

Church of St. Thomas More

A Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of San Diego

1450 South Melrose Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056
760.758.4100 Phone • 760.758.4165 Fax
www.stmoside.org • parishoffice@stmoside.org



Spirituality † Tradition † Community

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor
Deacon Thomas A. Goeltz
Rev. Thomas W. Thompson, Pastoral Associate
(858-945-2251) Hospital Chaplain at
Scripps La Jolla, Scripps Green, & UCSD Thornton

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:30am-12:00 noon and 12:30-4:00pm

Mass Schedule
Saturday at 5:00pm
Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am
Tuesday-Friday at 8:15am
First Monday of the Month at 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration
Monday-Friday, 6:30am-7:30pm

Reconciliation (Confession)
Saturday, 4:00-4:30pm

February 3, 2008 • Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday Night Mass - February 4 - 7:00pm

Ash Wednesday - February 6

Masses at 8:15am, 12:00pm, 5:30pm and 7:30pm

Soup Supper 5:30-7:30pm

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Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak
michaelsr@stmoside.org
758-4100 x100

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship – A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States

This Tuesday an election will take place in California and in many other states across our country.

Will you be voting?

As Catholics, we have the responsibility and duty to be involved in the political process and to participate in shaping the moral character of our society: *“The Church’s obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith. It is a basic part of the mission we have received from Jesus Christ, who offers a vision of life revealed to us in Sacred Scripture and Tradition. To echo the teaching of the Second Vatican Council: Christ, the Word made flesh, in showing us the Father’s love, also shows us what it truly means to be human. Christ’s love for us lets us see our human dignity in full clarity and compels us to love our neighbors as he has loved us. Christ, the Teacher, shows us what is true and good, that is what is in accord with our human nature as free, intelligent beings created in God’s image and likeness and endowed by the Creator with dignity and rights.”*

(Continued on page 3)

Calendar Highlights

Also check the parish website for complete calendar info:
www.stmoside.org, then select "Schedules and Calendars"

The Week Ahead

- Feb 3 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and
10:30am Masses
- Feb 6 Ash Wednesday (day of fast and abstinence)
Masses at 8:15am, 12:00noon, 5:30pm, 7:30pm
Soup Supper from 5:30-7:30pm
- Feb 8 Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
- Feb 8 Stations of the Cross
- Feb 10 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am Mass
- Feb 10 RE.A.CH classes, including high school

The Month Ahead

- Feb 11 Women's Guild Luncheon Meeting
- Feb 16-Mar 2 New Orleans Trip
- Feb 17 New Member Reception
- Feb 24 RE.A.CH classes, including high school
- Feb 25 Lenten Day of Recollection sponsored by
Women's Guild and Spirited Seniors

The Year Ahead

- Mar 1 ~~Women's Prayer Breakfast~~
(rescheduled to Apr 26)
- Mar 9 Spirited Seniors travel to Rolling Hills Covenant
Church to see "Pageant of Our Lord"
- Apr 6 STM Music Ministry Presents
Spring Sing—Ecumenical Celebration of Song
- Apr 24 Spirited Seniors Present *Music by Emmalyn*
- Apr 26 Women's Prayer Breakfast
- June 20 Ninth Annual Golf Classic/Evening Festivities
- July 21-25 *Power Lab* Vacation Bible School
- Nov 9 Towers of Faith Dinner

Prayer List for Deployed Military

As a faith community let us pray for all who serve our country in these troubled times. We pray especially for those connected to our parish who have been deployed:

- Gy. Sgt. Barry Bull, USMC*
Christian Caplinger, US Army
Nicholas B. Dawson
Capt. Gregory Day, USMC
Lance Corporal Brandon Doyle, USMC
MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC
Sgt. Stephen Gerke, 101st Airborne
Lt. Col Robert T. Green, USAF
Cpl. Michael Guty, USMC
Col. Kathleen Henderson
Lance Cpl. Ryan Keck, USMC
Cpl. Andrew G. Klidzejs, USMC
Med. Staff Sgt. Jana Alexander Madrid, USAF
Ronald Meyers, US Navy Search & Rescue
Lance Cpl. Steven A. Michaels, USMC
Spec. Jared Ratzlaff, US Army
SPC Robert Sullivan, US Army
Lt. Col. Robert C. Wright, USMC
Capt. Thomas Zeeff, USAF

All-powerful God, be their constant companion and strength in every adversity. May they experience your faithful presence, gentle love and compassionate healing.

Contact the parish office at 758-4100 x102 to add a name.

Readings for the Week Ahead

Sunday Year A; Weekday Year II
 Readings online at www.usccb.org.

Sunday, February 3 (70)

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13

Psalm 146

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Matthew 5:1-12a

Monday, February 4 (323)

2 Samuel 15:13-14,30;16:5-13

Psalm 3:2-7

Mark 5:1-20

Tuesday, February 5 (324)

2 Samuel 18:9-10,14b,24-25a,30-19:3

Psalm 86:1-6

Mark 5:21-43

Wednesday, February 6 (219)

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-18

Psalm 51:3-6b,12-14,17

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Thursday, February 7 (220)

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 1:1-4,6

Luke 9:22-25

Friday, February 8 (221)

Emiliani, priest;

Josephine Bakhita, virgin

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Psalm 51:3-6a,18-19

Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday, February 9 (222)

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalm 86:1-6

Luke 5:27-32

Sunday, February 10 (22)

First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9;3:-6,12-13,17

Psalm 51

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 40:1-11

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 2, 5:00pm

George Duarte ☩

Sunday, February 3, 8:30am

Steve Kremenik ☩

Sunday, February 3, 10:30am

Lucille Gengler ☩

Monday, February 4, 7:00pm

For the Youth of the Parish

Tuesday, February 5, 8:15am

Frank Russick

Wednesday, February 6, 8:15am

Matilda Graves ☩

Wednesday, February 6, 12:00pm

Anna Martin ☩

Wednesday, February 6, 5:30pm

Josephine Crimaldi

Wednesday, February 6, 7:30pm

Robert Callahan ☩

Thursday, February 7, 8:15am

Frank Wittreich ☩

Friday, February 8, 8:15am

Jim Kilian ☩

Saturday, February 9, 5:00pm

Clay Provinse ☩

Sunday, February 10, 8:30am

Missa Pro Populo

Sunday, February 10, 10:30am

Mike Connley ☩

Prayer List

Jay Ahmann
 Michael Ainis
 Charlotte Atkinson & family
 Patricia Barbour
 Carl Bechtold
 Edward Bednarz
 Cindra Bell
 Tom Belprez
 The Benton Family
 Mary Ann Brooker
 Janet Brown
 Carl Coleman
 James Coleman
 Barbara Colton
 Thomas Cornwell & family
 April Craft
 Celia Dagdayan
 Deborah Darsey
 Daphne Dunn
 James Echter
 The Fiore Family
 Larry Fisk
 Edmund Fredette
 Joe Garcia
 Bob Gardiner
 Cheryl Glenane
 Rick Gonzalez
 Anita Hage
 The Harker Family
 Bud Hazlett
 Barry Henwood
 Cynthia Horner
 The Jacob Family
 Gordon Jacobs & family
 Bernie & Ginny Jaeger
 Sue Johnston
 Colleen Kaup
 Paul Kennedy
 Debbie Kinny
 Sr. Anne Kremenik
 Lillian Lachance
 The Lamelin Family
 Brandon LeBlanc
 Jackie Lynn
 James MacArthur
 Ken Mauro
 Patrick McCarthy
 The Mitkevich Family
 Nancy Moore
 Margie Myers
 Judith Nichols
 R. Northrup
 Patricia O'Gaffney
 Tom Padilla, Sr.
 Ana Patterson
 Sylvia Perez
 Helen Pingtella
 The Pokojni Family
 Anne Post
 Bill Pulver
 The Robinson Family
 Sr. Loyola Romey
 Dorothy Rouse
 Lynne Rumpf
 The Russo Family
 The Shima family
 Marilyn Sinkez
 Doris Vessell
 Lee Vincent
 Vanessa Vitiello-Koble
 Isabelle Wallin
 Kevin Watson-Graff

Call 758-4100 x102 to add a name for four weeks.

