



In 2002, STM hosted an ecumenical prayer service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Pastors and members from several local Christian churches participated.

This space will be featuring different memories from our history each week. See page 4 for details.

A Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of San Diego

Spirituality † Tradition † Community

1450 South Melrose Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056

760.758.4100 Phone
760.758.4165 Fax

www.stmoside.org
parishoffice@stmoside.org



Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor
Deacon Thomas A. Goeltz

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

Mass Schedule
Saturday at 5:00pm
Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am
Tuesday-Friday at 8:15am

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

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

January 23, 2011 • Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak
michaelr@stmoside.org
760-758-4100 x100

My Journey with "Roe v. Wade": A Personal Reflection

January 22 marks the 38th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court Decision which legalized abortion in the United States.

The Pastor's Column for this weekend concerns this issue and was first written in 2001, It has been updated for this year and is included in the Bulletin as an insert.

Fr. Mike's Health Report

I am now "in the pipeline" for back surgery. It may take up to a month for it to be scheduled.

The surgery will be more severe than my last. The hospital stay, though, will be for only a day or two.

There will be a three to four week recuperation time.

I will continue to inform the Parish regarding all the details as I become aware of them.

Your continued thoughts and prayers are most appreciated!

—Rev. Mike Ratajczak, Pastor

Capital Campaign Update

See the insert in today's bulletin for a progress report on
Phase II of our Capital Campaign
"Our Journey Into The Future . . . Together"

Our Mission is to: worship God,

Mass Schedule:

Saturday at 5:00pm; Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am;
Tuesday-Friday at 8:15am;
watch bulletin for holydays

Rite of Reconciliation (Confession):

Saturday from 4:00-4:30pm (or by appointment)

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

Liturgical Ministry: Contact Douglas Lynn at 760-758-4100 x140

Music Ministry: Contact Douglas Lynn at 760-758-4100 x140

Communion for the Homebound/Hospitalized:

Contact Parish Office at 760-758-4100 x100

Anointing of the Sick: Contact Parish Office

Matrimony:

Contact Parish Office a minimum of nine months in advance

*For further information, call Rev. Michael Ratajczak
at 760-758-4100 x100 or michaelr@stmoside.org.*

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: 8:30am 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 760-758-4100 x110 or kathleenb@stmoside.org.*

and serve God's people in word and deed.

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

*For further information, see page 10, or call Chris Smith
at 760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org.*

Thanks from North County Solutions for Change



Dear St. Thomas More Parishioners,

Thank you for going above and beyond to bless and adopt our Solutions University Kids on your Angel Tree for Christmas again this year. We so appreciate your willingness to come alongside of our families as they work through the Solutions University to permanently solve their family homelessness.

Thanks to your hard work and caring hearts, our Solutions for Change teens had a blast this Christmas. Thank you for giving as you did, as we cannot do, what we do, without the help of our North County community friends and partner.

The name says it all. Solving family homelessness for kids and communities is what we do. And because you care, it's what you do as well. Please give everyone a very big "Thank You" for always being here for our Solutions for Change kids and parents.

Sincerely and Gratefully,
Antonea Peterson
Community Outreach Coordinator
North County Solutions for Change

A Note from Catholic Charities



Thank you Parishioners of St. Thomas More for your continued support throughout 2010. Your thoughts, prayers, and volunteer efforts helped us in many ways—some of you worked in the pantry, others contributed to the PBB (peanut butter brigade) and several made wonderful Christmas stockings distributed at our annual Christmas Store (we helped 217 children with toys in December). The Food Resource Center currently serves more than 3,500 people every month. If you are interested in learning more about the program or volunteering please contact Lisa at 760-631-4792.

Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, January 23 (67)
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 8:23-9:3
Psalm 27:1,4,13-14
1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17
Matthew 4:12-23

Monday, January 24 (317)
Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor

Hebrews 9:15,24-28
Psalm 98:1-6
Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday, January 25 (519)
The Conversion of Paul, apostle

Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22
Psalm 117:1-2
Mark 16:15-18

Wednesday, January 26 (520)
Timothy and Titus, bishops

2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5
Psalm 96:1-3,7-8,10
Luke 10:1-9

Thursday, January 27 (320)

Hebrews 10:19-25
Psalm 24:1-6
Mark 4:21-25

Friday, January 28 (321)
Hewbrews

10:32-39
Psalm 37:3-6,23-24,39-40
Mark 4:26-34

Saturday, January 29 (522)

Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19
Luke 1:69-75 (Psalm)
Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, January 30 (70)

Zephaniah 2:3;3:12-13
Psalm 146:6-10
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 5:1-12a

Prayer List

Call 760-758-4100 x102 to add a name for four weeks.

- Mary Alexander
- Laura Allenfort
- The Allison Family
- Lucia Ambriz
- Mary Balli
- Patricia Barbour
- Clarice Bednarz
- John Bennici
- Regina Bentz
- Roseanne Berg
- George "Whitey" Betus
- Betty Jean Bielich
- Carol Bock
- Lynda Brady
- Monica Broussard
- Janet Brown
- Phyllis Brown
- The Brown Family
- Shelby Campbell
- Claudia Caplinger
- Paul Cassidy
- Flor Catap & Family
- Lolly Cervantes
- Pat Christopherson
- Paul Cipowski
- Dick Clarke
- Lee Coccaro
- Dolly Cole
- Carl Coleman
- James Coleman
- The Cope Family
- Karen Flaharty Daley
- Judith DiMatteo
- Linda Dossman
- Kathryn Ernst
- Bob & Boo Falconer
- The Fiore Family
- Peggy & Jack Fischer
- Eileen Flood
- Ryan Flum
- Matthew Foster
- Kathryn Franklin
- Karla Frankoski
- Joe Freire
- Carmen Garcia
- Rick Gonzalez
- Eileen Gough
- Jeffrey Guyer
- Rosemary Haeffelin
- Wim Hage
- Bob Hale
- Rita Harnacker
- Lilian Hills
- Vickie Hitchcock
- Gabe Holliday
- Iolanda Iacobelli
- Max Isaac
- Eileen Jones
- Paul Kennedy
- Debbie Kinney
- Helen Kuhn
- Lillian Lachance
- The Lamelin Family
- Bernie Lanzrath
- Brandon LeBlanc
- The Leue & Clark Families
- Ashley Load
- Cassandra Loretto
- Lauren Loretto
- James MacArthur
- Lydia Mangahas
- Nancy Marley
- The McCotter Family
- The McMahan & Frost Families
- Virginia McWalters
- Bob McWilliams
- Lorraine Micallef
- Carol Michael
- Walt & Rita Mikridge
- Harold & Barbara Miller
- June Mitchell
- The Molony & Mangahas Families
- Nancy Moore
- Andy Murchison
- Margie Myers
- Cosmo Nocida
- Eleanor Novosel
- Helen O'Connell
- Heidi Olson
- Helen Pingtella
- Reuben & Evi Quinn
- Otila Quiroz
- The Reaves & DeSimone Families
- Jack Riley
- Rita Ritchie
- Joanne Robinson
- Maria Rogers
- The Romey & Gonzalez Families
- Dorothy Rouse
- The Russo Family
- Nancy Scali
- Linda Schmidt
- The Douglas E. Schulte Family
- The Schweitzer Family
- Bob, Joan, & Julie Shea
- Elizabeth Shirzad
- Richard Sikora
- Jeanne Sisson
- Mike Snyder
- Nick Soltau
- Martha Sosa
- Gilda Spiegl
- Leah Stevens
- Valerie Stevens
- Pete Sullivan
- Maria Surmenidis
- David Sweet
- Stephen Toth, Jr.
- Laurie Updyke
- Barbara Upson
- Arnie Velasco
- Dominic Vienna, Jr.
- Vanessa Vitiello-Koble
- Kevin Watson-Graff
- John Whitton
- Elizabeth & Debbie Winters
- Chester Bruno Wojcik

