

SAINT  
THOMAS  
MORE  
CATHOLIC  
CHURCH

*A prophet is not without honor  
except in his native place.  
—Mark 6:4*



*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



### Construction Progress

Continued work on scaffolding  
for ceiling woodwork.

Visit [www.stmoside.org](http://www.stmoside.org)  
to see more photos!

## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 5, 2015

### Pastor's Column

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

**For All That Has Been—Thank You! For All That Will Be—Yes!**

*July 1 was my 12th anniversary as the Pastor of St. Thomas More Catholic Church. I share with you, once again, my first Pastor's Column dated July 6, 2003.*

*It is my desire each year to give you my first Pastor's Column in which I shared with you the words of Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk, as he talks about the meaning and purpose of a parish. His words have become over the years of my ministry, in the various parishes in which I have served, my pastoral motivation and direction. May our yearly reflection upon these words help all of us in deepening our relationship with the Lord Jesus.*

*Over these twelve years, I have thanked God constantly for your overwhelming positive response in your willingness to work together as we continue to witness to the Kingdom of God and move into our future.*

*In my forty years of ministry, I have been in many faith-filled parishes, but I must admit that St. Thomas More has strengthened me the most in my pastoral responsibilities. This Parish helps me so much to be a faithful pastor!*

*“As I begin my journey with the Church of St. Thomas More and become a member of this Faith Community, I share with you the words of The Most Reverend Daniel Pilarczyk, the now retired, former Archbishop of Cincinnati, taken from his book, *The Parish: Where God's People Live*:*

*A parish, then, is a moment, a chapter in God's love affair with us human beings. And being a member of a parish does not mean just “belonging to something,” but rather, being involved in a loving association with God in Christ Jesus and with each other in Him, and with all the world for Him.*

*Parish is therefore concerned with relationships—our relationship with Christ and our relationship with each other in Him.*

*Consequently, the main participant in every parish is the Lord Himself. It is He around whom the people gather in worship. It is He whose word the parishioners hear there. It is His work the parishioners carry out in the context of the parish's life and in their activity in the world, activity for which they are enlightened and strengthened in the parish.*

*(Continued on page 2)*



**Pastor's Column** *(continued from page 1)*

It is for the strengthening and expression of His Body, the Church, that the parishioners build buildings and carry out programs.

It is in response to His love that the parish engages in care for the poor and in outreach to those who have forgotten Christ or have never known Him.

I now have the privilege of joining you, the Church of St. Thomas More, on its Faith Journey, its Love Affair with God, in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that, because our paths now become one, we will continue to deepen our relationship with the Lord Jesus, and that we will continue to center our lives more completely on Him.

As I begin my ministry as your Pastor, I commit all of my time, talent, treasure, and energy in building on the strong foundation that has already been set, that is, the ongoing creation of a climate and an environment of hospitality that says: 'The Church of St. Thomas More is holy ground. The Church of St. Thomas More is a people and a place where God is revered, and all God's People are treated with dignity, respect, and offered the opportunity to be challenged by the Gospel. The Church of St. Thomas More is the home of brothers and sisters in Christ who take time to support each other in deepening their relationship with Jesus the Christ for the purpose of making our world a better and safer place for all people.'

I promise all of you that I will do all that I can, during this time of transition, that as a Faith Community, we do not experience 'a loss of momentum,' but rather, that we experience a 'surge of energy.'

As we pilgrimage through life, as individuals and as a community of Faith, our book of Life is being written. Some chapters we write. Other chapters are written for us. Chapters end. New chapters begin. Today we begin a new chapter in the Faith Life of the Church of St. Thomas More. With me, I ask that you 'look forward to opportunities for growth that change affords.'

As we begin to walk together, may our prayer be: 'For all that has been—Thank You. For all that will be—Yes!'


**Considering Becoming Catholic?**

Are you beginning to search for a deeper meaning and purpose in your life? Would you like to explore a spiritual dimension inside yourself? Do you have a yearning to experience God in your life? You are invited to join our group of "seekers" who are just beginning to discover the joy of knowing God. We meet two Saturdays a month from 3:00-4:45pm and **you** are most welcome! For more information, contact Kathleen Bell at 760-809-6526 or [80bell80@gmail.com](mailto:80bell80@gmail.com).

**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. **For more information, visit [www.stmoside.org/scrip.htm](http://www.stmoside.org/scrip.htm) or contact the Scrip team at 760-758-4100 x150 or [scrip@stmoside.org](mailto:scrip@stmoside.org)**

**In Memoriam**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

**Theresa Farrell**, who died on June 11. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated in Seal Beach, with a graveside service on Tuesday, July 7 at 11:00am at Mission San Luis Rey Cemetery in Oceanside. Please keep 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.*

**Local Hospitals with Catholic Chaplains Available**

If you or a loved one is in one of these hospitals and need the ministry of a Catholic priest, please contact the Chaplain's Office to make the arrangements.

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Chaplain's Office</b>
Tri-City	760-940-7954
Palomar	442-281-1328
Scripps Encinitas	760-633-7784
Scripps Green	858-554-3698
Scripps Mercy	619-260-7020
UCSD Thornton	619-543-2103
Kaiser Zion	619-528-5188

**Vocations**

What to do if you think you have a calling to be a priest, religious, or deacon:

1. Pray over it. Ask God for guidance.
2. Pray over it. Listen for God's response. (Prayer is always the best way to determine any vocation...not just those in the Church.)
3. Ask questions. Find out what you will be getting into if you answer such a calling. The priests, nuns, and deacons in the Parish will always be happy to discuss your calling with you...so will the Office of Vocations at the Diocese...so will members of various orders.
4. Discuss it with family members or close friends whose opinions you value. They may have insights or questions that you have not thought of.
5. Do not be afraid to investigate such a calling.

