

**SAINT
THOMAS
MORE
CATHOLIC
CHURCH**

**Holy Year Pilgrimage Mercy Door
and Eucharistic Adoration
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.*



**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

Sunday-Saturday, 7:00am-7:00pm

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday, 3:30-4:30pm
and by appointment

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](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasMoreRCC)



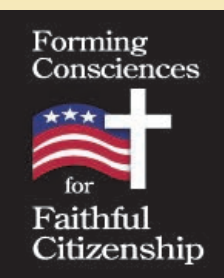
**Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 5, 2016**

Pastor's Column

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

Faithful Citizenship—

The California Primary Election on Tuesday, June 7, 2016



We now find ourselves at the end of a very long, and very ugly, primary election season with the California Primary taking place this Tuesday.

After Tuesday, the nation's attention turns toward the General Election on November 8, 2016.

As Bishop McElroy has said, "The contrast between the beautiful vision of politics that Pope Francis presented to the United States and the political campaigns that have unfolded in the past several months could not be more heartbreaking."

Despite this reality, we are reminded that, as Catholics, we have a responsibility to be active participants in the political process.

The ugliness of this political season should not repel us from being involved, but should, instead, motivate us even more to faithful citizenship:

Responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation...

By our baptism, Catholics are committed to following Jesus Christ and to be "salt for the earth, light for the nations."

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate according to his position and role, in promoting the common good."

This is inherent in the dignity of the human person...As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life." (nos. 1913-1915)

—(Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship – United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

In exercising "Faithful Citizenship," we are mindful that in the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation.

(Continued on page 2)

Annual Catholic Appeal

**Thank you for helping us meet our
assessment! All extra contributions
will be returned to the Parish, so you
can still join the effort!**

Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.

LUKE 6:36

Celebrating THE YEAR OF
Mercy

www.sdcatholic.org



Pastor's Column (continued from page 1)

As Catholics, we never endorse any specific candidates nor do we endorse any specific political parties. And we are mindful that neither major party, the Republican Party nor the Democratic Party is fully "Pro-life" in the Catholic Church's understanding of "Pro-life."

Our participation in the political process is about reclaiming our national politics for the protection of the human person.

As we vote then for specific candidates, we need to take into consideration all the issues that the candidate agrees with or disagrees with in terms of the Catholic Conscience, of our understanding of what it means to be "Pro-life," and in terms of how we are called to be committed to the common good of all people in our society and being in solidarity with them.

Always be mindful that no one can tell you how to vote! The Magisterium of the Church will inform you of what is the Catholic position, and encourage you to vote accordingly, but when you are in the voter's booth, you, in the presence of God, with an informed conscience, must vote according to the direction of your conscience.

Conscience is supreme, and it holds a most sacred place within Catholic Tradition.

Each of us is called to take seriously the challenge that lies before us in choosing leaders who will embody our beliefs.

To help in this process, not only for Tuesday's Primary, but more importantly, for the General Election in November, I have inserted in today's Bulletin an article by our Bishop, Robert W. McElroy, which appeared in AMERICA Magazine on February 15, 2016.

Please take time to read the article and reflect upon it, and allow his thoughts and reflections to help you in your effort to exercise "Faithful Citizenship."

F. A. Mike

Annual Catholic Appeal

Thanks to all those who have responded already!

Pledges to date:	\$53,385
Families responding:	445
Average pledge per family:	\$155.19

Our assessment this year is \$50,000—Thank you!

Any amounts collected over \$50,000 are returned to the Parish.

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.

Welcome New Parishioner

Mary Diaz

Congratulations to

Tom & Katie Browne

who celebrated their 46th anniversary of marriage on June 6.

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

Flower Donations

The Altar Flowers for this weekend were given by **August & Barbara Panella** in honor of their anniversary.

**In Memoriam**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Rosa Tipple, who died on May 19. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, June 10, at 10:30am at St. Thomas More. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Anthony Fajardo, who died last week. His graveside service will be celebrated on Friday, June 10, at 1:30pm at Mission San Luis Rey. Please keep his wife, Jan, and his family in your prayers.

Mary Bruzas, who died on May 26. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, June 17, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep her husband, Jack, and her 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.

Hospital	Chaplain's Office
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

Help Feed the Hungry

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

We thank you for helping to feed the hungry with your ongoing donations of **nonperishable** food items



Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, June 5 (90)

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 17:17-24
Psalm 30:2,4-6,11-13
Galatians 1:11-19
Luke 7:11-17

Monday, June 6 (578)

Norbert, bishop

Ezekiel 34:11-16
Psalm 23:1-3a,4-6
Luke 14:25-33

Tuesday, June 7 (360)

1 Kings 17:7-16
Psalm 4:2-5,7b-8
Matthew 5:13-16

Wednesday, June 8 (361)

1 Kings 18:20-39
Psalm 16:1b-2b,4-5b,8,11
Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday, June 9 (579)

Ephrem, deacon, doctor
Colossians 3:12-17
Psalm 37:3-6,30-31
Luke 6:43-45

Friday, June 10 (363)

1 Kings 19:9a,11-16
Psalm 27:7-9c,13-14
Matthew 5:27-32

Saturday, June 11 (580)

Barnabas, apostle
Acts 11:21b-26;13:1-3
Psalm 98:1-6
Matthew 10:7-13

Sunday, June 12 (93)

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Samuel 12:7-10,13
Psalm 32:1-2,5,7,11
Galatians 2:16,19-21
Luke 7:36-8:3

