

SAINT  
THOMAS  
MORE  
CATHOLIC  
CHURCH

Annual Catholic Appeal 2014—Diocese of San Diego

# Called to Serve

*A Roman Catholic Parish  
in the Diocese of San Diego*

- ✝ Spirituality
- ✝ Tradition
- ✝ Community

#### Mass Schedule

Saturday at 5:00pm  
Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am  
Monday-Friday at 8:15am

#### Eucharistic Adoration

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

#### Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday, 4:00-4:30pm

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor  
Rev. Karl Bauer, Senior Priest  
Deacon John Fredette  
Deacon Thomas A. Goeltz

1450 South Melrose Drive  
Oceanside, CA 92056  
760-758-4100  
760-758-4165 fax

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday,  
8:30am-12:00noon  
and 12:30-4:00pm  
parishoffice@stmoside.org  
www.stmoside.org



StThomasMoreRCC



Join us for Mass on  
Ash Wednesday, March 5

8:15am, 12:00noon,  
5:30pm, or 7:30pm

Soup Supper 5:30-7:30pm

**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
March 2, 2014**

## Pastor's Column

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

### The Forty Days of Lent

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. We begin the Season of Lent. In these days, as we embrace the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we focus upon the Passion of Jesus the Christ.

Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we clear our minds and hearts a bit in order to make more room in our lives for the Paschal Mystery of Christ, His suffering, death, and resurrection.

We dare to ask ourselves "What meaning does the Passion of the Christ have for me?" and "How am I uniting my life to the Paschal Mystery of Christ?"

I encourage you to take seriously what our Parish offers you during this Season of Lent. Let your Lenten journey be not only private, but also communal.

Begin your walk with your Parish Family on the road of renewal and refreshment, by attending Mass on Ash Wednesday and being signed with ashes. This external sign is a commitment of your desire and readiness for interior renewal.

Take advantage of the Stations of the Cross that will be prayed on Friday evenings.

Be a part of the special Lenten Adult Education offerings.

Attend Mass each Sunday as a family, ALL household members present together. Plan ahead for the Triduum—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. Mark your calendars for the days and times. Will it be necessary to rearrange some family schedules and work schedules in order to participate in Holy Week activities? Are you willing to make this a family priority?

Unite your crosses to the Cross of Christ. In that union you will find, not suffering and death, but new life, new hope, and new beginnings.

In these days, let us once again die to sin, to selfishness, to our own needs and concerns, and rise to new life on high with Jesus the Christ!

*F. n. Mike*

**Diocese of San Diego Annual Catholic Appeal  
Our assessment: \$48,000**

**Pledges to date: \$15,663 from 108 families**

This is our opportunity to "Pay It Forward" and help others as the Diocese has helped us. EVERY gift is welcome, as are your prayers for the success of this effort. Thanks to all who have responded already!



### Scrip Committee Donates \$10,000 to STM!

On February 19 Andrea Sweeney, co-chairperson of the Scrip Team, presented a \$10,000 check to Fr. Mike at the Development Council meeting! Since the beginning of Scrip sales in 2004, this hardworking committee has now donated a total of \$90,000 to our building efforts. We are deeply grateful to the Scrip Team and also to all of our Parishioners who continue to use Scrip for their shopping needs!!! —*Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor*

### Annual Lenten Collection

This annual collection supports the works of Catholic Relief Services, the Church in Africa, and the Church in Latin America. Envelopes are attached to the bulletin this week for your consideration and may be returned any time during the month of March. Your prayers and support are appreciated!

### An Invitation from Bishop Flores— Catholic Schools Survey

Bishop Flores has commissioned a special committee to study the organization al structures, policies, and financial stability of our Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of San Diego. Part of this effort involves an online survey being conducted by the University of San Diego. Your voice is extremely important! Please share your thoughts, opinions, and suggestions through this confidential and independent process. To participate in the survey, visit <http://www.diocese-sdiego.org> and click on the “Strengthening Our Diocesan Catholic Schools—Take Survey Now” banner. Questions about the survey may be directed to Dr. John Franey at [jfraney@sandiego.edu](mailto:jfraney@sandiego.edu). In advance, than you for your participation! —*Bishop Cirilo Flores*

### Fr. Peter McGuine Retires from USAF Reserve

Save the Date! After almost 27 years of service as a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, former STM pastor Fr. Peter McGuine will be retiring from the military at the rank of Lt Col on Sunday, March 16, at the 5:30pm Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2766 Navajo Rd., El Cajon. A special reception will take place after Mass in the Parish Hall. Please plan on attending if your schedule permits. All are welcome!

### Welcome New Parishioners

**Lorene Kundert  
Logan & Mary Moore & Family**

### Announcing the Baptism of

**Emma Evelyn Antle  
Amanda Jane Burzell  
Vivianna Sophia Chavarria  
Ava Nicole Hernandez  
Serena Lynne Layoun  
Kieran Amilee Marlaire**  
on March 2



*Our Christian community welcomes you with great joy!*

### Flower Donations

The Altar Flowers for this weekend were given by **Eileen Dragula** in memory of her husband, Alben Dragula.



### In Memoriam



Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

**Maurine Shaughnessy**, who died on February 18. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, March 7, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep her family in your prayers.

**Kathy Salter**, who died on February 18. Her funeral services were private. Please keep her husband, Charles, and her family in your prayers.

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

### Vocations

A calling to a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life is a wonderful thing...but it is seldom as clearly pronounced as the call of the disciples in a recent Gospel. Rather, it is frequently a gentle urging that requires prayerful attention to discern. Think you might have the calling? Take some quiet time to prayerfully listen to God’s voice. If you still feel you may have a calling, contact Deacon Tom at [thomasgoeltz@aol.com](mailto:thomasgoeltz@aol.com) or 760-727-8442, and explore the possibilities.

### Pilgrimage to Turkey and Italy

I will be leading a pilgrimage to Turkey and Italy...October 6-17, 2014...We will visit Istanbul, Venice, Florence, Padua, Assisi, and Rome with a Papal Audience...\$3599...Brochures are available at the Information Table on the Plaza after weekend Masses or in the Parish Office during the week.

—*Fr. Mike Ratajczak*

### Looking for Information on the Catholic Faith?

Are you interested in learning more about Catholicism, becoming a Catholic, or returning to the Catholic Church?