**Learning about the Priesthood**

On Saturday, July 18, the Diocese of San Diego is hosting an **Explorer Day** for those men who are interested in exploring a possible vocation to the priesthood. The day will be held at St. Francis Center on the campus of the University of San Diego, 8:30am-3:30pm. If living a life of service for Christ and the people of God is attractive to you, take advantage of the opportunity to attend. Pick up an application at the Parish Office or call Fr. Pedro Rivera at St. Francis Center, 619-291-7446.

**Our Mission is to:**

**worship God,  
teach and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ,  
and serve God's people in word and deed.**

**Readings for the Week Ahead**

Sunday Year B; Weekday Year I

**Sunday, July 5** (101)  
*Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 Ezekiel 2:2-5  
 Psalm 123:1-4  
 2 Corinthians 12:7-10  
 Mark 6:1-6a  
**Monday, July 6** (596)  
*Mary Goretti, virgin, martyr*  
 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a,17-20  
 Psalm 31:3cd-4,6,8ab,16bc,17  
 John 12:24-26  
**Tuesday, July 7** (384)  
 Genesis 32:23-33  
 Psalm 17:1b,2-3,6-8b,15  
 Matthew 9:32-38  
**Wednesday, July 8** (385)  
 Genesis 41:55-57:42:5-7a,17-24a  
 Psalm 33:2-3,10-11,18-19  
 Matthew 10:1-7  
**Thursday, July 9** (386)  
*Augustine Zhao Rong, priest & companions, martyrs*  
 Genesis 44:18-21,23b-29:45:1-5  
 Psalm 105:16-21  
 Matthew 10:7-15  
**Friday, July 10** (387)  
 Genesis 46:1-7,28-30  
 Psalm 37:3-4,18-19,27-28,39-40  
 Matthew 10:16-23  
**Saturday, July 11** (388)  
*Benedict, abbot*  
 Genesis 49:29-32:50:15-26a  
 Psalm 105:1-4,6-7  
 Matthew 10:24-33  
**Sunday, July 12** (104)  
*Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 Amos 7:12-15  
 Psalm 85:9-14  
 Ephesians 1:3-14  
 Mark 6:7-13

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

Changa Aguilera  
 Ernie Aichele  
 Mary Alexander  
 Carrie Autrey  
 Joshua Avery  
 Rosemary Ballard  
 Dee Barakman  
 Jose Luis Barbosa  
 Patricia Barbour  
 Francie Barron  
 Clarice Bednarz  
 John Bennici  
 Regina Bentz  
 Lisa Berg  
 Roseanne Berg  
 Mary Betz  
 Betty Jean Bielich  
 Pieter Boets & Family  
 Zane Breier  
 Beth Brewer  
 Hannah Bronson  
 Janet Brown  
 Todd Brown  
 Katie Browne  
 Jack & Mary Bruzas  
 Anita Buerger  
 Shelby Campbell  
 Brianna Campos  
 Aria Cappeluti  
 Jorge Cartajena  
 Donald Cashmore  
 The Vaughn Clevenger Family  
 The Cole & Kowallek Families  
 Carl & Dorothy Coleman  
 James Coleman  
 Judy Colson  
 Leon Cook  
 Steven Cresencia  
 Lené Crowe  
 Karen Flaharty Daley  
 Beverly de Gelder  
 Nick Del Sesto  
 Paul Del Vecchio  
 Hugo Delgado, Jr.  
 Cassandra D'Ercole  
 Christine DeSantis  
 Cecilia DeSimone  
 Carole Dillon  
 Edward Dolnik  
 Art & Dave Dossman  
 La Vonne Dumas  
 Marge Egan  
 Jerome Elbacha  
 Carolyn Erickson Ey  
 The Farrell Family  
 Victoria Lopez Fenton  
 The Fiore Family  
 Mary Fleming  
 Ryan Flum  
 Ernie Follis  
 Eugene Franciscus  
 Kathryn Franklin  
 The Greg French Family  
 Brian Frink  
 Jim Gallagher  
 The Joe Garcia Family  
 Kathy Gardner  
 Jack & Marge Gillen  
 Wendy Gonzales' Dad  
 Rick Gonzalez  
 Tillie Gonzalez  
 Lou Gordon  
 George Gritt  
 Fred Gritzen and Family  
 Luke Guenst  
 Susan Hallahan  
 Pat & Tom Hannon  
 The Harker Family  
 Dorothy Harrison  
 Barbara Hatem  
 Heidi Heaton  
 Lilian Hills  
 Mike Hofer  
 Samara Hook  
 Susan Hori  
 Tina Hunter  
 Iolanda Iacobelli  
 The Johansing Family  
 Bradley Johnson  
 Sue Johnston  
 Laura Kater  
 Dottie Kearney  
 Paul Kennedy  
 Connor Kerzie  
 Peggy Kiernan  
 Debbie Kinney  
 Mark Kneisel  
 Fujiko Kodama  
 Dewey Kolbo  
 Tony Korwin  
 Steven Kowallek  
 Helen Kuhn  
 Lillian Lachance  
 The Lamelin Family  
 Bart Landry  
 Brandon LeBlanc  
 Jeremiah Lemus  
 The Paul Leué Family  
 The Lew Family  
 Ashley Load  
 Cassandra & Lauren Loretto  
 Jack Lucarelli  
 Lisa Lynn  
 Joaquin Maldonado  
 The Maldonado Family  
 The Maldonado Trejo Family  
 Paige Mansell  
 Alexander Mathews  
 Gloria Maupin  
 Colleen McCall  
 Virginia McConnell  
 Bob McWilliams  
 Joyce Meehan  
 Kalei Mendiola  
 Rita Mikridge  
 Tom Miller  
 Phyllis Minaya  
 June Mitchell  
 June Montgomery  
 Nancy Moore  
 Elizabeth Muehlbacher  
 Conrad Murphy  
 Margie Myers  
 Angela Nacional  
 Melanie Nacional  
 Nida Navarro  
 Richard Obsitnik  
 Kare O'Dell  
 Laura Paciorek Gloor  
 Ethan Palm  
 Sandy Palmisani  
 Elisa Petrie  
 Helen Pingtella  
 Perry Postulka  
 The Joe Prokop Family  
 Barbara Ramm  
 Evelyn Richards  
 Jan Riley  
 Connie Ringel  
 Rita Ritchie  
 Anna Robinson  
 Lily Robinson  
 Maria Rogers  
 The Russo Family  
 Rachel Sainc  
 Cindy Sanelli  
 Linda Schmidt  
 Joan Shea  
 Elizabeth Shirzad  
 Tom Simonson  
 Nick Soltau  
 Drew Spangler  
 Darek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski  
 Don St. Pierre  
 Patricia St. Pierre  
 Sybil Staples  
 Mike Sterling  
 Laura Bernard Stover, MD  
 Pete Sullivan  
 Julie Teare  
 Tommy & Ginger Thompson  
 Sarah Tillinghast  
 William Tompson  
 Stephen Toth, Jr.  
 Olivia Trejo  
 The Trejo/Beltran Family  
 The Trejo/Maldonado/Uribe Family  
 The Vasquez Family  
 Martin Vertson  
 Lucy Vienna  
 Lucy Viramontes  
 Vanessa Vitiello  
 Wilson Wanner  
 Kevin Watson-Graff  
 Jerry Wechsler  
 Patricia Zavala  
 Jeanne Zeltner

