

For more information, call (925) 830-0600.

Donate Through EFT

Are you going on vacation this summer?

There's an easy and safe way to contribute to your parish, even when you're away from home. It's called the Electronic Fund Transfer program, which allows you to make a weekly or monthly donation on an automatic basis from your checking account.

It's safer than writing a check, and free of charges.

A considerable amount of parishioners are taking advantage of the program, and the results have been very satisfactory.

An application form is on Page 5.

Veneration of Saint's Relic

In commemoration of the Year for Priests, a relic of the patron saint of priest, the heart of St. John Vianney, is being brought to the U.S. for only the second time.

The relic will be venerated at three locations on the following schedule:

St. John Vianney Parish in Walnut Creek:

Friday, July 16 – 7 p.m. vespers; 8 p.m. talk on the life of St. John Vianney, with adoration until midnight.

Saturday, July 17 – 8:30 a.m. Mass in the presence of the relic.

Holy Spirit Parish in Fremont:

Saturday, July 17 – Noon midday prayer; 3:30 p.m. confessions; 5 p.m. Mass in the presence of the heart, 6:30 p.m. talk on the relic of the heart, with adoration until midnight.

Cathedral of Christ the Light:

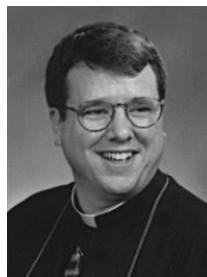
Sunday, July 18 – 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 noon and 2 p.m. Mass in the presence of the relic; 7 p.m. talk on the priesthood, adoration until midnight.

School Enrollment Open

Enrollment applications for new students at St. John's are available in the school office. If you know of a family interested in sending their children to St. John's, please have them call 234-2244 or come by the office for an appointment.

Evening Recollection July 27

Divine Mercy Eucharistic Society will sponsor an evening recollection with Fr. Christopher J. Crotty, C.P.M., from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, July 27, at St. John the Baptist Church.



Fr. Crotty

Fr. Crotty is a missionary priest with the Fathers of Mercy and a native of San Francisco.

He is founder of the Fathers of Mercy Healing Ministry and co-founder and director of the Institute of the Holy Spirit. Fr. Crotty teaches nationwide on radio and other media.

Admission is free.

Convention in Richmond

La Mision de Jesus, the Catholic Society of Evangelization's annual Catholic Convention of Northern California, will be held July 31 and Aug. 1 at the Richmond Convention Center.

The program will include an opening and closing Mass, Holy Hour and homage to Our Lady, and a mini-program for children.

For details, see lamisiondejesus@aol.com or call 769-0321 or 582-5620.

Don't Miss Mass on the Road

Are you planning to travel this summer? If so, you'll be glad to know that wherever you go, you'll be able to find out what time Mass is in your area. Simply go on-line to www.MassTimes.org or telephone 1-800-MASS-TIMES (1-800-627-7846).



St. John's Seniors

St. John the Baptist Community Center
6500 Gladys St., corner of Lexington
Director: Jan Duckart 527-2850
Telephone 237-3808 on Tuesdays
12:45 p.m. Tuesday, July 13:
Nan Smekofski: Sing-Along

Sign Up for Electronic Donations – They're Simple, Safe and Convenient –

I (we) hereby authorize **The Church of St. John the Baptist, El Cerrito** to initiate debit entries to my (our) account indicated below at the depository financial institution known as **Mechanics Bank** to collect my church donations and, if necessary, adjustments for any entries in error to my account indicated below to credit and/or debit the same to such account. I (we) acknowledge that the origination of EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

PLEASE ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK FROM THE ACCOUNT YOU WISH TO DRAW FROM

REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS:

WEEKLY (drawn every Monday) AMOUNT: \$ _____

OR

MONTHLY ON THE 2ND OR MONTHLY ON THE 17TH AMOUNT: \$ _____

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

PARISH & SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT (First Sunday) AMOUNT: \$ _____

PARISH CHARITY (5th Sunday of month – 4 times/year) AMOUNT: \$ _____

DATE PAYMENTS TO BEGIN: _____

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until **The Church of St. John the Baptist, El Cerrito**, has received written notification from me of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford **The Church of St. John the Baptist** and **Mechanics Bank** a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Your Name (please print)

Signature

Date

Daytime Phone

Please complete and send this form to:

St. John the Baptist Church
11150 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530