



December 10, 2006 – Second Sunday of Advent

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Luke 3:4

† Servant Leader †

"Be kind today and always, to everyone..."

This week I share with you a few thoughts on Advent and also the "only for today" resolutions of Blessed Pope John XXIII.

Advent

The English word "Advent" comes from the Latin word "Adventus" meaning arrival or coming. As Catholic Christians we use this special season to reflect on the birth of Jesus and the many instances when God intervened in human history beginning with the Hebrew people. For weeks now, we have seen the commercial signs and advertisements of Christmas with Santa Claus and gift-giving. All of this certainly is wonderful for the retail industry, but the challenge and opportunity of this season is to keep in mind the real purpose - that Jesus will once again bring hope and courage to our ministries of service to the poor and vulnerable of our communities and the belief that in serving them, we serve our Lord. May this thought be one of the many gifts you receive from Jesus this year!

Blessed Pope John XXIII

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican Secretary of State, celebrated Mass in St. Peter's on October 11, memorial of Blessed Pope John XXIII, speaking of him as one of the most beloved popes in history:

Pope John XXIII's message is still extraordinarily timely today. His life, his discourses and his actions bring us to the heart of the faith and the heart of Christian commitment.

As we know, one of Pope John's most important decisions was to convoke the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, which was inaugurated on Oct. 11, 1962, here in St. Peter's Basilica. I was present - and I remember how the day unfolded to its extraordinary conclusion in St. Peter's Square by moonlight.

We could recall a wealth of Pope John's teachings and episodes concerning him, but today I intend to focus on several thoughts which might be useful in our personal life and spiritual renewal.

The Church, in his view, has a motherly face: Her task is to keep "her arms open to receive everyone." She is a "home for one and all" that "desires to belong to everyone, and in particular she is the Church of the poor, like the village fountain," with no distinctions of race or religion.

The Church's holiness and human wisdom are expressed very clearly in what is called "the daily decalogue of Pope John XXIII:

- 1) Only for today, I will seek to live the livelong day positively without wishing to solve the problems of my life all at once.
- 2) Only for today, I will take the greatest care of my appearance: I will dress modestly; I will not raise my voice; I will be courteous in my behavior; I will not criticize anyone; I will not claim to improve or to discipline anyone except myself.
- 3) Only for today, I will be happy in the certainty that I was created to be happy, not only in the other world but also in this one.

4) Only for today, I will adapt to circumstances, without requiring all circumstances to be adapted to my own wishes.

5) Only for today, I will devote 10 minutes of my time to some good reading, remembering that just as food is necessary to the life of the body, so good reading is necessary to the life of the soul.

6) Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it.

7) Only for today, I will do at least one thing I do not like doing; and if my feelings are hurt, I will make sure that no one notices.

8) Only for today, I will make a plan for myself: I may not follow it to the letter, but I will make it. And I will be on guard against two evils: hastiness and indecision.

9) Only for today, I will firmly believe, despite appearances, that the good providence of God cares for me as no one else who exists in this world.

10) Only for today, I will have no fears. In particular, I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful and to believe in goodness. Indeed, for 12 hours I can certainly do what might cause me consternation were I to believe I had to do it all my life.

To conclude: here is an all-embracing resolution: "I want to be kind, today and always, to everyone."

In this way, we can put Pope John's hope for every Christian into practice: "Every believer in this world must be a spark of light, a core of love, life-giving leaven in the mass: and the more that is so, the more a person will live, at the innermost depths, in communion with God."

PRAYER CORNER

Please remember in your prayers:

Barbie Adorno, Peter Alvarez, Marcel Arnal, Mary Avila, Jack Barca, Pam Bardwil, Cody Bartley, Teresa Bennett Smith, Charles Black, Jill Boyd, John Boyle, Shirley Bryant, Bernard Burke, John Bustabade, Marge Caron, Joe Celeya, Bob Cleveland, Darren Crose, James Crutcher, Julie Desrochers, Maria Dixon, John Dooney, Jim Espinoza, Lois Espinoza, Andrew Flores, Walt Fogleman, Loretta Francescon, Genny Giles, Frances & Leo Girard, Bob Gokey, Evelyn Gonsalves, Robert Gonzaga, Manuel Guerra, Max Guerra, Charlene Gutierrez, Rick Gutierrez, Eric Hayes, Jason Hayes, Stanley Hayes, Allison Herring, Glean & Kathryn Hollier, Randy Kennedy, Kimberly Kolodzie, Jonnie Kuennen, Grace LaGanga, Ian Larmore, Karen Lewis, Maria Mamauog, Maria Martinez, Earl Mattingly, Luke McCord, June McMaught, Jenine Michilena, Paul Moran Jr., Paul Moran Sr., Mary Nekrassoff, Eleanor Obmann, Betty O'Neil, Lee Ann Parrott, Nita Parrott, Bud Phelps, Tom Poeschl, Sr. Mary Porter, Christine Regan, Raymond Remick, Zan Rockett, Nikelle Schafer, Charles Schneider, Katherine Schottgen, Theresa Silva, Diane & Mike Smith, Marylyn Smith, Lisa Stamps, Kyle Steele, Phyllis Steele, Jo Ster, Laura & Paul Studer, Simon Sucharski, Clement Sweeney, D. Sweeney, Maureena Sutton, Elise Taylor, I. Thompson, X. Thompson, Jean Villanueva, Frank Vogel, Emily Walsh, Marvin Webster, Bishop Weigand, Mike Williams, Ken Zebroski, Claudette Zompetta