**Calendar Highlights**

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

Jul 19 Pastor's Dinner  
 Jul 24-26 Steubenville San Diego  
 Aug 23 Towers of Faith Reception  
 Sep 9 Gospel of Matthew Bible Study Begins  
 Sep 12-13 Brother Benno's Toiletries Drive  
 Sep 20 New Member Luncheon  
 Oct 9-11 Men's Retreat  
 Nov 1 Pizza & Beer Party  
 Dec 19 Christmas Cookie Exchange  
**2016**  
 Apr 29 STM Gala

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

**Deployed Military**

Gunnery Sgt. Fernando Andrade, Jr.  
 1st Lt. Jeffrey Bauer, USMC  
 Lt. Devon Czarzasty  
 Chaplain Van Dinh  
 Lance Corp. Brandon Doyle, USMC  
 Capt. Branden M. Felker, USAF  
 Patrick G. Felker, USN  
 Grant Fischer  
 Gy Sgt Julian Fyffe, USMC  
 MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC  
 Sgt. Alex Garcia  
 Adolfo Granados, MD, U.S. Navy  
 PFC Samuel Haro, US Army  
 Sr. Airman Stephan LaMothe, USAF  
 Cpl Caleb Lemons, USMC  
 PFC Cody Madere  
 Jordan Millikan  
 1st Lt. Jennifer Mozzetta  
 Jeremiah Gabriel Nelson, USAF  
 Thomas Kevin Nelson, US Navy  
 Fireman Griffin Joseph Ochoa, US Navy  
 Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army  
 Nicole Rieger, US Navy  
 Sr. Airman Robert Spear, USAF  
 Sgt. Charles Watts, USMC

**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.

July 6
Sr. Myrtle Keller, MMS
July 7
Sr. Maureen Kelley, RSM
July 8
Sr. Margaret E. Kelly, OP
July 9
Sr. Susanne Kernaghan, CHS
July 10
Sr. Astrid Kershaw, OCD
July 11
Sr. Mary Kiely, OSF
July 12
Sr. Justina Kim, OCD

**Mass Intentions**

Saturday, July 4, 5:00pm Jerry Ludke ☩
Sunday, July 5, 8:30am Daryl Resplandor
Sunday, July 5, 10:30am Ralph & Rafaella Vozza ☩
Monday, July 6, 8:15am Constantino DeFranco ☩
Tuesday, July 7, 8:15am Julia Kelly ☩
Wednesday, July 8, 8:15am Bill Draper ☩
Thursday, July 9, 8:15am Kitty Spriggs
Friday, July 10, 8:15am Bart De Corro
Saturday, July 11, 5:00pm Vernon Holbrook ☩
Sunday, July 12, 8:30am Bernie Lanzrath ☩
Sunday, July 12, 10:30am Cheryl Lujan ☩



## Social Ministries & Outreach

### Culture of Life Family Services (COLFS) Collection

Remember to return your baby bottles with donations that will support COLFS's outreach to women in crisis pregnancies. Thank you for your generosity!

### Sr. Maureen Visits Rome!

This past month, at the invitation of Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez, a top advisor to Pope Francis, a delegation of 15 people from PICO traveled to Rome to meet individually with 15 cardinals, bishops and other top advisors. I was honored to be part of that delegation.

We carried a message of support for the Pope's visit to the United States and urged that he speak to the issues we believe are of deep concern to our American way of life: an economy of exclusion, immigration issues, mass incarceration, and racism. Those with whom we met were very impressed with the work of PICO, a National, interfaith organization of community organizing, founded by Fr. John Bowman, S.J. in 1972. PICO exists in 65 dioceses and other religious entities throughout the United States, representing over one million families.