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

Changa Aguilera
Ernie Aichele
Mary Alexander
Christine & Cory Anderson
Carrie Autrey
Joshua Avery
Addison Abigail Avina
Rosemary Ballard
Jose Luis Barbosa
The Barbosa Family
Patricia Barbour
Francie Barron
Clarice Bednarz
John Bennici
Regina Bentz
Lisa Berg
Roseanne Berg
Mary Betz
Betty Jean Bielich
Pietër Boets & Family
Zane Breier
Beth Brewer
Janet Brown
Katie Browne
The Bruzas Family
Anita Buerger
The Calderone Family
Shelby Campbell
Brianna Campos
Aria Cappeluti
Jorge Cartajena
Donald Cashmore
Anne Caywood
The Josie Chavez Family
The Vaughn Clevenger Family
Anne Cline
Carl & Dorothy Coleman
James Coleman
Judy Colson
Karen Connell
Geoff Coolidge
Sandra Cracchiolo
Steven Cresencia
Lené Crowe
Karen Flaharty Daley
Beverly de Gelder
Velja 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
Arthur Eral
Carolyn Erickson Ey
The Fajardo Family
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
The Joe Garcia Family
Kathy Gardner
Joan Gay
Alyssa Gerhard
Merle Glime
Wendy Gonzales' Dad
Rick Gonzalez
Tillie Gonzalez
Lou Gordon
George Gritt
Luke Guent
Susan Hallahan
Pat & Tom Hannon
The Harker Family
Dorothy Harrison
Michelle Harrison & Family
Barbara Hatem
Amy Hayes
Bill & Mary Haynes
Lilian 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
Faith Kowallek
Helen Kuhn
Lorene Kundert

Lillian Lachance
The Lamelin Family
Bart Landry
Pauline Lapre's sister Justine
Brandon LeBlanc
Susan Lee
Jake Lefferdink
Jeremiah Lemus
Aleah Leon
Ashley Load
Cassandra & Lauren Loretto
Jack Lucarelli
The Maberry & Remington Families
Joaquin Maldonado
The Maldonado Family
The Maldonado Trejo Family
Paige Mansell
Gloria Maupin
Colleen McCall
Virginia McConnell
Paige McCoy
The McGinley Family
Ann McMahan
Bob McWilliams
Joyce Meehan
Kalei Mendiola
Lorraine Micallef
Rita Mikridge
Tom Miller
Phyllis Minaya
June Mitchell
Maria Molina
June Montgomery
Nancy Moore
Elizabeth Muehlbacher
Conrad Murphy
Eddie Murphy
Margie Myers
Angela Nacional
Melanie Nacional
Nida Navarro
Lien Nguyen
Richard Obsitnik
Kare O'Dell
Laura Paciorek Gloor
Ethan Palm
Cynthia Pearson
Salina Pearson
Elisa Petrie
Merri Phelps
Helen Pingtella
Delilah Plasterer
Perry Postulka
The Joe Prokop Family
Bernie Ptak
Barbara Ramm
Randy Reznicek
Jenni Richard
Evelyn Richards
Jan Riley
Rita Ritchie
Lily Robinson
Maria Rogers
The Rouse & Cortez Families
Zaydon Ruiz
The Russo Family
Rachel Sainc
Sam Sam
Cindy Sanelli
Lori Sanna
Linda Schmidt
Joan Shea
Elizabeth Shirzad
Nick Soltau
Bob Sorenson
The Spangler Family
Darek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski
Don St. Pierre
Patricia St. Pierre
Sybil Staples
Andrew Stephens
Brian Stephens
Mike Sterling
Frank & Mary Ann Stoddard
Laura Bernard Stover, MD
Pete Sullivan
Pat Swanton
Julie Teare
Tommy & Ginger Thompson
Sarah Tillinghast
The Tipple Family
William Tompson
Stephen Toth, Jr.
Olivia Trejo
The Trejo/Beltran Family
The Trejo/Maldonado/Uribe Family
Martin Vertson
Lucy Vienna
Lucy Viramontes
Vanessa Vitiello
Wilson Wanner
Kevin Watson-Graff
Jerry Wechsler
Rylee West
The Wood Family
The Xavier Family
Dana Yates
Patricia Zavala
Jeanne Zeltner

Calendar Highlights

More details at www.stmoside.org,
Schedule and Calendar

Jun 5	Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
Jun 10-12	Annual Campout
Jun 11	Women's Guild Installation Luncheon at Shadowridge Golf Club
Jun 18-19	Family Shoe Ministry Collection
Jun 20-24	Vacation Bible School
Jun 21-22	Restaurant Fundraiser at Nucci's
Jun 25-26	Family Shoe Ministry Collection
Jun 26	Family Dinners
Jul 24	Pastor's Dinner
Sep 11	Wine Tasting Event
Sep 25	New Member Luncheon
Oct 7-9	Annual Men's Retreat
Oct 23	Oktober Fest Event
Dec 17	Christmas Cookie Exchange

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

Deployed Military

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

Mass Intentions
Saturday, June 4, 5:00pm Ruth McGuire ☩
Sunday, June 5, 8:30am Pietro DeAngelis ☩
Sunday, June 5, 10:30am Paul Johansing ☩
Monday, June 6, 8:15am Peggy Carter ☩
Tuesday, June 7, 8:15am The Ngoan Tran Family
Wednesday, June 8, 8:15am Rosemary Correy ☩
Thursday, June 9, 8:15am Lucy Retz ☩
Friday, June 10, 8:15am Nicholas Farella ☩
Saturday, June 11, 5:00pm Joseph Buko
Sunday, June 12, 8:30am Maria Fallone ☩
Sunday, June 12, 10:30am Robert Rees ☩

June 6 Sr. Stephany Veluz, RSCJ
June 7 Sr. Fatima Viamontes, RJM
June 8 Sr. Joanne Wagenbrenner, CHS
June 9 Sr. Elizabeth Walsh, RSCJ
June 10 Sr. Kathleen Walsh, RSM
June 11 Sr. Alyce Waters, RSM
June 12 Sr. Emily Weir, CHS

Social Ministries & Outreach

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. 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.

