

PASTOR'S COLUMN

“Congregations for Civic Action”

Congregations for Civic Action is a faith-based, community organizing effort consisting of 14 churches in North County. Its purpose is to bring the voices and concerns of North County people to political leaders. *CCA* seeks to create new public policies and to change existing public policies through organizing efforts. *CCA* works on issues and concerns that emerge as priorities from the organizing efforts of its member congregations.

On Tuesday, October 26th at 6:30PM, *Congregations for Civic Action* is holding the 2004 Mayoral/City Council Candidate Interviews for the City of Oceanside. Mission San Luis Rey Parish, Shiloh Church of God in Christ, and the Church of St. Thomas More are sponsoring the evening.

You are invited to attend and to hear the candidates' positions on gang prevention, affordable housing, youth recreation, and police/community relations. All of these topics have special concern to the people of Oceanside in these days.

This is the first event that our Faith Community is helping to sponsor. It provides us with an opportunity to reach out into the life of our community and to help address issues that need systemic change, and to inform the people of Oceanside about the various positions of the people who desire to lead the community politically.

It is my hope and desire that a number of our members will come out for the Forum at Mission San Luis Rey to become better informed citizens about local issues and to see *Congregations for Civic Action* in action!

As Pastor, I made a pledge that I would exert my efforts in bringing at least 50 people from our Faith Community to the Candidates' Forum. I seek your help in making that number a reality.

Even if you do not live in Oceanside, you are still welcome to attend and to see *Congregations for Civic Action* at work. *CCA* may be of interest to you and a way in which to become involved in the life of our Faith Community here at the Church of St. Thomas More.

There is a flyer in today's Bulletin that contains further details. If you would like further information about *CCA*, please contact Sister Maureen, our Pastoral Associate, who is the liaison for *CCA* and our Parish.

October is *Respect Life Month* in the Catholic Church. We need to be mindful that being pro-life is being concerned about life issues from womb to tomb. The issues that will be addressed at the Forum are, indeed, life issues. Your presence at the Forum and possible involvement in *CCA* is taking a pro-life stance and helping our Catholic Church to celebrate and promote *Respect Life Month*.

Hope to see many of you at the Serra Center at Mission San Luis Rey on Tuesday night!