

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



The World Mission Sunday
envelopes attached to the
bulletin today may be
returned any time during
October. Thank you!

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 9, 2016

Pastor's Column

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

Faithful Citizenship—Election Day, Tuesday, November 8

In a few weeks, the Presidential Election will take place. Also, there will be many people and propositions on whom and for which we will need to decide. This will create a full ballot for everyone voting!

Hopefully, all of us are beginning to prepare to vote by gathering information regarding the various candidates and the various propositions that are on the ballot.

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.

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

As we vote then for specific candidates, we need to be examining them through the Catholic lens of "Pro-life," and then, according to our conscience, vote for the candidates and party that exhibits best the "Pro-life" characteristics of the Catholic Church.

Always be mindful that no one can tell you how to vote! The Magisterium of the Church will inform you what the Catholic position is 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.

Although the Catholic Church does not endorse specific political parties nor specific candidates, She does, at times, endorse specific propositions that may be on the ballot.

This year the California Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops has made their position known on three Propositions that will appear on the California November ballot. They are endorsing a "Yes" on Propositions 57 and 62 and asking for a "No" on Proposition 66.

(Continued on page 2)

Pastor's Column (continued from page 1)

Enclosed in today's bulletin is an insert that will give you a Catholic perspective to help you in your preparation for voting.

Please take time to read and reflect on its content. Also the insert contains the names of websites to which you can go for further information and reflection.

Take time in the coming weeks to become an informed voter.

The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society...is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity. The mission of the lay faithful is therefore to configure social life correctly, respecting its legitimate autonomy and cooperating with other citizens according to their respective competencies and fulfilling their own responsibility.

—Deus Caritas Est, #28, Pope Benedict XVI, 2006

F. Mike

St. Thomas More Church Has Been Nominated for an Orchid Award!

The San Diego Architectural Foundation has nominated our Church for an Orchid Award.

Fifteen projects in the San Diego area have been nominated to receive this Orchid Award for quality architectural design.

Orchids & Onions is the only interactive, community-based program geared towards raising awareness and encouraging practical discourse in response to San Diego's built environment.

Each year, a jury of design professionals is selected to determine the official Orchids and Onions based upon public submissions in a variety of categories.

The Awards Ceremony Celebration, on Thursday, October 13, begins at 6:00pm in Horton Plaza Park, Downtown San Diego, with great catered food and drink, followed by the actual Awards Ceremony at nearby Spreckels Theater at 8:00pm.

It is at this Awards Ceremony at 8:00pm that the **GRAND ORCHID WINNER** will be announced! St. Thomas More is in the running.

If you would like to be a part of this very special evening and celebration, go online to www.orchidsandonions.org to purchase tickets.

It promises to be an evening of good food, drink, fellowship, and a celebration of the architecture that graces America's Finest City!

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.

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 Parishioners

**Emil Wick & Steven Mayberry
Thomas & Robyn Meier & Family**

Announcing the Baptism of

**Hudsen Allan Balfour
Cooper Khannakhjavani**

on October 9

Our Christian community welcomes you with great joy!

Congratulations to

Mike & Deirdre Green

who celebrated their 23rd anniversary of marriage on October 2.

*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 **Rodrigo & Berta Uribe** in memory of **Candelaria Montecelo**.



In Memoriam



Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Frank Stoddard, who died on September 26. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, October 15, at 10:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep his wife, Mary Ann, 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.

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 encourage every STM family to donate one nonperishable food item each weekend when they come to Mass.

Together we can help feed the hungry in our local community.



Readings for the Week Ahead

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

Sunday, October 9 (144)

*Twenty-Eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

2 Kings 5:14-17

Psalm 98:1-4

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Luke 17:11-19

Monday, October 10 (467)

Galatians 4:22-24,26-27,31-5:1

Psalm 113:1b-5a,6-7

Luke 11:29-32

Tuesday, October 11 (468)

John XXIII, pope

Galatians 5:1-6

Psalm 119:41,43-45,47-48

Luke 11:37-41

Wednesday, October 12 (469)

Galatians 5:18-25

Psalm 1:1-4,6

Luke 11:42-46

Thursday, October 13 (470)

Ephesians 1:1-10

Psalm 98:1-6

Luke 11:47-54

Friday, October 14 (656)

Callistus I, pope, martyr

1 Peter 5:1-4

Psalm 40:2,4ab,7-11

Luke 22:24-30

Saturday, October 15 (472)

Teresa of Jesus, virgin, doctor

Ephesians 1:15-23

Psalm 8:2-3b,4-7

Luke 12:8-12

Sunday, October 16 (147)

Twenty-Ninth Sunday

in Ordinary Time

Exodus 17:8-13

Psalm 121:1-8

2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Luke 18:1-8

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
Bob Baker
Rosemary Ballard
Jose Luis Barbosa
Patricia Barbour
Francie Barron
Clarice Bednarz
Taylor Bell
John Bennici
Regina Bentz
Lisa Berg
Roseanne Berg
Mary Betz
Betty Jean Bielich
Pietër Boets & Family
Zane Breier
Janet Brown
Katie Browne
Anita Buerger
Amelia Buono
Shelby Campbell
Brianne Campos
Aria Cappeluti
Nanette Carey
Jorge Cartajena
Donald Cashmore
Anne Caywood
The Chambers Family
The Vaughn Clevenger Family
Anne Cline
Carl & Dorothy Coleman
James Coleman
Maria Colfer
Addie Colgan
Judy Colson
Gary Comer
Karen Connell
Geoff Coolidge
Sandra Cracchiolo
Steven Cresencia
Lené Crowe
Karen Flaharty Daley
Beverly de Gelder
Velia Deal & Family
Paul Del Vecchio
Hugo Delgado, Jr.
Cassandra D'Ercole
Christine DeSantis
Cecilia DeSimone
David de Villeneuve
Carole Dillon
Elizabeth Doherty's Aunt Jackie
Art & Dave Dossman
Steven Douglas
Marge Egan
Jerome Elbacha
Arthur Eral
Carolyn Erickson Ey
Victoria Lopez Fenton
The Fiore Family
Fr. James Flanagan
Mary Fleming
Ryan Flum
Ernie Follis
Eugene Franciscus
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
Lou Gordon
George Gritt
Luke Guent
Susan Hallahan
Colleen Hanna
The Harker Family
Dorothy Harrison
Michelle Harrison & Family
Barbara Hatem
LaNay Hazzard
Lillian Hills
Georgia Ann Hodina
Samara Hook
Susan Hori
Iolanda Iacobelli
Katherine Jacobs
Craig Johnson
Jacqueline Johnson
Sue Johnston
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
Pauline Lapre's sister Justine
Brandon LeBlanc
Susan Lee
Jake Lefferdink
Jeremiah Lemus
Aleah Leon
Ashley Load
Cassandra & Lauren Loretto
Jack Lucarelli
Mary Anne Lucio
Evadna Lynn
Joaquin Maldonado
The Maldonado Family
The Maldonado Trejo Family
Paige Mansell
Gloria Maupin
Colleen McCall
Virginia McConnell
Paige McCoy
Jerry McEniry
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
Andrew Philip Nacional
Angela Nacional
Melanie Nacional
Nida Navarro
Richard Obsitnik
Kare O'Dell
Laura Paciorenk Gloor
Ethan Palm
Cynthia Pearson
Sallina 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
Rita Ritchie
Ralda Rizke
Lily Robinson
Bea Rocha
Maria Rogers
The Russó Family
Rachel Sainc
Sam Sam
Cindy Sanelli
Lori Sanna
Linda Schmidt
Grace Schweighofer
Joan Shea
Elizabeth Shirzad
Nick Soltau
Darek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski
Don St. Pierre
Patricia St. Pierre
Sybil Staples
Mike Sterling
The Stoddard Family
Laura Bernard Stover, MD
Pete Sullivan
Pat Swanton
Steve Tandy
Julie Teare
Laura Thiele
Frank & Mary Lou Thompson
Tommy & Ginger Thompson
Sarah Tillinghast
William Tompson
Stephen Toth, Jr.
Olivia Trejo
The Trejo/Beltran Family
The Trejo/Maldonado/Uribe Family
Frank Urso
Josephina Velasquez
Martin Vertson
Lucy Vienna
Lucy Viramontes
Vanessa Vitiello
Wilson Wanner
Kevin Watson-Graff
Kevin Webb
Jerry Wechsler
Rylee West
The Xavier Family
Patricia Zavala
Jeanne Zeltner

