

**SAINT  
THOMAS  
MORE  
CATHOLIC  
CHURCH**

**Our Holy Year Pilgrimage Church Door  
is open 7:00am-7:00pm  
seven days a week.  
Stop by for a visit!**

*If you'd like to help out by spending  
an hour a week in the church during these times,  
contact Evans Formica at [evansf@stmoside.org](mailto:evansf@stmoside.org).*



*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

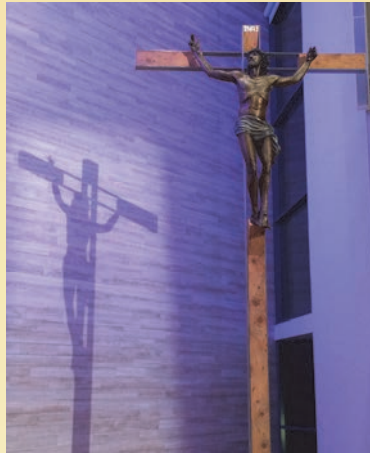
**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday,  
8:30am-12:00noon  
and 12:30-4:00pm  
[parishoffice@stmoside.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmoside.org)  
[www.stmoside.org](http://www.stmoside.org)



*StThomasMoreRCC*



**Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 6, 2016**



**Communal Reconciliation Service**

Monday, March 7, 7:00pm

**Lenten Dinner**

Friday, March 11, 5:30-6:30pm

**Stations of the Cross**

Friday, March 11, 7:00pm

*For complete schedule, visit [www.stmoside.org](http://www.stmoside.org)*

*Rev. Michael Ratajczak  
760-758-4100 x100  
[michaelr@stmoside.org](mailto:michaelr@stmoside.org)*

**Pastor's Column**

**The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA)—Time to "Pay It Forward"**

This week we will begin this year's Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). "Love letters" from me will be in the mail in a few days.

Please take time to read and reflect on this information. I pray that it will move you to support this Appeal. This year's goal is \$3.5 million.

As we, the Parish of St. Thomas More, have been helped by the Diocese, it is now our time to help our Diocese and our sister Parishes.

If you have not supported the ACA in the past, this is the year to begin to do so. If you have supported the ACA in the past, and you are in a position to increase your gift, this is the year to do so.

Here are some facts and figures that are important information for you to have as you reflect upon your gift to the ACA.

Know that all that you do is much appreciated by me!

**Did You Know?**

1. The **ten acres of land** on which our Parish Campus is being built was a **GIFT** from the Diocese of San Diego. It has been the policy of the Diocese that it provides the land on which new Parishes will build their Campuses. Our Parish purchased an additional five acres of land several years ago, enlarging our Campus to a total of fifteen acres.
2. The Diocese of San Diego provided St. Thomas More Parish with a **\$2 million INTEREST FREE** loan to help us in the building of our present Parish Center. We had been paying down this loan sporadically between 1999 and 2006. Then in January 2006 we began paying down the debt at \$11,000/month. Our last payment was in December 2011.
3. The Diocese of San Diego helped us to secure a **\$6.6 million loan** with the National Office of the Knights of Columbus which has allowed us to move forward and build our Permanent Church and the Parish Office Building. Due to

*(Continued on page 2)*

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

our good financial standing, the Diocese easily agreed to be the "second" on this loan.

4. The **Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA)** is our yearly opportunity to engage in the Diocesan effort to participate in Jesus' mission of teaching, sanctifying, and serving.
5. The goal of this year's ACA is **\$3.5 million**. The money will be directed for these purposes:
  - Bishop Flores Scholars Tuition Assistance: **\$1,000,000**
  - Catholic Charities: **\$500,000**
  - Retired Priests: **\$500,000**
  - Seminarian Support: **\$500,000**
  - Assistance for Catholic Education: **\$400,000**
  - Priestly Formation: **\$250,000**
  - Young Adult Ministry: **\$200,000**
  - Prison Ministry: **\$150,000**
6. Our **Fair Share Assessment** this year is **\$50,000**. This provides us with the opportunity "to pay it forward" and to assist not only the ongoing mission of Jesus on a Diocesan level, but to directly help other sister Parishes in our Diocese who are in need. Just as we have been helped, it is now our turn to help other Parishes.
7. Last year, only **367 STM households** out of **1,058** chose to participate in the ACA. Last year our assessment was **\$48,000**. We raised **\$57,208.50** from **34.69%** of the Parish. The average gift was **\$155.88**. Let us double the number of households participating in the ACA this year. I know that we can do this!
8. **100% of the money raised over** our \$50,000 assessment will be returned to our Parish and it will be directed to the Operations Budget to ensure that we continue to balance our bottom line.
9. Beginning this weekend, and continuing for the next two weekends, you will find Bulletin inserts describing how the ACA money is directed and used. Please take time to read this inserts each week.

*Please respond favorably to my "love letter." Please prayerfully reflect upon this information and act accordingly.*

*Thank you!*

*F. Mike*

**Lenten Reconciliation Services at Local Parishes**

<b>Mon, Mar. 7</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>St. Thomas More, Oceanside</b>
Tue, Mar. 8	7:00pm	Nativity, Rancho Santa Fe
Thu, Mar. 10	1:00pm	Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside
Thu, Mar. 10	7:00pm	Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside
Mon, Mar. 14	7:00pm	St. Elizabeth Seton, Carlsbad
Tue, Mar. 15	7:00pm	St. John, Encinitas
Mon, Mar. 21	6:30pm	St. Mark, San Marcos
Tue, Mar. 22	10:30am	St. Peter, Fallbrook
Tue, Mar. 22	6:00pm	St. Peter, Fallbrook

**Welcome New Parishioners**

**David & Karen Brudney**  
**Karen Lambert**  
**Tee Jay & Hope Rull & Family**  
**Joshua & Jennifer Irvine & Family**

**Congratulations to**

**Tommy & Ginger Thompson**  
 who celebrated their 67th anniversary of marriage on February 26.

**Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz**  
 who celebrate their 45th anniversary of marriage on March 6.  
*May God continue to bless your marriage, and may you be an inspiration to other married couples.*

**In Memoriam**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Ashley Ann Elfmont**, who died on February 23. Her celebration of life service was in Newport Beach on March 5. Please keep her niece, Parishioner Jennifer Gisell, and her family in your prayers.