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:

- Gunnery Sgt. Fernando Andrade, Jr.
- Capt. Sean M. Barnes, USAF
- 1st Lt. Jeffrey Bauer, USMC
- Major Robert Bechtold, USMC
- PFC John Brandone
- PFC Jonathan Chasteler
- Corp. Willie Deel
- Lance Corp. Brandon Doyle, USMC
- SSGT Julian Fyffe, USMC
- MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC
- 2nd LT Robert K. Gervasio, USMC
- FCCM Adam Gregory, USN
- Lance Corp. Samuel D. Krebs
- Staff Sgt. Travis M. Meyers, USAF
- Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army
- Sr. Airman Robert Spear, USAF
- PVT2 Tyler Timmerman, US Army
- LT Billy Turley, USN
- Sgt. Charles Watts, USMC

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

Calendar Highlights

Also check the Parish website (www.stmoside.org) for complete calendar information.

The Week Ahead

- Jan 23 Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
- Jan 23 RE.A.CH High School classes
- Jan 23 New Member Reception
- Jan 29 Liturgical Ministers Workshop
- Jan 29-30 St. Bonaventure Indian Mission Clothing Drive
- Jan 30 RE.A.CH Classes at Church, including high school

The Month Ahead

- Feb 1-2 Restaurant Fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen
- Feb 4 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- Feb 4 Women's Ministry
- Feb 5 Women's Guild Fashion Show
- Feb 6 Knights of Columbus Breakfast
- Feb 17 Spirited Seniors Viejas Trip

The Year Ahead

- Mar 26-27 Women's Guild Bake Sale
- June 3 STM Golf Classic
- June 12 Confirmation
- July 18-22 Vacation Bible Camp

Questions? Contact Henny at 760-758-4100 x100 hennyj@stmoside.org.

Pray for Women Religious

Please join us in praying for the women religious who serve in the Diocese of San Diego. They have been assigned to days of the year in alphabetical order.

January 24	Sr. Mary Manthi, CVI
January 25	Sr. Janet Marich, FDC
January 26	Sr. Kathleen Martin, CSJ
January 27	Sr. Briana Martinez, OCD
January 28	Sr. Barbara Ann Mason, OP
January 29	Sr. Alexandra Matti, DMI
January 30	Sr. E. Aileen McCombs, SFCC

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 22, 5:00pm	Jim Tutino ☩ & all fallen officers' families
Sunday, January 23, 8:30am	Anita Nevins ☩
Sunday, January 23, 10:30am	Duilia Colucci ☩
Tuesday, January 25, 8:15am	Mary Norelli ☩
Wednesday, January 26, 8:15am	Al Smith ☩
Thursday, January 27, 8:15am	Daniel Piro ☩
Friday, January 28, 8:15am	J. C. Gonzalez ☩
Saturday, January 29, 5:00pm	Mary Baker ☩
Sunday, January 30, 8:30am	Frances Espana ☩
Sunday, January 30, 10:30am	Kenneth Fiskén ☩

Welcome to Newly Registered Parishioners

Evans Formica
 Gregory & Michelle McMahon & Family
 Guy & Kay Smith & Family
 John Walsh

Flower Donations

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the contributions of:

Patty & David Rudolph

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

Congratulations to

Edith & Tom Noel (60 years)

who celebrate their anniversary January 27.

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

In Memoriam



Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Pat Cope, who died on December 22. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, February 4, at 2:00pm at St. Thomas More. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Mary Patricia Frost, who died on January 10. Her funeral services will be in England. She is the mother of Parishioner Ann McMahan. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Dorothea Brown, who died on January 12. Her funeral services were held in Los Angeles. She is the aunt of staff member Sr. Maureen Brown, CSJ. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Bernard DeSimone, who died on January 13. His funeral services will be in Nevada. He is the father of Parishioner Lisa Reaves. Please keep the family in your prayers.

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

Memories from Our History

For our 25th anniversary year, we will be featuring different historical photos and memories on the bulletin cover each week. If you have any photos or memories you would like considered, please email them to parishoffice@stmoside.org or bring them to the Parish Office.

STM Scrip News

Scrip for TARGET is now available!

Thanks to all who support our Parish Building Fund by purchasing Scrip gift cards!

Remember, Scrip is available for purchase FOUR ways!

1. Monday-Friday during business hours in the Parish Office
2. Online at www.stmoside.org, click on Contact Us, then click on Scrip
3. Email at scrip@stmoside.org
4. Phone at 760-758-4100 x150

Orders may be picked up after Mass on the weekend or at the Parish Office during the week.

Opportunity to Help Local Families in Need



North County Solutions for Change women and children's shelter needs volunteers for meal preparation, servers, and donations (food and paper goods). STM has committed to providing one meal per month for this ministry. In this way we answer the call of Jesus to feed the hungry, and this is in our neighborhood. Any help you can provide is welcome!

2011 DATES AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION:

**February 27, April 24, May 22,
 June 26, August 28, September 25,
 October 23, November 27, and December 25**

Organizations as well as individuals are invited to participate with portions or entire meal preparation, drinks, desserts, and/or monetary contributions to offset the cost for those able to cook. Please prayerfully consider which month(s) you are able to help with this important ministry.

**For more information, contact Paul & Kalei Mendiola at
 760-945-9042 or kaleiann@sbcglobal.net.**

Food Bank Contributions

Look for the blue barrels on the Plaza at weekend Masses to deposit your contributions for North County Community Services Food Bank in San Marcos. The most needed items include canned meats and protein, pasta and pasta sauce, boxed macaroni and cheese, and canned fruit.

Thank you for your support! For more information, contact Ron Briseno at 760-758-4100 x153 or ronb@stmoside.org.



Quilting News

Everyone interested in joining the Quilters Group is welcome. We will be meeting on the first and third Thursdays of the month, at 10:00am in the lower level of the Parish Center.

For more information, contact Nancy Wozniak at 760-729-0782.

Eucharistic Adoration



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

Exposition of the Eucharist on First Fridays.
 Next date: Friday, February 4.

*For more information, contact
 the Parish Office at 760-758-4100 x100.*

Rosary

A communal Rosary is prayed after every morning Mass (Tuesday-Friday) in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Please join us!



Women’s Guild News

February 5 Fashion Show—Tickets will be on sale after Masses on the weekends through January 29-30. Price is still \$35, checks made out to STM Women’s Guild. This year’s theme is “Hearts and Flowers,” with multiple opportunity baskets, many door prizes, and a delicious three-course luncheon. Don’t miss out on this one. We all need something fun after the post-holiday letdown!! Anyone wishing to donate an opportunity basket or door prize, please call Vicky Squires at 760-724-7371 or Valerie Thompson at 760-630-1703.

Envelope Holders—If you took an envelope at the January meeting, please turn it in after Mass. We need to know if all seats are filled. Otherwise, call Leah Stevens at 760-630-0788 to let her know if you have seats available. Thank you.