Calendar Highlights

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

Oct 9	Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
Oct 10	Women's Guild Luncheon Meeting
Oct 16	Liturgy of the Word for Children at 8:30am and 10:30am Masses
Oct 16	Blood Drive
Oct 22-23	Women's Guild Bake Sale
Oct 23	Knights of Columbus Breakfast
Oct 23	Bone Marrow Donor Event
Oct 23	Oktober Fest Event
Oct 28	Fr. Donald Calloway presents <i>No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy</i>
Nov 1	All Saints Day Masses at 8:15am and 7:00pm
Nov 2	All Souls Day Masses at 8:15am and 7:00pm
Nov 3	Spirited Seniors Outing to Miniature Engineering Craftsmanship Museum
Nov 5-6	St. Bonaventure Clothing Drive
Nov 19	Women's Guild Game Day
Nov 20	Prayer Service for the end of Jubilee Year of Mercy

*The Prayers for Women Religious
have moved to the monthly
calendar insert—
please check there.*

Deployed Military

*As a faith community let us pray for all who
serve our country in these troubled times. We
pray especially for those connected to our
Parish who have been deployed:*

Gunnery Sgt. Fernando Andrade, Jr.
Lt. Devon Czazasty
Capt. Brandon M. Felker, USAF
Patrick G. Felker, USN
Grant Fischer
1st Lt. Eric Galamay
MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC
Sgt. Alex Garcia
Adolfo Granados, MD, US 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 CTR2, US Navy
Sr. Airman Robert Spear, USAF
Sgt. Charles Watts, USMC

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 8, 5:00pm
Beverly Young ☩

Sunday, October 9, 8:30am
Douglass Price-Williams ☩

Sunday, October 9, 10:30am
Marie Fallone ☩

Monday, October 10, 8:15am
Walter McElroy ☩

Tuesday, October 11, 8:15am
Margie Lydon ☩

Wednesday, October 12, 8:15am
Candilaria Montecelo ☩

Thursday, October 13, 8:15am
Jack Gillen ☩

Friday, October 14 8:15am
Dolly Cole ☩

Saturday, October 15, 5:00pm
Fiorina DiDuca Tusei ☩

Sunday, October 16, 8:30am
Nikola Ljubic ☩

Sunday, October 16, 10:30am
Joe & Silvio Voza ☩

Social Ministries & Outreach

Bone Marrow Donor Needed

One of our young Parishioners, Jerome Elbacha, age 11, needs our help. He was diagnosed with Leukemia and was in remission for over a year. Unfortunately, this horrific cancer has returned, leaving Jerome with no other alternative than to undergo a bone marrow transplant. He will need an exact bone marrow match as soon as possible in order to be completely cured of this life-threatening illness.

Here is how we can help him: the website, www.BetheMatch.org will give you vital information if you, a loved one, or someone you know may qualify to become a donor. Stop by the Marrow Donor Registry Drive at STM on Sunday, October 23, 9:00am-12:00pm.

Thank you for taking the time to check and thank you for supporting Ralda, Joseph, and Jerome Elbacha. God's Blessings!

La Posada Men's Shelter Fundraiser Luncheon

Support *La Posada de Guadalupe*! Come to the Annual Luncheon Friday, October 28, at the Holiday Inn, Palomar Airport Road, 11:30am-1:00pm. Tickets: \$75 per person; \$650 per table.

La Posada de Guadalupe, the Inn of Our Lady of Guadalupe, located off Faraday Avenue in Carlsbad, welcomes homeless men and farm workers from all of North County. The shelter has a diverse population. Most of the men are between 35-55 years of age. Last year, 24 of them were veterans. Besides room and board, the men receive a variety of case management services that support them to become independent, healthy, and contributing members of their communities. Farm workers have jobs but need a place to sleep and eat; they pay for part of their room and board.

We need your help! The Friends of La Posada are hosting this annual fundraiser. Please join us! Cathy Blecki and other members of the Social Justice Committee will be on the plaza after Masses on October 8-9 to sell tickets, hand out free newsletters, and accept any donations you would like to make. You may also visit our website to sign up and pay for the luncheon at www.friendsoflaposada.org or call Cathy Blecki at 760-704-6407.

St. Bonaventure Indian Mission

"Lord, when did we see you naked and fail to clothe you?" Our annual clothing drive to help the Navajo served by St. Bonaventure Mission is coming up on November 5-6. These good people are among the poorest of the poor in our great country and in great need of clothing of all sorts, of all ages, and all sizes. They are also in need of shoes (no heels please). STM conducts the only dedicated drive to help the mission, and they have come to rely on our continued help. Please collect your serviceable used clothing and footwear and bring them to the STM parking lot on the above date. Any questions, contact Deacon Tom thomasgoeltz@aol.com or 760-727-8442. Thank you and God Bless!

Brother Benno's

Although our toiletry and diaper drive is successfully over, the needs of the people served by Brother Benno's continues. Please remember them in your prayers and in your generosity. Visit www.brotherbenno.org.

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.



Natural Family Planning—Contact Cheryl and Dave Ross at davidandcherylross@gmail.com to learn more about the various NFP methods and determine which method is right for you and your family.