**Steve Williams**, who died on February 24. Please keep his cousin, Parishioner Barbara Ruiterman, and his family in your prayers.

*May their souls 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

**STM \$crip News**

Remember you can shop online and purchase instant Scrip: ScripNow. Check [www.stmoside.org/scrip.htm](http://www.stmoside.org/scrip.htm) to sign up.

Scrip is now available after all three Masses. We appreciate your continued support for the Scrip program. **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)**

**Help Feed the Hungry**

Pope Francis reminds us:  
 "You pray for the hungry.  
 Then you feed them.  
 That's how prayer works."

All food donations next weekend should be put in Deacon Tom's truck to benefit Brother Benno's. Thank you for your generosity!



## Readings for the Week Ahead

Sunday Year C; Weekday Year II  
Readings online at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).

### Sunday, March 6 (33)

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Joshua 5:9a,10-12

Psalm 34:2-7

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

### Monday, March 7 (538)

*Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs*

Romans 8:31b-39

Psalm 124:2-5,7b-8

Matthew 10:34-39

### Tuesday, March 8 (539)

*John of God, religious*

1 John 3:14-18

Psalm 112:1bc-9

Matthew 25:31-40

### Wednesday, March 9 (540)

*Frances of Rome, religious*

Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

Psalm 34:2-11

Matthew 22:34-40

### Thursday, March 10 (247)

Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm 106:19-23

John 5:31-47

### Friday, March 11 (248)

Wisdom 2:1a,12-22

Psalm 34:17-21,23

John 7:1-2,10,25-30

### Saturday, March 12 (249)

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalm 7:2-3,9b-12

John 7:40-53

### Sunday, March 13 (36)

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126:1-6

Philippians 3:8-14

John 8:1-11

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

Changa Aguilera  
Ernie Aichele  
Mary Alexander  
The Ames & Portman Families  
Christine & Cory Anderson  
Carrie Autrey  
Joshua Avery  
Rosemary Ballard  
The Barakman & Slemmer Families  
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  
Janet Brown  
Katie Browne  
Jack & Mary Bruzas  
Anita Buerger  
Jean Calderone  
Shelby Campbell  
Brianne Campos  
Aria Cappeluti  
Jorge Cartajena  
Donald Cashmore  
Anne Caywood  
The Vaughn Clevenger Family  
Anne Cline  
Carl & Dorothy Coleman  
James Coleman  
Judy Colson  
Geoff Coolidge  
Steven Cresencia  
Lené Crowe  
Karen Flaharty Daley  
Beverly de Gelder  
Velia Deal & Family  
Nick Del Sesto  
Paul Del Vecchio  
Hugo Delgado, Jr.  
Cassandra D'Ercole  
Christine DeSantis  
Cecilia DeSimone  
David deVilleneuve  
Carole Dillon  
Elizabeth Doherty's Aunt Jackie  
Art & Dave Dossman  
Marge Egan  
Jerome Elbacha  
The Elfmont & Gisel Families  
Arthur Eral  
Carolyn Erickson Ey  
Victoria Lopez Fenton  
The Fiore Family  
Fr. James Flanagan  
Mary Fleming  
Ryan Flum  
Ernie Follis  
Eugene Franciscus  
Kathryn Franklin  
The Greg French Family  
Brian Frink  
Jim Gallagher  
Charlene Galvan  
The Joe Garcia Family  
Kathy Gardner  
Joan Gay  
Alyssa Gerhard  
Jack & Marge Gillen  
Merle Glime  
Wendy Gonzales' Dad  
Rick Gonzalez  
Tillie Gonzalez  
Matthew Gora  
Lou Gordon  
George Gritt  
Fred Gritzen and Family  
Luke Guent  
Susan Hallahan  
Pat & Tom Hannon  
The Harker Family  
Dorothy Harrison  
Michelle Harrison  
Barbara Hatem  
Bill & Mary Haynes  
Lillian Hills  
Lisa (Lynn) Hodges  
Samara Hook  
Susan Hori  
Iolanda Iacobelli  
Katherine Jacobs  
Laura Kater  
Dottie Kearney  
Connor Kerzie  
Peggy Kiernan  
Debbie Kinney  
Mark Kneisel  
Dewey Kolbo  
Tony Korwin  
Helen Kuhn

Lillian Lachance  
The Lamelin Family  
Bart Landry  
Pauline Lapre's sister Justine  
Brandon LeBlanc  
Jake Lefferdink  
Jeremiah Lemus  
Aleah Leon  
Ashley Load  
Scot Loftis  
Cassandra & Lauren Loretto  
Jack Lucarelli  
Joaquin Maldonado  
The Maldonado Family  
The Maldonado Trejo Family  
Paige Mansell  
Jesus Martinez  
Gloria Maupin  
Colleen McCall  
Virginia McConnell  
Paige McCoy  
The McGinley Family  
Ann McMahan  
Bob McWilliams  
Kalei Mendiola  
Lorraine Micallef  
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  
Cynthia Pearson  
Salina Pearson  
Elisa Petrie  
Merri Phelps  
Helen Pingtiella  
Leandro Piterelli  
Delilah Plasterer  
Perry Postulka  
The Joe Prokop Family  
Barbara Ramm  
Randy Reznicek  
Jenni Richard  
Evelyn Richards  
Jan Riley  
Rita Ritchie  
Lily Robinson  
Maria Rogers  
Donna Russell  
The Russo Family  
Rachel Saine  
Cindy Sanelli  
Lori Sanna  
Linda Schmidt  
Joan Shea  
Elizabeth Shirzad  
Nick Soltau  
Bob Sorenson  
Drew Spangler  
Derek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski  
Don St. Pierre  
Patricia St. Pierre  
Sybil Staples  
Mike Sterling  
Laura Bernard Stover, MD  
Pete Sullivan  
Pat Swanton  
Julie Teare  
Tommy & Ginger Thompson  
Sarah Tillinghast  
The Tomczak Family  
William Tompson  
Stephen Toth, Jr.  
Olivia Trejo  
The Trejo/Beltran Family  
The Trejo/Maldonado/Urbibe Family  
Anderson Unknown  
Erla, Joe & Family Unknown  
Jadel Unknown  
Joshrey Unknown  
Lillian Unknown  
Oniel Unknown  
Taniris Unknown  
Vanessa Unknown  
Martin Vertson  
Joao Victor  
Lucy Vienna  
Lucy Viramontes  
Vanessa Vitiello  
Wilson Wanner  
Kevin Watson-Graff  
Jerry Wechsler  
The Williams & Ruiterman Families  
Patricia Zavala  
Jeanne Zeltner