*For information, call Kathleen Bell at 760-758-4100 x110.*

**Readings for the Week Ahead**

Sunday Year A; Weekday Year II

**Sunday, March 2 (82)**  
*Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 Isaiah 49:14-15  
 Psalm 62:2-3,6-9  
 1 Corinthians 4:1-5  
 Matthew 6:24-34

**Monday, March 3 (347)**  
*Katherine Drexel, virgin*  
 1 Peter 1:3-9  
 Psalm 111:1-2,5-6,9-10  
 Mark 10:17-27

**Tuesday, March 4 (537)**  
*Saint Casimir*  
 Philippians 3:8-14  
 Psalm 15:2-3ab, 3cd-4ab, 5  
 John 15:9-17

**Wednesday, March 5 (219)**  
*Ash Wednesday*  
 Joel 2:12-18  
 Psalm 51:3-6,12-13,14,17  
 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2  
 Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

**Thursday, March 6 (220)**  
*Deuteronomy 30:15-20*  
 Psalm 1:1-4,6  
 Luke 9:22-25

**Friday, March 7 (538)**  
*Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs*  
 Romans 8:31b-39  
 Psalm 124:2-5, 7b-8  
 Matthew 10:34-39

**Saturday, March 8 (222)**  
 Isaiah 58:9-14  
 Psalm 86:1-6  
 Luke 5:27-32

**Sunday, March 9 (22)**  
*First Sunday of Lent*  
 Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7  
 Psalm 51:3-6,12-14,17  
 Romans 5:12-19  
 Matthew 4:1-11

**Mass Intentions**

Saturday, March 1, 5:00pm Jessie Davis ☩
Sunday, March 2, 8:30am Ruth Hannon ☩
Sunday, March 2, 10:30am Mario Vozza ☩
Monday, March 3, 8:15am Peggy Chambers
Tuesday, March 4, 8:15am Ralph Ludke ☩
Wednesday, March 5, 8:15am Jeff Spriggs ☩
Wednesday, March 5, 12:00noon Jack Dapkus ☩
Wednesday, March 5, 5:30pm Debbie Garrisi Wise ☩
Wednesday, March 5, 7:30pm George "Whitey" Betus ☩
Thursday, March 6, 8:15am Owen Fredette ☩
Friday, March 7, 8:15am Vicenta Palomera
Saturday, March 8, 5:00pm Rose Kempf
Sunday, March 9, 8:30am Elena & Ernesto Vozza ☩
Sunday, March 9, 10:30am Mario Vozza ☩

**Prayer List** (Call 760-758-4100 x102 to add a name for four weeks.)

Changa Aguilera  
 Mary Alexander  
 Carrie Autrey  
 Jose Luis Barbosa  
 Patricia Barbour  
 Clarice Bednarz  
 John Bennici  
 Regina Bentz  
 Lisa Berg  
 Roseanne Berg  
 Mary Betz  
 Betty Jean Bielich  
 The Breier Family  
 Beth Brewer  
 Janet Brown  
 Todd Brown  
 Mary Bruzas  
 Anita Buerger  
 Khlise Buford  
 Tony Calderone  
 Shelby Campbell  
 Brianne Campos  
 Claudia Caplinger  
 Aria Cappeluti  
 The Carey Family  
 The Cassidy Family  
 Marilyn Clarke  
 The Vaughn Clevenger Family  
 Dolly Cole  
 Carl & James Coleman  
 Elaine Collins  
 Carol Costa  
 Steven Cresencia  
 Lené Crowe  
 Karen Flaharty Daley  
 Beverly de Gelder  
 Hugo Delgado, Jr.  
 Cecilia DeSimone  
 Carole Dillon  
 Edward Dolnik  
 Art & Dave Dossman  
 John Drazkowski, Jr.  
 La Vonne Dumas  
 Debbie Ebaugh  
 Carolyn Erickson Ey  
 Sharon Evans  
 Victoria Lopez Fenton  
 The Fiore Family  
 Ryan Flum  
 Ernie Follis  
 Eugene Franciscus  
 Kathryn Franklin  
 Joe Freire  
 The Greg French Family  
 Jim Gallagher  
 The Joe Garcia Family  
 Kathy Gardner  
 Jack & Marge Gillen  
 Wendy Gonzales' Dad  
 Rick Gonzalez  
 Phillis Hall  
 Pat & Tom Hannon  
 The Harker Family  
 Barbara Hatem  
 Barbara Hazlett  
 Heidi Heaton  
 The Herkert Family  
 Lilian Hills  
 Samara Hook  
 Susan Hori  
 Rick Hughes  
 Iolanda Iacobelli  
 Linda Iacobelli Bennett  
 Betty Karch  
 Peggy Kiernan  
 Debbie Kinney  
 Mark Kneisel  
 Dewey Kolbo  
 Tony Korwin  
 Helen Kuhn  
 Lillian Lachance  
 The Lamelin Family  
 Brandon LeBlanc  
 Jeremiah Lemus  
 The Leone Family  
 David Leué  
 The Paul Leué Family  
 Ashley Load  
 Cassandra & Lauren Loretto  
 Jack Lucarelli  
 Joaquin Maldonado  
 Paige Mansell  
 Alexander Mathews  
 Chandler May  
 Bob McWilliams  
 Joyce Meehan  
 Kalei Mendiola  
 Bill Metzger  
 Phyllis Minaya  
 June Mitchell  
 June Montgomery  
 Nancy Moore  
 Ryan Moquin  
 Elizabeth Muehlbacher  
 Conrad Murphy  
 Margie Myers  
 Richard Obsitnik  
 The Oey Family  
 Bernadette Padovan  
 Ethan Palm  
 Perry Postulka  
 Douglas Price-Williams  
 The Joe Prokop Family  
 Barbara Ramm  
 Rita Ritchie  
 Adela & Elena Rivera  
 Maria Rogers  
 The Ross Family  
 Dorothy Rouse  
 The Russo Family  
 Rachel Sainc  
 Paul Salamunovich  
 The Salter Family  
 Cindy Sanelli  
 Paul Santy  
 Linda Schmidt  
 The Douglas E. Schulte Family  
 The Shaughnessy Family  
 Joan Shea  
 Elizabeth Shirzad  
 Bill Smith  
 Nick Soltau  
 Fred & Gilda Spiegl  
 Darek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski  
 Patricia St. Pierre  
 Sybil Staples  
 Pete Sullivan  
 David Sweet  
 Julie Teare  
 Tommy & Ginger Thompson  
 Sarah Tillinghast  
 William Tompson  
 Stephen Toth, Jr.  
 Olivia Trejo  
 The Trejo/Beltran Family  
 The Trejo/Maldonado/Uribe Family  
 Darlene Unland  
 Barbara Upson  
 Corrie & Robert Vasquez  
 Lucy Vienna  
 Vanessa Vitiello  
 Kevin Watson-Graff  
 Sue Welch  
 Paul West  
 John Whitton  
 Marceline Williams  
 Erin Young  
 Patricia Zavala  
 Martin Zschoche