As a follow up to this delegation, PICO organizers are planning multiple events not only to celebrate the visit of Pope Francis but to reflect on his message and to help us develop ways to implement that message in our daily lives and our local communities.

If you would like to part of a planning committee for our Parish and North County, please contact Sr. Maureen at 760-758-4100 x131 or [maureenb@stmoside.org](mailto:maureenb@stmoside.org). We will be meeting in August and September.

### St. Bonaventure Clothing Drive

Every year on the second weekend in November, STM has a clothing drive to help the destitute served by St. Bonaventure Indian Mission. Why? Because they help serve the poor on the big reservation in New Mexico where poverty is a way of life with over 60% unemployment...where the temperatures range from over 100 degrees in the summer and below freezing in the winter. What is needed? Blankets (many hogans have no electricity or running water), serviceable shoes (no high heels please), clothing for men, women, children, and infants. How can you help? Begin collecting items now and place them in strong, black plastic bags, and store them until November, if you can, or contact Deacon Tom at [thomasgoeltz@aol.com](mailto:thomasgoeltz@aol.com) or 760-727-8442 for help or to answer questions. Helping our less fortunate brothers and sisters is the duty of all of us and will bring many blessings both now and in the future. Thank you and God Bless!

### STM Mental Health Ministry Network

Are you interested in participating in the Ministry team of the STM Mental Health Ministry Network to help serve as "prayerful companions" for fellow Parishioners experiencing mental health issues, walking with them through the treatment process, and helping to provide Parish-wide education on the subject of mental illness? For more information., contact Deacon John at 760-758-4100 x132 or [johnf@stmoside.org](mailto:johnf@stmoside.org).

## Marriage & Family Life

**Moms & Kids**—Are you a mom with infant thru school age children wanting to meet other moms in our Parish? Want to find a great way to meet friends for both you and your children? Join our dynamic and energetic Moms and Kids ministry on Monday, July 6, at 10:00am at South Buena Vista Park. There are many other events throughout the month posted on our private Facebook page. Join us! Contact Jen Abelson at [jen.abelson@gmail.com](mailto:jen.abelson@gmail.com).



**World Meeting of Families 2015**—The World Meeting of Families (WMOF) will take place in Philadelphia from September 22-27. The preparatory catechesis is available for purchase and is a great resource for reflecting on the theme: "Love Is Our Mission." USCCB staff is offering reflections based on the catechesis for WMOF on the Marriage, Unique for a Reason blog. On the internet, go to <http://www.marriageuniqueforareason.org/category/world-meeting-of-families/>.

**Separated or Divorced?**—The Separated/Divorce Ministry of St. James Parish invites those going through the pain of separation and divorce to find help and healing in a supportive small group setting. Meetings are held each Sunday at 10:15am at St. James Catholic Church at 625 South Nardo Ave., Solana Beach. Contact Frank Grant at 760-533-1520 or [fjgrant@gmail.com](mailto:fjgrant@gmail.com) for more information.

**Bishops' Letter on Marriage**—Annulments: "We encourage divorced persons who wish to marry in the Catholic Church to seek counsel about the options that exist to remedy their situation, including the suitability of a declaration of nullity when there is no longer any hope of reconciliation of the spouses. Such a declaration is a finding by a church tribunal, or court, that no valid marriage bond was formed because the requirements for valid consent were not met at the time of the wedding. If a declaration of nullity is granted, and there are no other restrictions, both parties are free to marry in the Catholic Church." To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

**Marriage Moments**— "Leave your spouse a sweet note... You'll be amazed at the power of the pen. If you head out of the house first, leave it on their car. Or, hide a note where you know they'll find it. A friend of mine used the letters from a Scrabble game to create a surprise note for his wife" (from a Family Minute with Mark Merrill). <http://www.familyminute.com/>; By Susan Vogt, [www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net).

**Parenting Pointers**— "7 Mistakes It's OK to Let Your Kids Make: Let them fail a test; Let them run low on gas; Let them forget their practice equipment; Let them leave their homework at home; Let them forget their lunch; Let them wear dirty socks; Let them miss a target" (from a Family Minute with Mark Merrill). <http://www.familyminute.com/>; By 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.

### Called to Be Merciful—Annual Catholic Appeal

Assessment:	\$48,000
Collected to Date:	\$55,316 (excess returned to STM)
Families Pledged:	342

You can help! Visit [stmoside.org](http://stmoside.org) for more information.



## Parish Events

### Women's Guild News

We have been informed that the burial of Theresa Farrell, President of the Women's Guild from 1999-2000, whose funeral will be celebrated in Seal Beach, will take place at Mission San Luis Rey on July 7 at 11:00am. Members of the Women's Guild and the Parish who knew Theresa are invited to join the family for the interment at Mission San Luis Rey Cemetery to commend her to our loving God. We hope our Parish will be represented by their presence.

As of July 1 the newly installed members of next year's Board of Directors of the Women's Guild have begun their appointed positions. It is with great pleasure that we welcome them, and thank them for accepting their new jobs, knowing they will fulfill their duties with great success. May God guide them, and may they be assured of the membership's support.

Guild activities will be suspended for the summer but our membership drive for 2015-2016 is underway. Use the flyer in next week's bulletin to sign up.

### Men's Fellowship Update

Many of the men in our Men's Fellowship group get together on occasion to fellowship over a few beers at a local micro-brewery, or take a day hike, or go to a ball game together. If you would like to know what's going on with the guys and perhaps join in on the fellowship, **text @ithirst to 23559** and receive SMS text messages of all the happenings...