(Pastor's Column continued from page 1)

As Pope Benedict XVI stated in *Deus Caritas Est*, "The Church wishes to help form consciences in political life and to stimulate greater insight into the authentic requirements of justice as well as greater readiness to act accordingly, even when this might involve conflict with situations of personal interest...The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the State. Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice."

Regarding the moral issues that are inherent to our Catholic Faith, that is, that we are "Pro-Life" from womb to tomb, we realize that neither major political party nor any of the candidates running for President are "Pro-Life" in the full Catholic sense. This, though, does not relieve us of the obligation to participate in the political process and to vote:

"Decisions about political life are complex and require the exercise of a well-formed conscience aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with outright opposition to laws and other policies that violate human life or weaken its protection. Those who knowingly, willingly, and directly support public policies or legislation that undermine fundamental moral principles cooperate with evil.

Sometimes morally flawed laws already exist. In this situation, the process of framing legislation to protect life is subject to prudential judgment and 'the art of the possible.' At times this process may restore justice only partially or gradually. For example, Pope John Paul II taught that when a government official who fully opposes abortion cannot succeed in completely overturning a pro-abortion law, he or she may work to improve protection for unborn human life, 'limiting the harm done by such a law' and lessening its negative impact as much as possible. Such incremental improvements in the law are acceptable as steps toward the full restoration of justice. However, Catholics must never abandon the moral requirement to seek full protection for all human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

This "spirit" of incremental change applies to our voting efforts as well: *"Catholics often face difficult choices about how to vote. That is why it is so important to vote according to a well-formed conscience that perceives the proper relationship among moral goods. A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who takes a position in favor of an intrinsic evil, such as abortion or racism, if the voter's intent is to support that position. In such cases a Catholic would be guilty of formal cooperation in grave evil. At the same time, a voter should not use a candidate's opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues involving human life and dignity. There may be times when a Catholic who rejects a candidate's unacceptable position may decide to vote for that candidate for other morally grave reasons. Voting in this way would be permissible only for truly grave moral reasons, not to advance narrow interests or partisan preferences or to ignore a fundamental moral evil."*

Included in this week's Bulletin is a "voter guide" prepared by the Office for Social Ministry of the Diocese of San Diego. Please take time to review this guide, and let it assist you in voting this Tuesday and in future elections.

(N.B. All quotes in this article are taken from the USCCB statement, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*.)

F. Mike

COMING SOON!

Exciting Details and Surprises for
Our St. Thomas More 2008 Golf Classic!
Save the Date ~ Friday, June 20, 2008

New Member Reception

Sunday, February 17 • 12:00pm

We are hosting a new member welcome reception for those who have joined our parish family since July 2007. Invitations have been mailed to you and we look forward to meeting you at this special luncheon!

If you are an existing member and were unable to attend our last reception, you are welcome to join us for this one.

Please call our parish office to RSVP by February 8 with a "yes" or "no" at 758-4100 x154.

For more details, please contact:
Louise Briseno at 726-4496 or
parishoffice@stmoside.org



St. Thomas More
**Monday Night
Mass**

6:50pm - Praise
7:00pm - Mass

We encourage all Parishioners to
join us on February 4 for

MONDAY NIGHT MASS!

Mark your calendar and join us!

"Singing Is Praying Out Loud!"

We will continue to collect boxes of Juice Bags and
Cheese & Crackers for "Stand Up For Kids."

Lenten Fish Dinners Every Friday of Lent

(Exception Good Friday)

Serving Time: 5:30-6:30pm

Price: Adults one fish-\$6, two fish-\$7, three fish-really?

Children one fish-\$4

This dinner is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and their wives. Serving time should allow you adequate time to eat your dinner, socialize, and attend the Stations of the Cross. Feel free to bring your neighbors and friends. We promise friendly and smiling faces will serve you!

Our Mission is to: worship God,

Mass Schedule: Saturday at 5:00pm; Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am;
Tuesday-Friday at 8:15am; first Monday of the month at 7:00pm;
watch bulletin for holydays

Rite of Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday from 4:00-4:30pm
(or by appointment)

Eucharistic Adoration: Monday-Friday from 6:30am-7:30pm

Liturgical Ministry: Contact Douglas Lynn at 758-4100 x140

Choirs and Music Ministry: Contact Douglas Lynn at 758-4100 x140

Communion for the Homebound/Hospitalized: Contact Parish Office

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Parish Office

Matrimony: Contact Parish Office a minimum of 9 months in advance
For further information, call Rev. Michael Ratajczak at 758-4100 x100

teach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ,

Inquiry into the Catholic Faith: First and third Thursday evenings

Religious Education for Youth & Children: Two times a month,
September-May, on Sundays

Religious Education for Adults: Various times, September-May

Liturgy of the Word for Children: 8:30 and 10:30am Masses

Little Rock Scripture Study: Weekly sessions, morning or evening

High School Youth Ministry: Monday evenings

Middle School Youth Ministry: Two Monday evenings per month

Preparation for the Sacraments:

Baptism (for infants): Begins with an appointment with the Pastor

Baptism (7-14 yrs.)/RCIA: One to two year process with children and
parents

Baptism (adults)/RCIA: One to two year process; weekly sessions

First Reconciliation: In home process begins in Level 1

First Communion: In home process begins after first reconciliation

Confirmation: Minimum two year process of preparation; begins in
high school

For further information, call Kathleen Bell at 758-4100 x110

and serve God's people in word and deed.

There are many groups who serve the parishioners
and provide outreach to the local community.

For further information, call Chris Smith at 758-4100 x120

Ministry to the Sick and Homebound

If you or a family member are unable to come to Mass because of
an illness or disability, we have a special group of parishioners
who can bring Communion to your home. Please call the Parish
Office at 758-4100 x100.

Women's Guild News

Board Meeting—The Women's Guild Board Meeting will be
held Monday, February 4, at 12:30pm at Germaine Wilmott's
home to discuss plans for the February 11 meeting and Day of
Recollection. Please try to attend. RSVP to Germaine Wilmott at
758-9949.

February Luncheon—Monday, February 11, at 11am will be the
February Meeting! Lunch will be served, followed by Card
Bingo. The cost is \$7 Plan to come and join us! RSVP by
February 10 by calling Germaine Wilmott at 758-9949 or Mary
Vernacci at 599-4386.

Day of Recollection—Monday, February 25, 9:00am-3:00pm—
Abbot Charles Wright from Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside
will be conducting this day of reflection at St. Thomas More,
including talks, Mass, lunch and Stations of the Cross. Remember
to turn in your forms

Flower Donation

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the contributions of:

Don and Maureen Tutino

Mike & Natalie Provinse

whose generosity helped to defray the cost of flowers last
weekend and this weekend, respectively, in our liturgical
environment.

Announcing the baptism of:

Abigail Road Pawelek

on February 3, 2008

*Our Christian community welcomes you with
great joy!*

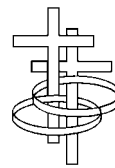


Congratulations to:

Joyce and Gene Frink

who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary
on February 7.

*May God continue to bless your marriage, and may
you be an inspiration to other married couples.*



In Memoriam

Please pray for the soul of **Betty Dow**, who died on
January 26. Her funeral was celebrated at St. Thomas
More on Saturday, February 2. Please keep the family
in your prayers.