**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.  
 1st Lt. Jeffrey Bauer, USMC  
 CPL Greg Bergman  
 PFC John Brandone  
 Maj. Tom Browne, Jr., USMC  
 Corp. Willie Deel  
 Chaplain Van Dinh  
 Lance Corp. Brandon Doyle, USMC  
 Capt. Branden M. Felker, USAF  
 Patrick G. Felker, USN  
 Grant Fischer  
 MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC  
 Sgt. Alex Garcia  
 PFC Samuel Haro, US Army  
 PFC Cody Madere  
 Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army  
 Sr. Airman Robert Spear, USAF  
 Sgt. Charles Watts, USMC

**Calendar Highlights**

More details at [www.stmoside.org](http://www.stmoside.org),  
 Schedule and Calendar

Mar 2	Knights of Columbus Breakfast
Mar 5	Ash Wednesday Masses at 8:15am, 12:00noon, 5:30pm, and 7:30pm Soup Supper 5:30-7:30pm
Mar 7	Knights of Columbus Fish Dinner and Stations of the Cross
Mar 8	<i>One Border, One Body:</i> <i>Immigration and the</i> <i>Eucharist Presentation</i>
Mar 9	Girl Scout Sunday with Recognition at 10:30am Mass
Mar 9	RE.A.CH Classes at Church, including High School
Mar 14	Knights of Columbus Fish Dinner and Stations of the Cross
Mar 16	High School Classes
Mar 16	Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Day Dinner
Mar 18	Spirited Seniors Trip to Getty Museum
Mar 20	Project Linus Coffee
Mar 23	RE.A.CH Classes at Church
Mar 31	Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service
Apr 5-6	Women's Guild Bake Sale
Apr 8	Day of Recollection
May 3	Women's Guild Game Day
May 16-18	Parish Campout in Valley Center
Jun 13	STM Annual Gala
Jun 22	New Member Luncheon

Questions? Contact Henny at  
 760-758-4100 x100  
[hennyj@stmoside.org](mailto: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.

March 3 Sr. Ancilla Murray, OCD
March 4 Sr. Margaret Murray, CSJ
March 5 Sr. Maire Naughton, RSM
March 6 Sr. Maria Carmelita Navarro, DCJ
March 7 Sr. Rosemary Nicholson, RJM
March 8 Sr. Ma. Esther Nunez, SJS
March 9 Sr. Frances Obrovac, FSP



## Social Ministries/Outreach

### Walk for Life to Benefit Birth Choice

Saturday, March 15, 9:00am, Buddy Todd Park, 3000 Mesa Dr., Oceanside. There are several ways to help: participate, sponsor a walker, or make a donation to the cause. Visit [BirthChoiCEDonors.net](http://BirthChoiCEDonors.net) for more information or contact Jane Kelleher at 760-822-7041.

### Brother Benno's Food Drive

As we approach the Lenten Season, we pay special attention to helping the less fortunate. On March 15/16, we will be holding our annual food drive for the poor serviced by Brother Benno's. Your generosity in the past has always been appreciated and has been a helping hand to those in need. Please look for Deacon Tom's truck(s) in the parking lot before all the Masses that weekend. Please again open your hearts and help us to help others.

### STM Archives Wants Your Material

The STM Historian is looking for material from Parish events and activities since our church was established in 1985. The kinds of material that are needed include: photographs, newspaper clippings, brochures, fliers, reports, videos, drawings—anything that represents our congregational memory! Please check your drawers, file cabinets, and that creepy ol' box in the attic. You can drop off your donations at the Parish office. Thanks!

For more information and questions, please feel free to contact: Brandon at 760-845-5450 or [brandon.oswald@gmail.com](mailto:brandon.oswald@gmail.com).

### The Knightly News

Please mark your calendars for Friday, March 7, as the first Lenten Fish Dinner. We will be having the Fish Dinner every Friday during Lent. Also, reserve Sunday, March 16, for a St. Patty's Day Dinner and some lively Irish music. Plan on joining us and the other members of the Parish for all of our wonderful meals. It's a great way to meet other Parishioners, have some friendly conversation and support the Knights of Columbus.

As always, we greatly appreciate your participation. For more information about the Knights, please call Andy Frost at 858-245-6305.

### STM Scrip News

Thanks to all who support the Scrip program! A percentage of every Scrip gift card purchased benefits our Parish Mortgage/Building Completion Fund. Stop by the Scrip table on the plaza after weekend Masses or the Parish Office during the week to purchase/order Scrip or find out more about the program.

**Remember, Scrip is available for purchase FOUR ways:**

1. On the Plaza after weekend Masses
2. Monday-Friday during business hours in the Parish Office
3. Email at [scrip@stmoside.org](mailto: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.

## Marriage & Family Life

**Moms & Kids**—Are you a mom with infant-school age children looking to meet other moms? Want to find a great way to meet friends for both you and your children? Join the Moms & Kids ministry on the first and third Monday of the month (March 3 at Hidden Canyon Community Park in Carlsbad) from 10:00am-12:00noon. See you there!



**Relationship Skills Workshop**—Deacon Ralph and Peggy Skiano are presenting Relationships Skills Workshops every Tuesday evening at 7:00pm at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 3888 Paducah Dr., San Diego. Come and explore how to improve your relationships. You can attend one workshop, several, or all of them. The next workshop is March 4 and the topic is *Childhood Issues and Emotional Baggage*. For more information call Deacon Ralph at 858-490-8292. They are also presenting this series at St. Francis Church in Vista on Friday evenings.

**Promoting Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty**—Pray for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty—join the movement! Visit [www.usccb.org/fast](http://www.usccb.org/fast) to sign the fasting pledge and to sign up for weekly e-mail reminders and intentions, or text "Fast" to 99000 to receive weekly text messages.

**Bishops' Letter on Marriage—Parents: First Evangelizers**—"Not only do parents present their children for Baptism, but, having done so, they become the first evangelizers and teachers of the faith. They evangelize by teaching their children to pray and by praying with them. They bring their children to Mass and teach them biblical stories. They show them how to obey God's commandments and to live a Christian life of holiness." To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

**Marriage Moments**—March 5 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Sunday's gospel reminds us "Why are you anxious about clothes?" (Mt 6: 28). The book *Blessed by Less: Clearing Your Life of Clutter by Living Lightly* by Susan V. Vogt (Loyola Press, 2013, \$13.95), offers ways to let go of some of your clothes (and other possessions) gracefully. It's a Lenten practice that can clear your mind and home. Susan Vogt, [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net).

**Parenting Pointers**—With Lent just starting have you discussed with your child(ren) what special efforts everyone in the family might do to enter into Christ's sacrifice during these 40 days? Perhaps everyone could choose one personal sacrifice and the family can agree on one common sacrifice. Telling each other helps keep you accountable. Susan Vogt, [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net).