Board Meeting—Since our March meeting is Saturday, March 5, we need a board meeting before that time for planning purposes. Therefore, we will have a February board meeting at our regular time, Monday, February 7, at 10:00am at Valerie’s.

STM Women’s Ministry

Starting on Friday, February 4, we will be getting together on the first Friday of every month from 7:00-8:30pm at the Parish Center. Please come join us to renew your spirit and fellowship with the women of our Parish. Many of you joined us for our kick-off retreat in November. Please invite your friends. We look forward to seeing you all again! For more information, contact womensministry@stmoside.org or 760-806-6722.

Catholic Widows and Widowers of North County

CWWNC meets the fourth Sunday of each month for Mass at various Catholic Parishes in North County. Prospective members are welcome at any of our activities; however, an RSVP is recommended. Contact Gerri Wilmott at 760-758-9949 or Carol Kope 760-726-0533 for more information. Our general meeting and potluck is held the second Sunday of each month (next is February 13). See the bulletin board on the lower level of the Parish Center for our monthly newsletter of activities.

Marriage & Family Life Corner

Marriage Moments—An increasing trend amongst married couples is to not bother wearing their wedding rings. But does a little band of jewelry really matter? The answer to that question is a resounding yes. The ring acts as a constant reminder of the commitment you have made to your spouse. It is a sign of your love for one another and therefore helps maintain the bond between you. And of course it’s also a sign that your spouse is truly spoken for!

Parenting Pointers—Feeling frustrated? Take a break. Everyone needs a break from being a parent once in a while. If you have another adult in your family, take turns getting away. For example, have your partner stay with the children so you can visit friends. Take turns sleeping late on the weekends. If you’re a single parent, ask friends and relatives to help by running some errands for you or watching your child while you go out.

For more information, visit www.diocese-sdiego.org and click on Ministries, Marriage & Family Life or contact Jen Frost at 760-758-4100 x100.

Our Journey Into The Future . . . Together!
Phase II ~ Our Permanent Church

St. Thomas More, pray for us!

Pledge Statistics as of January 18

		# of Families
	Total Phase II Responses	Responding
Unable to pledge at this time (12 of these families have been adopted)		35
Under \$100		23
\$100 and up		211
\$1,000 and up		80
\$1,500 and up		133
\$2,500 and up		89
\$4,500 and up		31
\$6,000 and up		19
\$10,000 and up		20
\$25,000 and up		3
\$50,000 and up		2
Total to Date	\$1,485,551	646
Still Needed	\$514,449	367
Total Goal	\$2,000,000	1,013



O God,
 the builder of all things,
 You have placed on us
 the obligation of toil.

Grant that the work we do
 toward providing our faith community
 with a permanent spiritual home
 for prayer, nourishment and sacrifice
 may serve to better our lives
 and give you greater honor and glory.

Through your goodness,
 may our acts of generosity,
 given not merely from our excess
 but also from our need,
 contribute to the spread
 of the kingdom of Christ,
 who lives and reigns
 with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God forever and ever.
 Amen.

Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development
 760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org

Liturgy & Music

Worship God

Douglas Lynn
 Director of Liturgy and Music
 douglasl@stmoside.org; 760-758-4100 x140

WINTER ORDINARY TIME – A SENSE OF THE SEASON

Ordinary Time is not a season but rather a time between the seasons. The length of time for Winter Ordinary time depends on when Ash Wednesday falls. Ordinary, from the word “ordinal,” simply means counted time—we use this term to help us organize the scriptures, psalms, and prayers we read between the end of Christmas and the beginning of Lent.



WINTER

So what will our focus be? The liturgical color is green, the color of hope and life. For the winter months we will use dark greens and have a simple, calm environment. The Gospel of Matthew will be proclaimed though the Liturgical year and we will center our attention on keeping the Lord's Day Holy.

For those who are interested in joining a Liturgical Ministry, January 29 has been set aside for training new Eucharistic Ministers and Ministers of the Word (those who proclaim the readings at Mass). Please sign up!

We can use Winter Ordinary Time to remember in prayer those among us who are preparing for initiation into our faith, our youth who are in the midst of Confirmation studies, those who have lost a loved one, and those who are homebound or hospitalized. This year Ordinary time is from January 9 until March 8...between the seasons is not ordinary at all!

Kathy Arciero
 Liturgy Committee Chairman



What is this place where we are meeting?

Only a house, the earth its floor.

Walls and a roof, sheltering people,

Windows for light, an open door.

Yet it becomes a body that lives

When we are gathered here,

And know our God is near.

Words from afar, stars that are falling,

Sparks that are sown in us like seed:

Names for our God, dreams, signs and wonders

Sent from the past are all we need.

We in this place remember and speak

Again what we have heard:

God's free redeeming word.

And we accept bread at his table,

Broken and shared, a living sign.

Here in this world, dying and living,

We are each other's bread and wine.

This is the place where we can receive

What we need to increase:

Our justice and God's peace.

Huub Oosterhuis
 Liturgy Sourcebook

Upcoming Music

JANUARY 30
 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00pm Mass

Praise Team

8:30am Mass

Handbell Choir

10:30am Mass

Sanctuary Choir

CALLED TO SERVE THE EUCHARIST?
 CALLED TO PROCLAIM THE WORD?

LITURGICAL MINISTERS WORKSHOP

Required to become a Reader or Eucharistic Minister

Saturday, January 29, 9:00am - 3:30pm

Church of St. Thomas More — Upper Level

Registration form at www.stmoside.org/emhc.htm

Contact Douglas at douglasl@stmoside.org or 760-758-4100 x140

Faith Formation

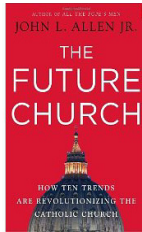
Teach and Live the Gospel

Kathleen Bell
 Director of Faith Formation
 kathleenb@stmoside.org; 760-758-4100 x110



Fr. Mike's Bookies

Discussion of *The Future Church* has been postponed until Fr. Mike's health permits his facilitation of our discussion.



For all procrastinators, this will allow you more time to move toward or beyond that first "cut-off" at page 177! Because "we know not the day nor the hour" of the re-schedule, this does not constitute an excuse to put the book at the bottom of your (our) reading pile!

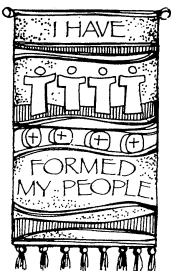
This book is a challenging read and a great opportunity to expand our perspective, not only of the Catholic Church, but also of the global reality of the 21st century. Whether we like the "picture" presented or not is not the issue, for the "future" is going to happen, and we can gracefully and intelligently participate in this reality by opening our minds to the data already present in our modern world. This book is a "mind-opener!"

Copies are available at the front desk or the Faith Formation Office for \$20. It is also available on Kindle. Take the challenge!

Basic Catechist Formation Course

If you are involved in a teaching ministry of the church (or would like to get involved!), here's a chance to get "qualified."

Special note for those who teach in RE.A.CH or RCIA!



The Basic Catechist Formation Course is a 48-hour course intended to equip beginning catechists, or those needing renewal in contemporary catechetics, with sufficient background and skill to begin teaching. The course incorporates the essential elements of message, prayer, community and service and provides an integrated program of doctrinal reflection, catechetical process, religious development, and creative teaching methods for children through adults.