Stewardship

~ a way of life ~

ADVENT — MAKING A DIFFERENCE

With the great joy of Christmas just around the corner, sometimes we forget that, like Lent, Advent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As we prepare for Christmas, it is the third of these tenets, almsgiving, which needs a great deal of attention. It should be natural to think of Advent, preparing for the birth of a poor child in a poor setting in Bethlehem, as a time of helping the poor among us.

Think of our namesakes, the Holy Family, and their understanding of the hardships of the poor. It's easy to imagine the Blessed Mother wishing that we would prepare for Christmas by thinking of and helping the needy, the cold and hungry. Mary and Joseph experienced poverty and homelessness in Bethlehem, and while the Baby Jesus was not humanly conscious of their plight as a newborn infant, He later referred to himself as homeless when He said, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." (Luke 9:58)

Our parish family must join the church throughout the world in praying that people will be awakened to the reality of the poor and broken and get back to the true meaning of Christmas. Before wise men appeared with gifts fit for a King, shepherds arrived offering all that they had—simple food, humble clothing, awe and compassion for a newborn child.

Always remember what Jesus asked of us, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35) This Advent and Christmas, make it part of your celebration of Christ's coming to give of your time and resources to help those in need. Read the bulletin each week to find opportunities right here in our community to make a difference.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

The rising numbers of elderly religious and the rising costs of health care make the need greater than ever. Our elderly and infirm religious offer inspiring examples of aging with grace, dignity, and faith. They also provide genuine enrichment and encouragement to others in the larger society who are aging. Religious Retirement Appeal Donors often speak of this campaign as a way to give back to Religious who ministered so generously throughout their lives. Please do your best to support the collection for Religious by responding generously. God bless you.

STEWARDSHIP – TREASURE

GENERAL COLLECTION

Weekly Goal	\$ 11,000.00
Nov 12	\$ 9,235.00
Nov 19	\$ 10,083.00
Nov 26	\$ 8,936.00
Dec 3	\$ 12,905.00
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ 232,628.00
Goal-to-Date (23 Weeks)	\$ 253,000.00
% of Goal Collected	91.95 %
Annual Goal	\$ 572,000.00

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COLLECTION


Weekly Goal	\$ 3,750.00
Nov 12	\$ 375.00
Nov 19	\$ 2,320.00
Nov 26	\$ 645.00
Dec 3	\$ 1,817.50
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ 36,361.00
Goal-to-Date (23 Weeks)	\$ 86,250.00
% of Goal Collected	42.16 %
Annual Goal	\$ 195,000.00

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Catholic Faith Formation	\$ 2,016.00
--------------------------------	-------------

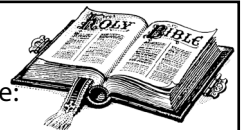
Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon:	Joan Lewis + Blanca Belloso + Guy Francescon +	
Tue:	Marjan Kianitabar -Int. Brian France -Int. Wilma O'Callaghan -Int.	
Wed:	Joseph Celaya +; Maria Nieto +	
Thu:	Lani Zacherson +; Jack Sloan + Lois Richards -Int.	
Fri:	Victor Rodezno + Oneta Roscoe +	
Sat:	8:30 am Mass Mary Walker + Raymond Riehle +	
	4:30 pm Mass Emma Mondragon +	
Sun:	12:30 pm Mass Pro Populo	

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon:	Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
Tue:	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38
Wed:	St. Lucy: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thu:	St. John of the Cross: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
Fri:	Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Sat:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sun:	Third Sunday of Advent: Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18



Questions of the Week:

- For Adults: How can we prepare the way of the Lord?
- For Teens: How do you share the Good News of Jesus with others?
- For Children: Can you share the story of your Baptism?



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL students demonstrated once again that Catholic Education not only opens minds but also opens hearts when they raised \$1022.00 in one day for the Sacramento Leukemia/Lymphoma Society! Led by the Student Council, the students donated this amount by paying for "Free Dress" to raise the funds in honor of Michelle Larson, the daughter of faculty member Kathryn Larson. Michelle is undergoing treatment for these diseases, and the student body wanted to show that they cared by both praying and contributing. These same students will present filled Christmas Stockings during the student body liturgy this coming Friday at 10 a.m. Please join us for this inspiring liturgy, another example of the open hearts!



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL was proudly represented at The Father Edward Collins' Memorial Christmas Concert at the Cathedral Monday, December 4th. Eighth graders Katie Ahern, Maddy Grover, Christina Milanes and Brianna

Morin, and seventh grader Nicole Martin were chosen by Choir Director John Wihl to join students from throughout the Diocese to perform in a Children's Honor Choir alongside the Diocesan Adult Choir, the Cathedral organist and a small orchestra.