For more information, visit [www.diocese-sdiego.org/Ministries/Marriage and Family Life](http://www.diocese-sdiego.org/Ministries/Marriage%20and%20Family%20Life) or call Jen Frost at 858-692-7438.

### Need Help with Transportation to Church!

Volunteer drivers are needed in our Parish. Some Parishioners would like to attend Mass and cannot drive themselves. Please prayerfully consider helping some of our fellow Parishioners. If you can help in any way with this service, please contact Ann Eriksson 760-599-7151 or [eriksson1@mindspring.com](mailto:eriksson1@mindspring.com).



**Parish Events**

**Attention Men!**

Join us for the weekly *That Man is You!* Program, which meets Saturday mornings, 6:45-8:30am. The topic for next week is "Use Money for the Benefit of Others." For more information, contact Deacon John Fredette at [johnf@stmoside.org](mailto:johnf@stmoside.org) or 760-758-4100 x132.

**Women's Guild News**

Get out your toe tapping shoes and be ready to clap to the Irish music of Jim McGinty and his Irish singing band as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day at our next meeting on March 10 at 11:00am. If you haven't made lunch reservations yet, it's your last chance to make sure we have enough lunch for you when you come. Call Vera at 760-295-0059 right away. And don't forget to wear green next week.

As we begin Lent on Wednesday, we'd like to remind you that we will be concentrating on the spiritual aspect of the Women's Guild at this time of the year with our annual Day of Recollection, which will take the place of our March meeting. Details will follow in the coming weeks.

May Mardi Gras next Tuesday make Wednesday's ashes all the more meaningful for us. —*Valerie Thompson, chair*

**Visit the Getty Center with the Spirited Seniors**

Tuesday, March 18. Meet at STM parking lot at 7:15am, returning at approximately 6:30pm. Lunch on your own. Enjoy the day at this fascinating center of culture and art, including that of ancient Greece and Rome as well as Europe. Optional 45-minute docent-led walking tour covering topics of architecture and gardens, etc. Cost for members is \$25; cost for non-members is \$30. Deadline for reservations is March 8. Please make your check out to "STM Spirited Seniors," indicate whether you'd like to take the walking tour, place in an envelope marked "Spirited Seniors Getty," and return it to the offertory collection or the Parish Office, Box 12, by March 8. For more information, contact Judy or Jerry Buoniconti at 760-758-5113.

**Catholic Widows and Widowers of North County**

On Sunday, March 9, CWWNC will hold their general meeting and potluck at nearby St. Margaret Chkurch in Oceanside at 2:00pm. Check the bulletin board on the lower level of the Parish Center for our calendar of events including communal Mass on the fourth Sunday of each month, dining out, hiking, and more! RSVP's are required. For more info. call Carol Kope at 760-726-0533 or Gerri Wilmott at 760-758-9949.

**Young Adult Ministry Activities**

Visit [www.yamsd.org](http://www.yamsd.org) for complete information on events for young adults, including our local chapter, North County Young Adults.

Also, search *Office of Young Adult Ministry* on Facebook.

**Memorial Item Donations**

Memorials are a way of honoring those whom we love, whether they are living or deceased. Often, memorials are made for a special intention or in thanksgiving for a variety of blessings received from God.

Our Parish Campus will be a living memorial. All who help in building it will leave something to the community itself that will be used by generations to come. The good they do is not interred with them, but will remain to share in the divine activity of God here on earth.

Listed below are items still available for adoption.

*All contributions will be recognized in a special memorial to be displayed in our Parish Memorial Garden.*

For more information or to adopt an item, contact Chris Smith  
760-758-4100 x120 or [chriss@stmoside.org](mailto:chriss@stmoside.org)

<b>Pipe Organ</b>	<b>\$850,000</b>
<b>Memorial Garden</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>Reflection Garden</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>Church Doors (Bronze)</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Crucifix</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>St. Thomas More Shrine (Tapestry)</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>Pew Seating for the Church</b> (1,000) 894 available	<b>\$300/person</b>
<b>Daily Mass Chapel and Choir Chairs</b> (200) 135 available	<b>\$300/each</b>



01/15/14

*For more information on our progress, visit our website, [stmoside.org](http://stmoside.org), and click on Our New Church.*

**Stay Up to Date on Construction Activity!**

Check the Parish website ([www.stmoside.org](http://www.stmoside.org)) to watch live action on our webcams (click on the camera icons) or view the Construction Progress album (click on *Our New Church*).



*Another major concrete pour on Wednesday, February 19. There was a steady stream of trucks all morning!*

# Liturgy & Music *Worship God*

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

## IN SOLIDARITY WITH ALL

### Scripture Themes for March

by Patricia Datchuck  
 Sánchez and Rafael  
 Sánchez Alonso,  
 from Celebration  
 March 2014,  
 with permission.

As we hungrily approach—and humbly unwrap—the gift of the word for March, we are reminded from the outset (March 2) of the depth, the constancy, and the carefulness of God’s love for every created being. “I will never forget you,” promises God through Isaiah. What does it mean to be remembered by God? It means that we are ever on God’s mind, ever in God’s heart, with our name ever on God’s lips.

To offer further encouragement, the Matthean Jesus advises: Don’t worry as you go forth into all your tomorrows. Have no fear. Observe the birds of the air, the flowers in the fields; all are cherished and protected by the God who called them into being. How much more does God cherish you, who bear God’s image within you!

Heartily assured of God’s love, we are fortified to enter into the season of Lent. On each of Lent’s Sundays we will be renewed in our solidarity with Jesus, who was tempted as we are but relied on God’s grace in order to resist and rise above evil (March 9). With Peter, James and John, we will share the “Aha!” moment of the transfiguration of Jesus (March 16). With them, we will realize anew that Jesus, as God’s beloved Son, has come among us, fulfilling both the law and the prophets.

On March 23, we will stand beside the woman at Jacob’s well in Sychar, and like her, we will admit our sins and our thirst for God and for goodness. With her, we will be grateful for our experiences of Jesus’ gift of living water—in his word, by his grace and in the waters of baptism whereby we are incorporated into Jesus and his body, the church.

As March draws to a close, we will find ourselves in the company of the man born blind, ready for Jesus’ anointing, ready to recognize and accept and acclaim Jesus for who he is: the light of life who dispels the darkness and dissipates fear. With the now-seeing man, we will proclaim, “I do believe!” With him, we will worship the Son of Man.

While it is relatively easy and even comforting to align ourselves with those we encounter each year in the Lenten Gospels, there are many others with whom we are also called to stand in solidarity. These, too, are God’s beloved whom God has promised never to forget (March 2). Nor can we, who are God’s own, ever forget them. We cannot divest ourselves of our responsibility for them as our brothers and sisters, all children of one Parent God, all members of the worldwide, inclusive body of Christ. For that reason, we enter into the time of Lent with renewed sensitivity to the homeless, the hungry, the diseased, and the displaced throughout the world. We fast because they are forced to fast. We give alms because their burdens are our own. We reach out with care because they are our brothers and sisters.