St. Bonaventure Indian Mission

On the second weekend in November we will have our annual clothing drive for the Mission serving the Navajo on about 100 square miles of the Big Rez in New Mexico. These beautiful people are among the poorest in the nation where unemployment is rampant, most live below the poverty line, many don't have water or utilities to their "hogans," and where there is no other dedicated clothing drive than that of STM. Please start gathering good serviceable shoes (no heels please) and clothing for all ages...perhaps getting your neighbors and coworkers to do the same. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Any questions, contact Deacon Tom at thomasgoeltz@aol.com or 760-727-8442. Thank you and God Bless.

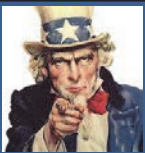
Brother Benno's

Summer is rapidly approaching...when many of us "kick back" and relax. Please don't forget the poor serviced by Brother Benno's. They still go hungry if we don't help. Please also remember that we will have a toiletry (and disposable diaper) drive on or about September. Thank you and God Bless.

Pictorial Directory Signups

As adorable as your last family photo was, it may be time to get it updated! **Photo session signups are NOW underway for our new STM Directory! Sessions are June 6-13 and July 6-24.**

Each family participating will **receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a FREE Parish directory.** You'll have a chance to purchase more portraits at the time of your sitting.



WE WANT YOU!
In our new
Photo Directory

Here are 3 easy ways to make your appointment:

1. After weekend Masses on the plaza
2. Online at www.stmoside.org (receive a bonus coupon)
3. Contact Kim Wright via email/phone listed below.

Help is needed on the plaza with table signups before and after Masses on the weekends of June 11-12 through July 9-10. All Mass spots are open, so you can select a Mass time that works for you.

Please also consider being a host to check in folks during our June 6-13 and July 6-24 photo sessions. **Thank you!**

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 have park play dates on the first and third Monday of each month at a local park, and there are many other events throughout the month posted on our private Facebook page. Join us! Contact Natalia Sada at vzlanaty@yahoo.com or Estelle Eral at estelle.eral@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 for more information.

Relationship Skills Workshops—Deacon Ralph and Peggy Skiano are presenting Relationship Skills Workshops every Wednesday night at 7:00pm at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 3888 Paducah Drive, San Diego, now through August 31. Come and explore how to improve your relationships. You can attend one workshop, several, or all of them. The topic of the next workshop on June 8 is *Responsibility and the Blame Game*. For more information call Deacon Ralph at 858-490-8292.

Bishops' Letter on Marriage—Growing Together in Virtue: "There is another way to look at growth in marriage: namely, as growth in virtue. As a couple grows in virtue, they grow in holiness. In other words, the couple acquires, by prayer and discipline, those interior qualities that open them to God's love and allow them to share in his love more deeply. Couples instinctively understand this when they speak about their marriage being a means of leading each other to heaven." To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

Marriage Moments—Married couples don't often think of being widowed but no one lives forever. Lest this thought seem too morose, remember that one day one of you will be alone to help you appreciate your beloved today. Honor or pray for a widow(er) you know today. By Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net.

Parenting Pointers—How many shoes does your child have? How many do you? How many can you wear at one time? The first week in June is National Barefoot Week. Have fun going barefoot for a day or an hour this week, but remember that some kids don't have any shoes. Check out Soles4Souls to see how you can help. <http://barefootweek.com/>. By Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net.

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

STM Scrip News

Summer is upon us, and we are celebrating grads and dads and vacation plans over the next few months—remember to shop with scrip for your summertime get-togethers and getaways. Scrip is available after weekend Masses and in the Parish Office during the week, as well as online at www.stmoside.org/scrip. We appreciate your continued support for the Scrip program. **For more information, visit www.stmoside.org/scrip.htm or contact the Scrip team at 760-758-4100 x150 or scrip@stmoside.org**

Parish Events

Women's Guild News

June has arrived and the Women's Guild year has so quickly come to a close, with the exception of the Installation of Officers and Quilt Raffle Luncheon on Saturday, June 11, at 11:00am at Shadowridge Golf Club. I wish to thank all the members for supporting us this year, for your generosity, and for your willingness to step up and help out. I have never met such a dedicated group of women as you are! During the summer the Board will develop next year's calendar. Your suggestions and recommendations are always welcome. At this time we are looking for at least two Committee Chairs: Fashion Show and Hospitality. Valerie Thompson has overseen the Fashion Show for many years and has done a superb job. She tells me it's time for her to pass this opportunity on to another Guild member. Anna Robinson who was our Hospitality chair is also looking for something a little different, and will be happy to help in other areas within Women's Guild. So, if this is your cup of tea and you are looking for a challenge, we want to hear from you! (As always, help, support, and mentoring is available.)

Those of you attending the Installation Luncheon can renew your membership for next year (\$10). You can also renew at the Women's Guild table on the plaza on selected weekends. Watch the bulletin for that schedule and for a registration form.

Have a blessed week! —*Kathy Gerhard, president*

Spirited Seniors Summer Social

The Spirited Seniors are celebrating Summer and Flag Day with a catered dinner on Tuesday, June 14. The doors will open at 5:00pm, and our caterer is Nacho's Tacos, a highly-rated local restaurant. The cost is \$11 for members and \$14 for guests. Please complete the reservation form that was in the bulletin of May 15 or print the following on a piece of paper: Name(s) of people attending, their preference for corn (C) or flour (F) tortillas, and your phone number. Put this and your check made payable to "STM Spirited Seniors" in an envelope marked "STM Spirited Seniors Summer Social." You may place your envelope in the offertory basket or Box 12 in the Parish Office. Space is limited; the deadline is noon on June 6. Questions, please call Jim and Marilyn Day at 760-509-4545.

Parish Dinners Sunday, June 26, 4:00pm

Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in this Parish tradition (formerly on Holy Thursday). Sign up to be a host family or guest after weekend Masses or in the Parish Office. For more information, contact Lisa Attardo at 760-940-1505 or 760-884-7863.

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**.



Last week we gave the Parish an early, generous check from our Gala proceeds! Thanks to ALL who helped to make this Gala a great success!