*May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



High School Youth Ministry

Next Meeting

Monday, February 4, 7:00-8:30pm

Join us for Monday Night Mass!

Sign ups for Steubenville San Diego (in July) have started..

For more information, call Gale at 726-7236

Middle School Youth Ministry



**Middle School
Youth Group**

Next Meeting

Monday, February 4 for Monday Night Mass

7:00m Upper Level

www.stmoside.org/ym

Any questions, call Ron or Louise Briseno 758-4100 x153

Liturgy & Music

Worship God

Douglas Lynn
Director of Music/Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries
douglasl@stmoside.org; 758-4100 x140

LENT AT HOME

Lent means spring. This is a season for a new awakening. It means cleaning out the dust and grime of a long, dark winter. It means the melting of ice and snow and the first, cautious appearance of things sprouting. So it is also in our hearts during this season. Our spirit is invited to a thorough spring house-cleaning. We are given the rags and dust mops and brooms of that spiritual refreshment in the tools called prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We pray for the good of our souls. We fast for the good of our bodies. We give alms for the good of our sisters and brothers. Notice that these tools are always “for the *good* of” something.

Sloppy habits in our prayer life leave us feeling out of kilter with God in our deepest selves—disconnected and at odds. Go to a Christian bookstore and get yourself a different translation of the Book of Psalms and wake up your inner ear to a bright, sparkling sound that rattles out a dull language of habit and routine. Memorize your favorite psalm in this new translation and allow it to take root in your soul.

Fast for the good of your body. That may mean eating with awareness and appreciation rather than nibbling and grazing all day long. It may mean eating meals as a shared experience with family and/or friends. It may mean changing your unhealthy eating habits by changing your diet. It may mean doing without some compulsion you harbor or without a food you take for granted, so that your body feels a difference and appreciates again, in the days of Easter, that which it missed during Lent. And all the cuts of meat you did without, the deserts, the beers, the movies, the sweets, the cigarettes—these can be graphically translated into alms for those who are hungry and would love a bowl of rice, a thick soup, a needed medicine. Fasting wakes up the mind and sharpens our awareness of others and more readily fixes our attention beyond what is merely selfish.



SMUDGED WITH ASHES, SMEARED WITH OIL

On a somber Wednesday we will gather to smudge every forehead with ashes, admonishing each other to remember that dust returns to dust and that the only way through death to life is Christ. The ashes are made by burning palms—given to us on Passion Sunday a year ago with the invitation to “go forth in peace, praising Jesus our Messiah, as did the crowds that welcomed him into Jerusalem.” Our baptismal life is a lifelong pilgrimage with Christ toward Jerusalem. Yet like our best intentions, last year’s palm branches now have become dried and brittle—fodder for the fire. So our pilgrimage leads us to Lent. And a hostile climate of sin and suffering necessitates drastic measures: We are marked with ashes as a sign of our willingness to pray, fast and give alms.

But this gritty smudge that we accept on our foreheads is not a death sentence. It is not the mark of Cain. A reminder of our fragile mortality, it is nonetheless shaped

in the great sign of salvation: The ashes form a cross, a thumb-printed cross that marks the same heads that were smeared with chrism at baptism. Anointed with that royal oil, we are committed to conversion, to continually setting out for the new Jerusalem, to leaving behind forever our captivity in Egypt.

This gritty ashen sign reminds us that on the way there is soil and toil, sweat and hard work before we come to the oasis in this desert—the Easter bath of baptism. At the font, on a damp and chilly night, water will wash away soil and oil will soothe away toil to make new Christians royal: heirs of the reign of God. The dusty smudges will be gone, and in the light of the paschal candle the oily heads of the newly baptized will shine like the moon and the stars, reminding us of our destiny. What begins in ashes ends in water and in fire.

Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

Kathleen Bell
Director of Faith Formation
kathleenb@stmoside.org; 758-4100 x110

What's Faith Got to Do With it?

Little Books. . .begin today!



This Lenten series provides six-minute meditations on the Passion according to John.

In this form of prayer, we take a Scripture passage and spend some quiet time reading it with God at our side. We listen for God to speak to us through the words, guiding us to thoughts and reflections that sometimes seem to come from nowhere. People are often surprised how easy it is to pray this way.

The following are available at the Information Table on weekends and the Church Office during the week. Your \$2 donation helps cover our cost.

- Little Purple Book (for children, approximately 7-12)
- Little Black Book (for teens through adults)
- el Librito Negro (en español)

Attention Teens! - Upcoming Mini-Courses

Mondays, February 11, 18, 25 7:00-8:45pm

M-10 *Dating and Love* (Youth Group) Jeff & Gale Gibbons

Understand dating as a process of self-discovery, and recognize the difference between mature love and infatuation.

Sundays, Feb. 24, Mar. 2, Mar. 9 6:30-8:30pm

M-7 *Believing in a Media Culture* Bret Schanzenbach

Recognize the power of the popular culture in your world and examine its effect on your life as a believer.

(OR)

M-17 *I Know Why! Proud to be Catholic* Ron Briseno

An opportunity for teens to get the answers to the tough questions they get asked about being Catholic.

To sign up:

Email kathleenb@stmoside.org with the following info:

- Course Number: M-10, M-7, M-17
(you can take Sunday and Monday!)
- Your name and email.

Kid's Tough Questions



"I don't see why the clothes I wear matter to God; the Bible says God looks at your heart. My friends all have hip clothes; why should I dress like a nun?"

- "Our clothes reflect our heart. If our clothes say look at me, it can send a message that we're proud. If our clothes say instead I enjoy life, our joy is evident to the world. Clothes are meant to protect and reflect our personality. Hip is fun as long as our clothes don't lead others to have wrong thoughts." ~ *Karl Bastian*
- "You don't have to dress like a nun—or a streetwalker. There are lots of fashions in between. Ask yourself, 'If I were introducing Jesus at a school assembly, what clothes in my closet would I be ashamed to wear?'" ~ *Marlene LeFever*
- "No one has to dress like a nun who isn't one. But wearing clothes that cross the line—even if friends are—doesn't help others, help you, or honor the God who made you." ~ *John Trent*
- "I'm not sure appealing to modesty will get you anywhere with older elementary girls. This is a place where role models can be helpful—perhaps some teen girls who dress stylishly but modestly in your church who the younger girls think are cool." ~ *Ivy Beckwith*

RE.A.CH—Perfect Attendance!

Special congratulations to:

* Mr. & Mrs. Cap's Level 4 class, *JUDITH* for perfect attendance **FOUR** sessions in a row, plus they have a new student!



Families new to our parish are most welcome in our religious education programs. If you are a registered member of our parish and have children between 4 and 17, please be in touch so we can partner with you in the faith formation of your child.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Update:

2008 GOAL: 365 jars
TOTAL to date: 175 jars



Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

Chris Smith
Director of Stewardship & Development
chriss@stmoside.org; 758-4100 x120

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

A Sacrifice for a Soldier

An old soldier, worn out in the service of his country, began playing the violin on the streets to earn his living. One day, while he was playing on the streets of Vienna, his hand trembled so severely that he could no longer play.



A passerby stopped and said, "Friend, you are very tired and feeble. Please let me play your violin."

The stranger played so sweetly that a crowd soon gathered and coins poured into the tattered hat of the old soldier. The new violinist emptied the money into the soldier's pocket and played again, more sweetly than before. Again the hat was filled with money, which was turned over to the veteran soldier. The stranger finally handed the violin back and was on his way.

"Who is he?" asked the bystanders. "Why, that is Amard Bucher, the great violinist," someone exclaimed.

And so it was. The master violinist had taken the man's place, had assumed his poverty, endured his disgrace, played his music and earned his living. He had made a sacrifice for that old soldier.