## Calendar Highlights

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

- Mar 6 Liturgy of the Word for  
Children at 8:30am and  
10:30am Masses
- Mar 6 REACH Classes at Church
- Mar 7 **Lenten Communal  
Reconciliation Service**
- Mar 11 Knights of Columbus Lenten  
Dinner
- Mar 11 Stations of the Cross
- Mar 12-13 Brother Benno's Food Drive
- Mar 13 Liturgy of the Word for  
Children at 8:30am and  
10:30am Masses
- Mar 13 New Member Reception
- Mar 15-16 Restaurant Fundraiser at  
Nucci's
- Mar 17 Rancho Buena Vista HS  
Wind Ensemble
- Mar 24 Holy Thursday—Mass at  
7:00pm
- Mar 25 Good Friday—Morning  
Prayer at 8:15am; Liturgy at  
3:00pm; Living Stations of  
the Cross at 7:00pm
- Mar 26 Holy Saturday—Morning  
Prayer at 8:15am; Easter  
Vigil at 8:00pm
- Apr 10 Spring Sing

## Deployed Military

Gunnery Sgt. Fernando Andrade, Jr.  
Lt. Devon Czarzasty  
Capt. Branden M. Felker, USAF  
Patrick G. Felker, USN  
Grant Fischer  
Cpt. Ryan J. Fullmer, USMC  
MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC  
Sgt. Alex Garcia  
Adolfo Granados, MD, U.S. Navy  
PFC Samuel Haro, US Army  
Cpl Caleb Lemons, USMC  
Sgt. Brandon Lysen, 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.

March 7
Sr. Ingrid Honore Lallande, CSJ
March 8
Sr. Shaun Marie Larkin, SBL
March 9
Sr. Cecile Ley, RSM
March 10
Sr. Carmel Lohan, RSM
March 11
Sr. Elizabeth (Mel) Loomis, SHCJ
March 12
Sr. Aurora Lopez Ornelas, SJS
March 13
Sr. Demetria Lopez, CVI

## Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 5, 5:00pm  
Jim Tutino ☩

Sunday, March 6, 8:30am  
Owen Fredette ☩

Sunday, March 6, 10:30am  
Pasquale Voza ☩

Monday, March 7, 8:15am  
Philomene Hoarau ☩

Tuesday, March 8, 8:15am  
Bill Draper ☩

Wednesday, March 9, 8:15am  
Theresa Farrell ☩

Thursday, March 10, 8:15am  
Germaine Wilmott

Friday, March 11, 8:15am  
Souls in Purgatory ☩

Saturday, March 12, 5:00pm  
Nancy Morelli ☩

Sunday, March 13, 8:30am  
Laura Ludke ☩

Sunday, March 13, 10:30am  
Herman & Helen Ratajczak ☩



## Social Ministries & Outreach

### Annual Lenten Collection

This 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. You may return the envelopes any time over the next four weeks. You may designate your contribution to the causes listed on the collection envelope. Please respond generously to this worthwhile annual collection. Thank you!

### Brother Benno's Food Drive March 12-13

For over 25 years STM has supported Brother Benno's with an annual food drive for nonperishable food items which are distributed directly from us to Brother Benno's to the poor and needy served by them. Last year we also asked for disposable diapers as many of those served have small children. On March 12-13 we will again hold our once-a-year drive. Deacon Tom will have trucks available in the parking lot before all Masses to accept your donations. Please be generous as always.

### STM Mental Health Ministry Network

STM is a member of the San Diego Mental Health Ministry Network (MHMN) and has made a commitment to become a faith community that both understands mental illness and can provide compassionate support. While our ministry is not intended to replace professional or clinical services and does not provide professional care, we do exist to serve individuals and families experiencing mental health issues by offering God's hope and love through encouragement, practical support, and prayer. The volunteers of this ministry have a heart to serve those who are experiencing mental health issues and would like to walk with you through your mental health experience and support you in whatever way we can. If you or a loved one is experiencing mental health challenges, or if you would like to find out how to become a member, please contact us at 760-758-4100 x104.

Mental Health America of San Diego County will present "Mental Health First Aid" at St. Patrick Church in Carlsbad on Saturday, April 16. Lunch will be provided and space is limited to 25 participants. Please contact Martha Ackman to register at mmackman5@gmail.com or 760-443-8783.

### St. Bonaventure Indian Mission

**HELP! WE NEED STORAGE!!!** The Parish storage bin is pretty well taken and, thank God, we are already receiving items from those who cannot store the items themselves. For the past few years, we have had the use of a vacant garage...but that property is up for sale. This leaves us with a problem...What to do with early donations? Your gently used clothing and shoes are desperately needed by St. Bonaventure Indian Mission to help cloth the Navajo they serve who are among the poorest in our country. If you can help with extra storage space or a portion of a garage not being used, contact Deacon Tom at thamasgoelts@aol.com or 760-727-8442. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated. God Bless!

### Catholic Widows and Widowers of North County

For more information, call Carol Kope at 760-726-0533 or visit [www.cwwnc.com](http://www.cwwnc.com).

## Marriage & Family Life

**Moms & Kids**—Are you a mom with infant through 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! We'll be having a park play date on Monday, March 7, 3:00-5:00pm. There are many 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).



**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 [fwgrant@gmail.com](mailto:fwgrant@gmail.com) for more information.

**Beloved Series**—Deacon John and Debbie Fredette will be presenting a 12-part series Wednesday evenings, continuing March 9 at 7:00pm. Learn first hand how to experience the mystery, happiness, and joy of marriage. *Beloved* will help you live out the Sacrament of Marriage more profoundly, so that your love story is drawn ever more into the greatest love story of all... God's own love for us. Contact Debbie Fredette at 760-758-4100 x110 for additional information.

**Bishops' Letter on Marriage**—Between a Man and a Woman: "Jesus teaches that marriage is between a man and a woman. 'Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator made them male and female...For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh' (Mt 19:4-6)." To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

**Marriage Moments**— "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind" (Jn 9:2). Figuring out blame is a trap that it is easy for even loving couples to fall into. One of the sweetest phrases I hear from my husband is, "Honey, you were right." Said honestly, it can be a healing balm.