This course is offered at different times and places throughout the Diocese. The good news is that one is starting in North County at St. Mary, Star of the Sea School in Oceanside. It begins February 1 and involves Tuesday evenings from 6:00-9:00pm and five Saturdays from 9:00am-3:00pm.

To register or for more information call Susan Ferraris at 760-945-8012.

Kathleen

YOUTH MINISTRY

Middle School

✦ EPIC

(Encrypting People in Christ)

EPIC TONIGHT 5:00-6:30pm!!!

We welcome all new students, 6th grade to 8th grade to EPIC! It is a great night to have fun, meet new friends and bring your friends. Come out and have a great time with us! See you there! Also, I am looking for parents to help with food and snacks for this group; if you are interested in helping, please contact me at 760-758-4100 x161, or meet with me for more information.

High School

✦ IGNITE

Do you want to receive more out of your relationship with God? Every High School teen is welcomed and encouraged to experience our faith in a whole new way, with community, music, prayer, and fellowship. Bring yourself, bring your high school brothers and sisters, bring your friends, and bring protective gear (such as shin guards, elbow pads, helmets, gloves, shoulder pads....okay just kidding, you don't need the protective gear yet, but one day we will!). See you Mondays at 7:00pm!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED RESTORED!

It was such a blessed weekend—you are all in my prayers.

✦ LEAD

We need LEADers in our Parish, community, and our world. We can all use the help, if you feel called or just curious, we meet every Tuesday. I need leaders with a variety of skills and talents, including those that just want to laugh and have fun. If you want to get involved and make a difference in our community, if you are Confirmed, if you are a young adult, if you are in college and have the desire to do more with your faith, come join us on Tuesday at 7:00pm for LEAD. We are building and fostering an environment that is in love with God.

Let's do something amazing.

Marc

Marc Raymundo
 Youth Advocate

PBJ Update

Food for children at the Emergency Crisis Center

2011 Goal: 365
 Collected to date: 109



Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP PRAYER FOR 2011

Loving and merciful God,
You are the Lord of new beginnings.

You sent us Your Son so that we
may begin anew and
enjoy new life in Your Spirit.

We ask you to bless this new year,
to guide and direct our plans,
and to show us how to find the
resources necessary to carry out these plans.

Give us the wisdom to take advantage
of opportunities we may have
to help and serve others,
to bring peace to the hearts of
those who are troubled,
and hope to those who suffer.

Help us approach this new year
as good stewards of your abundant gifts,
with an awareness of your daily presence,
and the obedient spirit we need to
be your faithful servants.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

—ICSC Parish Newsletter, January 2011 (with permission)

Opportunity Knocks! Calling on those who love to write!



- † Write articles for our parish newsletter, the STM Tower. Involves interviewing parishioners for articles that highlight our ministries in more depth than the weekly bulletin.
- † Share ideas for upcoming newsletters.
- † Our newsletter is published twice a year, giving one the advantage of ample time management!

To help with this very important ministry, please contact:
Chris Smith, 760-758-4100x120 or chriss@stmoside.org.

How will you make a difference in 2011?

STM Vehicle Donation Program

Do you have a vehicle you want to donate?

The St. Thomas More program is easy!

Call us, and we'll have it picked up.

You get the tax deduction!

All we need is clear title. Non-operational is OK!

Since 2006 we have netted over \$21,000
from this program. Thank you donors!



For more information, contact the Parish Office:
760-758-4100 x100 or parishoffice@stmoside.org

Parish Financial Report

The annual financial report for fiscal year 2009-2010 is available on the Parish website, www.stmoside.org. Click on *Finance* under *Parish Councils*, then click on *Parish Financial Report July 2009 to June 2010* on the right side.

For those without internet access, copies are available at the Parish Office.

2010 Retirement Fund for Religious

\$3,698.33

Collection for Week of January 15/16, 2011

Number of Registered Households		1,013
Offertory*	\$	6,750.50
Offertory (Loose Collection)		1,492.50
Children's envelopes		0.00
Total	\$	8,243.00

* Offertory envelopes, credit card withdrawals, automatic checking or savings account deductions (credit card and automatic bank account withdrawals are posted at STM on the 5th and/or 20th of each month).

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, MC, or Discover) and automatic checking/savings account deduction. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 760-758-4100 x100 or parishoffice@stmoside.org.

St. Francis and St. Thomas More Offertory Envelopes

Any St. Francis Offertory Envelopes given to the offertory collection at St. Thomas More will be returned to St. Francis.

Any St. Thomas More Offertory Envelopes given to the offertory collection at St. Francis will be returned to St. Thomas More.

News from the Larger Church

Pregnancy Resource Center in San Marcos—Birth Choice of San Marcos, 760-744-1313 or www.birthchoice.net.

Retreats and Presentations at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—For more information, contact 760-757-3659 or www.sanluisrey.org.

Young Adult Ministry Activities in San Diego County—Visit www.yamsd.org for complete information on events for young adults, including a *Theology on Tap* series in January.

Retreat for Widowed, Divorced, and Separated Persons at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside—January 28-30. A trained team of peers leads participants through a healing and growth experience. For further information, call Cathy at 619-222-9093 or Maureen at 619-447-0622.

After-Abortion Healing Retreat in Escondido—February 4-6 at St. Mary's Retreat Center by Rachel's Hope. Confidentiality maintained. For information/registration, contact Leslie Brunolli at 760-743-3160 or LBrunolli@yahoo.com or visit www.RachelsHope.org. Sponsored by the Diocese of San Diego.

Women's Group Meeting in San Diego—Central San Diego Magnificat will meet on Saturday, February 5, 9:30am at the

Mission Valley Sheraton. Maureen Scanlon will share her inspiring "resurrection" experience. RSVP by January 28 to 858-578-1256.

Healing Ministry in Solana Beach—St. James Healing Ministry offers Healing Prayer in either the Adoration Chapel or the Church at the following times: Every Sunday after the 9:00am Mass; First Mondays from 9:00-10:00am.; Second Tuesdays from 7:00-8:15pm, and on Third Saturdays after the 5:00 pm Mass. The next Healing Mass is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26, at 7:00pm, preceded by music and testimony at 6:30pm. All are welcome.

Separated/Divorced Support Group in Solana Beach—If you are in pain from a separation or divorce, please consider joining our support group. We meet 10:15am Sunday mornings at St. James Catholic Church Ministry Center Offices, 625 S. Nardo, Solana Beach. For additional information please contact Frank Grant at 760-533-1520 or fwgrant@earthlink.net.

Natural Family Planning (NFP) Classes in San Diego—Sympto-thermal method (99.6% effective). For more information or to register, contact Dave & Cheryl Ross at 619-303-5053 or davidandcheryl@cox.net.

News from St. Francis Church—Our Neighbor

A caring staff is at



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

We take personal pride in providing a safe, caring, Catholic environment to help your child develop and succeed.

Come celebrate Catholic Schools Week

January 31 – February 4

Tours available in the mornings.

Bring your child for a class visit.

Open house February 3, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

760-630-7960

www.sfs-vista.org



St. Francis School is now our Parish School. St. Thomas More Parishioners are extended the same benefits and rewards as a St. Francis Parishioner, including:

- Parishioner priority for enrollment at St. Francis School,
- Equal tuition rates,
- Financial aid opportunities, and
- Fundraising support.