—Stewardship, February 2008

As children of God, we know that lasting fulfillment doesn't come from worldly endeavors. Material possessions certainly make us more comfortable along the journey, but the bottom line is that true joy is only found in matters of eternal significance.

We also know that a meaningful life is not self-centered. Rather it is a life with efforts directed outwardly for the benefit of others.

When we combine these two concepts, it is a given that part of our purpose here on earth is to model our lives based on our faith. As Fr. Mike asked us during his homily last weekend with regard to several very realistic situations, "What would Jesus do?"

In the true story above about the soldier and Amard Bucher, it is clear that Amard was a man of great compassion, strength and faith. He stepped into an uncomfortable situation, with his time and talents, and made a difference. This not only helped in that time and place, but left a lasting impression on all who witnessed it and have since relayed the story.

We, too, can make a difference. Our acts of kindness might never be witnessed by anyone on earth. One thing is certain, and that is that God will notice. . . and we will feel healthier because acts of charity are very therapeutic!

A sense of purpose gives energy to your mind and enthusiasm to your heart.

Parish "Build-Out" Moves Forward!

If you were not at STM the weekend of January 19-20, please stop by the Parish Information table for an important update on "***Our Journey Into The Future...Together***" flyer, which is also available on our Parish website by clicking on that title, then January 20, 2008 update.

- A slideshow of the Church footprint is available on our website (www.stmoside.org) Click on the top left of page "***Our New Church***" photo!
- The area surrounding the Church renderings is 'filler' and represents landscaping, parking, walkways, etc. It does NOT represent stairs!!!
- The seating plan for our new Church has increased from the original plan for 1,000. We are now looking at seating for 1,100 to 1,200 people.
- The Church building is now one story and is 90 feet closer to the parking lot for easier access.

For more information please contact:

Chris Smith at 758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org.



"Did You Know" Donation Update

January 2008: \$11,963.10

Collection for Week of: January 26/27, 2008

Number of Registered Households:	961
Envelopes	\$ 5,903.86
Children's Envelopes	0.00
Plate	1,321.00
Total	\$ 7,224.86

Thank you for keeping your Building Fund pledge current and for supporting your parish, even when you are away.

There are many ways to help support your Parish.

We offer a variety of options for easier giving.

In addition to the extra "mail-back" envelopes included in your packet, we offer automatic:

- ♦ Credit Card Withdrawal (Visa or MC)
- ♦ Automatic Checking Account Deduction
- ♦ Automatic Savings Account Deduction

To participate in these time-saving alternatives, please contact the Parish Office at:

758-4100 x100 or parishoffice@stmoside.org

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday-Friday • 6:30am-7:30pm
 Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Spend a few minutes (or more) with Jesus!

Exposition of the Eucharist on First Fridays and one other day of each month. Next date: Friday, February 15.

For more information, contact John O'Donnell at 598-6003.



Thank You from New Orleans



Thank you very much for the gifts, Mrs. Lucy and Mr. Joe, "I'm Chris, Randy, Genessia and Iris's mother." We are all very grateful for the gifts. We have been through so much and it's good to have good people like you. We are glad that God brought you to adopt us. We were in New Orleans during the storm for two and a half days. Then we went by my godfather's house in Abany, Georgia (Chris). Then we moved into a hotel in Lawrenceville, Georgia. After that we moved in a house in Lawrenceville. Then we moved in a trailer park in LaPlace, Louisiana. Now we are back in New Orleans trying to get back on track. Everybody in this house just wants to thank you. Happy Holiday!



Publicize Your Parish Event!

Would you like to publicize a parish event to the general public? Submit a Press Release Form at least three weeks in advance of your event to have it advertised in local news publications. Press Release Forms are available:



- on the parish website (www.stmoside.org, Contact Us, Parish Forms),
- the parish office, or
- from Anne Marshall at 727-2668 or annemarshall@sbcglobal.net.

Can You Help Our Volunteers?

If you are able to contribute towards the building supplies fund for the team going to New Orleans to continue helping members of our Sister Parish, St. Peter Claver, rebuild their homes, please use the envelope attached to the bulletin several weeks ago, or we will take any envelope you have—please return your contribution by February 12.

Thank you!

Thank You from Birth Choice of San Marcos

Once again your congregation has blessed Birth Choice with an exceeding abundance of layette items. These items are put into large boxes which are beautifully wrapped and filled with these lovely, new baby cloths, toys and baby items to bless our clients who give birth. I wish you could see the joy they bring. None of this could happen without the loving and faithful support of God's people.

Several of your members serve here at Birth Choice as counselors and we so appreciate their faithful dedication and love for life. Please be sure to pass on our thanks to Suzee Irwin and those who spearheaded the participation and collection of layette gifts for Epiphany Sunday. Than you, too, Father Mike, for your ongoing support of our ministry.


We would welcome any opportunity to help support your church body with our ministry.

—Serving the King, Mary Rose Stearns, Executive Director

Project Linus Coffee Report

Many thanks to our faithful and new volunteers who donated 42 homemade blankets for Project Linus to benefit sick and/or abused children at our January 28 Coffee. Information handouts and our Project Linus scrapbook were made available.

For information on this rewarding activity, call Mary Coxon at 599-8760.



**St. Thomas More
 Vehicle Donation Program**

Do you have a vehicle you want to donate?
 The St. Thomas More program is easy!

**Call the Parish Office at
 760-758-4100 x100**

STM \$crip News

Thank you to all who participate in this painless way to earn money for our new sanctuary, and thank you to the merchants that are willing to participate by providing gift certificates at a discount.

Scrip is sold on the Plaza after weekend Masses and in the parish office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-10:00am.

*For information, call Henny Jocelyn at 726-1177
 or visit <http://www.stmoside.org/scrip.htm>*

I Want to Earn STM Building Fund \$\$\$ with My...

Albertson's Card #(11 digits) _____

Ralph's Card #(13 digits) _____

Please send me a Food 4 Less Card

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please place completed form in the collection basket or return it to the \$CRIP table after weekend Masses or the Parish Office during the week. Thank you!

Come Learn About Centering Prayer!

“We may think of prayer as thoughts or feelings expressed in words. But this is only one expression. In the Christian tradition, Contemplative Prayer is considered to be the pure gift of God. It is the opening of mind and heart—our whole being—to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words, and emotions. Through grace we open our awareness to God whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than choosing—closer than consciousness itself.”

Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift. It is an attempt to present the teaching of earlier times in an updated form. Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer; rather it casts a new light and depth of meaning on them. It is at the same time a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. This method of prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him.”

—Excerpted from “The Prayer of Consent,” by Fr. Thomas Keating, OSCO

After the 5:00pm Mass on February 9, representatives from Contemplative Outreach of North San Diego (www.consd.com) will be here to offer a brief introduction to Centering Prayer. Come join us on the lower level at 6:30pm for a taste of this wonderfully transformative silent prayer. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Mary Williams at 822-3916.

Looking for Information on the Catholic Faith?

Are you interested in learning more about Catholicism, becoming a Catholic or returning to the Catholic Church after being away? You’re invited to Inquiry Sessions, which meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:00pm at the Parish Center.

For information, call Bob Taylor at 630-4589.

Thanks for the Blankets!

“What does a pick up and a CRV full of blankets mean? A bunch of warm happy people. Thank you for your generosity to Bro Benno’s on such short notice.”

The Pageant of Our Lord Trip—Space Available!

The Senior Seniors trip still has room on the bus going to the Pageant of Our Lord performance at the Rolling Hills Covenant Church on March 9. Call Leah Stevens at 630-0788 or Joyce Frink at 724-8091 for your reservation. Cost is \$45 per person.

Facing a Hospital Stay?