Struggling to conceive but nothing is happening? Or doctors tell you IVF is your only hope? Want to space children naturally and effectively? Come listen to a free Introductory Presentation of the Creighton Model FertilityCare system. Every third Thursday of the month. Next presentation: Thursday, October 20, 7:00pm, St. Thomas More, Parish Center Upper Level. Please RSVP with Beth at 619-630-8086 or beth@veritasfertilitycare.com.

Relationship Skills Workshops—Deacon John and Debbie Fredette will be presenting Relationship Skills Workshops every Tuesday evening, 7:00-8:30pm, at St. Thomas More in the Parish Center Lower Level through January 17. Come and explore how to improve your relationship! You can attend one workshop, several, or all of them. The topic for October 11 is *Re-defining the Power Struggle*. There is no pre-registration or fee. For more information call Deacon John at 760-758-4100 x104.

Bishops' Letter on Marriage—Society's Challenges: "We recognize that couples face many challenges to building and sustaining a strong marriage. Some challenges, however, are fundamental in the sense that they are directed at the very meaning and purposes of marriage. (Here) we want to discuss four such challenges: contraception, same-sex unions, divorce, and cohabitation." To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

Marriage Moments—"Only one leper returned to give thanks to God" (Luke 17:18). Gratitude is a popular poster virtue these days, but inspiration does not always translate into action. Today do two acts of gratitude. #1: Notice and thank your beloved for an act of kindness. #2: Note a problem in your life. Turn it around by imagining how it could have been worse. Thank God. By Susan Vogt, www.SusanVogt.net.

Parenting Pointers—When things are not going well for you or your child (and there are plenty of days like this) try reversing your attitude. Think of one thing that you are grateful for this day. Ask your child to stretch to think of something too. 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.

Blood Drive

Our fall blood drive is on Sunday, October 23, 8:30am-2:30pm on the Parish Center Lower Level. You may make reservations to donate on the plaza after Masses this weekend or contact Stacey & Morgan Espe at SocialMinistry@stmoside.org or 760-224-2699. Thank you for giving the gift of life!

Parish Events

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 84576.

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 84576.

Women's Guild News

It's time to reserve your spot at the Women's Guild Luncheon on Monday, October 10, at 11:00am in the Parish Center Lower Level. Please give a call or email Patty Remington, Hospitality Chair, at 760-805-6935 or cprem@pacbell.net. The room will be decorated beautifully for fall, with specially-themed décor to complement our program, featuring Japanese and Hawaiian dancing. The Hawaiian dance troupe includes four lovely ladies whose graceful movements tell us stories of the Island culture. An added attraction is Takamei Stephens, who will perform two Japanese dances that are guaranteed to mesmerize and enthrall us.

Mark your calendars for Game Day on Saturday November 19, 10:00am-3:00pm in the Parish Center Lower Level Snacks and lunch will be served, and you are encouraged to bring your family, friends, and games for several hours of fun and excitement. There will be door prizes and opportunity baskets to round out the day. Tickets will go on sale at the October 10 luncheon meeting, and sign-up sheets to bring food items, opportunity baskets, door prizes, and card tables will also be available.

Hope to see you on October 10! Have a blessed week.

—Kathy Gerhard, president

Catholic Widows and Widowers of North County

The second Sunday of each month is our General Meeting and Potluck at 2:00pm. On the fourth Sunday we meet for a Communal Mass at various Catholic churches in North County. Check www.cwwnc.com or the bulletin board in the Parish Center Lower Level for our calendar of events including theatre, bowling, bocce ball, dining out, hiking, and more more! RSVPs are required. For more information call Carol Kope 760-726-0533.

STM \$crip News

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**

World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday, organized by the Propagation of the Faith, is a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice. An envelope is attached to the bulletin and may be returned any time during October.

Mission dioceses around the world—about 1,100 at this time—receive regular annual assistance from the funds collected. Your prayers and contributions are most appreciated!



The Gala team thanks you for your support in the coming months during our "Year of Celebration" events, listed below. We invite you to join us!! This is a FUN way to continue doing God's work.

Oktober Fest

Sunday, October 23, 1:00-5:00pm

PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE

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

Waiting List

*** Payments Due ***

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 chrriss@stmoside.org.**

Pictorial Directory Update

We are expecting delivery between December 8-15!

For those of you who have the complimentary 8x10 photo to pick up, you can come to the Parish Office during business hours (8:30am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday), or pick it up at the information table on the plaza after all weekend Masses.

**Please note that if you did not have your photo taken at STM during our photo sessions in June, July, and August, OR at another Lifetouch photo location but submitted a photo, there will be a \$10 charge for processing and for the photo directory.*

Kim Wright, 760-518-8465, kimw@stmoside.org

Thanksgiving Dinner Update

After preparing and serving Thanksgiving Dinners at St. Thomas More for the past eleven years, we regret that we will no longer be able to perform this service. We have immensely enjoyed doing this, sharing the holiday with so many wonderful people, and we want to thank the Parish staff for their support over the years. If anyone is interested in taking over this tradition, please contact the Parish Office. We have purchased many items over the years that we would be happy to pass along, and we certainly will be available to "mentor" anyone who would like to continue the dinners.

—Bruce and Wilma Rolland and Tom and Karen Oshinski

Do YOU Recycle?

The youth of the Parish will soon be starting a recycling ministry to raise money for their activities. The California CRV program provides a wonderful opportunity for fundraising, as more than 60% of the money raised through the CRV program never gets redeemed. Watch for the blue recycling bins on the plaza after Masses in the coming weeks and make sure to deposit your eligible drink containers in them. There will also be an information table on the plaza explaining how the program works.

Liturgy & Music *Worship God*

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

GOD RESPONDS WITH COMPASSION

by Joe Grant,
from Celebration
November 2016,
with permission.

The liturgical year winds down while we revel in the letting-go lessons of fall, and savor the sweetness of the harvest season. In these extraordinary times, the psalms urge us to place our trust humbly in the sovereign power of a maker who is infinite yet intimate with our struggles, who leans in to listen to the little, who defends the oppressed, who is closest to the crushed yet powerless before a hardened heart, and whose universal kindness is revolutionary.

This month, these poetic hymns of praise, thanksgiving, and blessing echo Jesus' teachings in the Gospel of Luke. On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus demonstrates through example, encounter and exhortation how faith is expressed in the healing power of gratefulness, persistent prayer, humble contrition, and openhearted generosity.

Harden not your heart

The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Oct. 2) offers a song about God's sovereignty over all creation. Psalm 95 describes our exuberant response to an experience of Presence, when we "come before" or feel the nearness of the Holy One. Every authentic encounter with our mysterious Maker provokes humility and awe, and evokes joy and gladness. As Teilhard de Chardin remarked: "Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God." Whether God approaches us in the majesty of creation, in love's tender pains, or in the turbulence of our times, there is one precondition to breaking open such encounters—a permeable heart.