**Parenting Pointers**—Books are a wonderful tool of knowledge and inspiration, BUT, I bet you have some that you won't read again or you can get the information online. This week pass at least one book on to a friend, a school, Friends of the Library, a nursing home...

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

### New Parishioner Luncheon Sunday, March 13

All new Parishioners who have joined us since September are invited to our New Member Luncheon on Sunday, March 13, at 12:00noon in the lower level of the Parish Center. Invitations have been sent, and we look forward to meeting you. If you were unable to attend the last luncheon in September, please know that you are welcome to attend this one. Children are welcome, and childcare is also provided for those interested. Please RSVP by March 7 to let us know whether or not you will attend at 760-758-4100x154, or [parishoffice@stmoside.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmoside.org), so we may adequately prepare for you. For further information, contact Valerie Thompson at 760-630-1703 or [valgene2@cox.net](mailto:valgene2@cox.net).



## Parish Events

### Lenten Dinners—Knights of Columbus

Friday nights during Lent (through March 18), the Knights of Columbus will serve their popular fish dinner (\$7-1 fish or \$9-2 fish or \$4-child or \$25 maximum per family), which includes baked cod, macaroni and cheese, potatoes, vegetables, coleslaw, and cornbread, serving from 5:30-6:30pm. A delicious selection of sweets is available at Bob Wong's famous dessert bar (\$1/serving). To make reservations for six or more, call Jim at 760-726-2807.

### Women's Guild News

The Day of Recollection, sponsored by the Spirited Seniors and Women's Guild, was a wonderful help as we continue our Lenten journey. Many thanks to Fr. Larry Dolan, OFM, who guided us through some Old Testament passages. His light humor and sharing of his priestly experiences made the day go so quickly as well.

The Women's Guild Luncheon Meeting is on Monday, March 14 at 11:00am. in the lower level of the Parish Center. Please call Hospitality Chair, Anna Robinson, at **760-231-1323 (new number)** to reserve your place. Wear some GREEN in honor of St. Patrick. Bobby's Hideaway will cater a delicious Irish meal, after which Sr. Maureen Brown will speak to us about "The Evolution of Religious Life through the Eyes of Sr. Maureen." Lunch is \$10, and there will be door prizes and a drawing.

Lastly, plans are in the works for a grand Tea Party on Saturday, April 9, so save the date! The Mad Hatter Tea Party last year was a blast, and this one promises to be even more fun!

May your Lenten journey continue with God's blessings.

—Kathy Gerhard, president

### Men's Fellowship Update

Are you hungry for a good message, good fellowship, and a good breakfast? Join us for our Saturday morning men's gathering and breakfast called **iHunger**. To stay informed of what's going on with **iHunger** via SMS text messages, **Text @iHunger to 23559**.

Also, if you find yourself thirsty for occasional fellowship over a beer at a local micro-brewery, or taking a day hike, or going to a ball game together with some other great men from the Parish, **Text @iThirst to 23559**.

### Spirited Seniors to See *Pageant of Our Lord*

The Spirited Seniors are sponsoring a coach trip to the 2016 *Pageant of Our Lord* at the Rolling Hills Covenant Church on Saturday, March 19, for the 10:00am performance. Please note, meet at STM parking lot at 7:00am.

The *Pageant of Our Lord* has its roots in Laguna Beach's *Pageant of the Masters*, and features ordinary people placed into re-creations of famous paintings and sculptures that portray the life of Christ. Tickets are \$55 for members and \$60 for non-members and include transportation, show, lunch at Souplantation, and all gratuities. The deadline for reservations is Thursday, March 10. Space is limited. For more information, contact Jim and Marilyn Day at 760-5-09-4545 or [jandmday@cox.net](mailto:jandmday@cox.net)

# A Year of Celebration!

# GALA

## 2016

Friday  
April 29



**4:30-9:00pm**  
*STM Social Event of the Year!*

Happy Hour at 4:30pm kicks off our fundraising event!  
You'll have time to check out our Raffle, Silent and Live Auction items, Wheel of Fortune, Movies, Plays, Restaurant packages, golf surprises, and more.  
Join us for a FUN evening!



Stay tuned for fabulous  
**Wheel of Fortune prizes!!!**  
Dinner is served at 6:00pm  
\$45/person until March 31.  
(\$50/person if paid in April)  
Vegetarian option available upon request

Plus reserve your spot for the *Pastor's Dinner*  
Sunday, July 24 ★ 5:00-8:00pm  
at the beautiful Crossings Restaurant in Carlsbad  
\$150/per person (\$75 tax deductible)

**For information, please contact Chris Smith**  
**760-758-4100 x120 or [chriss@stmoside.org](mailto:chriss@stmoside.org)**

### Thank You to Scrip!

Once again, the STM Scrip team has been very successful in the last year! Their generous donation of \$10,000 to adopt two Mosaic Panels to help with this project in our Memorial Garden is very much appreciated! A huge thank you goes out to Andrea Sweeney, Mike Nichols, and their entire Scrip team for the ongoing dedication, time, and effort that goes into making this program the success that it is! —Fr. Mike

### Thank You from Cross Catholic Outreach

Cross Catholic Outreach wishes to thank you for the welcome you extended to Fr. Thomas Hunstiger on our recent visit to your Parish. On behalf of the poorest of the poor, we thank you for having shared in their lives. May our Lord continue to bless all of you for your love and support.

### Special "Holy Year of Mercy" Rosaries

Fr. Mike has obtained special "Holy Year of Mercy" rosaries from the Vatican and blessed by Pope Francis. The rosaries are available on the plaza after Masses and also in the Parish Office during the week. Please stop by and take a look. There are three different styles available at \$20, \$25, and \$30.

# Liturgy & Music *Worship God*

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



Father,  
I have sinned against heaven and against you;  
I no longer deserve to be called your son.

Luke 15:21

## FIVE WORDS LEADING TO LOVE AND MERCY

### singing the story

“A man had two sons...”