If you or someone you know is planning a hospital stay or ends up in the hospital, marking the “Catholic” box on the registration form ensures that the Diocesan Catholic Chaplain assigned to the hospital will know the patient is Catholic. You may also want to request a visit by the Catholic Chaplain. Most hospitals also have teams of ministers from local parishes who bring Holy Communion to Catholic patients.

News from the Larger Church

Theology on Tap for Young Adults in San Marcos—*Getting to Know Pope Benedict XVI* is the topic for the winter series, continues on Tuesdays from February 5-February 12, 7:00-8:30pm at Acapulco Restaurant and Cantina, 1020-50 West San Marcos Blvd., San Marcos. For more information, contact Carrie Giebel at 858-590-8260 or cgiebel@diocese-sdiego.org.

Lenten Mini-Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—Prepare for the Lenten journey toward Easter at an Ash Wednesday mini-retreat, *Living-Dying-Rising: the Paschal Mystery*, February 6, 9:00am-4:00pm, at Mission San Luis Rey’s Retreat Center in Oceanside. Retreat Center Director and Franciscan Br. Mark Schroeder will guide retreat participants through a day of prayer and reflection in preparation of Lent. A Mass will be celebrated a noon at the Parish, and a simple lunch will be provided afterwards. For more information, contact 757-3659 or www.sanluisrey.org.

Quiet Day Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—Rejuvenate yourself and enjoy solitude by keeping the balance between activity and contemplation in your life. Spend a quiet day at the Retreat Center on Monday, February 18, 9:00am-4:00pm. You will have time on your own for reflection in the gardens, chapel, or anywhere amid the 56 acres of this beautiful retreat location. Enjoy nature or catch up on some much-needed rest. Optional. Yoga and 15-minute neck and shoulder massage. For more information, contact 757-3659 or www.sanluisrey.org.

Women’s Retreat at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—*The Gift and Mystery of Love*—A Women’s Retreat with Fr. Stan Fortuna, CPR, whose inspiring words and music will help us to encounter, be transformed by and become a reflection of the gift and mystery of God’s love in our own lives. Daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Stations of the Cross as well as periods of quiet time to pray, reflect and grow in faith. The retreat is scheduled for April 4-6, 2008. The cost is \$210. For more information, contact Judy at 619-884-3829 or salmonja@cox.net.

Healing Prayer at St. James Church in Solana Beach—Healing prayer is offered after the 9:00am Mass every Sunday throughout the year. For more information, contact Sera Schmitt at 944-6827.

National Alliance on Mental Illness—NAMI North Coastal San Diego County is a grassroots, family and consumer self-help support and advocacy organization of families and individuals whose lives have been affected by serious mental illness. For more information, contact www.nami-northcoastal.org or 722-3754.

University of San Diego’s Center for Christian Spirituality in San Diego Announces Spring Schedule—Visit www.sandiego.edu/ccs for details on classes, presentations, and field trips for personal enrichment, social justice awareness, and academic and professional continuing education.

Community Service Numbers:
2-1-1 for human services information;
5-1-1 for traffic information



1450 SOUTH MELROSE DRIVE · OCEANSIDE, CA 92056 · PHONE: 760-758-4100 · FAX: 760-758-4165

www.stmoside.org · parishoffice@stmoside.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-12:00noon and 12:30-4:00pm

Parish Contacts

Updated 08/28/07

Council Chairs: Pastoral—Doug D'Agrosa 941-6800 • **Finance**—Paul Ibbetson 734-1051 • **Development**—Ron Briseno 726-4496

Pastoral Council Committees

Faith Formation & Evangelization Rory Griffin 414-3939

Religious Education (Adults)..... Bret Schanzenbach 806-6722
 Small Church Communities..... Sondra Parks 598-1269
 Little Rock Bible Studies..... Masako Streling 295-2594
 Religious Education (Children)..... Kathleen Bell 758-4100 x110
 Liturgy of the Word for Children..... Cathy Meyer 598-7853
 Sacramental Preparation..... Kathleen Bell 758-4100 x110
 Mid. School Youth Ministry Ron & Louise Briseno 758-4100 x153
 High School Youth Ministry..... Jeff & Gale Gibbons 726-7236
 Evangelization..... Available
 Vocations..... Available
 RCIA/Adults..... Mario Diaz 758-7870
 RCIA/Children..... Jeanette Marriott 434-1818

Liturgy Available

Altar Linen Care..... Marge Gillen 639-1929
 Bereavement Facilitator..... Sr. Maureen Brown 758-4100 x131
 Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs..... Regina Aulizio 753-7234
 Environment & Art..... Kathy Quinn 722-7525
 Eucharistic Adoration..... John O'Donnell 598-6003
 Interior Design Team..... Pat & Phil Goscienski 732-1414
 Liturgical Ministries..... Douglas Lynn 758-4100 x140
 Liturgical Music..... Douglas Lynn 758-4100 x140
 Wedding Coordinator..... Geralyn Sandin 940-1553

Marriage & Family Life Kalei & Paul Mendiola 945-9042

FAMILIA..... Kalei & Paul Mendiola 945-9042
 Family Services..... Deacon Tom Goeltz 758-4100 x130
 Marriage Preparation..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 758-4100 x100
 Deacon Tom Goeltz 758-4100 x130
 Parents & Tots..... Paul Mendiola 945-9042
 Widows & Widowers..... Helen Kuhn 727-8612

Parish Organizations & Events Available

Golf Tournament..... John Murphy 945-9935
 Historian..... Anne Marshall 727-2668
 Knights of Columbus..... Tom Dean 476-0431
 Library..... Chris James 598-5881
 Spirited Seniors..... Stella Leu  726-3869
 Vera Bayliss
 Women's Guild..... Germaine Wilmott 758-9949

Social Ministries Suzee Irwin 597-2706

Blood Drive..... Linda Dicus 726-5081
 Bereavement Follow-up Support..... Linda Dicus 726-5081
 Brother Benno's..... Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 727-8442
 Christmas Angel Ministry..... R.J. Irwin 597-2706
 CPR/AED Classes..... Phil Goscienski 732-1414
 Disability Facilitation..... Ann Eriksson 599-7151
 Fraternity & Michaelle House..... Carmen Tamayo 727-3028
 Huggy Buddies Program..... Gale Gibbons 726-7236
 Jail Ministry..... Rita McCarthy 758-4100 x100
 More's Workers..... Dick Belprez 295-1431
 Prayer Request Line..... Pat Wong 806-1310
 Norma Flanagan 630-0180
 Project Linus..... Mary Coxon 599-8760
 Pro-Life Activities..... Jane Kelleher 724-9658
 Sick & Homebound (*Eucharist*)..... Jean McCloskey 643-2363
 Sister Parish Program..... Sr. Maureen Brown, 758-4100 x131
 St. Bonaventure Mission..... Knights of Columbus 727-6165

Office Support..... Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100

Adopt-a-Project..... Joe Garcia 758-4100 x151
 Chair Set-Up..... Lorraine Doering 758-4100 x102
 General Support..... Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100
 Kitchen Overseer..... DeAnne Gonzales 598-8748
 STM Host Program..... Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100

Development Council Committees

Annual Catholic Appeal..... Diana Diaz 758-7870
 Capital Campaign..... Bill Ipsen 723-0402
 New Construction..... Brian Leahey 598-5697
 Parish Membership..... Louise Briseno 726-4496
 Planned Giving..... Chris Smith 758-4100 x120
 Publicity/Public Relations..... Anne Marshall 727-2668
 Sacrificial Giving/Tithing..... Paul Ibbetson 734-1051
 Scrip Sales..... Henny Jocelyn 726-1177
 Stewardship..... Chris Smith 758-4100 x120
 Vehicle Donations..... Henny Jocelyn 758-4100 x100