The ends of the earth have seen salvation

On the 28th Sunday (Oct. 9), Psalm 98 sings God's salvation to all the earth, a healing mission without bounds or borders. Rooted in the Latin word *salus*, meaning health and

well-being, salvation is boundary-breaking power. Such compassion will not be contained, neither by fears nor fences, for God is ruler of all. Earth and every one of her creatures comes under God's care. This psalm challenges us to stretch the perimeter of our compassionate connections and embrace a deeper, wider, more challenging love, without exclusion.

God guard you in your coming and your going

While the Gospel presents a parable about persistence in prayer, on the 29th Sunday (Oct. 16), Psalm 121 offers a blessing for travelers in harm's way. This psalm of the ascents, or pilgrim's song, may have been a blessing given to those preparing for their treacherous return journey, beyond the safe confines of the holy city. Looking past the walls to the wooded hills with trepidation, they were encouraged to place their trust in God, who delivers and protects the vulnerable in all their coming and going. We can address these same words today to families forced to travel in times of terror, or flee homelands in the hope of finding refuge on foreign shores. The Brazilian poet Helder Camara offered similar encouragement to the people of Recife when he wrote: "[God] ... is far less likely to abandon us in hardship than in times of ease."

When the just cry out, God hears

The theme of God's protection for the sorely afflicted returns on the 30th Sunday (Oct. 23). With a Gospel parable, Jesus contrasts the self-righteous devotion of a Pharisee with the remorse of a public sinner and declares humility and contrition as the gateway into our merciful Maker's heart. This is echoed in the poetry of Psalm 34, which describes "God most lowly," who is closest to the brokenhearted, leaning in to listen to those who are poor. Like water,



As they were going they were cleansed.

Luke 17:14

God's merciful justice is drawn down to the thirstiest places. It is not the self-righteous and secure but those with humble and contrite hearts who are most capable letting in love. Proximity to those whom life has broken brings us closer to God. There is a warning for devotees of right living. In the diligent practice of our faith, we can run the risk of falling into self-righteousness. Lament, remorse, and humility rescue us from self-absorption, liberating us to forgive and be forgiven.

God raises up all who are bowed down

On the 31st Sunday (Oct. 30), Psalm 145 praises the Most High, who does not overlook the lowly. God raises up those who are bypassed or downtrodden. This countercultural song describes a universal maker who flaunts any social convention that would separate God's children by caste, position, race, gender, or ability. Echoed in Mary's Magnificat, this revolutionary message lets us ponder the paradox of infinite intimacy, in which no life is deemed insignificant. As we confront the desecration of creation, this hymn challenges us to imitate our cosmic Creator, who exudes compassion for the smallest and raises up what others might debase.

Upcoming Music



OCTOBER 16
29th Sunday in
Ordinary Time



5:00pm

Tower Bells

8:30am

Sanctuary Choir

10:30am

Praise Team

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

Our Next REACH Day Is October 16

Is Your Child Enrolled in Faith Formation?
It's not too late to register for classes!
Contact Debbie in the Faith Formation Office Today!

Sacrament Prep News



October 16 is the next Parent Meeting for
Year 2 Reconciliation/Eucharist
Sacrament Preparation from 12:30-2:00pm
on the Parish Center Upper Level.

October 24 is our Next XLT
for all Parish Families. Dinner served at 6:30pm
and XLT event starts promptly at 7:00pm.

Support Tommy's Café after Masses!

Specialty Coffees | Homemade Cinnamon
Rolls | Donuts | Bagels | Juices | Lunch for the
family on those busy REACH Sundays! Come
check out Tommy's Café and Support Youth
Ministry at our Parish.

The "Surfer Priest" Is Coming to STM!

*This Is a Free
Family Event Open
to All Ages!*



Author of
*Under the Mantle,
No Turning Back: A
Witness to Mercy, and
Champions of the
Rosary*

Join us Friday evening, October 28, at 7:00pm
for Fr. Donald Calloway's talk
NO TURNING BACK: A WITNESS TO MERCY

Adult Faith Formation

Bible Study News



Don't Miss Out on These
Great Studies!
Register Today by Calling
the Faith Formation Office
at 760-758-4100 x110



Wednesday Morning
Bible Study Continues
October 12, 2016
9:00-11:00am

Thursday Evening
Bible Study Continues
October 13, 2016
7:00-8:30pm
Childcare is Available

Relationship Skills Workshop



Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30pm
The next session will be held on October 11.
No need to register, and there is no cost to attend.
Come for some or all of the sessions.

Expecting?



Why not schedule your Baptismal appointment
today before the arrival of your little one? Please
contact the Faith Formation Office at 760-758-
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Middle School



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4:30-6pm

High School

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Wednesdays
6:30-8:30pm

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Matt Franklin mattf@stmoside.org

Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

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

Collection for Week of October 1/2, 2016

Number of Registered Households	1,236
Offertory	\$11,233.84
Offertory (Loose Collection)	\$940.50
Total	\$2,174.34

Mortgage/Building Completion Fund Income

September 15, 2014 to September 30, 2016

Mortgage Offering Collected	\$1,104,334.70
Less Administrative Costs	\$45,826.00
Payment toward Parish Reserves (10%)	\$109,309.47
Payment toward Mortgage	\$983,785.23
Mortgage Payment Due	\$1,091,013.04
Mortgage Payment Overage/(Shortfall)	(\$107,227.81)

Memorial Items	\$1,698,250.90
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Please continue to support the
Mortgage/Building Completion Fund!

"Did You Know " Collection September 2016

1,643.00

Restaurant Fundraisers September 2016

Nucci's	\$280.23
Nucci's	\$123.42

Got Deductions?

2016 YEAR-END CHECKLIST



- † **BE SURE TO COMPLETE** all gifts by December 31 to qualify for tax savings on this year's tax return. **Advance planning with the Parish Office is essential, since the office will be closed from Friday, December 23, 2016, at noon and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.**
- † Donations received at the Saturday, December 31, 2016 Vigil Mass will be credited in the 2016 tax year.
- † **Envelopes POSTMARKED by Saturday, December 31, 2016, will be counted toward the 2016 tax year.**
- † **Annual Catholic Appeal** ~ Parishioners with a balance due on their pledges made to this year's ACA are requested to conclude payments by December 31, 2016. *(Tithing families, know that your tithe covers your ACA contribution.)*
- † Keep all gift receipts and acknowledgment letters, especially for gifts of \$250 or more.

For more information please contact:

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

Stewards of a Missionary Church

The month of October is an ideal time to focus our prayerful reflections on the world and to see its peoples as a gift from God.



With the celebration of World Mission Sunday, October is a month that offers Catholics world-wide the opportunity to renew their commitment to proclaim the Gospel and to give a greater missionary focus to Parish activities. It is time to reflect on the global context of our stewardship, and to express our gratitude to missionaries who bear witness to Christ in the most remote and challenging places of the world, often with their lives.