For more information, contact Deacon John at 760-758-4100 x104 or [johnf@stmoside.org](mailto:johnf@stmoside.org).

### STM Vehicle Donation Program

Do you have a vehicle you want to donate? 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 July 1 we have netted \$57,452 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)**

### Heartnotes

Congratulations to the newest graduates of our CPR program.

Jody Cadieux, Alec Cadieux, Connie Kniesel, Carrie Thompson, Kathleen Avina, Steve Doering, Lee Cocco, Millie Werner, Rita Schnedar, Marlene Branson, David Bowling, Miy Ashley Bowling-Lee, Elizabeth McCoy, Brandon Oswald

CPR classes will resume in the Fall. If you would like to be kept up to date on the class schedule and other CPR-related subjects via our Heartletter newsletter, send an e-mail request to the program director at [drphilg@cox.net](mailto:drphilg@cox.net).

### Rosary

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



**On Sunday, June 28, the Gala team presented Fr. Mike with a \$57,000 check for STM. This check will be followed with another check for \$3,000 in the fall. As you can see, Fr. Mike was overcome with delight and thanksgiving for this gift to the Parish!**

Many thanks to every member of our team as well as those who helped that evening to make our Gala such a success. Thanks also to Fred and Anna Colucci for hosting a Tequila Tasting Party (which included an incredible amount of delicious food in between tasting)!

The post-Gala fun continues on July 19 at the Green Dragon Tavern & Museum in Carlsbad for our Pastor's Dinner. Payments and menu selections are due, so don't miss out on this one!

The Ratajczak family is hosting another Pizza & Beer Party on November 1, and Ava Ratajczak is hosting a Christmas Cookie Exchange here at the Parish Center on December 19! Thanks to all who attend these FUN events to help St. Thomas More Catholic Church!!!



# Liturgy & Music *Worship God*

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

## THE ROLE OF LAY MINISTERS IN THE LITURGICAL LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### Fresh Flowers at Mass

Our florist has raised the price of the flower arrangements that grace our sanctuary on the weekends.

The requested donation for an arrangement of flowers on the altar platform is now \$85.

Please see Henny in the Parish Office to reserve your weekend.

Thank you!

More than 25 volunteer lay ministers are needed to help at every Mass we celebrate on the upper level, not counting the musicians, who number from two to as many as 50. All these faithful people assist the priest and deacon, and indeed the entire community, to ensure that our celebrations are worthy of the God to whom we offer our praise and prayers.

In January, the US Conference of Catholic Bishop's Office of Divine Worship distributed a discussion of the critical role these lay ministers play in our celebrations. Over the next weeks, I intend to share these thoughts from the bishops so that together we might better understand the importance of lay participation in our celebrations.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

—Douglas

The Role of Lay Ministers in the Liturgical Life of the Church

"Servers, [readers], commentators, and members of the choir...exercise a genuine liturgical function. They ought, therefore, to discharge their office with the sincere piety and decorum demanded by so exalted a ministry and rightly expected of them by God's people. Consequently, they must all be deeply imbued with the spirit of the liturgy, each in his own measure, and they must be trained to perform their functions in a correct and orderly manner" (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, no. 29). While all members of the faithful truly participate in the liturgy in an important variety of ways, including participation in responses, acclamations, dialogues, and litanies, by attentive listening to the

Liturgy of the Word and the presidential prayers, and by joining oneself to the gathered community through song, processions, and common posture and gesture, certain lay men and women fulfill necessary roles to ensure its orderly running.

### Altar Servers and Readers

In the absence of instituted acolytes and/or lectors, lay men and women may take on their functions as altar servers and readers. Altar servers assist the priest and deacon; they "carry the cross, the candles, the thurible, the bread, the wine, and the water," and some may even be deputed as extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal* [GIRM], no. 100). Likewise, lay readers who are "truly suited...and carefully prepared" proclaim the word of God to the gathered assembly (GIRM, no. 101). Readers are encouraged to continually meditate on Sacred Scripture, so that their faithful proclamation of the readings at Mass will in turn inspire the faithful to turn to God through his word.

### Psalmist

Within the music ministry of a parish, a psalmist is the "cantor of the psalm" that occurs after the First Reading. He or she must carefully meditate on the Psalms and be able to sing them "with clarity, conviction, and sensitivity to the text, the musical setting, and those who are listening." When necessary, the psalmist may also sing the Gospel acclamation and verse (*Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* [STL], nos. 34-35; see GIRM, no. 102).

In current practice, it is usually the



Mark 6:4

## New Altar Server Training

Saturday, July 18 | 1:00pm

**Are you in 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade? An adult?**

Contact Rebecca Eyer at  
psalm\_23@live.com

cantor who also assumes the duties of the psalmist. Nonetheless, it may be useful for parish choirs to have one of its members devote himself or herself to contemplating the literary, theological, and musical aspects of the Psalms, in order to truly bring out the beauty of those texts to the gathered faithful at Mass. The psalmist may also be useful at other liturgical celebrations, including the Liturgy of the Hours or other rites.

—From the USCCB  
Committee on Divine Worship Newsletter,  
volume LI, January 2015, with permission.

Next week...

Choir, Pastoral Musicians, Cantor, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

### Upcoming Music

✠

**JULY 12**  
**15th Sunday in**  
**Ordinary Time**

✠

**5:00pm**

Cantor &  
Congregation

**8:30am**

Tower Bells

**10:30am**

Sanctuary Choir



# Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

Matt Franklin  
Youth Advocate  
760-758-4100 x161; mattf@stmoside.org

Debbie Fredette  
Director of Faith Formation  
760-758-4100 x110; debbief@stmoside.org

## Family Faith Formation

Many Thanks to All Who Helped  
Make This Year's VBS  
a Huge Success!  
We Love You!