Scholastic Book Fair is coming to St. Francis School!—January 25-28, 7:30am-3:30pm; January 31-February 2, 7:30am-3:30pm; February 3, 7:30am-6:30pm; February 4, 7:30am-12:00pm. Shoppers are welcome all day, every day!

Come find out what St. Francis School is about!—You are invited to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School during National Catholic Schools Week to learn about the many programs and opportunities available to students Preschool through Grade Eight. Call 760-630-7960 for the schedule of tours and activities.

The school offers a comprehensive, challenging curriculum and a variety of programs to include competitive sports, choir, art, music, and band, before school and after school care, scouting opportunities, student council, and much more. St. Francis School is sanctioned by the Diocese of San Diego, and fully accredited by WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) and WCEA (Western Catholic Education Association). All teachers at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School possess a valid state teaching credential.

eRecycling Event January 29 and 30, 9:00am-4:00pm—St. Francis School is hosting a drive-through and drop-off of electronics for recycling. There is no cost to the public. The school raises money based on the number of pounds of electronics recycled. Let your neighbors and employers know! The more 'junk' we collect, the more money earned by the school!

Here's what you can bring: TVs (all kinds, shapes and sizes), computer monitors, hard drives, keyboards, electrical cords, etc., laptops, phones (all kinds including cell phones), cables, wires, and cords. We **cannot** accept: auto/motorcycle batteries; light bulbs, large appliances (no refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.).



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www.stmoside.org · parishoffice@stmoside.org

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

Parish Contacts

Updated 01/02/11

Council Chairs: Pastoral-Doug D’Agrosa 760-941-6800 • **Finance**-Paul Ibbetson 760-734-1051 • **Development**-Ron Briseno 760-726-4496

Pastoral Council Committees

Faith Formation & EvangelizationRory Griffin 760-414-3939

- Religious Education (Adults)..... Wayne Zych 760-598-9244
- Small Church Communities Sondra Parks 760-598-1269
- Little Rock Bible Studies Pauline Lapre 760-727-8339
- Religious Education (Children)..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
- Liturgy of the Word for Children..... Cathy Meyer 760-598-7853
- Sacramental Preparation..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
- Mid. Sch. Youth Ministry Marc Raymundo 760-758-4100 x161
- High School Youth Ministry..... Marc Raymundo 760-758-4100 x161
- Young Adult Ministry..... Marc Raymundo 760-758-4100 x161
- Women’s Ministry Joleen Schanzanbach 760-806-6722
- Men’s Ministry..... John Fredette 760-758-1973
- Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs..... Regina Aulisio 760-295-5530
- Evangelization..... Available
- Vocations Available
- RCIA..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110

LiturgyKathy Arciero 760-231-1022

- Altar Linen Care Anna Meyers 760-727-4998
- Bereavement Facilitator Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- Environment & Art Mary Castle 760-727-3097
- Eucharistic Adoration Available
- Interior Design Team Pat & Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414
- Liturgical Ministries..... Douglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140
- Liturgical Music..... Douglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140

Marriage & Family Life Jen Frost 760-758-4100 x100

- ACTTS Young AdultsJen Frost actts@stmoside.org
- Theresa Goeltz 760-453-2876
- Family Services..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
- Marriage Preparation..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
- Widows & Widowers of North County..... Carol Kope 760-726-0533
- Germaine Wilmott 760-758-9949

Parish Organizations & Events..... Lisa & Pat Attardo 760-940-1505

- Golf Classic..... Jim & Suzy Bailey 760-754-1635
- Historian..... Anne Marshall 760-727-2668
- Knights of Columbus Matt Perun 760-734-1934
- Spirited Seniors..... Judy & Jerry Buoniconti 760-758-5113
- Women’s Guild..... Valerie Thompson 760-630-1703

Social Ministries Dick & Charlene Belprez 760-295-1431

- Blood Drive..... Linda Dicus 760-726-5081
- Bereavement Follow-up Support Linda Dicus 760-726-5081

Brother Benno’s Collections..... Available

- Brother Benno’s Kitchen Servers George Jones 760-940-9288
- Christmas Angel Ministry..... John & Marti Harper 760-724-1181
- Culture of Life Jane Kelleher 760-822-7041
- CPR/AED Classes..... Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414
- Disability Facilitation Ann Eriksson 760-599-7151
- Faith Works Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- Fraternity & Michaelle House..... Diantha Zschoche 760-685-0081
- Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice

..... Joyce Meehan 760-724-4974

Jail Ministry Rita McCarthy 760-758-4100 x100

JustFaith..... Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131

..... Cathy Blecki 760-603-8930

More’s Workers..... Jerry Gayvert 760-295-0645

North County Solutions for Change (NCSC)

..... Dick & Charlene Belprez 760-295-1431

Prayer Request Line..... Pat Wong 760-806-1310

..... Norma Flanagan 760-630-0180

Project Linus..... Mary Coxon 760-599-8760

Sick & Homebound (*Eucharist*) Jean McCloskey 760-643-2363

Sister Parish Program..... Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131

Social Justice Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131

St. Bonaventure Mission..... Knights of Columbus 760-734-1934

Office Support..... Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100

General Support..... Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100

Chair Set-Up..... Lorraine Doering 760-758-4100 x102

Kitchen Overseer Agnes Bolsakov 760-473-8461

Development Council Committees

Annual Catholic Appeal..... Flora Fallone 760-758-4100 x100

Capital Campaign Bill Ipsen 760-723-0402

New Construction Brian Leahey 760-598-5697

Parish Membership Louise Briseno 760-726-4496

Planned Giving Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120

Publicity/Public Relations..... Anne Marshall 760-727-2668

Sacrificial Giving/Tithing Paul Ibbetson 760-734-1051

Scrip Sales Theresa Goeltz 760-453-2876

Stewardship Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120

Vehicle Donations..... Vlad Bolsakov 760-758-4100 x100

Welcome Ministry Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor	760-758-4100 x100	michaelr@stmoside.org
Deacon Tom Goeltz	760-758-4100 x100	thomasg@stmoside.org
Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate	760-758-4100 x131	maureenb@stmoside.org
Kathleen Bell, Director of Faith Formation	760-758-4100 x110	kathleenb@stmoside.org
Marc Raymundo, Youth Advocate	760-758-4100 x161	marcr@stmoside.org
Stacey Griffin, Faith Formation Office Assistant	760-758-4100 x110	staceyg@stmoside.org
Douglas Lynn, Director of Liturgy and Music	760-758-4100 x140	douglasl@stmoside.org
Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director	760-758-4100 x100	kathys@stmoside.org
Sally Fay, Organist/Choir Accompanist	760-758-4100 x100	sallyf@stmoside.org
Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development	760-758-4100 x120	chriss@stmoside.org
Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance	760-758-4100 x151	joeg@stmoside.org
Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary	760-758-4100 x100	hennyj@stmoside.org
Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper	760-758-4100 x104	nataliep@stmoside.org
Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician	760-758-4100 x102	lorrained@stmoside.org

Patronize Our Advertisers

Thank you to our advertisers! Please patronize these merchants and let them know you saw their ad in the St. Thomas More bulletin. Any business owners are welcome to advertise their services. Please call Chris McAdams of C & M Publications at 951-683-0608. Thank you.