As has become our pattern in the last couple of years, we will be giving the Parish more money in the coming months from our ongoing "Year of Celebration" events, which are listed below. We anticipate easily reaching our total \$60,000 goal as we have previously. This is a very fun way to continue doing God's work. We invite you to join us!!

Pastor's Dinner

Sunday, July 24, 5:00-8:00pm at The Crossings in Carlsbad

\$150/per person (\$75 tax deductible)

Payment due June 24

Wine Tasting Party

Sunday, September 11, 1:00-4:00pm

\$50/per person (\$15 tax deductible)

Oktober Fest

Sunday, October 23, 2:00-6:00pm

\$75/per person (\$25 tax deductible)

Christmas Cookie Exchange

Saturday, December 17, 10:00am-12:00noon

\$20/per person (\$10 tax deductible)

**For information, please contact Chris Smith
760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org.**

Pilgrimage to South Africa: October 4-17, 2016 Led by Fr. Mike Ratajczak

There will be a meeting on Tuesday, July 5, at 3:00pm on the Parish Center Lower Level for those who will be making this pilgrimage and for those who may be interested in going.

"A pilgrimage is a journey or search of moral or spiritual significance." So why make a pilgrimage to South Africa? Any journey, anywhere, if taken with the notion of better understanding God's World, God's Creation, becomes a pilgrimage because it has spiritual significance.

Journey to South Africa, to the land of Nelson Mandela, a man who spent his entire life to eradicate apartheid, the grave sin of racism...changing the face of a nation and doing so non-violently! Truly a miracle in this day and age...

Journey on a safari to shoot magnificent animals—with cameras and not guns! Truly a miracle in this day and age...

Journey to see one of the most beautiful countries in the world—mountains, seashores, wine country, and more...

This journey is one of spiritual significance. It is a pilgrimage!

I hope you will consider joining me...Brochures are available at the information table on the plaza after Masses, in the Parish Office during the week, or at www.stmoside.org.

Liturgy & Music Worship God

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

CHALLENGED BY THE WORD

scripture themes for June

by Patricia
 Datchuck Sánchez
 and Rafael
 Sánchez Alonso,
 from Celebration
 June 2016, with
 permission.

Always profoundly rich and radically challenging, the sacred texts are God's voice communicated to us through human voices so that we remain ever near and continuously in touch with the One who has called us into being. When we approach the texts, we are to come hungry and eager and without any pre-determination as to what we may find, for it is in that posture of open expectancy that grace can find its way in and reveal to us a new truth, a new insight, a new question, a new promise, a new challenge.

In this month's Gospels, we, along with Jesus' first followers, will continue to learn the responsibilities, the costs, and the privileges of discipleship. In accord with his emphasis on the universal scope of God's saving concerns, Luke will remind us that Jesus purposely reached out and extended God's gifts to those whom others found unworthy or of little value. The widow whom Jesus met in Nain had lost her last foothold in society when her only son died. With no husband and now no son to defend her rights, her future depended on the mercy of others. Moved with divine mercy, Jesus reached out to her and, in restoring her son to life, restored the life of the widow, as well (June 5). On June 12, Jesus will hold out to his disciples a woman who, in addition to having no voice in society, was also a known sinner. Though her sins were many, her love and faith were greater; forgiven by Jesus, she went on her way in peace and continues to challenge each of us to a deeper faith and a more generous love.

Always the truth-teller, Jesus will take a more somber tone with his own followers (June 19, 26) in an effort to help them understand the nature of his messiahship. Yes, he had come to bring good news and salvation, but the disciples had yet to

fully understand the means by which Jesus would accomplish the purpose for which he had been sent. With no inkling of the specter of the cross or the suffering Jesus would endure, the disciples were, no doubt, shocked and dismayed by the fact that God's plan was so unlike their own. Nor had they begun to appreciate that their faith in and following of Jesus would result in their sharing in his suffering. Their hope and eager messianic expectations included nothing so inconceivable—but through God and through grace, their incredulity gradually evolved into acceptance and faith.

This month's sacred texts present readers with another startling insight. Through the suffering of our Savior, Jesus, God has brought about the salvation of humankind. This salvation is God's gift freely offered to undeserving sinners who may appropriate that gift by faith. In the second readings for all of June, Paul has elaborated on this insight. Writing to the Galatians, who were beset by false teachers and Judaizers who insisted on the necessity of the law for salvation, Paul made it clear that such insistence was tantamount to dismissing the supreme value of Jesus' sacrifice (June 12). But why was there such insistence on the law? From the beginning, the commandments were regarded as the terms of the covenant between God and humanity. Observance of the law was humankind's response to God's loving overtures. Through the centuries, however, and with the disappearance of the monarchy and the seeming silence of the prophets, the law and those who preserved and interpreted the law took on a disproportionate level of importance in Jewish life. More than a simple and ardent response to the love of God, the law had become such a complex burden that Jesus repeatedly



"Young man, I tell you, arise!"

Luke 7:14

spoke out against those who had made it so. Following Jesus' lead, Paul reminded his readers that they, through baptism, had become God's children (June 19), and rather than be enslaved by sin or burdened by the law, they were to live in the Spirit, serving one another and all others in love (June 26).

Paul also shared his own account of his call and the mandate he had received to preach the Gospel to the gentiles (June 5). Paul had never met the earthly or historical Jesus. Rather, he encountered the risen Christ, and during that encounter, he received the revelation that transformed his life. Paul the persecutor of the followers of Jesus would thereafter be Paul the preacher of good news, proselytizer of gentiles, and the protector of the faith. Paul understood that his calling was an integral part of God's plan: "God, who from my mother's womb had set me apart and called me through grace and revealed the Son to me."

Paul's sharing of his encounter with Christ offers each of us a framework within which to consider our own initiation into Christ, the life of faith and the church. In that encounter, each of us, like Paul, received a transformative revelation and a mandate that is ours alone to realize. As the scriptures are proclaimed yet again in our hearing, they summon forth in us a renewed commitment to Christ, to the church and to the world, which remains so desperately in need of the good news of salvation.