If You Loved VBS, You Will Love Our Faith Formation Program!  
Re-Enrollment for the 2015-2016  
REACH Year Is Happening Now  
for All Kids Ages 3 years-Young Adult  
Get Your Packet Today!

## Family Movie Night



Join Us for an Evening of  
**FUN, FAMILY, & FELLOWSHIP**

Friday, July 17  
Dinner 6:00pm

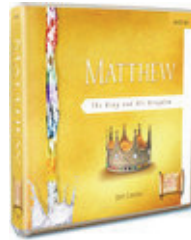
Movie Starts at 7:00pm sharp!

Pre-Purchase Dinner Packages Available

All Proceeds Go To Support Youth Ministry at STM

## Adult Faith Formation

# COMING SOON!



Join Us for  
**Matthew:**  
**The King and His Kingdom**  
Beginning Wednesday mornings,  
September 9  
9:00-11:00am  
Watch for Registration Details!

## SIGN UP TODAY!!

**Do You Want to Know  
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*The Great Adventure*

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*Featuring Jeff Cavins*

This is the foundational study  
in the  
Bible Study Series that has  
helped hundreds of  
thousands of Catholics learn  
to read the Bible.

**Join Us Thursday  
Evening, July 9  
7:00-9:00pm**

The previous week's  
Video will be shown  
starting at 6:00pm sharp.

Contact the Faith  
Formation Office at  
[debbief@stmoside.org](mailto:debbief@stmoside.org)  
to register today

### Expecting ??



Why not schedule your Baptismal appointment today before the arrival of your little one? Please contact the Faith Formation Office at 760-758-4100 x110 or [debbief@stmoside.org](mailto:debbief@stmoside.org) for more information.

## Summer News For Kids & Teens

Wednesday Mornings  
**WAKE UP**

**WITH THE KING**

Join Us for 8:15am Mass

Then stay and have  
breakfast with friends!  
All ages welcome!

**Bored This Summer?**



**Check Out Youth Group!**  
**Monday Nights at 7:00pm**

For Updates On High School  
& Young Adult

Events at

Text:

**@STMIGNITE15**  
**to 23559**

\*USA mobile phones only.  
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**Steubenville San Diego**

July 24-26

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Amazing Weekend!





# Stewardship & Development

*Serve God's People*

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

## A WAY TO GIVE ~ A WAY TO RECEIVE



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This program is one way of helping the Parish raise the resources necessary to continue our campus build out and also help plan for our future needs (i.e., Tower of Faith participants). Gifts of this nature are beneficial and much appreciated by St. Thomas More.

**For more information please contact:**

Chris Smith at 758-4100 x120 or [chriss@stmoside.org](mailto:chriss@stmoside.org).

**"... A Time To Build!" includes our faith journey as well as the build out of our Parish Campus.**

Collection for Week of June 27/28, 2015	
Number of Registered Households	1,143
Offertory	\$8,438.73
Offertory (Loose Collection)	\$854.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,293.23</b>

Mortgage/Building Completion Fund Income	
September 15, 2014 to June 30, 2015	
Mortgage Offering Collected	\$434,899.07
Less Administrative Costs	\$20,830.00
Payment toward Parish Reserves (10%)	\$41,406.91
Payment toward Mortgage	\$372,622.16
Mortgage Payment Due	\$418,919.89
<b>Mortgage Payment Overage/(Shortfall)</b>	<b>(\$46,257.73)</b>
Memorial Items	\$195,934.00
Please continue to support the Mortgage/Building Completion Fund!	

<b>"Did You Know " Collection June 2015</b>
<b>\$3,882.00</b>

Restaurant Fundraisers June 2015	
Chili's	\$160.00
Nucci's	\$233.85

## Christian Stewardship and Gratitude Continued . . .

Early on in my life, I came to know and accept that an important component in living a positive life depended on my attitude toward a variety of circumstances. During a particularly difficult period in my life, a strong biblical verse came my way. This is now passed on to help someone else who might be experiencing a troubled time:

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

**Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is just, whatever is honorable, whatever is gracious, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, if there is excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.**

**Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.”**

—Philippians 4:4-9

In last week’s Stewardship column, I shared a number of pieces that inspired Sally along her journey to defeat the breast cancer that had invaded her body, and hence, her life. As promised, here are more from Sally and also some from me.

- † May my heart be kind, my mind fierce and my spirit brave.
- † You don’t need a reason to help people.
- † Gratitude is the memory of the heart.
- † Wake up thankful.
- † The best way out is always through. —Robert Frost
- † My life can be described in one sentence: It didn’t go as planned and that’s ok. —Rachel Wolchin
- † A journey of 1,000 miles begins with one step. —Lao Tzu
- † Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift, which is why we call it the present. —Bill Keane
- † Cancer changes people. It sculpts us into someone who understands more deeply, hurts more often, appreciates more quickly, cries more easily, hopes more desperately, loves more openly, lives more passionately.
- † I believe I am always divinely guided. I believe I will always take the right turn in the road. I believe that God will make a way where there is no way.
- † Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence. —Helen Keller
- † Tell them to be good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share. —1 Timothy 6:17-19