We are also newly resolved to be mindful of the nations besieged by war, and we do penance for our complicity in their conflicts as well as our apathy and our unwillingness to ease their plight. We don’t have enough fingers to point out all the trouble spots around the world—Syria, Kenya, Afghanistan, Congo, India, Korea, Egypt, Libya, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Ethiopia, Chechnya... but we must pray to have hearts big enough to care, hands eager to help and the willingness to stand, this Lent, in solidarity with suffering sinners worldwide, praying together



Matthew 6:25

### Upcoming Music

✠

**MARCH 5**  
**Ash**  
**Wednesday**

✠

**8:15am Mass**  
 Cantor and  
 Congregation

**12:00noon**  
**Mass**

Cantor and  
 Congregation

**5:30pm Mass**

Sanctuary Choir

**7:30pm Mass**

Tower Bells

✠

**MARCH 9**  
**1st Sunday of**  
**Lent**

✠

**5:00pm Mass**

Tower Bells

**8:30am Mass**

Sanctuary Choir

**10:30am Mass**

Praise Team

for God’s forgiveness and healing. When we are one in suffering and in prayer, our solidarity must be expressed in genuine and generous efforts on others’ behalf. When the London-born poet and dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral John Donne (1572-1631) tried to cultivate such solidarity in his contemporaries, he wrote:

The church is catholic, universal, and so are all her actions. When she baptizes a child, that action concerns me. ... When she buries a man, that action too concerns me; all mankind is of one author, and is one volume. When one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated. ... Some are translated by age, some by sickness, some by war, some by justice, but God’s hand is in every translation. ...

No man is an island ... every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main. ... Any man’s death diminishes me, for I am involved in mankind. (*Meditation XVII*)

Until that time when it is our turn to be translated into a better language, let us stand in solidarity with one another, sinners all, servants all, and all of us in need of God’s salvific grace and mercy. Holy Lent to each and all!



# Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

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

## Faith Formation for Adults

*Join us for any of the following events. . .  
bring a friend!  
All are welcome, especially new Parishioners~*

- **March 8, 9:00-11:00am**

### **ONE BORDER, ONE BODY: IMMIGRATION AND THE EUCHARIST** Speaker: Rev. Daniel G. Groody

“If there is one place where these two worlds are reconciled, where the division between rich and poor, immigrant and ‘native’ breakdown, it is the Eucharist. The Eucharist remembers a God who has broken down walls of every sort, bringing a diverse community into one body. . . the Eucharist reminds us that the Christian community is called ultimately to transcend national boundaries, even while its worship is rooted in particular expressions of cultures.”

Excerpts from *Communion Without Borders*, by Daniel Groody,  
CELEBRATION: A comprehensive Worship Resource.

Perhaps few of us have thought about or realize the intimate connection between immigration and the Eucharist. Join us for a morning of input and reflection as we learn and discuss immigration from the viewpoint of the center of our faith, the Eucharist.

- **March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 15, 9:15-10:00am**  
**A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE HOLY LAND**  
*(. . .and it's free!)*

Join Fr. Karl Bauer on five Tuesdays of Lent after Mass and coffee and donuts for an opportunity to connect the Scriptures of Lent with the places they actually took place.



Our tour begins next Tuesday, March 11 . . . and you don't even have to pack your suitcase!

## Operation Rice Bowl

“God destined the earth and all it contains for all people and nations so that all created things would be shared fairly by all humankind under the guidance of justice tempered by charity.



-Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, #69

Operation Rice Bowl began in 1975 as an ecumenical response to those in need. In 1979 Catholic Relief Services became the sponsor in outreach to all in need in our world.

Each year, STM participates with the focus for our RE.A.CH families as a very concrete way of almsgiving. Each child was given a Rice Bowl as Lent began. Families are encouraged to decide on a simple meal a week or a treat to be given up, and place the money instead in the Rice Bowl.

The children are asked to return the bowl with their sacrifices at the RE.A.CH class on April 27, the Sunday after Easter. Classes will combine the contents of their Rice Bowls to see how much money they are able to contribute when their efforts are combined.

Parishioners are invited to participate as well. Rice Bowls are available at the Information Table.

**This is a RE.A.CH week at Home**

*Come to Ash Wednesday Mass and begin Lent as a family!*

## PBJ Update

(Food for Children at the Emergency Crisis Center)

2014 GOAL: 365 pounds  
Collected to date: 395 pounds

An opportunity for almsgiving during Lent

# Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

## 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 operational or not!  
**You get the tax deduction!**

We can accept vehicles without current registration  
and can file for replacement title if it has been lost.  
**As of February 6 we have netted over \$44,402  
from this program. Thank you donors!**



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

"Did You Know" Collection February 2014  
\$2,653.47

## Restaurant Fundraisers February 2014

Nucci's	\$375.29
Hunter's	\$430.95

## Collection for Week of February 22/23, 2014

Number of Registered Households		1,080
Offertory*	\$	13,649.33
Offertory (Loose Collection)		945.00
Children's envelopes		0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,594.33</b>

\* 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 [Parish\\_office@stmoside.org](mailto:Parish_office@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.

## Christian Stewardship ~First Fruit or Leftovers?

Did you know that one-sixth of everything Jesus is reported to say in the New Testament concerns the relationship of a person to his or her material possessions? And one third of all Jesus' parables are about this matter.

The use and misuse of the world . . . of possessions, of physical things, and of people . . . the use and misuse of the world we have been given by God to live in and with is what the history of salvation is all about. It's the matter of stewardship. Let's not fool ourselves about stewardship, because if we do we will be fooling ourselves about the Gospel itself, about the very promise of salvation itself.

To toss God a tip, a little change from the excess of our lives, whether of money or time, is a little like tossing a bone to a dog who is looking for meat. *If you find that your giving to God is being done in this spirit, then please reconsider.*

It's not a matter of meeting the church's obligations to the electric company and paying salaries. Our gifts honor the Lord and are an expression of our love. While the church budget is important, our offering is an opportunity for us to truly thank our heavenly Father for all he has given us. If we give in relation to what we've received, there will always be plenty to pay the bills.

—Parish Publishing, LLC, March 2014 Stewardship (with permission)

I'd like to share one of the first experiences I had after becoming Stewardship Coordinator at STM in 2002. Our theme that October for Stewardship Awareness was that of giving to God from our first fruits, rather than our leftovers. We used the example of giving from our first bite of an apple, rather than tossing the core to God after we'd eaten everything else.