Upcoming Music

✠

JUNE 12
11th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

✠

5:00pm

Praise Team

8:30am

Cantor &
 Congregation

10:30am

Tower Bells

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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

Sign Up for REACH 2016/2017

Registration for REACH Classes Have Gone Out!
Return your REACH packet today!

Sacrament Prep News



Sacramental Preparation Classes begin in September.
Are you registered?
Contact the Faith Formation Office for more information



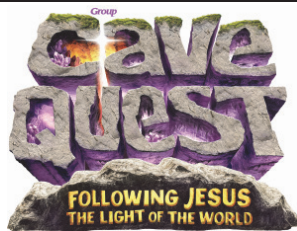
Expecting ??



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 for more information.

Vacation Bible School June 20-24

Return your registration today. Spaces are limited and going fast.



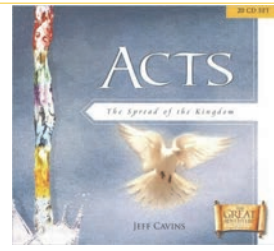
Register Today For
Steubenville San Diego
July 29-31, 2016



SOLD OUT!!
All Teens Grades 8-12 Are Invited! We only have 10 spots left! Don't miss out on a great weekend to know Jesus better! For more information on how to help a teen go to

Adult Faith Formation

Bible Study News



Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Begins September 7, 9:00-11:00am

Watch for registration details coming soon!



Thursday Evening Bible Study
Begins September 8, 7:00-9:00pm

Support Tommy's Café after Masses!

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

COMING SOON!



St. Thomas More's very own Nursery!
Available during 10:30am Mass on Sundays. Contact Lia Keane for more info at liak@stmoside.org.

Are You a New Babysitter?

Become Child/Infant CPR certified! Contact Dr. Phil for more information on classes at drphil@cox.net!

Youth Ministry



Refuel will not be meeting this week 6/8/16

Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

Collection for Week of May 28/29, 2016

Number of Registered Households	1,210
Offertory	\$7,778.39
Offertory (Loose Collection)	\$1,165.00
Total	\$8,943.39

Mortgage/Building Completion Fund Income

September 15, 2014 to May 31, 2016

Mortgage Offering Collected	\$956,036.05
Less Administrative Costs	\$43,743.00
Payment toward Parish Reserves (10%)	\$94,471.91
Payment toward Mortgage	\$850,247.14
Mortgage Payment Due	\$911,788.20
Mortgage Payment Overage/(Shortfall)	(\$61,541.06)

Memorial Items	\$1,675,600.90
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Please continue to support the
Mortgage/Building Completion Fund!

"Did You Know " Collection May 2016

\$3,894.00

Restaurant Fundraisers May 2016

Nucci's	\$279.68
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*A Temple Built of Living Stones includes our faith journey
as well as the build out of our Parish Campus.*

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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.

Chris Smith at 760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org.

Do You Welcome Visitors to Our Parish? Hospitality at Mass: A Key to Good Stewardship



For many individuals and families alike, summer means travel. And summer travel may mean new visitors to our Parish for weekend liturgies. How we greet and provide hospitality for our guests says a lot about our practice of good Stewardship.

Providing hospitality to strangers is a hallmark of Christian Stewardship. In the Gospel of Matthew good stewards were commended for their hospitality: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matt. 25:35).

Saint Benedict directed his followers to receive guests and travelers as if they were Christ. Extending hospitality is especially important when it comes to welcoming visitors who may be attending Mass at our Parish for the first time.

There is a lot of anecdotal evidence suggesting that the ability of a first-time visitor to have a meaningful experience of Christ in the liturgy is directly impacted by the warmth of the welcome that is extended by the local worshipping community.

When people say hello, the worship experience is enhanced. A warm welcome is part of evangelization, work necessary in a Church's mission to help people discover or renew their faith in Christ. We are all entrusted with this simple gesture!

How do we treat the unknown person who walks by us in Church, or who sits next to us at Mass? Do we ignore them? Talk around them? Look at them and say nothing? Do we take the initiative to greet them, smile, extend a warm handshake?

Remember, we are Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). Our actions and reactions toward visitors at Mass communicate who we are and who we represent.

Let us take time to welcome visitors to our Parish this summer. Welcoming gestures, however small, will not only have a positive impact on visitors, they will make us more hospitable ambassadors of Christ.

partially excerpted from ICSC June 2016 e-bulletin (with permission)

*Providing hospitality to strangers is
a hallmark of Christian Stewardship.*

Memorial Item Donations Available

Pipe Organ	\$850,000
Christ on the Road to Emmaus	
Bronze Sculpture for	\$27,000
Daily Mass Chapel	
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) 13 available	\$5,000/each
Priests' Concelebration Vestments (4) 4 available	\$400/each
Pew Seating for the Church (1,000) 707 available	\$300/each
Daily Mass Chapel and Choir Chairs (200) 93 available	\$300/each
Altar Server Albs (15) 8 available	\$125/each

04/26/16

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

The Larger Church News

La Jolla Renaissance Singers in Concert—Sunday, June 12, 4:00pm, San Rafael Catholic Church. They will be joined by the San Rafael Handbell Choir. For more information, contact www.ljrs.org.

Catholic Answers Speakers in Carlsbad—Sunday, June 12, Sunday, June 19, and Sunday, June 26, at 6:00pm at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church in Carlsbad. Featuring Tim Staples with "Why Be Catholic?," Karlo Broussard with "Defending the Faith in a Relativistic Culture," and Patrick Coffin with "Apologetics for Chickens." RSVP to seschurch.org/event/catholicanswers.