**God’s blessings and peace to each of you! Have a wonderful celebration on the birth of our beautiful country ~ Chris**

## Memorial Item Donations Available

Pipe Organ	\$850,000
<b>Memorial Garden &amp; Reflection Garden</b>	
Landscape Concrete Walkways	\$80,000
Decomposed Granite Pathways with Header	\$24,000
Melrose Landscape Slope	\$15,000
Building Accent Lighting & Pole Fixtures	\$14,000
<b>Audio Visual Systems</b>	
Sound and Video Mixing Board	\$12,000
Video Screen (Motorized 21-foot)	\$9,000
Sound System Base Speaker	\$8,000
Sound System Cabling	\$5,000
Audio Rack	\$1,500
Overflow Parking Lot Mulch	\$3,500

## Memorial Item Donations Partial

Pew Seating for the Church (1,000) 783 available	\$300/each
Daily Mass Chapel and Choir Chairs (200) 107 available	\$300/each

06/30/15

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 above 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)



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

## "A Closer Look" Tours Continue

We provide the hard hats, **you provide the closed-toe shoes!** Weekly tours are offered following the 8:30am Mass and before the 10:30am Mass. To make a reservation, please contact Chris Smith at [chriss@stmoside.org](mailto:chriss@stmoside.org) or 760-758-4100 x120.



## News & Information from the Larger Church

**Christmas in July**—July 11-12, Mission San Luis Rey, 4050 Mission Ave., Oceanside. Annual fundraiser for the Parish School, enjoy ethnic foods, handmade items by local artisans, entertainment and more! For more information, contact 760-757-3232.

**Shoppportunity—Catholic Charities Thrift Store**—Item donations appreciated. For more information, contact Yolanda Ungo, Program Manager, 760-631-2819.

**Catholic Charities Food Resource Center Has Volunteer Opportunities for YOU!**—Drivers, Daily Food Packers, Intake Workers, and Calfresh (food stamp) Advocate. For information call Marco Lemus at 760-631-4792.

**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).

**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.

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

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

### Catholics Come Home

Do you have a family member, friend, or co-worker who has left the Catholic Church? If so, encourage them to visit [www.CatholicsComeHome.org](http://www.CatholicsComeHome.org).

## News from St. Francis Church

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

**Parish Contacts**

Updated 06/15/2015

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

**Pastoral Council Committees**

**Religious Education/Faith Formation/Evangelization**

- .....**Rory Griffin 760-414-3939**
- Religious Education for Adolescents & Children (R.E.A.CH)
  - .....Debbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110
- Liturgy of the Word for Children..... Heidi Madden 760-529-2400
- Sacramental Preparation.....Debbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110
- RCIA..... Kathleen Bell 760-809-6526
- Moms & Kids.....Jen Abelson 410-570-6962
  - ..... Lia Haubert 949-322-6458
- Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs ..... Regina Aulio 760-295-5530
- Youth Ministry..... Matt Franklin 760-758-4100 x161
  - High School ..... Matt Franklin 760-758-4100 x161
  - Young Adults ..... Matt Franklin 760-758-4100 x161
- Religious Education for Adults...Debbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110
- Bible Study..... Patt Goeltz 760-727-8442
- Centering Prayer ..... Mary Williams 760-758-4100 x100
- Men’s Fellowship..... Dcn. John Fredette 760-758-4100 x132
- Women’s Ministry .....Debbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110
- Vocations ..... Dcn. Tom & Patt Goeltz 760-727-8442

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

- 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
- Sacristans—Altar Guild ..... Diana Diaz 760-758-7870
- Sacristans—Altar Linens .....Anna Meyers 760-727-4998

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

- Bringing the Celebration Home .....Jen Frost 858-692-7438
- Diocesan Liaison..... Andrea Spencer 760-560-6540
- 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**

- Annual Gala ..... Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
- Historian/Archives ..... Brandon Oswald 760-845-5450
- Knights of Columbus ..... John Murphy 760-497-6117
- 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
- Women’s Guild..... Kathy Gerhard 760-732-5951
- Social Ministries ..... Cherie & Greg Abrahms 760-598-6776**
- Blood Drive ..... Stacey & Morgan Espe 760-224-2699
- Brother Benno’s Collection .....Dcn. Tom Goeltz 760-727-8442
- Brother Benno’s Kitchen Server ..... George Jones 760-940-9288
- Christmas Angel Ministry ..... Kevin & Lisa Seufert 760-732-5965
- 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
  - Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice
    - ..... Joyce Meehan 760-724-4974
  - JustFaith Activities ..... 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

**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 .....	<i>michaelr@stmoside.org</i>
Rev. Karl Bauer, Senior Priest.....	760-758-4100 x133 .....	<i>karlb@stmoside.org</i>
Dcn. John Fredette .....	760-758-4100 x132 .....	<i>johnf@stmoside.org</i>
Dcn. Tom Goeltz .....	760-758-4100 x100 .....	<i>thomasg@stmoside.org</i>
Sr. Maureen Brown, Pastoral Associate.....	760-758-4100 x131 .....	<i>maureenb@stmoside.org</i>
Dcn. John Fredette, Business Manager.....	760-758-4100 x104 .....	<i>johnf@stmoside.org</i>
Debbie Fredette, Director of Faith Formation.....	760-758-4100 x110 .....	<i>debbief@stmoside.org</i>
Matt Franklin, Youth Advocate .....	760-758-4100 x161 .....	<i>mattf@stmoside.org</i>
Stacey Griffin, Faith Formation Office Assistant .....	760-758-4100 x110 .....	<i>staceyg@stmoside.org</i>
Douglas Lynn, Director of Liturgy and Music.....	760-758-4100 x140 .....	<i>douglasl@stmoside.org</i>
Kathy Santy, Assistant Music Director.....	760-758-4100 x100 .....	<i>kathys@stmoside.org</i>
Sally Fay, Organist/Choir Accompanist .....	760-758-4100 x100 .....	<i>sallyf@stmoside.org</i>
Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development .....	760-758-4100 x120 .....	<i>chriss@stmoside.org</i>
Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance .....	760-758-4100 x151 .....	<i>joeg@stmoside.org</i>
Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary.....	760-758-4100 x100 .....	<i>hennyj@stmoside.org</i>
Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician.....	760-758-4100 x102 .....	<i>lorrained@stmoside.org</i>
Brian Leahey, Director of Construction.....	760-758-4100 x152 .....	<i>brianl@stmoside.org</i>