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor..... 758-4100 x100 michaelr@stmoside.org
 Deacon Tom Goeltz..... 758-4100 x130 or 727-8442 thomasg@stmoside.org
 Rev. Thomas W. Thompson, Pastoral Associate; Hospital Chaplain at
 Scripps La Jolla, Scripps Green & UCSD Thornton..... 858-945-2251 parishoffice@stmoside.org
 Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate..... 758-4100 x131 maureenb@stmoside.org
 Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation..... 758-4100 x110 kathleenb@stmoside.org
 Gale & Jeff Gibbons, High School Youth Ministers..... 758-4100 x150 jeffg@stmoside.org, galeg@stmoside.org
 Ron & Louise Briseno, Middle School Youth Ministers..... 758-4100 x153 ronb@stmoside.org, louiseb@stmoside.org
 Douglas Lynn, Director of Music/Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries..... 758-4100 x140 douglasl@stmoside.org
 Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director..... 758-4100 x100 kathys@stmoside.org
 Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship & Development..... 758-4100 x120 chris@stmoside.org
 Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance..... 758-4100 x151 joeg@stmoside.org
 Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary..... 758-4100 x100 hennyj@stmoside.org
 Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper..... 758-4100 x104 nataliep@stmoside.org
 Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician..... 758-4100 x102 lorrained@stmoside.org

Patronize Our Advertisers

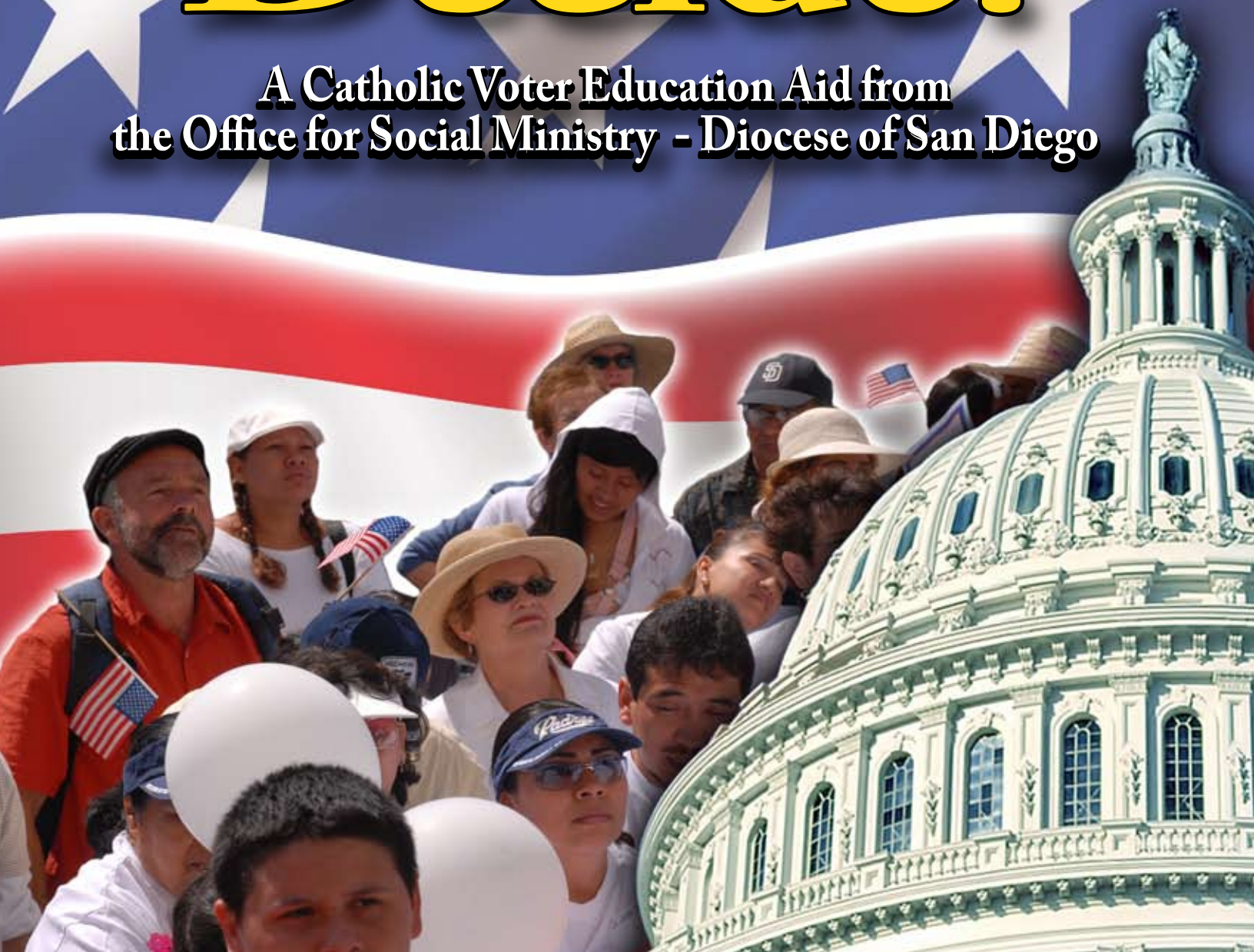
We wish to thank the many neighborhood merchants who generously support our bulletin with their advertising. Please patronize these merchants and let them know you saw their ad in the St. Thomas More bulletin. We are currently taking new ads. Any business owners are welcome to advertise their services. Please call Chris McAdams of C & M Publications at 951-683-0608. Thank you.

www.osmelink.org/vote

February 2008

As a Catholic... How Do I Decide?

A Catholic Voter Education Aid from
the Office for Social Ministry - Diocese of San Diego



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As a Catholic... How Do I Decide?

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Diocese of San Diego

Just about everyone will agree, the virtue of citizenship is in serious decline — evidenced by low voter turnout, by shrinking audiences for election debates, by voters obtaining information solely from 30-second commercials, and by many citizens being unaware of their elected officials and their voting records. As Catholics we have a responsibility to restore a culture of political engagement.

The Catholic community brings to public life the insights of the Scriptures and Catholic teaching, a broad experience in serving those in need, and a large diverse community. Every believer is called to faithful citizenship, to become an informed, active and responsible participant in the political process. In November of 2007, the U.S. Catholic Bishops made this point abundantly clear, “In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. This obligation is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, ‘it is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person. . . . As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life.’” *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Bishops of the United States*, sec. 13.

How To Use This Voter Aid?

This voter aid is designed to help Catholics embrace the virtue of citizenship by becoming better informed participants in the election process, which is essential to maintaining a healthy democratic society. It does not tell an individual how to vote, but rather, it will help users form their consciences so they can make sound moral choices. “The responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience.” *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, sec. 7.

The aid is divided into eight sections. Each begins with a principle taken from *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* or other Church documents. Following the principles are several suggested questions about candidates’ positions relating to the principles.

It is your responsibility to determine the candidates’ responses to these questions along with other questions you may formulate. Answers can be obtained by calling a candidate’s office, by observing debates, by perusing a candidate’s web site, or reading campaign literature. Having the answers to these questions will be invaluable in making a well informed decision on a candidate’s ability to represent you – a citizen who seeks to establish a community founded on authentic human values, one that advances human life and dignity as well as the common good.

Seasoned political participants may not need the assistance of this voter aid. Newcomers to the world of politics may find this aid and the process it proposes burdensome, involving too much work. Experiencing a sense of exertion is common in the development of any virtue, but voters who gain the virtue of citizenship will eventually view the election process as enjoyable exercise in which they take great pride – not a dreaded duty.