Military Family Camp at Whispering Winds—Thanks to a generous donation, Family Camp for military families at Whispering Winds Catholic Camp is just \$100. Military scholarships are limited and based on a first-come, first-serve basis. Family Camps will be held June 17-19, 24-26, and July 8-10, 15-17 and include six delicious meals, free child care for kids 5 and younger zipline, swimming pool, campfire, Mass, inspiring adult speakers, and more in the beautiful mountains of Julian! Please register online at www.whisperingwinds.org.

Marriage Help—The word *Retrouvaille* (pronounced re-tro-vi with a long i) is a French word meaning rediscovery. The program offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. Thousands of couples headed for cold, unloving relationships or divorce have successfully overcome their marriage problems by attending the program. Next program is September 16-18. Space is limited; call 951-259-9474 for information.

✠ ✠ ✠

Meals with Love-Vista/Oceanside—Provides nutritious meals at reasonable cost to the homebound. For more information, visit www.mealswithlove.org or call 888-495-5075.

Young Adult Opportunities around the Diocese

For more information, visit www.yamsd.org.
To receive text updates, text **YAM** to **84576**.

Visit 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

St. Francis Church News

525 W. Vista Way, Vista • 760-945-8000 • 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>



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We can accept vehicles without current registration and can file for replacement title if it has been lost.



As of May 25 we have netted \$63,757 from this program. Thank you donors!



Thanks to Norma Flanagan who donated the 100th car to STM!

For more information, contact the Parish Office:
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Parish Contacts

Updated 05/25/2016

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..... Lia Haubert 760-758-4100 x100

..... Natalia Sada 760-758-4100 x100

..... Estelle Eral 760-758-4100 x100

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

LiturgyKathy 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

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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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The Greatness of a Nation

Most Rev. Robert W. McElroy

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Reclaiming our national politics for the protection of the human person

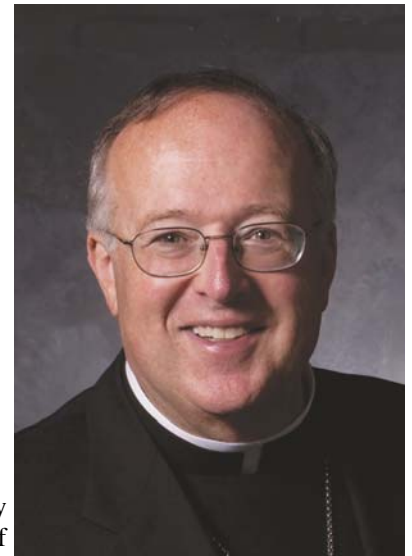
The contrast between the beautiful vision of politics that Pope Francis presented to the United States and the political campaigns that have unfolded in the past several months could not be more heartbreaking. In his address to Congress, Pope Francis began by comparing the fundamental responsibilities of America's political leaders to the role of Moses, emphasizing that the first call of public service is "to protect by means of the law the image and likeness fashioned by God on every human face."

Recalling the martyrdom of Abraham Lincoln, Francis pointed to the foundational role that freedom plays in U.S. society and politics and noted that "building a future of freedom requires love of the common good and cooperation in a spirit of subsidiarity and solidarity." Citing the figure of Dorothy Day and her thirst for justice in the world, the pope emphatically demanded that the economic genius of the American nation must be complemented by an enduring recognition that all economies must serve justice comprehensively, with special care for the poor. Finally, invoking the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., Pope Francis urged the nation's political leaders to deepen America's heritage as a land of dreams: "Dreams which lead to action, to participation, to commitment. Dreams which awaken what is deepest and truest in the life of a people."

In Francis' message he made clear that the core of the vocation of public service, and of all politics, is to promote the integral



THE AMERICAN WAY. People participate in the Democartic caucus at the Iowa State Historical Society in Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 1, 2016.



development of every human person and of society as a whole. It is a vocation that requires special and self-sacrificial concern for the poor, the unborn, the vulnerable, and the marginalized. It is a commitment to pursue the common good over that of interest groups or parties or self-aggrandizement. It is a profoundly spiritual and moral undertaking.

This same spiritual and moral identity is also emblazoned upon the most foundational act of citizenship in our society, that of voting for candidates for office. Thus, ultimately it is to the citizens of our nation as a whole that the challenge of Pope Francis is directed. Catholic teaching proclaims that voting is inherently an act of discipleship for the believer. But American political life increasingly creates a distorted culture that frames voting choices in destructive categories that rob them of their spiritual character and content.

It is for this reason that the central foundation for an ethic of discipleship in voting for the Catholic community in the United States today lies not in the embrace of any one issue or set of issues but rather in a process of spiritual and moral conversion about the very nature of politics itself.

A Spiritual Conversion to Solidarity

Such a conversion requires deep self-scrutiny and reflection. It demands a rejection of the tribal element of politics that sees voting as the opportunity to advance the well-being of our race, our class, our religious community at the expense of others. It entails a purging of the inherent human tendency to allow anger and wedge issues to infect our voting choices. A spiritual conversion among voters demands that we reject the increasing habit in our political culture of attributing all differences of opinion to ignorance or dishonesty. And such a spiritual conversion prohibits us from framing political choice in the United States as essentially a competition between two partisan teams, one good and one bad, with all the visceral enjoyment that such a competition brings.

Most important, a spiritual political conversion requires the orientation of soul that flows from the principle of solidarity that St. John Paul II powerfully outlined as a fundamental element of Catholic social teaching. This orientation reminds us that in society we must always understand ourselves to be bound together in God's grace

and committed, in the words of “On Social Concerns,” “to the good of one’s neighbor, with the readiness, in the Gospel sense, to lose oneself for the sake of the other rather than exploiting him.”

The implications of such a spiritual stance for discipleship in voting are clearly reflected in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*: “The principle of solidarity requires that men and women of our day cultivate a greater awareness that they are debtors of the society of which they have become a part.”

Such a spiritual conversion to solidarity is not alien to the American political tradition. The founders of the United States called it civic virtue, and they believed that it was absolutely essential for the success of the new experiment in democracy that they were launching. The founders generally believed that religious belief was one of the few foundations in the hearts of men and women that could produce enduring civic virtue and the self-sacrifice that at times it demands. It was their hope that a culture of civic virtue would lead to a politics of the common good.