Our committee placed baskets of beautiful apples (donated by the Nucci's) all over the building for Parishioners to see as we made our journey through October.



On the first weekend, our team passed out apples to everyone as they left Mass. Fr. Peter McGuine had given an excellent homily to kick off the month, and he used the first bite instead of the core metaphor. I still remember the reaction of some Parishioners as we offered them a free apple after the 5:00pm Saturday Mass.

Though it was getting dark, the look of horror on some faces was clear and it shocked me. A few folks actually turned sideways to avoid receiving an apple. I was surprised because we are a blessed and generous faith community in word and deed. However, the majority happily took an apple.

*So now, years later, if I reach just one person who needs to know that God provides all that we have, it will be worth it. In relation to all of God's gifts to us, the first bite of the apple pales in comparison. —Chris*

**God deserves more than leftovers!**



## News and Information from the Larger Church

**Franciscan School of Theology at Mission San Luis Rey**—Sponsoring a lecture series on “Where Do Franciscans Fit in U.S. History?” For more information, contact Franklin Fong, OFM, at [ffong@sandiego.edu](mailto:ffong@sandiego.edu) or 760-547-1800 x201.

**Free Introductory Session on Creighton Model Fertility Care System**—Sunday, March 9, 6:15pm, St. Mary Star of the Sea, Oceanside. A method for naturally achieving or avoiding pregnancy in harmony with Church teaching. RSVP required. For information or to RSVP, contact Anna Saucier at 619-630-8086 or [anna@fertilitycaresd.com](mailto:anna@fertilitycaresd.com).

**After-Abortion Overnight Healing Retreat for Catholic (or Catholic-friendly) Women**—March 14-16, St. Mary’s Retreat Center, Escondido. Confidentiality maintained. For information/registration, contact Leslie Brunolli at 760-745-2529 or [LBrunolli@yahoo.com](mailto:LBrunolli@yahoo.com) or [www.RachelsHope.org](http://www.RachelsHope.org). Sponsored by the Diocese of San Diego.

**Monthly Holy Hour for Priestly and Religious Vocations**—Third Wednesday of each month (next is March 19), 7:30-9:00pm, Diocesan Pastoral Center, 3888 Paducah Dr., San Diego. For more information, contact Fr. Pedro Rivera at [privera@diocese-sdiego.org](mailto:privera@diocese-sdiego.org) or 619-291-7446.

**Rachel’s Vineyard Post-Abortion Healing Retreat for Women**—March 21-23 in Temecula. For more information or to register, contact Dolores at 951-325-7702.

**Catholic Charities Food Resource Center Has Volunteer Opportunities for YOU!**—Drivers, Daily Food Packers, Intake Workers, and CalFresh (food stamp) Advocate. For information call Lisa DuMolt at 619-231-2828 x221

**Weekly Peaceful Prayer Vigil to End Abortion**—Tuesdays, 9:00-10:00am, outside the clinic at 120 Craven Rd., San Marcos.

For more information, contact Jane Kelleher at 760-822-7041

**Birth Choice Volunteer Counselors Training**—Call Heidi at 760-744-1313 for details and to sign up. Birth Choice is a pro-life, Christ-centered pregnancy resource center offering free pregnancy testing, ultrasound, and options counseling for women in crisis. For more information, visit [www.birthchoice.net](http://www.birthchoice.net).

**Support Group for Separated/Divorced**—An ongoing support group meeting Sundays at 10:15am at St. James Catholic Church in Solana Beach. For more information, contact Frank Grant at 760-533-1520 or [fwgrant@gmail.com](mailto:fwgrant@gmail.com).

**The Center for Christian Spirituality at the University of San Diego** has a great lineup of events. Visit [www.sandiego.edu/ccs](http://www.sandiego.edu/ccs).

**Volunteer with Voices for Children**—Voices for Children provides volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) to abused and neglected children in San Diego County to ensure their needs are met in the courtroom, classroom, and community. For more information, contact [www.speakupnow.org](http://www.speakupnow.org) or 858-598-2235.

**Mission San Luis Rey Retreat Center in Oceanside** has an ongoing schedule of retreats! Visit [www.sanluisrey.org](http://www.sanluisrey.org) for more details.

**Natural Family Planning Course in San Diego**—For more information and/or to register for the series, contact 619-303-5053 or [davidandcherylross@gmail.com](mailto:davidandcherylross@gmail.com).

### Catholic Radio—AM 1000/Sirius 130—San Diego

Free program guides and bumper stickers available at the information table the Plaza after weekend Masses.

Visit [ihradio.com/sandiego](http://ihradio.com/sandiego)

## News from St. Francis Church

525 W. Vista Way, Vista • 760-945-8000 • [stfrancis-vista.org](http://stfrancis-vista.org)

**St. Francis School is our Parish School!**—Families from St. Thomas More are extended the same benefits and rewards as St. Francis Parishioners, including:

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

You’re invited! Discover what St. Francis School has to offer your child! From 2 years of age to 8th grade, we invite you to come for a tour of our safe campus, observe our classes, and meet with our administrator to see if St. Francis School is the school you have been looking for. From strong academics to after-school enrichment, to physical education and the arts, your child deserves the best opportunity to grow and develop in a safe, Christ-centered environment. Find out more with a visit!

We are proud of our academic accomplishments and expanded learning with activities such as:

- After school clubs: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Archery, Art, Cheerleading, Gymbus, preschool soccer class, and more throughout the school year

- Student Extracurricular Activities: Academic Decathlon, Ambassadors for Christ, Student Council
- Sports: Volleyball, Flag Football, Soccer, basketball, track and field
- Special family events: Family BBQ, Chili Cook-Off, Christmas Pageant, Performing Arts, Family Outdoor Movie Nights, Family Dining Out Nights, Catholic Schools Week, Promotions and graduation events
- Partnerships in Service to Community: Soup Kitchen, Sack Lunch Ministry, Life Care

Contact us today for more information!

Preschool Office, Ms. Jennifer Paino, 760-630-7964.

K-8 Office, Mrs. Mary Drego 760-630-7960.

Visit us online at <http://sfs-vista.org>

**Free Electronic Recycling at St. Francis Church**—On Saturday, April 5, 10:00am-2:00pm, bring your old or broken electronics in for legal disposal or recycling at the upper church parking lot. Just drive up and drop off! Proceeds made will benefit the St. Francis Preschool Program.