These five opening words, from this Sunday’s Gospel reading (Lk 15:11), introduce one of the most recognizable pieces of scripture from the Bible—in the New Testament, at least—the parable of the Prodigal Son. For some it is more aptly named the Parable of the Prodigal Father.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, this Sunday’s Gospel particularly highlights the year’s theme. Sean Whelan writes in a reflection from the National Association of Pastoral Musicians:

In *Misericordiae Vultus* (MV), Pope Francis calls this Gospel text “the core of the Gospel and our faith, because mercy is presented as a force that overcomes everything, filling the heart with love, and bringing consolation through pardon” (MV, 9). As leaders of liturgical ministry, we have a duty to embrace this parable as the way to “Jesus Christ, who is the face of the Father’s mercy” (MV, 1).

This scripture brings with it an extensive list of possible congregational songs for the weekend’s Masses.

In our Entrance Song we appeal to Jesus to “Hold Us in Your Mercy” because we know that he is the one who can “break the chains that bind us” and “free us from addiction’s prison” just as if we are the son in the parable. We can ask this because we know that Jesus is the one will “share our life and labor” and “walk our roads.”

In the Preparation and Communion Songs, we celebrate our hope first that just one day in God’s courts will be better than a thousand somewhere else, and then, perhaps, that we have

learned the lesson that the parable teaches us, mysterious as it may be, of how this mercy manifests itself over and over:

None too lost to be saved,  
none too broken or ashamed,  
all are welcome in this place.

And in our Recessional Song, we celebrate the abundantly merciful gift that God gives us in Jesus:

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come  
down!  
Fix in us your humble dwelling,  
All your faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, source of all compassion,  
Love unbounded, love all pure;  
Visit us with thy salvation;  
Let your love in us endure.

There are other songs we could sing this weekend—Amazing Grace; Come to the Feast; Come, You Sinners, Poor and Needy; Deep Within; Now We Remain; Return to God; There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy. The choices are many.

But the important thing is that we journey together. Sean concludes his reflection on the prodigal with these words:

Even though we may have sinned against heaven and earth or forgotten divine mercy, God waits to bring us home. We see this enacted each Sunday when saint and sinner are gathered by our merciful God—when each person, no matter how “lost,” is welcomed, acclaimed, and treated with dignity. The Sunday Eucharist proclaims joyfully that, though we are sinners, we are loved by God. [We journey together,] the people of God along the way, until we all rejoice as one in the heavenly banquet where, freed from sin, we will forever “taste and see how good God is.”

### Upcoming Music



**MARCH 13**  
**5th Sunday of**  
**Lent**



**5:00pm**

Cappella Choir

**8:30am**

Tower Bells

**10:30am**

Sanctuary Choir

LENTEN

COMMUNAL

RECONCILIATION

SERVICE

**Monday, March 7**

**7:00pm**

## 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

# Sunday Is A REACH Day!

## Sacrament Prep News



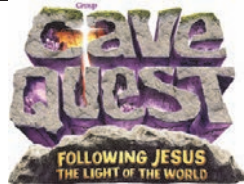
**MANDATORY Parent Meeting SUNDAY!**  
for families whose children will be making their First Communion this year. Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 6, 12:30-2:00pm on the upper level of the Parish Center.

Vacation Bible School

June 20-24

Watch for Registration

Coming Soon!



**Register Today For  
Steubenville San Diego  
July 29-31, 2016**

All Teens Grades 8-12 Are Invited! We only have 30 spots available! Don't miss out on a great weekend to know Jesus better! For more information on how to help a teen go to Steubenville Conference, contact the Faith Formation Office.

## Tommy's Café is Now Open!

Did you know that eating at Tommy's Café helps to send our teens to events like Steubenville San Diego and Life Teen Summer Camps?

Can you help send a teen to camp this summer? Contact Debbie in the Faith Formation Office to see how you can make a difference!

## Youth Ministry

STM OCEANSIDE LIFE TEEN

# IGNITE

Monday from 6:30-8:30pm



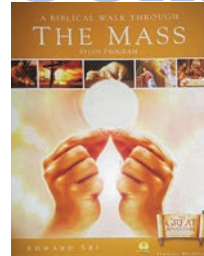
Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm



4:30-6:00pm Sundays!

### Adult Faith Formation

# Coming Soon!



Cost is \$25 for  
the 5 sessions

**A Biblical Walk through the Mass**  
beginning Wednesday morning, May 4, or Thursday evening, May 5. Sign Up before April 10 to register and get your workbook for the first session. Contact the Faith Formation Office or Patt Goeltz at [pattg@stmoside.org](mailto:pattg@stmoside.org) for more information.

## Evening Bible Study



Join Us Thursday Evenings  
at 7:00pm.

Previous week's video shown  
at 6:00pm.

Contact Debbie in the Faith  
Formation Office for more  
information.



## Join Us For



# BELOVED

Next  
Session is  
March 9

Sessions continue for a 12-part series offered on Wednesday evenings, at 7:00pm. Learn first hand how to experience the mystery, happiness and joy of marriage. *Beloved* will help you live out the Sacrament of Marriage more profoundly, so that your love story is drawn ever more into the greatest love story of all... God's own love for us. Contact the Faith Formation Office for additional information. There is no cost to participate!



# Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

## Collection for Week of February 27/28, 2016

Number of Registered Households	1,192
Offertory	\$7,757.10
Offertory (Loose Collection)	\$1,482.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,239.10</b>

## Mortgage/Building Completion Fund Income

September 15, 2014 to February 29, 2016

Mortgage Offering Collected	\$831,868.79
Less Administrative Costs	\$37,494.00
Payment toward Parish Reserves (10%)	\$82,480.58
Payment toward Mortgage	\$742,325.21
Mortgage Payment Due	\$777,369.57
<b>Mortgage Payment Overage/(Shortfall)</b>	<b>(\$35,044.36)</b>

Memorial Items	\$1,416,679.90
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Please continue to support the  
Mortgage/Building Completion Fund!

## "Did You Know " Collection February 2016

**\$2,519.00**

## 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.

**A Temple Built of Living Stones includes our faith journey as well as the build out of our Parish Campus.**

## A WAY TO GIVE ~ A WAY TO RECEIVE



## DESIGNATED BANK ACCOUNTS, WILLS, LIVING TRUSTS, STOCKS, LIFE INSURANCE, MUTUAL FUNDS, REAL ESTATE, ENDOWMENTS

Planned Giving is a generic term that covers the many ways an individual can give to a charity while, in many cases avoiding taxes. A few examples of Planned Giving are: Wills, Living Trusts, Designated Beneficiary Accounts, Stocks, Life Insurance, Mutual Funds, Endowments, and Real Estate.