**January 23, 2011
UPDATE**

“Our Journey Into The Future . . . Together”

Phase I and Phase II

Pledged to Date

\$5,100,000 Phase I Pledges/Special Gifts*

\$1,486,000 Phase II Pledges to Date

\$ 600,000 Rectory/Investment Gifts**

**Includes pledges with future due dates and some unfulfilled pledges*

***Investment gifts (i.e., property, annuities, stocks, charitable remainder trusts, etc.) reflect current market value. Actual amounts realized upon redemption may vary.*

\$12,400,000

Total goal

\$500,000-\$1,000,000

Approximate anticipated cost savings due to the current economy

\$5,600,000

Diocesan loan to build the Sanctuary, Bell Tower, Daily Chapel, Memorial Gardens and Parish Offices

\$12,400,000 Capital Campaign Components:

- † Sanctuary, Bell Tower, Daily Chapel, Memorial Gardens, and Parish Offices (\$10,000,000)
- † Parish Center Debt Retirement (\$860,000)
- † Adjacent Land/Five Acres (\$585,000)
- † Secondary Education Initiative (SEI)—North County High School (\$1,000,000)

\$2,000,000 Total Phase II

(1,486,000) Already Pledged

\$ 514,000 Still Needed

\$4,000,000

Funds on deposit at the Diocese to date

\$236,000

Preliminary construction costs and Parish Center maintenance and improvements paid to date

\$163,000

Capital Campaign administrative costs to date

\$736,000

Payments on Parish Center debt (*\$124,000 remaining balance, scheduled to be totally retired by December, 2011*)

\$57,000

Necessary land maintenance/improvements to date

\$585,000

Additional five-acre land purchase (*paid in full*)

\$407,000

Secondary Education Initiative (*Toward our \$1,000,000 pledge for the new Catholic High School in North County.*)



*For more information, contact Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development
760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmosite.org*

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Text of Presentation by Bill Ipsen at All Masses the Weekend of January 23, 2011

I'm Bill Ipsen, chairman of our St. Thomas More Capital Campaign Committee, *"Our Journey Into The Future . . . Together."* This weekend Fr. Mike has asked that I update you on the status of Phase II of our campaign, as well as discuss the recent visit of Bishop Brom and his great news regarding the building of our new sanctuary.

As you know, the goal of Phase II of this campaign is to raise an additional \$2 million by December 31, 2011. As of January 18, we have pledges in the amount of \$1,486,000 of which we have collected \$955,000 and placed on deposit with the diocese. We appreciate each and every gift toward our goal and are grateful for all gifts no matter the size. This does, however, leave us with a shortfall of approximately \$514,000, which is significant and which I will address in this update.

On October 17, Bishop Brom joined Fr. Mike and our Parish family in celebrating Mass in honor of our 25th anniversary. To begin that celebration, Bishop Brom announced that he was going to make an exception in Diocesan regulations, and based on the good, sound financial history of our Parish, he was going to grant our Parish a \$5.6 million dollar loan,

allowing us to begin the actual construction of our permanent church and Parish office building. Yes, not just the building of our permanent church, but our Parish office building as well. Two buildings at the same time!

This decision was the culmination of a visit to meet with diocese officials by Fr. Mike and a team from St. Thomas More in which we presented our case for the Diocese granting our loan request. At this meeting, there were two recurring themes that the Diocese acknowledged St. Thomas More was a Parish that always met its obligations and was faithful to all of its Diocesan commitments.

Given the economy, there would never be a better time to build as construction costs are down substantially. At our 25th anniversary celebration, many Parishioners were able to speak to Bishop Brom following Mass and express their enthusiasm and gratitude for his insightful decision in allowing us to move forward. At the same time, this good news created a whirlwind of activity for Fr. Mike and our senior leadership, as now it was up to this group to review the loan agreement with the Diocese to determine if we could meet the loan obligations and



at the same time, meet the additional financial obligations that would come with having three buildings to maintain. The three Parish Councils-- Finance, Pastoral and Development, all met individually to discuss these issues. Then another Parish leadership meeting was held that included members of all three councils in which numerous presentations were again given in an effort to make certain we had covered all scenarios that could present themselves.

While Bishop Brom did not directly reflect on it—as we have commented many times in the past—all decisions regarding the building of the permanent church are based on two very important criteria: that we can raise the additional funds to pay for the project through a capital campaign, and that we can continue to support current Parish programs and obligations through our weekly contributions.

In past updates, I have echoed the thoughts of our Pastor and the Finance Council, in which they have indicated that our Parish must be in agreement, that weekly and monthly giving needs grow and accommodate the anticipated additional financial support necessary to build out our campus. It is important to note once again that in the last two of three fiscal years, while our budget has been balanced, it has required funds from Parish activities such as the annual golf classic, the “Did You Know?” campaign, the monthly restaurant fundraisers, the vehicle donation program, and a number of one-time gifts to balance our budget. In the past fiscal year, we incurred a deficit of \$28,000 which will need to be addressed in this present fiscal year. Of course, once we build the permanent church and Parish office building, there will be additional operating expenses to assume as well, and we will be responsible for the maintenance of not one building, but three!

However, once the permanent church is built, it is also safe to assume that our congregation will grow as well and we will have more families to help provide the necessary support we need.

Our current capital campaign is approximately \$514,000 short of achieving our goal of \$2 million dollars. It is crucial in the next eleven months that we close that gap in an effort to reach this goal. Let me explain—as Bishop Brom announced, the Diocese is willing to grant an exception to St. Thomas More and will provide a loan in the amount of \$5.6 million

dollars to build the permanent church and the Parish office building. This will enable us to construct both buildings we immediately need, and at the same time, take advantage of real cost savings associated with current construction costs. This alone could save between \$500,000 to \$1 million dollars in the overall cost of the project.

As we speak, the construction documents are being developed, the architect and the liturgical consultant are hard at work, and groundbreaking will take place toward the end of this year, but what we are able to build still depends upon the money that we are able to raise.

The \$5.6 million dollar loan from the Diocese is an addition to the funds we have on deposit from Phase I and Phase II of our current campaign, which is \$4 million. Once again, the loan from the diocese in the amount of \$5.6 million dollars, and the \$4 million we have on deposit with the Diocese represents the total amount we will have for the project. So it is important to note that if we have not met our goal of \$2 million dollars in Phase II of this campaign, it will have a direct impact on the total amount of funds we actually have to devote to the project. Again, I would like to emphasize to you, our Parishioners, if you have already made a pledge and can make another, please consider doing so. If you have been unable to make a pledge, and now you can, please consider coming forward and making that pledge. By December 31, of this year, I am convinced we can meet that \$2 million dollar goal. We finally have the groundbreaking in sight, and the \$500,000 goal that we still must meet is crucial to us moving forward. As we do move forward with the building of our permanent church and Parish office building, I would like to speak about the long-term financing of our new construction. In December of 2011, we will have retired the loan with the Diocese on our current Parish Center, a payment of approximately \$11,000 per month for the past six years, totaling about \$900,000.

With the retirement of this loan, we will now take on a new loan. Paul Ibbetson, chairman of our Finance Council, and his committee have estimated that based on \$5.6 million dollars at 3.5% interest, we will have a monthly payment of approximately \$30,000. Since this is not a fixed interest loan, the monthly payment could change over time and, in fact, is very likely to change. Each increase of 1% in interest will change the monthly payment by



approximately \$3,000. We are confident that we will have the resources to manage this payment over the 25-year term of the loan, in addition to the funds required weekly to operate our Parish.