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[www.stmoside.org](http://www.stmoside.org) • [Parishoffice@stmoside.org](mailto:Parishoffice@stmoside.org)

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

### Parish Contacts

Updated 02/19/2014

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

#### Pastoral Council Committees

**Faith Formation & Evangelization .....Rory Griffin 760-414-3939**

- Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs ..... Regina Aulisio 760-295-5530
- Faith Formation for Adults..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
- Bible Study..... Pauline Lapre 760-727-8339
- Small Church Communities ..... Sondra Parks 760-598-1269
- Liturgy of the Word for Children..... Cathy Meyer 760-598-7853
- Men's Fellowship..... Dcn. John Fredette 760-758-4100 x132
- Religious Education for Children & Adolescents  
..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
- Sacramental Preparation..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
- RCIA..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
- Vocations ..... Dcn. Tom & Patt Goeltz 760-727-8442
- Women's Ministry ..... Erin Barela 760-580-5659
- Youth Ministry..... Rory Griffin 760-758-4100 x161
- High School Youth Group..... Rory Griffin 760-758-4100 x161
- North County Young Adults ..... Available

**Liturgy .....Kathy Arciero 760-231-1022**

- Altar Linen Care ..... Anna Meyers 760-727-4998
- Art & Environment ..... Kathy Arciero 760-231-1022
- Bereavement Ministry..... Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- Eucharistic Adoration ..... Available
- Interior Design Team ..... Pat & Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414
- Liturgical Ministries..... Douglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140
- Music Ministry..... Douglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140

**Marriage & Family Life ..... Jen Frost 858-692-7438**

- Bringing the Celebration Home ..... Jen Frost 858-692-7438
- Diocesan Liaison..... Trish & Daryl Resplandor 626-733-3832
- Family Services..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
- Marriage Preparation..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
- Moms & Kids..... Jen Abelson 410-570-6962
- ..... Mindy Leonard 760-400-8822
- Widows & Widowers of North County..... Carol Kope 760-726-0533
- ..... Germaine Wilmott 760-758-9949

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

- Annual Gala ..... Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
- Historian/Archives ..... Brandon Oswald 760-845-5450
- Knights of Columbus ..... Andrew Frost 858-245-6305
- Social Activities..... Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100
- Spirited Seniors..... Jim & Marilyn Day 760-509-4545
- Treasures Rummage Sale..... John & Wendy Murphy 760-497-6117
- Walking Ministry ..... Diane Pal 760-815-2519

**Social Ministries ..... Cherie & Greg Abrahms 760-598-6776**

- Blood Drive ..... Linda Dicus 760-726-5081
- Brother Benno's Collection ..... Dcn. Tom Goeltz 760-727-8442
- Brother Benno's Kitchen Server ..... George Jones 760-940-9288
- Christmas Angel Ministry ..... John & Marti Harper 760-724-1181
- CPR/AED Classes..... Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414
- Culture of Life ..... Jane Kelleher 760-822-7041
- Disability Facilitation ..... Ann Eriksson 760-599-7151
- Jail Ministry ..... Rita McCarthy 760-758-4100 x100
- Prayer Request Line..... Pat Wong 760-806-1310
- ..... Norma Flanagan 760-630-0180
- Project Linus..... Mary Coxon 760-599-8760
- Social Justice Committee ..... Henri Black 760-758-8137
- Engaging Spirituality ..... Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice  
..... Joyce Meehan 760-724-4974
- JustFaith..... Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
- San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP)  
..... Craig & Mary Castle 760-727-3097
- Solutions for Change ..... Kevin & Lyn Leahy 760-643-0872
- Family Shoe Ministry ..... Rick & Heidi Madden 760-470-4998
- St. Bonaventure Mission..... Dcn. Tom Goeltz 760-727-8442
- Youth Justice Foundation ..... Cherie & Greg Abrahms 760-598-6776

**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 Manager..... Rebecca Eyer 760-758-4100 x100

**Diocesan Pastoral Council Liaison ..... Masako Streling 760-295-2594**

#### Development Council Committees

- Annual Catholic Appeal..... Flora Fallone 760-758-4100 x100
- New Construction ..... Brian Leahey 760-224-1674
- Parish Membership ..... Valerie Thompson 760-630-1703
- Planned Giving ..... Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
- Publicity/Public Relations..... Jane Gladden 760-659-6168
- Scrip Sales ..... Mike Nichols 760-727-7522
- ..... Andrea Sweeney 760-216-6389
- Stewardship ..... Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
- Vehicle Donations..... Diana Diaz 760-758-4100 x100
- Welcome Ministry ..... Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120

#### Pastoral Staff

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor .....	760-758-4100 x100 .....	<a href="mailto:michaelr@stmoside.org">michaelr@stmoside.org</a>
Rev. Karl Bauer, Senior Priest .....	760-758-4100 x133 .....	<a href="mailto:karlb@stmoside.org">karlb@stmoside.org</a>
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Dcn. Tom Goeltz .....	760-758-4100 x100 .....	<a href="mailto:thomasg@stmoside.org">thomasg@stmoside.org</a>
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Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director.....	760-758-4100 x100 .....	<a href="mailto:kathys@stmoside.org">kathys@stmoside.org</a>
Sally Fay, Organist/Choir Accompanist .....	760-758-4100 x100 .....	<a href="mailto:sallyf@stmoside.org">sallyf@stmoside.org</a>
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Brian Leahey, Director of Construction.....	760-758-4100 x152 .....	<a href="mailto:brianl@stmoside.org">brianl@stmoside.org</a>

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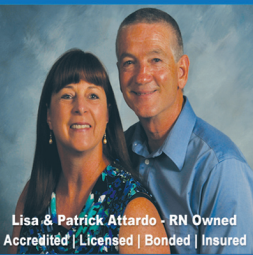
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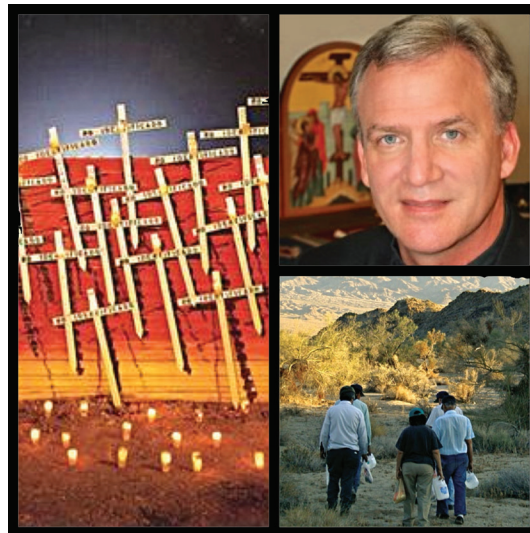
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Daniel G. Groody is a Catholic priest, a Holy Cross religious, a scholar, teacher, and an award winning author and film producer. He is currently an Associate Professor of Theology and the Director of the Center for Latino Spirituality and Culture at the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Drawing on years of work in Latin America, particularly along the U.S.- Mexico border, he has authored various books and articles which have been translated into five languages. He has worked with the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the World Council of Churches, and the Vatican on issues of theology, globalization, and immigration.