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).

## Be a Good Steward of the Lenten Season

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.*



Then the righteous will answer him,

*'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?*

*When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?*

*When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

The King will reply: ***'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'***

—Matthew 25: 35-40

—March, 2016 Stewardship, Parish Publishing, LLC (with permission)

**Parishioners at STM have the opportunity to donate non-perishable food items via our:**

- † ***"Shopping Cart" on the plaza each weekend to help feed the hungry in our area***
- † ***Peanut butter and jelly bin by the Faith Formation office to help Catholic Charities with lunches for those in need***
- † ***Dinner preparation program for 35-40 residents at the Solutions for Change intake shelter on the fourth Sunday of each month***
- † ***Annual Brother Benno's Food Drive next weekend, March 12-13. Drop off your donations at Deacon Tom's truck on your way to Mass!***

## Memorial Item Donations Available

Pipe Organ	\$850,000
Christ on the Road to Emmaus	
Bronze Sculpture for	\$27,000
Daily Mass Chapel	
St. Joseph and Child Refurbishing	\$1,350
Parish Offices	
Metal Framing Exterior Walls	\$60,000
HVAC Components	\$55,000
Roofing	\$45,000
Exterior Windows and Doors	\$45,000
Exterior Brick	\$30,000
Plumbing	\$30,000
Plumbing Finish and Fixtures	\$10,000

## Memorial Item Donations Partial

Jesus, Divine Redeemer and Master of the Universe Mosaic Panels for Memorial Garden (54) 14 available	\$5,000/each
Priests' Concelebration Vestments (4) 4 available	\$400/each
Pew Seating for the Church (1,000) 709 available	\$300/each
Daily Mass Chapel and Choir Chairs (200) 93 available	\$300/each
Altar Server Albs (15) 11 available	\$125/each

02/29/16

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.

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)

## The Larger Church News

**Rachel's Hope After-Abortion Healing Retreat for Women**—March 11-13, Diocesan Pastoral Center, 3888 Paducah Dr., San Diego. Professionally led. For more information or to register, contact [Rachel's\\_Hope@juno.com](mailto:Rachel's_Hope@juno.com) or 858-581-3022 or visit [www.RachelsHope.org](http://www.RachelsHope.org).

**St Patrick School 24th Annual Golf Tournament**—Monday, March 14, shotgun at 12:00noon at Shadowridge Golf Club in Vista. It will be a full day of fun activities including the notorious Golf Ball Drop where you can win up to \$2,500 (presence at tournament not required to win)! Don't forget even if golf is not your game you can come out for dinner and the silent auction. Golfer Registration, Dinner Tickets and Golf Ball Sales are live now, spots are GOING FAST so don't miss out! For tickets and more information please visit <https://stpaddys.ejoinme.org/Golf2016Land> or email [golftournament@stpaddys.org](mailto:golftournament@stpaddys.org).

### Considering Becoming Catholic?

Has Pope Francis ignited a spark in you to know more about the Catholic faith and become a member of the Church he shepherds?

If you are already Catholic, perhaps you have a new enthusiasm for your faith that you would like to share with a friend or family member who is searching.

Our lives sometimes go through seasons of change, of closeness to God and distance from God. Yet the Father's love is steadfast, full of mercy, and ever-present to those who seek with a sincere heart, no matter what sins or situations have caused separation.

If you have thought about becoming Catholic and beginning a new "season" in your life, contact Kathleen Bell, 760-809-6526, [80bell80@gmail.com](mailto:80bell80@gmail.com).

### Young Adult Opportunities around the Diocese

**Holy Heroes!** A Day Retreat for All Young Adults (18-39), Saturday, March 12, 8:30am-6:00pm

For more information, visit [www.yamsd.org](http://www.yamsd.org).

To receive text updates, text **YAM** to **84576**.

Visit [www.sandiegocac.org](http://www.sandiegocac.org) for activities around the Diocese for adults of **all** ages.

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

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

## St. Francis Church News

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.

Visit this link for a video about the school: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2CaXZVBA7s&feature=youtu.be>



### 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 March 1 we have netted \$61,557 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)



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www.stmoside.org • Parishoffice@stmoside.org

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

## Parish Contacts

Updated 02/10/2016

**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 Aulisio 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 ..... Lia Keane 760-586-8049  
 Vocations ..... Matt Franklin 760-758-4100 x161

#### 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 Goscinski 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

#### 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 .....**Stacey & Morgan Espe 760-224-2699**

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 Goscinski 760-732-1414  
 Culture of Life ..... Jane Kelleher 760-822-7041  
 Disability Facilitation ..... Ann Eriksson 760-305-9985  
 Jail Ministry ..... Rita McCarthy 760-758-4100 x100  
 Mental Health Ministry ..... Chair: Tim Keane 760-758-2717  
 ..... Referrals: Deacon John Fredette 760-758-4100 x104

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 Center for Worker Justice

..... Joyce Meehan 760-304-0373

San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP)