To find your candidates, visit the Vote-smart web site at www.vote-smart.org and enter your nine-digit Zip Code on the left-hand side of the page. (Most mail solicitation received at home will have the full nine-digit Zip Code.) You may also call the San Diego County Registrar of Voters 858-565-5800, Toll Free 800-696-0136, Services for the Hearing Impaired TDD 858-694-3441 or the Imperial County Clerk--Recorder 760-482-4226 for this information.

The Office for Social Ministry hopes this Voter Education Aid will assist you as you exercise the virtue of faithful citizenship.



Protecting Human Life



Each human life, called into existence by God, is sacred. For this reason we have an absolute responsibility to defend human life at every stage and in every condition. Abortion and euthanasia are morally wrong because they attack life itself, the most fundamental good and the condition for all others. The U.S. Bishops have spoken clearly on this matter, "There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor. These intrinsically evil acts must always be rejected and never supported. A preeminent example is the intentional taking of human life through abortion. It is always morally wrong to destroy innocent human beings. A legal system that allows the right to life to be violated on the grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed." *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, sec. 22.

The Church supports constitutional protection for unborn human life and legislative efforts to oppose abortion and euthanasia. It supports laws and programs that promote childbirth and adoption over abortion, and those that provide aid to people who are sick or dying. It opposes all forms of research that utilize the destruction of human embryos. It rejects the cloning of human beings whether for research or for reproduction.

In every election cycle the question is asked, "Can a Catholic vote for a candidate who supports abortion, euthanasia, or embryonic stem cell research, that are clearly intrinsic evils?" Here is what the Bishops had to say on the matter in *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, "As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet a candidate's position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support." sec. 42. Put simply, protecting human life is paramount in the political arena, and some evils are so profound and egregious that a reasonable person can not take seriously the candidacy of a person who allows or fosters them.

Imagine supporting a candidate that was right on every issue except for one. Let's say, because a candidate was so focused on the safety of constituents, that he or she supported and would work for the use of capital punishment for anyone over the age of 16 that was involved in gang membership or gang criminal activity. Would or could a voter take seriously a politician supporting this position no matter how "right" he or she was on a host of other issues? Obviously not.

From time to time, however, mitigating circumstances can arise. It is conceivable that a pro-life Catholic could feel compelled to vote for a pro-abortion candidate. For example, one might be confronted by a set of candidates in a particular race where all supported legalized abortion. Every candidate in the race might be pro-abortion. What then? Would it be permissible to set aside the life issue and base a decision on other factors or choose a lesser evil by selecting the candidate with the least strident pro-abortion position? Perhaps so, but it would be a true contradiction for a Catholic voter to support the candidate's actual position involving an intrinsic evil. A voter might also decide to simply not vote in that race. Another example might be where a voter has certain knowledge that a candidate that claims to be pro-life is only using the issue to secure broader support and will do nothing positive on the issue when in office. What then?

Circumstances like these are rare but do occur. In situations where there is a legitimate possibility of voting for a candidate who embraces an intrinsic evil, caution would be advised, and the guidance of a competent counsel such as a pastor or moral theologian would be recommended. Why is there a call for this counsel? Individual political interest, especially for those of us who work for justice, can easily cloud a correct understanding of the hierarchy of values that is at the foundation of authentic moral and political thought.

What is not legitimate, however, is to compile a list of a candidate's positive positions on lesser human goods (those not involving intrinsic evil) in an effort to justify a vote for a candidate when it is known that that candidate supports and will work to implement or advance an intrinsic evil.

In 1989 Cardinal Joseph Bernardin eloquently wrote, "...I wish to emphasize that no earthly value is more fundamental than human life itself. Human life is the condition for enjoying freedom and all other values. Consequently, if one must choose between protecting or serving lesser human values that depend upon life for their existence and life itself, human life must take precedence."

Concerning the use of the death penalty... Society has a right and duty to defend itself against violent crime and to reach out to victims of crime. Yet our nation's increasing reliance on the death penalty is troubling. Respect for human life must even include respect for the lives of those who have taken the lives of others. It has become clear that inflicting the penalty of death is cruel and unnecessary. The antidote to violence is not more violence. The Catechism of the Catholic states, "If, however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people's safety from the aggressor, authority will limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person." sec. 2267.

- ★ *How will you protect the weakest in our midst: innocent, preborn children, seriously ill and dying, those with significant disabilities?*
- ★ *Will you support or reject a ban on partial birth abortion?*
- ★ *Will you support or reject policies that allow for physician assisted suicide?*
- ★ *Do you support or reject federal/state funding for abortion?*
- ★ *Do you support or reject efforts to improve medical care for those at the end of life?*
- ★ *Do you support or reject the death penalty?*
- ★ *Do you reject state and federal funding for stem cell research that uses and destroys human embryos?*
- ★ *Do you support state and federal funding for proven and highly successful stem cell research using non-embryonic stem-cell sources such as umbilical cord blood and adult stem cells?*



Marriage and Family

Marriage is the intimate union and equal partnership of a man and a woman. It comes to us from the hand of God, who created male and female in his image, so that they might become one body and might be fertile and multiply (See Genesis chapters 1 and 2). Though man and woman are equal as God's children, they are created with important differences that allow them to give themselves and to receive the other as a gift. Marriage is both a natural institution and a sacred union because it is rooted in the divine plan of creation. In addition, the Catholic Church teaches that the valid marriage between two baptized Christians is also a sacrament - a saving reality and a symbol of Christ's love for his church (See Ephesians 5:25-33). In every marriage the spouses make a contract with each other. In a sacramental marriage the couple also enters into a covenant in which their love is sealed and strengthened by God's love.

As a result of their baptism, all Christians are called to a life of holiness. This divine calling, or vocation, can be lived in marriage, or in the single life, or in the priesthood or consecrated (religious) life. No one vocation is superior to or inferior to another. Each one involves a specific kind of commitment that flows from one's gifts and is further strengthened by God's grace. All vocations make a unique contribution to the life and mission of the Church. The family arises from marriage. Parents, children, and family members form what is called a domestic church or church of the home. This is the primary unit of the Church - the place where the Church lives in the daily love, care, hospitality, sacrifice, forgiveness, prayer and faith of ordinary families

An intense battle is raging, especially here in California, over the institution of marriage. Proposition 22, which defined marriage as between one man and one woman, was overwhelmingly passed by the California electorate in 2000. Since that time, political forces hostile to the generally accepted notion of marriage have attempted to chip away at its definition, including a lawsuit on behalf of thousands of same-sex couples married in San Francisco in 2005. The constitutionality of Proposition 22 should be determined by the California Supreme Court sometime in mid-2008. No one knows whether the California Court will uphold the traditional definition of marriage or go the way of the Massachusetts Supreme Court and open the door to same-sex marriage.

Unthinkable until recent times, marriage itself has become a critical political issue. The U.S. Bishops also speak clearly on this issue, "The human person is not only sacred but also social. Full human development takes place in relationship with others. The family—based on marriage between a man and a woman—is the first and fundamental unit of society and is a sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children. It should be defended and strengthened, not redefined or undermined by permitting same-sex unions or other distortions of marriage. Respect for the family should be reflected in every policy and program." *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, sec. 46.

- ★ *Do you support the traditional definition of marriage?*
- ★ *Will you work to pass the proposed marriage-protection initiative that would place the language of Proposition 22 into the California Constitution?*
- ★ *Will you support policies and programs that will strengthen marriages and families in California?*
- ★ *Will you work to pass the proposed initiative, Sarah's Law – the Child and Teen Safety and Stop Predators Act, that would mandate parental notification when minor girls seek abortions?*



★ Protecting Immigrants and Refugees ★

The gospel mandate to love our neighbor and welcome the stranger leads the Church to care for immigrants, both documented and undocumented. We seek basic protections for immigrants, including due process rights, access to basic public benefits, and fair naturalization and legalization opportunities. We oppose efforts to stem migration that do not effectively address its root causes. A more generous immigration and refugee policy based on providing temporary or permanent safe haven for those in need; protecting immigrant workers from exploitation; promoting family reunification; safe guarding the right of all peoples to return to their homelands; ensuring that public benefits and a fair and efficient process for obtaining citizenship are available to immigrants; extending to immigrants the full protection of U.S. law; and addressing the root causes of immigration.