In simple words, we will be taking out a 25-year mortgage to pay for our new construction, much the same way we all have to purchase our homes. In the last ten years, we have had three capital campaigns of varying lengths to get us to our current position. So in essence, we will now be moving to a 25-year “capital campaign,” or, I think better stated, to our “mortgage state.” This represents a completely different outlook for us—while we no longer need capital campaigns for the “down payment,” we will have purchased the “house” and taken on a mortgage. We will continue to have periodic updates on the status of the project as well as the status of our financial position. The immediate task now, before we enter the “mortgage state,” is to raise that last

\$500,000 before the end of this year. Let us all do what we can to close this gap, and make ourselves ready for groundbreaking. I am confident that we can do this.

In closing, I hope everyone can appreciate the time and energy that Fr. Mike, the staff, and our parish lay leadership have devoted to making this dream become reality. It has been a long and sometimes winding road, but through the generosity of so many of you over the years, and through the guiding hand of God, we are ready to begin a new chapter in the history of St. Thomas more.

If our past is any indication of our future, how fortunate we are to belong to this great Parish.

May God who has begun this good work in us bring it to fulfillment.

Thank you!

EVERY GIFT IS VITAL TO OUR SUCCESS!
 Even small sacrifices can add up.

*\$1 per day for a year = \$365
 x 150 people = \$54,750*

**1 night out per month for a year ≈ \$500
 x 100 families ≈ \$50,000**

*1 Latte per week for a year ≈ \$250
 x 200 people ≈ \$50,000*

*To make a new pledge, increase or adjust your pledge, or make an “Adopt-a-Family” Pledge, contact Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development
 760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org*

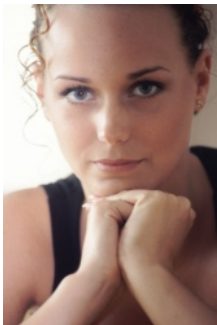
My Journey with Roe v. Wade— Personal Reflections

—Rev. Michael Ratajczak

This reflection was first given on Sunday, January 21, 2001, at Santa Sophia Parish in Spring Valley, California, to mark the 28th anniversary of “Roe v. Wade”—the Supreme Court Decision which legalized abortion in the United States.

It was updated and included in the St. Thomas More Parish Bulletin on January 22, 2006, to mark the 33rd anniversary of “Roe v. Wade.”

It has once again been updated this year to mark “Roe v. Wade’s” 38th anniversary.



Today, I want to take time to share with you my own journey in regard to the Supreme Court Decision, “Roe v. Wade,” which legalized abortion in this country on January 22, 1973.

This Supreme Court Decision has been and continues to be one of the most divisive and political issues we have faced as a nation.

When I just say the word “abortion,” you can feel the room split. There are those who sit on the edge of their seats to listen, and those who immediately tune out once the word “abortion” is mentioned.

All of us have been in conversations with others when the word “abortion” surfaces. You can immediately feel the participants’ temperatures rise, their voices become louder and more passionate, and the air is soon filled with acrimony.

I invite you today to walk with me through this very personal sharing of my journey with “Roe v. Wade.” I do this today as one way of inviting you to revisit the abortion question and to ask yourself—“Where am I on this issue? After 38 years, have I taken a position on one side or the other? Have I ever challenged myself to deal with this issue; not only on a personal level, but in terms of what this issue means to us as a society and as a Church? How does the abortion issue fit in with my thinking in terms of other life



issues?” and “Are my views consistent with Church Teaching? If not, why not?”

“Roe v. Wade” became the law of the land 38 years ago in January of 1973. I began my ministry on behalf of the Church in November 1973, when I was ordained a deacon. I was a transitional deacon until my ordination as a priest in January 1975.

“Roe v. Wade” and my ministry both had its beginning in the same year. My entire ministry has been in the context of abortion being legal by government standards and immoral and sinful by Church standards.

How did I view abortion when it was first legalized? How did I begin to deal with it in the context of my ministry?

I have always considered abortion as sin, as immoral, as the wrong choice for people to make. But I was not very passionate in terms of reversing the law. In the early years, my response was, “If you don’t believe in abortion, don’t have one; don’t participate in the decision making that leads to one; if it is a part of your work environment, say ‘no’ to it.”

My thinking and response was on a personal “one-to-one” level, without seeing the necessity to reverse the law of the land. Abortion would be personal, occasional, and would not have any great effect on the mores of our society.

As I reflect on my thinking, I believe that I thought this way for two main reasons:

1. concern for the individual woman, and
2. an uncertainty about when life actually began, along with the question of when does the fetus become a separate entity from the woman, the mother.

In those days, in regard to the law, I would try to imagine myself being a woman and, for whatever reasons, finding myself with an unwanted pregnancy. Would I want anyone else but myself, ultimately, to make a decision about what to do with my body?

If I found myself pregnant, would I want others making decisions for me about my pregnancy, deciding for me how my future would be?

And who are those “others” that are making those decisions that are affecting my life? In the 1970’s, what was the gender of the majority of people who created legislation, who strongly influenced the mores, the customs and the traditions of society? That gender majority was, and still is to a lesser degree today, male. It was so easy then, and still is, again hopefully to a lesser degree today, for men to tell women what to do, how to do it, and to know their place. Men are in charge. Men will make the decisions.

So, I found myself being concerned more about the individual woman than about the life in her womb. And I believe that I did so because of the lack of gender equality that I experienced in society and in the Church. “Roe v. Wade” was one way of giving greater leverage to women in their struggle for equality in our society and in our Church.

The second influential factor in making me less passionate about reversing the law was an uncertainty about when life began in the womb. At what point did the embryo, the fetus, become an unborn child and become a separate entity from the mother?

At what point, did the argument, “It is my body and I have the right of control over my body,” lose its validity?

In the 1970’s, those issues were not firmly decided. There was vagueness. Arguments about whether the

embryo, the fetus, was considered a fully human person were presented from a variety of perspectives, and there was not a clear understanding about when life began.

Over the years though, I saw myself becoming more concerned about the legality and the morality of “Roe v. Wade.”



Week 6

What brought this about? First and foremost was the scientific and medical technology and knowledge that we have acquired about life in the womb. Today there is no question that what is in the womb of the mother is life, a separate and entirely different human being from the mother. And it can not be pinpointed as to when that “differentness” begins to happen. It is now easy and logical to conclude that a new and entirely different human being is created and God’s breath, the soul, is infused at the moment of conception.

In recent years, as medical advances continue, as we experience more sophisticated sonogram equipment and see pictures of children in the womb at very early stages of development; as we do fetal surgery, surgery in the womb; as courts convict people for intent to kill an unborn child; have you noticed how our language has changed?

We talk less and less of embryos and fetuses. We use the language of pre-born and unborn children.

It has become fact, not belief, that life in the womb is an entirely different human being from the mother and that the only logical point for the beginning of life is at the moment of conception, the moment when man and woman, with God’s help, create new life.

In regard to the right of a woman to choose, the abortion argument over the years has shifted from “I have a right to control my body” to “Are my rights, as the woman and mother, greater than the rights of this unborn child? Do I as the mother have the right over the life of this child, or does this child have certain inalienable rights equal to my rights that are determined by society’s legal standards? Who ultimately makes the decision as to whether this unborn child comes to life outside the womb or not?”