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

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

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

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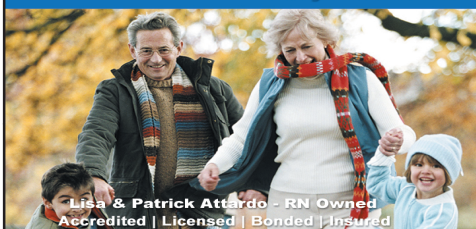
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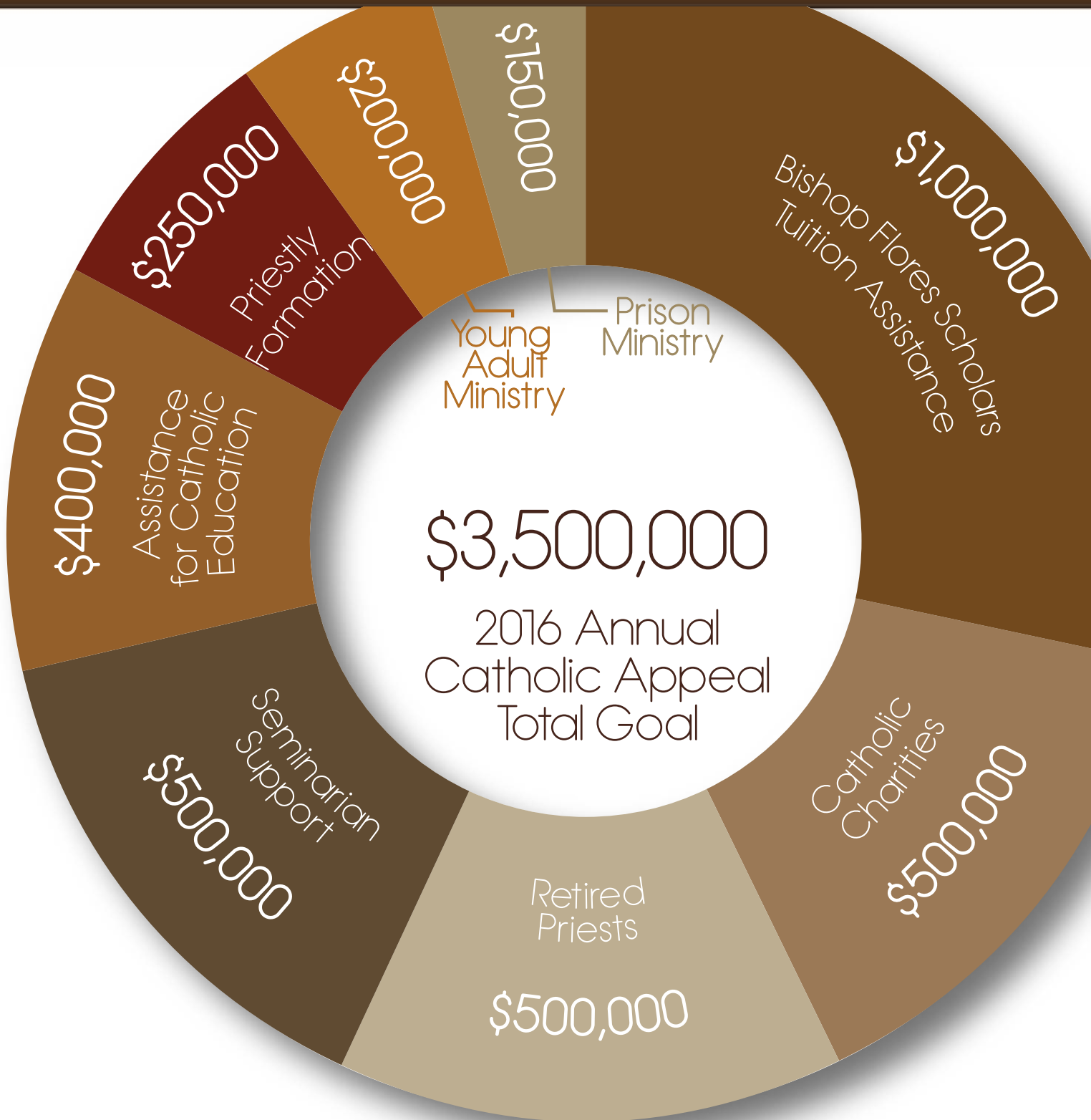
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# Celebrating THE YEAR OF Mercy

Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.

LUKE 6:36







# Executive Summary

The theme for the 2016 Annual Catholic Appeal is ***“Celebrating the Year of Mercy.”*** This theme is one of compassion, hope, and love. As disciples we are called to trust in Jesus’ mercy, to trust in his patience, to seek refuge always in his love. Jesus invites us to recognize him in the poor, in those who suffer, and those in need. We encounter God’s love when we express mercy and compassion, through stewardship, service, and sacrifice.

The Annual Catholic Appeal supports those who attend Catholic school, formation of new priests and care for our retired priests, evangelization and accompaniment of Young Adults, and the consoling presence of Christ for those imprisoned.

## Who We Serve

### Assistance for Catholic Education

The Annual Catholic Appeal currently provides some funding to 11 schools impacting the lives of over 1,600 students. These grants have been made to keep the vital mission of Catholic education both accessible and affordable for children of families in need.

### Bishop Flores Scholars Tuition Assistance

The Bishop Flores Scholars Program is dedicated to helping children in need receive a Catholic education through providing tuition assistance. We believe that Catholic education should be both affordable and accessible to every child and family who desires it regardless of their background, neighborhood, family income, or culture.

### Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities is based on the person of Jesus, who “came not to be served, but to serve” and is our primary diocesan social services agency. We believe in dignity of the human person, and are committed to the Judeo-Christian vision of justice and peace. Through it, we assist almost 300,000 people each year by providing a network of important programs and services.

### Priestly Formation

The Office for Priestly Formation administers the diocesan program for both pre-seminarian and seminarian candidates and is located at the St. Francis Center on the University of San Diego campus. As a house of formation, St. Francis Center helps prepare men in each of the four areas of formation: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral for admission to a seminary school of theology.

### Prison Ministry

Our diocese impacts the lives of those imprisoned in 27 different prisons, jails, and detention facilities, housing over 25,000 inmates. This includes eight sheriff’s jails, five juvenile detention facilities, three state prisons, and four federal detention facilities. Many of these inmates are hungry to deepen their relationship with God. We merely become the conduits or channels of the Holy Spirit.

### Seminarian Support

The future of San Diego’s local Church is strengthened by the number of men who answer the call to a priestly vocation. We are currently supporting 15 seminarians with an average cost of \$45,000 per year to educate a seminarian. This past year we ordained three priests and one transitional deacon.

### Retired Priests

There are currently 58 retired priests of the Diocese of San Diego. The diocese provides financial support to retired priests so that they can live in dignity, free of anxiety about their means of support. This includes providing health and auto insurance, nursing care at Nazareth House San Diego if needed, supplementing their pension, and expenses for them to attend the annual convocation of priests.

### Young Adult Ministry

The Young Adult ministry reaches out and ministers to young adults inviting them into responsible participation into the full life and mission of the Church. We strive to connect them to Christ, His Church and a faith filled peer community by offering various social, service and spiritual opportunities.