“As Catholic bishops, we acknowledge the right and the necessity of our country to maintain our borders and enforce our laws. However, we caution that while so doing, our government must respect human rights and dignity and minimize the separation of families. We have consistently held that a restructuring of policy so as to address all aspects of immigration is the right way to secure our country, make our communities safe, and effectively solve the problem of unauthorized migration to our country.” *Immigration Statement of The Catholic Bishops Of California, January 2008.*

- ★ Do you support or reject fair and humane enforcement policies that also protect our national security?
- ★ Do you support or reject an earned legalization program for undocumented immigrants, which includes a path to citizenship?
- ★ Do you support or reject a future worker program (i.e. “temporary” worker program) which includes protections for both U.S. and foreign-born workers with an option for a path to citizenship?
- ★ Do you support or reject family-based immigration reform which reduces family backlogs and waiting times for family reunification?
- ★ Do you support or reject restoration of due process protections for immigrants?
- ★ Do you support or reject the protection of refugees and asylum seekers and repealing laws and policies that lead to their incarceration?

★ Protecting Workers and Working-Poor Families ★

Church teaching on economic justice insists that economic decisions and institutions be judged on whether they protect or undermine the dignity of the human person. We support policies that create jobs with adequate pay and decent working conditions, increase the minimum wage so it becomes a living wage, and overcome barriers to equal pay and employment for women and minorities.

We reaffirm the Church’s traditional teaching support of the right of all workers to choose to organize and bargain collectively and to exercise these rights without reprisal. We also affirm Church teaching on the importance of economic freedom, initiative, and the right to private property, which provide tools and resources to pursue the common good.

Efforts to provide for the basic financial needs of poor families and children must enhance their lives and dignity. We seek approaches that promote greater responsibility and offer concrete steps to help families leave poverty behind. Attempts in the last ten years to reform the welfare system have focused on providing productive work and training, mostly in low-wage jobs. Until new workers find jobs that pay a living wage, they will need other forms of support including: tax credits, subsidized health care and child care, and assistance in securing safe, affordable housing.

- ★ Do you support or reject strengthening of U.S. labor law that will sustain life with dignity for workers and their families?
- ★ Do you support or reject an increase in the minimum wage that would reflect a living or just wage for workers and their families?
- ★ Do you support or reject legislation that would allow farm workers to secure housing, be protected from environmental hazards and unsafe working conditions?
- ★ Do you support or reject programs that assist working poor families as they work to secure jobs that support a living wage?

Promoting Health Care

Affordable and accessible health care is an essential safeguard of human life and a fundamental human right. Any plan to reform the nation's healthcare system must be rooted in values that respect human dignity, protect human life, and meet the unique needs of the poor. We support health care that is affordable and accessible to all.

As part of our efforts to achieve fundamental health care reform, we will support measures to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid (MediCal and Healthy Families in California) and work for incremental measures (both public and private) that extend health care coverage to children, pregnant women, workers, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations. Additionally, we support policies that provide effective, compassionate care for those suffering from HIV/AIDS and those coping with addictions.

It is likely that a ballot initiative, currently being formulated by the California Legislature and Governor, will appear on the November 2008 ballot. This law would require all Californians to carry health insurance, spread the cost broadly throughout the community, and make affordable health insurance available to low income individuals.

- ★ *Do you support or reject increasing funds for AIDS research and care?*
- ★ *Do you support or reject the California healthcare reform initiative?*
- ★ *Do you support or reject current allocation of federal dollars to the states to assist poor and working poor families in securing health care? (Healthy Families, MediCal, etc.)*
- ★ *Do you oppose or support the use of tissue from unborn human beings for scientific research?*

Safe and Affordable Housing

The shortage of safe and affordable housing is a local as well as a national crisis. We support a recommitment to securing "safe and affordable housing" for all and effective policies that will increase the supply of quality housing and preserve, maintain, and improve existing housing. We promote public/private partnerships, especially those that involve religious communities. We continue to oppose all forms of discrimination in housing and support measures such as the Community reinvestment Act to help ensure that financial institutions meet the credit needs of the local communities in which they are located.

- ★ *Do you support or reject increasing the low income housing tax credit?*
- ★ *Do you support or reject innovative federal programs that offer real choices and financial resources to families seeking decent and affordable housing?*



★ Protecting Families from the Harm of Pornography ★

We have grave concern about the proliferation and easy access to pornography and the sex industry. The grounds for our concern are found in a faith-filled conviction about the dignity of the body and sexuality rooted scripturally in the creation accounts in the Book of Genesis and in the Incarnation of the Son of God. Pornography and the sex industry offend against the divine plan for the body and for the intimacy of sexual union. It can have a progressively desensitizing effect, render individuals morally numb, be addictive, undermine marriage and family life, and sometimes incite violent crimes. Pornography finds its remedy in a conversion to the understanding of the body and sexuality found in their intrinsic meaning as well as in revelation.

Hard-core, child pornography and even soft-core pornography are not harmless forms of entertainment. They degrade and abuse the women and children who appear in such materials as well as those who view it. Child pornography is a permanent record of child sexual abuse. In addition, studies indicate that these materials have a tremendous negative influence on the attitudes and behaviors of people who consume them. Land use studies indicate that sexually-oriented businesses encourage prostitution, increase sexual assaults and attract other criminal activity.

- ★ *Will you continue to allow relaxed efforts in the government's regulatory role in the broadcast media?*
- ★ *Will you support or reject law enforcement's efforts to eradicate obscenity, hard core pornography and sexually oriented businesses from our neighborhoods and the Internet?*
- ★ *What would you do to stop the trafficking in human persons?*
- ★ *Will you support or reject local ordinances making it possible to eliminate or reduce sexually orientated businesses?*

★ Promoting Global Solidarity ★

Since the human family extends across the globe, our responsibility to promote the common good requires that we do whatever we can to address human problems wherever they arise around the world. As a very wealthy and powerful nation, the United States has a responsibility to help the poor and vulnerable, promote global economic prosperity and environmental responsibility, foster stable and peaceful relations among nations and uphold human rights in the world community.

- ★ *Will you support or reject increasing debt relief to overcome poverty in the poorest nations?*
- ★ *Will you support or reject helping to alleviate global poverty through foreign aid programs that support sustainable development and provide new economic opportunities for the poor without promoting population control?*
- ★ *Will you support or reject helping to alleviate global poverty through trade policies that are tied to worker protection, human rights and environmental concerns?*



Diocese of San Diego
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Useful Links

Catechism of the Catholic Church
www.usccb.org/catechism/text/

Compendium of the Social Doctrine Of The Church
www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_pc_justpeace_doc_20060526_compendio-dott-soc_en.html

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship
A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States
www.usccb.org/bishops/FCStatement.pdf

The Gospel of Life (Evangelium vitae)
www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae_en.html

Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics
www.usccb.org/prolife/gospel.shtml

Catholic Charities USA – Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America
www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=897&srcid=193

Justice for Immigrants
www.justiceforimmigrants.org

www.osmelink.org/vote

As Catholics, our conscience will not permit us to abandon unborn children because they are seen as unwanted or inconvenient, to turn our backs on immigrants because they lack the proper documents, to lose marriage as we know it, or to turn away from poor women and children because they lack economic or political power.

If you have any questions about this guide, call 858-490-8324

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