The month of October can remind us that being witnesses to Jesus Christ is a Christian Stewardship responsibility of us all, and that in a world that is experiencing increasingly disturbing forms of alienation and indifference, our communion of faith can offer signs of hope and work to make the planet a home for all peoples.

We are "communion" because of the gift of the Eucharist. And this gift that we celebrate in the sacrament is not something we can keep to ourselves. By its very nature it demands to be shared with everyone. That is one reason the missionary impulse of our Church has always been a sign of vitality in its unique witness of unity around the world.

There are a number of ways you can focus on the missionary activity of the Church:

- † Include petitions for the Church's missionary work in your daily prayers.
- † Increase your awareness of the wider global mission of the Church.
- † Discover ways to participate in specific missionary activities taking place in your parish or diocese.
- † Give generously on World Mission Sunday, celebrated this year on October 23.

The Church's work around the world is as important as the work in our own neighborhood. Let us be mindful this month that we are Christian Stewards of the Gospel, called to proclaim it to the ends of the earth, bringing hope to a world that hungers for Christ's peace.

—ICSC October 2016 e-bulletin (with permission)

Nothing happens unless first a dream.

—Carl Sandburg

Memorial Item Donations Available

Pipe Organ	\$850,000
Christ on the Road to Emmaus Bronze Sculpture for Daily Mass Chapel	\$27,000
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) 12 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

06/15/16

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

Father/Son and Mother/Daughter Chastity Luncheon Retreats—Saturday, October 22, 12:00-6:00pm, for ages 11 years and up. Equip your son and/or daughter with the necessary tools to live a life of chastity and modesty. Parents, this is your chance to speak to your child about this most important topic! For information and registration, visit www.thegorettigroup.com.

The Glory of the Lord Shines Upon You: Epiphanies in LGBT Lives—January 6-8, 2017; Non-silent Retreat for Women and Men at The Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos, California; Fr. Michael Zampelli, SJ; Dr. Sheila Nelson; and, Mr. Gregory Dale Schultz. A weekend retreat for the LGBT community to relax and reflect on the mysteries of Incarnation and Epiphany... How does God take flesh in our lives? How does God's glory shine upon us? How are we being called to become "a light for the nations?" The weekend will include ample opportunity for private, silent prayer, communal prayer, and group faith sharing. Information Contact: reservations@jrclosaltos.org.

✠ ✠ ✠

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.

Around the Diocese—Visit www.sdcatholic.org to learn more about activities available through the Diocese and other Parishes.

Online Post-Abortion Support—Visit abortionchangesyou.com.

Bereavement Support Group—Meets every Tuesday, 9:30-11:00am, at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Room 5 of the Parish Center, 6628 Santa Isabel St., Carlsbad. All those negotiating the loss of a loved one are invited to participate. For more information, contact Liz Littel at 760-917-4404.

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

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:

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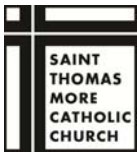
We can accept vehicles without current registration
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**As of September 12 we have netted \$65,807
from this program. Thank you donors!**



**For more information, contact the Parish Office:
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Parish Contacts

Updated 09/28/2016

Council Chairpersons: Pastoral-Lisa Attardo 760- 940-1505 • Finance-Ron Briseno 760-224-3105 • Development-Jody Cadieux 760-809-9761

Pastoral Council Committees

Religious Education/Faith Formation/Evangelization

Rory Griffin 760-414-3939
 Religious Education for Adolescents & Children (RE.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 Aulio 760-295-5530
 Youth Ministry..... Matt Franklin 760-758-4100 x161
 High School Matt Franklin 760-758-4100 x161
 Young Adults Matt Franklin 760-758-4100 x161
 Religious Education for Adults...Debbie Fredette 760-758-4100 x110
 Bible Study..... Patt Goeltz 760-727-8442
 Centering Prayer Mary Williams 760-758-4100 x100
 Men's Fellowship..... Dcn. John Fredette 760-758-4100 x1104
 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 Goscienski 760-732-1414
 Liturgical Ministries..... Douglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140
 Music Ministry..... Douglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140
 Sacristans—Altar Guild Diana Diaz 760-758-7870
 Sacristans—Altar Linens Anna Meyers 760-727-4998

Marriage & Family Life Jen Frost 858-692-7438

Bringing the Celebration Home Jen Frost 858-692-7438
 Diocesan Liaison..... Andrea Spencer 760-560-6540
 Family Services..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
 Marriage Preparation..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
 Widows & Widowers of North County..... Carol Kope 760-726-0533

Parish Organizations & Events..... Patrick 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 Goscienski 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
 Lee Cocco 760-598-6248
 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
 Kitchen Manager..... Rebecca Eyer 760-758-4100 x100

Development Council Committees

Annual Catholic Appeal..... Lorraine Doering 760-758-4100 x102
 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 Andrea Sweeney 760-216-6389
 Lisa Seufert 760-732-5965
 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 x104 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
 Lia Keane, Director of Ark Nursery 760-758-4100 x100 liak@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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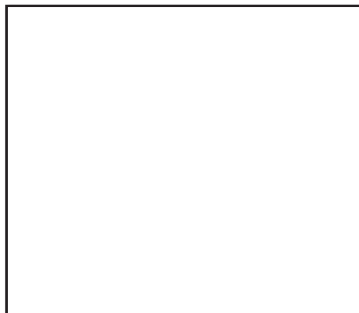
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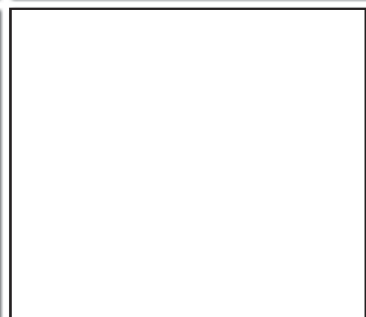
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Dr. Michael Maksim
Parishioner



November 2016 - As a Catholic voter...

How do I Decide?

Our nation faces many political challenges that demand well-informed moral choices: the ongoing destruction of a million innocent human lives each year by abortion; physician-assisted suicide; the redefinition of marriage; the excessive consumption of material goods and destruction of natural resources, harming the environment as well as the poor; deadly attacks on Christians and other religious minorities throughout the world; efforts to narrow the definition and exercise of religious freedom; economic policies that fail to prioritize the needs of poor people, at home and abroad; a broken immigration system and a worldwide refugee crisis; and wars, terror, and violence that threaten every aspect of human life and dignity.

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world.

Visit the California Catholic Conference Website to learn more:

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The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



Part I of II: Our Call as Catholic Citizens

This brief document is Part I of a summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.



"If indeed 'the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics,' the Church 'cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.'"¹ So writes Pope Francis, quoting Pope Benedict XVI.