A Moral Conversion to the Common Good

The core concept of the common good is simple. Rooted in the dignity, unity, and equality of all people, the concrete common good is the set of social conditions at a given historical moment that will best allow all people in a society to attain their fulfillment as individuals and groups.

One of the greatest gifts of Catholic social teaching has been its reflection on the key elements that form the political common good in contemporary society. This reflection is anchored in an unswerving commitment to the transcendent dignity of the human person, the protection of human life, an abiding care for the poor and the marginalized, the protection of authentic human freedom, and the promotion of peace.

It is particularly important to note five aspects of Catholic teaching about the nature and concrete embodiment of a nation’s political common good in any particular historical moment:

1. The political common good of a nation embraces those elements of life in society that properly fall to the work of government.
2. The concrete political common good is dynamic. While the fundamental elements of Catholic moral teaching about the common good are enduring, the identity of the concrete common good that should guide citizens in voting is rooted in changing social structures, laws, socioeconomic challenges, and historical events. Thus, for example, the political importance of immigration as a component of the common good is amplified at this time both because the world is today facing the most monumental refugee crisis since World War II and because the political process of comprehensive immigration reform has come to a complete standstill. Similarly, the incompatibility of assisted suicide with the common good has greater political salience today because of the growth in efforts to legalize assisted suicide within the past five years.

3. Structural changes in society regularly produce new developments in Catholic doctrine designed to analyze the new moral realities that processes like industrialization, secularization, globalization, and climate change have produced. In a very real sense, the history of modern Catholic social teaching is a history of the development of doctrine. From the contribution of Pope Leo XIII on the rights of labor to St. John XXIII on human rights; from the Second Vatican Council’s “Declaration on Religious Freedom” to Pope Paul VI’s doctrine of integral human development to St. John Paul II’s theology of work; from Pope Benedict’s seminal teachings on the stewardship of the environment to the writings of Pope Francis regarding extreme poverty, Catholic social teaching on the common good has been characterized by a fundamental continuity maintained through a substantial dynamism, never stasis.
4. Pope Benedict observed in “Charity in Truth” that “as society becomes ever more globalized, it makes us neighbors, but does not make us brothers.” This penetrating insight deserves deep and sustained attention in our formulation of the concrete common good in 2016. The process of globalization has created new dimensions of the common good and new moral imperatives among nations precisely because the growing interpenetration of economic, political, and cultural actions by powerful nations has enormous and sometimes very destructive impacts on vulnerable states and economies. Pope Francis addressed this very reality when he urged the bishops of the United States to witness powerfully to America’s necessary service to solidarity in the international system as a “nation whose vast material and spiritual, cultural and political, historical and human, scientific and technological resources impose significant moral responsibilities in a world which is seeking, confusedly and laboriously, new balances of peace, prosperity, and integration.”
5. Finally, and most important, Catholic teaching on the nature of the political common good is increasingly focused on the needs of those most vulnerable in society.

The Political Common Good

During his address to the bishops of the United States, Pope Francis outlined the major issues that constitute the political common good in the United States at the present moment: “I encourage you, then, my brothers, to confront the challenging issues of our time. Ever present within them is life as gift and responsibility. The future freedom and dignity of our societies depends on how we face these challenges. The innocent victim of abortion, children who die of hunger or from bombings, immigrants who drown in the search for a better tomorrow, the elderly or the sick who are considered a burden, the victims of terrorism, war, violence, and drug trafficking, the environment devastated by man’s predatory relationship with nature...the family.”

These are the elements that form the central moral claims that voters must weigh as they seek to approach their political responsibilities through a framework of discipleship. Hauntingly, Pope Francis advances these claims not as

abstractions but with the human faces of the victims who suffer concretely from the failure of our society to advance specific dimensions of the common good. As voters seeking to be disciples, we must maintain a focus in our political discernment on these very human faces, so as to inoculate ourselves against the powerful tendency in our culture to selectively minimize the power of any of these moral claims out of self-interest or partisanship, class, or race.

The primary step of moral conversion to the common good requires an ever deeper affective understanding of how the commitment to the dignity of the human person radically embraces each of the issues that Pope Francis identified as constitutive of the common good of the United States at this moment in our history. It requires, in a very real sense, the development of “a Catholic political imagination” that sees the mutual linkages between poverty and the disintegration of families, war and the refugee crisis around the world, the economic burdens of the aging, and our societal lurch toward euthanasia.

Setting Priorities

A second step in the moral conversion to the common good for voting requires discernment about how Catholics should prioritize the major elements of the common good in the United States today. If immigration, abortion, poverty, religious liberty, the family, war and peace, the environment, the rights of workers, trafficking in drugs, and assisted suicide all constitute central elements of the common good, which issues are pre-eminent?

Many widely circulated independent Catholic voter guides propose that the concept of intrinsic evil provides an automatic process for prioritizing the elements of the political common good in the United States.

The church teaches that certain acts are incapable of being ordered to God since in their very structure they contradict the good of the person made in God’s likeness. Such actions are termed “intrinsically evil” and are morally illicit no matter what the intention or circumstances surrounding them. Those who focus primarily on intrinsic evil make two distinct but related claims: 1) that the action of voting for candidates who seek to advance an intrinsic evil in society automatically involves the voter morally in that intrinsic evil in an illicit way; and 2) Catholic teaching demands that political opposition to intrinsically evil acts, like abortion, euthanasia, and embryonic experimentation, must be given automatic priority over all other issues for the purposes of voting.