Today it has become a very different argument. As the discussion swirls about, this debate has the voice of many more women who are anti-abortion. There are many more women in various positions of power who

influence society and the Church, who help to create legislation, who are a part of the on-going dialogue of what is necessary to create and maintain a healthy society. (As a side note, I admit that there is still not complete gender equality in society or in the Church. We have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go.)

Because of this greater participation in the ongoing dialogue of society and Church, and because there is a greater degree of gender equality, women, I believe, feel somewhat safer and freer to examine the question of life in the womb and to share decision making about the unborn child's future with society through legislative decisions.

I hope you see the first link that I am trying to make regarding what it means to be pro-life. Pro-life is not just anti-abortion. Pro-life is also about gender equality at all levels, in all places in society, and in the Church. When there is a commitment to gender equality, and when there is gender equality, I believe there will be fewer abortions as women feel a greater ability to participate in creating a healthier society and a healthier Church.

Once I came to the realization and conclusion that life in the womb is a unique and completely separate human being from the mother, and that life begins at the moment of conception, I began to struggle with the question of, "Does the unborn child have rights; if so, what kind of rights, and do these rights need to be protected, and how do these rights weigh in when compared to the rights of the mother?"

My initial response to those questions was, again, not to reverse the law, but to be more passionate and vocal about the abortion issue and to work for change on a "one-to-one" level.

One of the most thought-provoking comments that came out of the presidential campaign of 2000 came from the then Governor George W. Bush who said, "It is not so much about making abortion illegal as it is about making it unthinkable."

I resonated with that phrase because it summed up my personal belief that was operative for a number of years: "Leave the 'Roe v. Wade' decision alone and work to create a climate of life in regard to all social

issues and to make sure that the abortion issue is viewed in the context of other life issues."

I have worked very hard and continue to do what I can in my ministry to create a "Culture of Life" in which abortion becomes unthinkable. I have faithfully attempted to do this in my "one-to-one" ministry and in my efforts on a Parish-wide basis in all the Parishes in which I have served.

This attitude worked for a while, but I continued to be nagged by the question of the unborn child and his/her rights. What happens to all these human beings who cannot speak for themselves while we, as a society, are busy getting our "Culture of Life" act together?

Are they society's sacrifice? Or do we, if we believe that they are pre-born human beings, protect them with the rights that we grant born children and adults.

And, indeed, we grant even greater rights to infants and children than to adults because infants and children are more vulnerable. Do we not logically conclude that pre-born children should have those same rights?

It is one thing to try to persuade people to live within a "Culture of Life" and it is another to ensure that "Culture of Life" rights are guaranteed for everyone, especially the weak, the vulnerable, the defenseless.

What finally moved me to decide that we not only must create a "Culture of Life" through persuasion, but at the same time, we must create, enact and enforce laws that protect all human beings whether born or pre-born was my remembrance of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's and especially the witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Could you imagine if that movement was only about persuasion? Could you imagine Rev. King saying, "Let us try to convince white people that they shouldn't be prejudiced toward black people; let us try to convince them that separate is not equal; let us point out all the institutionalized inequalities and simply pray for change?"

Where would we be today? Not very far from the late 1950's and 1960's, I believe!

It was the legislation that was created, enacted, and enforced that made people change behavior and hopefully, in time, change attitudes and feelings.



Week 20

We see a great change today in 2011, and it is because of legislation and moral persuasion!

Moral persuasion alone, unfortunately, would not have begun to bring discrimination to an end. If we believe in a “Culture of Life,” we must be willing to not only change attitudes, but we must be willing to create legislation that reflects our beliefs.

We still see many forms of subtle and not so subtle discrimination that continue some 50 years later even though legislation is in place. The reason for that, in my opinion, is because we, as society and as a Church, need to do more in the way of moral persuasion! Discrimination based on skin color, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, mental and physical disabilities, economic and academic abilities must be loudly denounced. Where legislation is still needed, it must be enacted and enforced. These issues are, indeed, pro-life issues. If we want to protect life in the womb, we must be sincere and tireless in our efforts to protect life out of the womb.

We must make those connections. Otherwise our efforts to be anti-abortion are meaningless!

In 2008, we concluded a long and difficult presidential campaign. Both candidates had claimed to be pro-life, but for very different reasons. As Catholics, we must keep in mind that neither Senator John McCain nor President Barack Obama and neither party, the Democrats nor the Republicans, are fully pro-life in the Catholic understanding.

In creating a “Culture of Life,” and in being Catholic, when we are pro-abortion and anti-death penalty; when we are anti-abortion and pro-death penalty; when we turn a deaf ear to a variety of discriminations; when we care not about the poor and the recently arrived in our society; when we see ourselves in isolation from other peoples and countries, we are not consistent in our Catholic beliefs. We must be willing to make the connections!

This consistency is called the “Seamless Garment Ethic.” The phrase was coined by the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago. The phrase alludes to the event during Jesus’ crucifixion, his act of solidarity with the sufferings of Creation:

“When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garment and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another, ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.’” (John 19: 23-24)

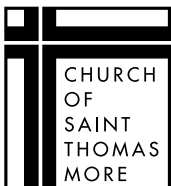
The seamless garment ethic makes the same point as the Gospel story: the fabric of God’s Creation is desecrated when we tear it, gamble over it, or in any sense lay claims of ownership upon any part of it. This ethic involves an opposition to abortion, sexism, warfare, the use of nuclear arms, the death penalty, economic deprivation, and the active killing of the sick and disabled. Just as much, the ethic calls us to create positive alternatives to these violent practices.

If I am to be pro-life, I must be consistent. I must be willing to wear the seamless garment. I must be pro-life in all places and at all times—from womb to tomb. I must work to create the “Culture of Life” not only through moral persuasion, but I must also work to create legislation that institutionalizes the “Culture of Life” beliefs. It is not “either/or.” It is “both/and”!

Thank you for allowing me to share my personal story with you. I pray that my sharing will help you in your struggles with the variety of life issues.

It is time that we stop pointing fingers at one another, and arguing with each other about whom is more pro-life. The challenge for each of us is to look into our hearts and ask ourselves: “How well am I wearing the seamless garment of Christ”?

Fr. Mike



January
29 & 30



CLOTHING DRIVE

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St. Bonaventure Indian Mission

- *Clothing*
(infants, toddlers, teens, and adult sizes)
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Please pack items in large plastic bags and bring to the Parish Center parking lot before or after Masses on January 29-30

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St. Thomas More Spirited Seniors

Trip to Viejas Casino and Outlet Mall

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Transportation: Coach provided by Viejas



Cost: NONE



Depart: St Thomas More Parking Lot 10:00 a.m.

Return: (departing Viejas at 4:30 p.m.) to parking lot 5:30 p.m.

Deadline to RSVP: Thursday, February 10, 2011

Call: Nancy Gayvert 760-295-0645

Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.



Receive the Viejas Club Card and Casino Fun Book
\$5 off at one of three Casino Restaurants

This trip is open to all Spirited Senior members, guests, and other St. Thomas More and St. Francis Parishioners. **We must have a minimum of 40 riders for this trip to be held.**

We may have as many as 49 riders.

All riders must present a picture ID prior to boarding the bus.

The Church of St. Thomas More does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services or accommodations for your trip. In addition, St. Thomas More is not a registered provider of travel services in the state of California and takes no responsibility.