Our nation faces many political challenges that demand well-informed moral choices:

- The ongoing destruction of a million innocent human lives each year by abortion
- Physician-assisted suicide
- The redefinition of marriage
- The excessive consumption of material goods and the destruction of natural resources, harming the environment as well as the poor
- Deadly attacks on Christians and other religious minorities throughout the world
- Efforts to narrow the definition and exercise of religious freedom
- Economic policies that fail to prioritize the needs of poor people, at home and abroad
- A broken immigration system and a worldwide refugee crisis
- Wars, terror, and violence that threaten every aspect of human life and dignity.²

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world.

Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34).

The US Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to proclaim and live out their faith without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning its moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

Who in the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to any political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to

human life and dignity. This should not discourage us. On the contrary, it makes our obligation to act all the more urgent. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good. Faithful citizenship is an ongoing responsibility, not just an election year duty.

How Can Catholic Social Teaching Help Guide Our Participation?

In the words of Pope Francis, "progress in building a people in peace, justice and fraternity depends on four principles related to constant tensions present in every social reality. These derive from the pillars of the Church's social doctrine, which serve as 'primary and fundamental parameters of reference for interpreting and evaluating social phenomena.'"³ The four principles include the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity. Taken together, these principles provide a moral framework for Catholic engagement in advancing what we have called a "consistent ethic of life" (*Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 22).

Rightly understood, this ethic does not treat all issues as morally equivalent; nor does it reduce Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33). The following summary of the four principles highlights several themes of Catholic social teaching for special consideration: these include **human rights and responsibilities, respect for work and the rights of workers, care for God's creation, and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**⁴

The Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred because every person is created in the image and likeness of God. There is a rich and multifaceted Catholic teaching on human dignity summarized in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. Every human being "must always be understood in his unrepeatable and inviolable uniqueness . . . This entails above all the requirement not only of simple respect on the part of others, especially political and social institutions and their leaders with regard to every man and woman on the earth, but even more, this means that the primary commitment of each person towards others, and particularly of these same institutions, must be for the promotion and integral development of the person" (no. 131). The *Compendium* continues, "It is necessary to 'consider every neighbor without exception

as another self, taking into account first of all his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity' (*Gaudium et Spes*, no. 27). Every political, economic, social, scientific and cultural program must be inspired by the awareness of the primacy of each human being over society."⁵

Subsidiarity

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the family, groups, associations, and local realities—in short, for those economic, social, cultural, recreational, professional, and political communities to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve effective social growth.⁶ The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics, in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

The principle of subsidiarity reminds us that larger institutions in society should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local institutions; yet larger institutions have essential responsibilities when the more local institutions cannot adequately protect human dignity, meet human needs, and advance the common good.⁷

The Common Good

The common good is comprised of “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily.”⁸

Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if **human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met**. Every human being has a right to life, a right to religious freedom, and a right to have access to those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to ourselves, to our families, and to the larger society.

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. An economic system must serve the dignity of the human person and the common good by **respecting the dignity of work and protecting the rights of workers**. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, a broad and fair legalization program with a path to citizenship for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity. Workers also have responsibilities—to provide a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, to treat employers and coworkers with respect, and to carry out their work in ways that contribute to the common good. Workers, employers, and unions should not only advance their own interests but also work together to advance economic justice and the well-being of all.

We have a duty to **care for God's creation**, which Pope Francis refers to in *Laudato Si'* as “our common home.”⁹ We all are called to be careful stewards of God's creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future. Pope Francis, consistent with St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI (World Day of Peace Message, 1990 and 2010), has lifted up pollution, climate change, lack of access to clean water, and the loss of biodiversity as particular challenges. Pope Francis speaks of an “ecological debt” (no. 51) owed by wealthier nations to developing nations. And he calls all of us to an “ecological conversion” (no. 219), by which “the effects of [our] encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in [our] relationship with the world around [us]”.¹⁰ Indeed, this concern with “natural ecology” is an indispensable part of

the broader “human ecology,” which encompasses not only material but moral and social dimensions as well.

Solidarity

Solidarity is “a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to . . . the good of all and of each individual, because we are *all* really responsible for *all*.” It is found in “a commitment to the good of one's neighbor with the readiness, in the Gospel sense, to ‘lose oneself’ for the sake of the other instead of exploiting him, and to ‘serve him’ instead of oppressing him for one's own advantage.”¹¹

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

In a special way, our solidarity must find expression in the **preferential option for the poor and vulnerable**. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor, and the marginalized.

Conclusion

In light of Catholic teaching, the bishops vigorously repeat their call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the promotion of human life and dignity, and the pursuit of the common good. Political participation in this spirit reflects not only the social teaching of our Church but the best traditions of our nation.

Notes

- 1 *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 183.
- 2 This specific list of issues is taken from the Introductory Note to *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2015. For a fuller consideration, see the second document in this series, “The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship; Part II: Making Moral Choices and Applying Our Principles” (2016), and the full statement of the bishops’ *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2015.
- 3 *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 221.
- 4 These principles are drawn from a rich tradition more fully described in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005), no. 160. For more information on these principles, see *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2016, nos. 40ff.
- 5 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 132. This summary represents only a few highlights from the fuller treatment of the human person in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. For the fuller treatment, see especially nos. 124-159 where many other important aspects of human dignity are treated.
- 6 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 185.
- 7 *Centesimus Annus*, no. 48; *Dignitatis Humanae*, nos. 4-6.
- 8 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 164
- 9 *Laudato Si'*, no. 77.
- 10 *Laudato Si'*, nos. 219 and 217.
- 11 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 193. (See Mt 10:40-42, 20:25; Mk 10:42-45; Lk 22:25-27)

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ISBN: 978-1-60137-545-2
Publication No. 7-545

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



Part II of II: Making Moral Choices and Applying Our Principles

This brief document is Part II of a summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.



Part I of the summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, considered the core principles that underlie Catholic engagement in the political realm. Part II is a consideration of the process by which these principles are applied to the act of voting and taking positions on policy issues. It begins with the general consideration of the nature of conscience and the role of prudence. The application of prudential judgment does not mean that all choices are equally valid or that the bishops' guidance and that of other church leaders is just another political opinion or policy preference among many others. Rather, Catholics are urged to listen carefully to the Church's teachers when they apply Catholic social teaching to specific proposals and situations.

How Does the Church Help the Catholic Faithful to Speak About Political and Social Questions?

A Well-Formed Conscience

The Church equips its members to address political questions by helping them develop well-formed consciences. "Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . [Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he [or she] knows to be just and right" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1778). We Catholics have a lifelong obligation to form our consciences in accord with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the Church.