The recent statement of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” shows why this argument is simplistic and thus misleading. The bishops’ statement clearly asserts the absoluteness of the prohibitions against concrete intrinsically evil acts, emphasizing that no circumstances or intentions can justify performing or illicitly cooperating with such acts. At the same time, “Faithful

Citizenship” recognizes that voting for a candidate whose policies may advance a particular intrinsic evil is not in itself an intrinsically evil act. Voting for candidates is a complex moral action in which the voter must confront an entire array of competing candidates’ positions in a single act of voting. It is crucial that in voting for a candidate who supports the advancement of an intrinsic evil, Catholic voters not have the intention of supporting that specific evil, since such an intention would involve them directly in the evil itself. But voters will often find themselves in situations where one candidate supports an intrinsically evil position, yet the alternative realistic candidates all support even graver evils in the totality of their positions.

This is particularly true in the United States today. The list of intrinsic evils specified by Catholic teaching includes not only abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and embryonic experimentation but also actions that exploit workers, create or perpetuate inhuman living conditions, or advance racism. It is extremely difficult, and often completely impossible, to find candidates whose policies will not advance several of these evils in American life.

Even more important, a fatal shortcoming of the category of intrinsic evil as a foundation for prioritizing the major elements of the political common good lies in the fact that while the criterion of intrinsic evil identifies specific human acts that can never be justified, it is not a measure of the relative gravity of evil in human or political acts. Some intrinsically evil acts are less gravely evil than other intrinsically evil actions. Intrinsically evil action can also be less gravely evil than other actions that do not fall under the category of intrinsic evil. For example, telling any lie is intrinsically evil, while launching a major war is not. But it would be morally obtuse to propose that telling a minor lie to constituents should count more in the calculus of voting than a candidate’s policy to go to war. It is the gravity of evil or good present in electoral choices that is primarily determinative of their objective moral character and their contribution to or detraction from the common good. Moreover, because voting is a complex moral action involving mitigating circumstances, a vote for a candidate who supports intrinsic evils often does not involve illicit cooperation in those acts. For these reasons the category of intrinsic evil cannot provide a comprehensive moral roadmap for prioritizing the elements of the common good for voting.

The Four Pillars of Life

A far better guide to prioritizing the major elements of the political common good of the United States lies in the intriguing words Pope Francis used in outlining those elements for the bishops of the United States: “I encourage you, then, my brothers, to confront the challenging issues of our time. Ever present within them is life as gift and responsibility.”

At this moment there are four pre-eminent political issues facing the United States that touch upon life as gift and responsibility in a decisive way.

The first is abortion. The direct destruction of more than one million human lives every year constitutes a grievous wound upon our national soul and the common good. It touches upon the very core of our understanding of life as gift and responsibility. As Pope Francis wrote in “Laudato Si’,” “How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is unwanted and creates difficulties. ‘If personal and social sensitivity toward the acceptance of the new life is lost, then other forms of acceptance that are valuable for society also wither away.’”

The second is poverty. In a world of incredible wealth, more than five million children die every year from hunger, poor sanitation, and the lack of potable water. Millions more die from a lack of the most elementary medical care. In “The Joy of the Gospel,” Pope Francis wrote: “Just as the commandment ‘Thou shalt not kill’ sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say ‘thou shalt not’ to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills.” The United States is the most powerful economic actor in the world today, and even the most basic ethic of solidarity demands that it take dramatic steps to reform the international systems of trade, finance, and development assistance in order to save lives in the poorest sections of the world. Moreover, inside the United States, the realities of exclusion and inequality created by poverty are growing, menacingly sapping the solidarity that is the foundation for our national identity and accentuating the fault lines of race and class. In the richest nation in human history, homeless people live on the streets, the seriously mentally ill are all too often left without effective care, and our prisons overflow with young men who are disproportionately poor and of color.

A third pre-eminent issue centering upon life as gift and responsibility is care of the earth, our common home. The progressive degradation of the global environment has created increased poverty and death among many of the poorest peoples on earth. Each year thousands of species are destroyed, lost forever to our children and to the earth’s future. Most chillingly of all, science has clearly established the existence of dramatic climate change produced by human action, a peril that threatens the very future of human existence. Pope Francis underscored the urgency of global action saying: “Every year the problems are getting worse. We are at the limits. If I may use a strong word, I would say that we are at the limits of suicide.”

The final pre-eminent question at stake in the political common good of the United States today is assisted suicide. For at its core, assisted suicide is the bridgehead of a movement to reject the foundational understanding of life as gift and responsibility when confronting end-of-life issues. In 2015 the state legislature of California passed a bill legalizing assisted suicide but would not fund palliative care for the state’s suffering poor at the end of their lives. Such is the “false sense of compassion” that Pope Francis has described as lying at the heart of the movement to spread assisted suicide. As with abortion, this movement corrodes society’s responsibility to secure the health of its members as an integral component of the common good.

The underlying assault upon the notion of life as gift and responsibility embodied in these four issues marks them as the four central pillars of life for the election of 2016. Each of them reflects the “throwaway culture” that Pope Francis has identified as a central cancer of our modern world. The unborn child, the poor, the sick, and the elderly are all disposable; even the very planet that is vital for the continuation of human life itself has become disposable.

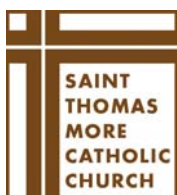
A Sign and a Safeguard

In his closing remarks to Congress and the American people, Pope Francis said: “A nation can be considered great when it defends liberty, as Lincoln did; when it fosters a culture that enables people to ‘dream’ of full rights for all their brothers and sisters, as Martin Luther King sought to do; when it strives for justice and the cause of the oppressed, as Dorothy Day did by her tireless work....” How different this understanding of national greatness is from the current political conversation in the United States!

Fifty years ago this past December, the fathers of the Second Vatican Council declared that the church embraces her role in the modern age of being “at once a sign and a safeguard of the transcendent character of the human person.” It is essential that every member of the church at all levels of leadership take up this responsibility to reclaim our national politics for the protection of the dignity of the human person and the advancement of the common good.

Most Rev. Robert W. McElroy is the bishop of San Diego.

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