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# LENTEN MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER FRANCIS

## 2014



*He became poor,  
so that by his poverty you might become rich.  
(cf. 2 Cor 8:9)*



*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

As Lent draws near, I would like to offer some helpful thoughts on our path of conversion as individuals and as a community. These insights are inspired by the words of Saint Paul: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich” (2 Cor 8:9). The Apostle was writing to the Christians of Corinth to encourage them to be generous in helping the faithful in Jerusalem who were in need. What do these words of Saint Paul mean for us Christians today? What does this invitation to poverty, a life of evangelical poverty, mean for us today?

### *1. Christ’s Grace*

First of all, it shows us how God works. He does not reveal himself cloaked in worldly power and wealth but rather in weakness and poverty: “though He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor ....” Christ, the eternal Son of God, one with the Father in power and glory, chose to be poor; he came amongst us and drew near to each of us; he set aside his glory and emptied himself so that he could be like us in all things (cf. Phil 2:7; Heb 4:15). God’s becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for all this is his love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near, a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice for the beloved. Charity, love, is sharing with the one we love in all things. Love makes us similar, it creates equality, it breaks down walls and eliminates distances. God did this with us. Indeed, Jesus “worked with human hands, thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart. Born of the Virgin Mary, he truly became one of us, like us in all things except sin” (*Gaudium et Spes*, 22).

By making himself poor, Jesus did not seek poverty for its own sake but, as Saint Paul says “*that by his poverty you might become rich.*” This is no mere play on words or a catch phrase. Rather, it sums up God’s logic, the logic of love, the logic of the incarnation and the cross. God did not let our salvation drop

down from heaven, like someone who gives alms from their abundance out of a sense of altruism and piety. Christ’s love is different! When Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan and was baptized by John the Baptist, he did so not because he was in need of repentance, or conversion; he did it to be among people who need forgiveness, among us sinners, and to take upon himself the burden of our sins. In this way he chose to comfort us, to save us, to free us from our misery. It is striking that the Apostle states that we were set free, not by Christ’s riches but by *his poverty*. Yet Saint Paul is well aware of the “the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Eph 3:8), that he is “heir of all things” (Heb 1:2).

So what is this poverty by which Christ frees us and enriches us? It is his way of loving us, his way of being our neighbour, just as the Good Samaritan was neighbour to the man left half dead by the side of the road (cf. Lk 10:25ff). What gives us true freedom, true salvation, and true happiness is the compassion, tenderness and solidarity of his love. Christ’s poverty which enriches us is his taking flesh and bearing our weaknesses and sins as an expression of God’s infinite mercy to us. Christ’s poverty is the greatest treasure of all: Jesus’ wealth is that of his boundless confidence in God the Father, his constant trust, his desire always and only to do the Father’s will and give glory to him. Jesus is rich in the same way as a child who feels loved and who loves its parents, without doubting their love and tenderness for an instant. Jesus’ wealth lies in his being *the Son*; his unique relationship with the Father is the sovereign prerogative of this Messiah who is poor. When Jesus asks us to take up his “yoke which is easy,” he asks us to be enriched by his “poverty which is rich” and his “richness which is poor,” to share his filial and fraternal Spirit, to become sons and daughters in the Son, brothers and sisters in the firstborn brother (cf. Rom 8:29).

It has been said that the only real regret lies in not being a saint (L. Bloy); we could also say that there is only one real kind of poverty: not living as children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ.

## 2. Our Witness

We might think that this “way” of poverty was Jesus’ way, whereas we who come after him can save the world with the right kind of human resources. This is not the case. In every time and place God continues to save mankind and the world *through the poverty of Christ*, who makes himself poor in the sacraments, in his word and in his Church, which is a people of the poor. God’s wealth passes not through our wealth, but invariably and exclusively through our personal and communal poverty, enlivened by the Spirit of Christ.

In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it. *Destitution* is not the same as *poverty*: destitution is poverty without faith, without support, without hope. There are three types of destitution: material, moral, and spiritual. *Material destitution* is what is normally called poverty, and affects those living in conditions opposed to human dignity: those who lack basic rights and needs such as food, water, hygiene, work, and the opportunity to develop and grow culturally. In response to this destitution, the Church offers her help, her *diakonia*, in meeting these needs and binding these wounds which disfigure the face of humanity. In the poor and outcast we see Christ’s face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ. Our efforts are also directed to ending violations of human dignity, discrimination, and abuse in the world, for these are so often the cause of destitution. When power, luxury, and money become idols, they take priority over the need for a fair distribution of wealth. Our consciences thus need to be converted to justice, equality, simplicity, and sharing.

No less a concern is *moral destitution*, which consists in slavery to vice and sin. How much pain is caused in families because one of their members—often a young person—is in thrall to alcohol, drugs, gambling, or pornography! How many people no longer see meaning in life or prospects for the future, how many have lost hope! And how many are plunged into this destitution by unjust social conditions, by unemployment, which takes away their dignity as breadwinners, and by lack of equal access to education and health care. In such cases, moral destitution can be considered impending suicide. This type of destitution, which also causes financial ruin, is invariably linked to the *spiritual destitution* which we experience when we turn away from God and

reject his love. If we think we don’t need God who reaches out to us through Christ, because we believe we can make do on our own, we are headed for a fall. God alone can truly save and free us.

The Gospel is the real antidote to spiritual destitution: wherever we go, we are called as Christians to proclaim the liberating news that forgiveness for sins committed is possible, that God is greater than our sinfulness, that he freely loves us at all times and that we were made for communion and eternal life. The Lord asks us to be joyous heralds of this message of mercy and hope! It is thrilling to experience the joy of spreading this good news, sharing the treasure entrusted to us, consoling broken hearts, and offering hope to our brothers and sisters experiencing darkness. It means following and imitating Jesus, who sought out the poor and sinners as a shepherd lovingly seeks his lost sheep. In union with Jesus, we can courageously open up new paths of evangelization and human promotion.

Dear brothers and sisters, may this Lenten season find the whole Church ready to bear witness to all those who live in material, moral, and spiritual destitution the Gospel message of the merciful love of God our Father, who is ready to embrace everyone in Christ. We can do this to the extent that we imitate Christ who became poor and enriched us by his poverty. Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt.

May the Holy Spirit, through whom we are “as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything” (2 Cor 6:10), sustain us in our resolutions and increase our concern and responsibility for human destitution, so that we can become merciful and act with mercy. In expressing this hope, I likewise pray that each individual member of the faithful and every Church community will undertake a fruitful Lenten journey. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you safe.

*From the Vatican, 26 December 2013  
Feast of Saint Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr*

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