# Getting to Know Our Neighbors: A Catholic/Muslim Dialogue



*On Sunday, February 28, our Parish hosted a Catholic/Muslim Dialogue. There were about 200 people in attendance, and it was a joyous afternoon that brought our two communities together. I am hoping that this event will be the beginning of a deepening relationship between us. The following were my opening remarks. I have included them for your reflection.*

On behalf of our entire Faith Community of St. Thomas More, I want to warmly welcome Imam Yassir Qassim of the Mosque in Vista and all the members of his congregation who are present here today.

St. Thomas More Parishioners, let us show our support and welcome with a round of applause...

Also we welcome all who are with us from other faith communities and faith traditions, and we welcome all who may not claim a faith tradition. All are welcome!

My background is Polish, with both sets of my grandparents being born in Poland. In Polish, we have a saying, "Gosc w Dom; Bog w Dom." It means "A guest in the house is God in the house."

Imam and friends, you are our guests today and we acknowledge that because of your presence God is with us in a special way! It is always good for neighbors to become familiar with each other, to get to know one another. This is how a community of people is built. It is how strangers become family.

This notion of family is more important today than ever before, because of our life in the United States of America. We are a nation built on immigration, built on people coming from all over the world to find a better life here, to seize the moment in this country to create new opportunities for ourselves and for our children and grandchildren. This is what my grandparents did. This is what so many of your parents and grandparents have done.

And many of you, especially our Muslim brothers and sisters, here present today, are the ones who have begun this journey into the fabric of our nation.

We all have this in common, because we are a nation of immigrants. This is what has and will continue to make us a great nation, a beacon of hope and light, for all who seek a better way of life.

Coming together today, as we do, is more crucial than ever! In the climate of our nation today, there is great fear regarding the immigrant, and the newcomer.

And this fear is being nurtured by many of our political leaders and those who wish to become political leaders. This nurturing of fear,

this "be wary of the immigrant," is not only anti-religious, but maybe even more importantly, it is anti-American, and this notion is undermining the very foundations of our nation.

Sr. Joan Chittister recently said, "We are a nation undergoing an identity crisis." We are forgetting who we are, and what makes us who we are. What makes us who we are, and who we have been as a nation, has been to welcome the stranger, the needy, the oppressed, to welcome those who seek a better life.

So what is our purpose today? It is to get to know our neighbors—to lose fear through knowledge... to come to realize that the "other" is no different than the "us." We may be packaged differently, but under the packaging we are all the same.

So what is our purpose today? For us as Catholics, it can best be summed up in the Opening Paragraph of the Catholic Update that is available to you:

"As time progresses, we Catholics are going to rub shoulders more and more with Muslims, those who follow the Islam religion. After all, there are 1.2 billion Muslims, compared to about 1.5 billion Christians, one billion of whom are Catholic.

The Muslims we hear most about in the news are fundamentalists who in no way represent the Muslims living in our communities.

Our challenge as Catholics is to get to know more about our Muslim brothers and sisters. As the bishops of Vatican II wrote, 'Although in the course of the centuries many quarrels and hostilities have arisen between Christians and Muslims, this sacred Synod urges all to forget the past and to strive sincerely for mutual understanding.'"

So, once again, what is our purpose today? It is the desire of Imam Yassir and me that today we do not focus on the few who are causing havoc in our world today, the few who are doing more harm to their own Muslim brothers and sisters than to Christians and people of other religions, and people of no religion.

Remembering our past as Christians, (let us be mindful that we Christians, in the past, fought wars over Christian Doctrine and killed each other in the name of Jesus), today our goal is first and foremost to get to know one another.

Imam Yassir and I are praying that today will be the beginning of a fruitful relationship between our congregations and that as time goes on, and as we get to know each other better, and trust each other more, we then can share the vulnerabilities of our religions, both in the past and in the present.

—Fr. Mike Ratajczak

# Parish Lenten Communal Penance Service: The Sacrament of Reconciliation— God's Unconditional Love for Us!

Monday, March 7, 7:00pm

In recent years, a name change has taken place with the "Sacrament of Confession." We no longer call the act "Confession," but rather "Reconciliation" and/or "Penance."

This name change better reflects what happens in this celebration. We do not go to the priest just to list our sins, have them forgiven, and receive a penance; but rather, and most importantly, we come to the priest to celebrate the forgiveness of God that we experience in our lives. We come to the Sacrament with a sense of joy for what God has already done in our lives and what God continues to do—showing us with unconditional love.

The verbalization of our sins, the verbalization of the words of absolution, and the acceptance of a penance are steps in the process of celebrating God's forgiveness and unconditional love for us.

If we are open to God's love, we begin to experience the many ways in which God forgives us our sins in the daily occurrences of our lives.

When we ask forgiveness from someone we have offended, our sins are forgiven. When we accept the forgiveness of another, our sins are forgiven. Each time we talk to God in the silence of our hearts and sincerely seek forgiveness from God, our sins are forgiven. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we hear the words of the priest shortly before the reception of Holy Communion— "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! Happy are we! We are called to his supper!" —our sins are forgiven.

So why go to the priest? We do so in order to celebrate the forgiveness of God we experience in our daily lives, to ritualize it, sacramentalize it and, as in all things, to place our lives and God's involvement in our lives within the context of the Church, the Body of Christ.

The priest "stands in" for the community. As we verbalize our sins, we are mindful that there is no such thing as a personal sin. Our sins, no matter how personal we may think them to be, affect others— "No Man Is an Island." We live in community. Our lives always touch the lives of others.

Telling our sins, hearing ours sins from our own lips, helps us to be real and to acknowledge our weakness and our

dependence upon God. It is so easy to rationalize our sinfulness when we talk to ourselves "in our heads." It is an entirely different experience when we hear ourselves verbalize our sinfulness. Those sins become much more real! We become much more aware and sensitive of our responsibilities to others.

The priest "stands in" for Christ. Hearing the words of absolution, the forgiveness of God, from the lips of the priest is indeed comforting. You know how wonderful it feels when a family member or friend says, "I love you!" In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we allow God to say those words to us in and through the person of the priest.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not something to be feared but to be celebrated with trust and confidence

because of God's unconditional love for us.

This Monday, March 7, at 7:00pm, our Parish celebrates her Lenten Communal Penance Service. Many priest/confessors will be available for you. They will be in Church waiting for you so that through the words of absolution God will once again say to you:

***"I forgive you and I love you unconditionally!"***

Will you be there to hear God's words?