The Virtue of Prudence

The Church also encourages Catholics to develop the virtue of prudence, which enables us "to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1806). Prudence shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives, to determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act. Prudence must be accompanied by courage, which calls us to act. As Catholics seek to advance the common good, we must carefully discern which public policies are morally sound. At times, Catholics may choose different ways to respond to social problems, but we cannot differ on our obligation to protect human life and dignity and help build, through moral means, a more just and peaceful world.

Doing Good and Avoiding Evil

There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor. These intrinsically evil acts must always be rejected and never supported. A preeminent example is the intentional taking of innocent human life, as in abortion. Similarly, human cloning, destructive research on human embryos, and other acts that directly violate the sanctity and dignity of human life including genocide, torture, and the targeting of noncombatants in acts of terror or war, can never be justified. Nor can violations of human dignity, such as acts of racism, treating workers as mere means to an end, deliberately subjecting workers to subhuman living conditions, treating the poor as disposable, or redefining marriage to deny its essential meaning, ever be justified.

Opposition to intrinsically evil acts also prompts us to recognize our positive duty to contribute to the common good and act in solidarity with those in need. Both opposing evil and doing good are essential. As St. John Paul II said, "The fact that only the negative commandments oblige always and under all circumstances does not mean that in the moral life prohibitions are more important than the obligation to do good indicated by the positive commandment."¹ The basic right to life implies and is linked to other human rights such as a right to the goods that every person needs to live and thrive—including food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work.

Avoiding Two Temptations

Two temptations in public life can distort the Church's defense of human life and dignity: The first is a moral equivalence that makes no ethical distinctions between different kinds of issues involving human life and dignity. The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed. The second is the misuse of these necessary moral distinctions as a way of dismissing or ignoring other serious threats to human life and dignity. Racism and other unjust discrimination, the use of the death penalty, resorting to unjust war, environmental degradation, the use of torture, war crimes, the failure to respond to those who are suffering from hunger or a lack of health care or housing, pornography, human trafficking, redefining civil marriage, compromising religious liberty,

or unjust immigration policies are all serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and require us to act.

Making Moral Choices

The bishops do not tell Catholics how to vote; the responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience, aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with always opposing policies that violate human life or weaken its protection.

When morally flawed laws already exist, prudential judgment is needed to determine how to do what is possible to restore justice—even if partially or gradually—without ever abandoning a moral commitment to full protection for all human life from conception to natural death (see St. John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 73).

Prudential judgment is also needed to determine the best way to promote the common good in areas such as housing, health care, and immigration. When church leaders make judgments about how to apply Catholic teaching to specific policies, this may not carry the same binding authority as universal moral principles but cannot be dismissed as one political opinion among others. These moral applications should inform the consciences and guide the actions of Catholics.

As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet a candidate's position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support.¹

What Public Policies Should Concern Catholics Most?

As Catholics, we are led to raise questions about political life other than those that concentrate on individual, material well-being. We focus more broadly on what protects or threatens the dignity of every human life. Catholic teaching challenges voters and candidates, citizens and elected officials, to consider the moral and ethical dimensions of public policy issues. In light of ethical principles, we bishops offer the following policy goals that we hope will guide Catholics as they form their consciences and reflect on the moral dimensions of their public choices:

- Address the preeminent requirement to protect **human life**—by restricting and bringing to an end the destruction of unborn children through abortion and providing women in crisis pregnancies with the supports they need. End the following practices: the use of euthanasia and assisted suicide to deal with the burdens of illness and disability; the destruction of human embryos in the name of research; the use of the death penalty to combat crime; and the imprudent resort to war to address international disputes.
- Protect the fundamental understanding of **marriage** as the life-long and faithful union of one man and one woman

as the central institution of society; promote the complementarity of the sexes and reject false “gender” ideologies; provide better support for family life morally, socially, and economically, so that our nation helps parents raise their children with respect for life, sound moral values, and an ethic of stewardship and responsibility.

- Achieve comprehensive **immigration** reform that offers a path to citizenship, treats immigrant workers fairly, prevents the separation of families, maintains the integrity of our borders, respects the rule of law, and addresses the factors that compel people to leave their own countries.
- Help families and children overcome **poverty** and ensure access to and choice in **education**, as well as decent work at fair, living wages and adequate assistance for the vulnerable in our nation, while also helping to overcome widespread hunger and poverty around the world, especially in the policy areas of development assistance, debt relief, and international trade.
- Ensure full conscience protection and **religious freedom** for individuals and groups to meet social needs, and so enable families, community groups, economic structures, and government to work together to overcome poverty, pursue the common good, and care for creation.
- Provide **health care** while respecting human life, human dignity, and religious freedom in our health care system.
- Continue to oppose policies that reflect racism, hostility toward immigrants, religious bigotry, and other forms of **unjust discrimination**.
- Establish and comply with moral limits on the use of **military force**—examining for what purposes it may be used, under what authority, and at what human cost—with a special view to seeking a responsible and effective response for ending the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East and other parts of the world.
- Join with others **around the world** to pursue peace, protect human rights and religious liberty, and advance economic justice and care for creation.

Notes

1. *Veritatis Splendor*, no. 52.



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ISBN: 978-1-60137-546-9

Publication No. 7-546

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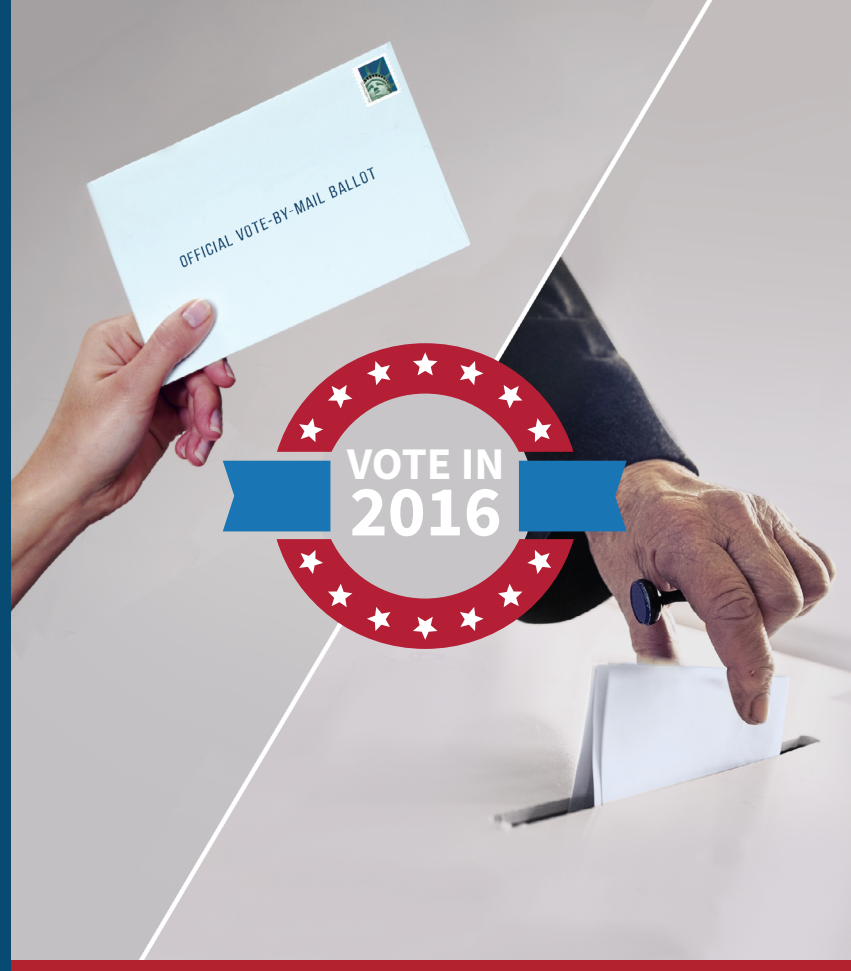
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-
18 years of age or older on Election Day;
.....
-
Not currently imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony; and
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-
Not found by a court to be mentally incompetent.
.....