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# Background Information to Help Process Homosexuality and Marriage Equality in Light of the SCOTUS Ruling

—Fr. Mike Ratajczak

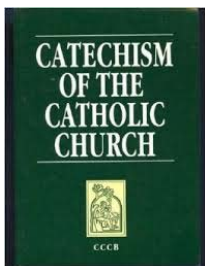
In this Pastor's Column today, I share some information that I hope will be helpful as you process the US Supreme Court's recent decision on Marriage Equality.

**As you read through these documents, please note the constant challenge to which we are called is to eliminate all forms of discrimination in regard to gay men and women and to welcome them into the circles of our families, friends, and churches.**

For those who know people in the LGBT community, be it members of our families, or our friends, or those with whom we work, the challenge not to discriminate and call to love is much easier.

Unfortunately, many Catholics who do not know a gay man or woman, find it much easier to judge, and to discriminate.

I call to your attention the last document, which was written by Fr. James Martin, S.J., Editor at Large of *America* magazine. His views echo mine. Where does it all begin? It begins by getting to know gay men and women, and to welcome them into the life of our family, our neighborhood, and our Church, and to love them as we love all others.



From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, published in 1994:

**2357** Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex. It

has taken a great variety of forms through the centuries and in different cultures. Its psychological genesis remains largely unexplained. Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered." They are contrary to the natural law. They close the

sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementary. Under no circumstances can they be approved.

**2358** The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. They do not choose their homosexual condition, for most of them it is a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard must be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives, and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter from their condition.

**2359** Homosexual persons are called to chastity. By the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom, at times by the support of disinterested friendship, by prayer and sacramental grace, they can and should gradually and resolutely approach Christian perfection.



From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family's 1997 statement entitled "Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministries":



For St. Paul, love is the greatest of spiritual gifts. St. John considers love to be the most certain sign of God's presence. Jesus proposes it as the basis of his two great commandments, which fulfill all the law and the prophets.

Love, too, is the continuing story of every family's life. Love can be shared, nurtured, rejected, and sometimes lost. To follow Christ's way of love is the challenge before every family today. Your family now has an added opportunity to share love and to accept love. Our Church communities are likewise called to an exemplary standard of love and justice.



Our homosexual sisters and brothers—indeed, all people—are summoned into responsible ways of loving.

To our homosexual brothers and sisters we offer a concluding word. This message has been an outstretched hand to your parents and families inviting them to accept God’s grace present in their lives now and to trust in the unfailing mercy of Jesus our Lord. Now we stretch out our hands and invite you to do the same. We are called to become one body, one spirit in Christ. We need one another if we are to “...grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body’s growth and builds itself up in love” (Ephesians 4:15-16).

Though at times you may feel discouraged, hurt, or angry, do not walk away from your families, from the Christian community, from all those who love you. In you God’s love is revealed. You are always our children.



The Roman Catholic  
DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO



**Statement by Bishop Robert McElroy on the Supreme Court of the United States Ruling on Same Sex Marriage, dated June 26, 2015:**

Today the United States Supreme Court ruled that the historic definition of marriage as a relationship between one man and one woman is unconstitutional.

The Catholic Church, along with other faith traditions, teaches that the nature of marriage and the family cannot be redefined by society, as God is the author of marriage and its corresponding gift of co-creating human life. The legal recognition of marriage is not only about personal commitment but also about the social commitment that husband and wife make to the well-being of their children. It is for this reason that it is important for government to give a unique status to marriage between one man and one woman both in law and in public policy.

The Catholic community of San Diego and Imperial counties will continue to honor and embody the uniqueness of marriage between one man and one woman as a gift from God—in our teaching, our sacramental life and our witness to the world. We will do so in a manner which profoundly respects at every moment the loving and familial relationships which enrich the lives of so many gay men and women who are our sons and daughters, our sisters and brothers, and ultimately our fellow pilgrims on this earthly journey of life. And commanded by the Gospel of Jesus Christ we will continue to reach out to families of every kind who are encountering poverty, addictions, violence, emotional stress or the threat of deportation, and to attempt to bring them faith and care, service and solidarity.



**Facebook post by Fr. James Martin, S.J., Editor at Large of the Jesuit magazine, *America*, dated June 26, 2015:**

**America**  
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC REVIEW



No issue brings out so much hatred from so many Catholics as homosexuality. Even after over 25 years as a Jesuit, the level of hatred around homosexuality is nearly unbelievable to me, especially when I think of all of the wonderful LGBT friends I have.

The Catholic Church must do a much better job of teaching what the Catechism says: that we should treat our LGBT brothers and sisters with “respect, sensitivity, and compassion.”

But God wants more. God wants us to love. And not a twisted, crabbed, narrow tolerance, which often comes in the guise of condemnations, instructions, and admonitions that try to masquerade as love, but actual love.

Love means: getting to know LGBT men and women, spending time with them, listening to them, being challenged by them, hoping the best for them, and wanting them to be a part of your lives, every bit as much as straight friends are part of your lives.

Love first... Everything else later... In fact, everything else is meaningless without love.