You can apply online at RegisterToVote.ca.gov or find an application at post offices, libraries and some government offices. In most cases you must register at least 15 days before Election Day to be eligible to vote in that election.

You must re-register to vote if you move, or change your name or political party preference.

Ballot Information

Registered voters receive the Secretary of State’s Official Voter Information Guide in the mail a few weeks before Election Day. County elections offices mail a sample ballot booklet to voters. These nonpartisan guides include information about ballot measures, candidates, voting rights, and more.

Vote by Mail

Any registered voter can vote by mail in California. Fill out the vote-by-mail ballot application in your sample ballot booklet, find one at sos.ca.gov, or contact your county elections office. Your completed application must arrive at your county elections office at least seven days before Election Day.

To ensure your voted ballot is delivered by the deadline, your voted ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by your county elections office no later than three days after Election Day.

Provisional Voting

Even if your name is not on the voter list at the polling place, you have the right to vote with a provisional ballot in the county where you are registered to vote. Your provisional ballot will be counted only after the elections official has confirmed you are a registered voter and you did not vote anywhere else in that election. The poll worker can give you information about how to check if your provisional ballot was counted and, if it was not counted, the reason why.

Find Your Polling Place

Your polling place location may change between elections. Check the back of your county sample ballot booklet for the location of your polling place. You can also find your polling place by calling your county elections office or the Secretary of State’s Voter Hotline at (800) 345-8683, or visit sos.ca.gov.

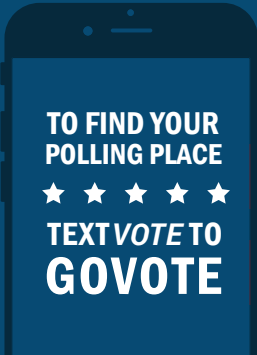
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*The California Conference of Catholic Bishops
has expressed positions on three California Propositions*

Prop 62-YES Prop 66-NO Prop 57-YES

**Propositions 62 and 66
The Death Penalty**

Death Penalty and Catholic Social Teaching

Pope Francis reminds us that the commandment “thou shall not kill” pertains to the innocent as well as the guilty, in order to respect the sacredness and human dignity of all people. As a society, we should strive towards restorative justice that contributes to the healing of the guilty, victims’ families and society to strengthen the common good and stop perpetuating the culture of death. The California Catholic Conference of Bishops are supporting Prop 62 to end the use of the death penalty and opposing Prop 66 which would speed up executions. For information and more on Catholic teaching, visit www.cacatholic.org.

**Bishops Have Long Called for Ending
the Use of the Death Penalty**

“We should resist policies that simply call for more prisons, harsher sentences, and increased reliance on the death penalty,” said the U.S. Bishops in 2000. “Rather, we should promote policies that put more resources into restoration, education, and substance-abuse treatment programs.” During this Year of Mercy, Californians have a chance to end the death in our state by approving Prop 62 and rejecting Prop 66. For more information, visit www.cacatholic.org.

Mercy and the Death Penalty

As the issue of the death penalty comes up this election, it is important to remain prayerful and conscious of God’s mercy in our own lives and how that translates to others. In his message to a world conference against the death penalty earlier this year, Pope Francis lamented that capital punishment “contradicts God’s plan for individuals and society, and his merciful justice.” As Catholics, we should look to extend to others the loving hands of mercy and redemption that God has so lovingly extended to us. Explore the church’s teaching on the death penalty and why the California Bishops are urging support for Prop 62 at www.cacatholic.org.

Pro-Life Positions and the Death Penalty

According to Pope John Paul II, “New evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life: who will proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of life in every situation. A sign of hope is the increasing recognition that the dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil.” (Mass, St. Louis, MO., 1-27-99.) The same protection for the sanctity of human life talked about so often with abortion extends to the death penalty. All souls, innocent or flawed, have intrinsic value, as we are all created in God’s likeness and are precious in the eyes of our Lord. The death penalty – which will be repealed by Prop 62 – destroys the opportunity for redemption and the ability of God’s mercy to work in the lives of those affected. For more on forgiveness and the sanctity of all life, visit www.cacatholic.org.

**Proposition 57
The Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act**

**Prop 57 would make three significant changes in the
California penal system:**

1. Under existing law prosecutors decide whether young offenders (as young as 14) will be tried in juvenile court or in adult court. As prosecutors, they often set juvenile offenders for trial in the adult court system. Proposition 57 would shift that responsibility to judges, giving them the authority, and discretion, to determine whether youthful offenders will be tried in adult court or juvenile court. But it would not mandate that they be tried in juvenile court; that decision would be made by the judge, based on the crime and the offender.
2. Proposition 57 also would allow, but not require, the release from prison of people who have completed their sentence for the primary crime for which they were convicted. Currently many remain in prison after completing the sentence for their primary and presumably most serious crime, serving out time for lesser charges on which they were also convicted.
3. Proposition 57 encourages completion of rehabilitation and education programs by people with nonviolent convictions. How? By offering them the possibility of earning time off their sentence for good behavior. This provision seeks to help convicts learn to become better citizens, by offering them the incentive of returning to society if they demonstrate personal responsibility while in tough environment of prison life.

**The Catholic Bishops of California support Proposition 57.
Specifically they emphasize that:**

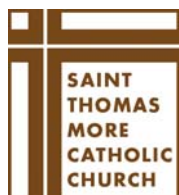
1. Punishment for its own sake is never an adequate response to crime
2. The Proposition brings common sense to juvenile court proceedings
3. Victims must have a central place in our justice system

What does “Restorative Justice” mean?

“Restorative Justice” has two goals:

1. to help victims and their families heal from the traumatic effects of violent crime, and
2. to break the cycle of crime and increase public safety by helping offenders rehabilitate and reintegrate with their families and communities.

For more information, visit www.cacatholic.org.



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