**CAROLS FROM
the
CATHEDRAL of the BLESSED SACRAMENT**

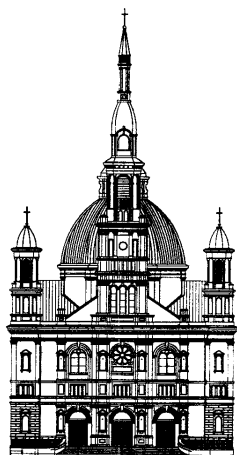
Today, Sunday, December 10 at 3:00 pm, the Choir of the Cathedral will present the

"Carols from the Cathedral,"

an annual Advent Service with Lessons and Carols that invites us to reflect and focus more clearly on the true meaning of this holy Season.

All are warmly welcomed to attend this special musical event; admission is free.

The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament is located at 1019 11th Street (11th and K Streets), Downtown Sacramento.



YOUTH MINISTRY

TEENS PREPARE THE WAY

As we begin the season of advent why not go to www.goodgroundpress.com and select the teen advent calendar icon. You will find a practical guide for the days leading up to Christmas that will guide along your advent journey. During this season of waiting and preparation dedicate some time each day to really reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas.

LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT?

Why not support our teens by purchasing one of the Commemorative History of the Diocese of Sacramento books that the youth are selling now. Watch for tables after masses in the weeks ahead or call the youth office if you'd like one put aside. The books are beautifully illustrated and filled with many interesting facts about the Catholic heritage in this diocese. Books are \$30 with all proceeds benefiting our youth ministry program.

CYM HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Plans are underway for a CYM holiday celebration- watch for more details next week!

THANKSGIVING THANK YOU

Feed the Needy Ministry would like to thank all those who donated turkeys and pies and it is through your generosity that we were able to provide a traditional Thanksgiving dinner to those in need.

SAVE THE DATE!! WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST in San Francisco on Saturday, January 20, 2007. Join us as we continue to challenge the idea that abortion has been a good choice for women, men, children, families and for our society. Buses will leave Holy Family Church in Citrus Heights at 8am. Cost is \$20. Please call Gigi Croteau at (916) 725-4866 for reservations. Visit the website at www.WalkforLifeWC.com.

**COME TO CELEBRATE
THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patron of America and the feast is December 12. As one family everybody is invited to come and celebrate it. This is a tradition for some of us for many years. Mark this date on your Calendar. The schedule is as follows:

- 5:00 am Mañanitas (we sing special songs written for Our Lady of Guadalupe) with MARIACHIS
- 6:00 am Pray the Rosary to Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 6:30 am We will have Mexican bread, hot chocolate and coffee
- 6:00 pm Mass (Bilingual)
- 7:00 pm Tamales, rice and refried beans

If you want to donate roses (any color) for this celebration please bring them on Sunday, December 10th or Monday (morning) the 11th. If you have any question you can contact Fr. Ron or call Lupita at 489-3673.



**'Tis The Season -
Open House In The Parish Rectory**

The Pastoral Council and the Welcoming Committee will be hosting an Open House in the parish rectory next Sunday, December 17th, from 1 - 4 p.m. Come and celebrate Christmas with Fr. Kiernan, Fr. Ron, Fr. John, Deacon Mark and your whole parish family. Each family is asked to bring an appetizer or a dessert to share. See you there!

Joyful Noize

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN THE CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH:**

Following the 6:00 pm mass, Joyful Noize (the 6:00 Choir) presents an evening of spirit-filled songs of the season sure to fill your heart with holiday cheer!

All are invited to bring a coat, blanket, pack of socks, gloves, hat or other article of warm clothing for the CYM Blanket Drive as the "price of admission."

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Holy Family is asking for donations of poinsettias to adorn the church this Christmas. We will need the flowers donated by Friday December 22nd. We will be decorating the Church for Christmas on Saturday December 23rd, if you wish you may bring your flower that morning, or leave at the entrance by the chapel a couple days ahead. We ask that you please do not take the flower to the parish office. If you are interested in joining the decorating team, please call Bonnie Johnson for more info 408-5191.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. May your Holidays be blessed by the Light of Christmas.



**A NOTE FROM THE
CATHOLIC LADIES RELIEF SOCIETY**

The Catholic Ladies Relief Society wishes to thank everyone who donated canned goods, money and physical help at Thanksgiving.

A special "Thank You" to Sister Arlene and all the school children who provided canned goods and helped us to move it from the Church to the Fine Arts Center.

Thank you to Fr. Kiernan and his staff for being so kind and supportive of our mission.

We were able to provide Thanksgiving Dinners to 109 families in our area! Without your help this would not have been possible.

Prayer Opportunities

WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA:

Pope Benedict XVI has elevated the World Apostolate of Fatima (The Blue Army.) It is now officially associated with the Pontifical Council for the Laity in Rome. We are happy to offer these prayers here at Holy Family. All are welcome to join us Mondays after the 8:30 am Mass in St. Mary Hall. For information, please call Phyllis, 725-0218 or Phyllis, 725-5358.

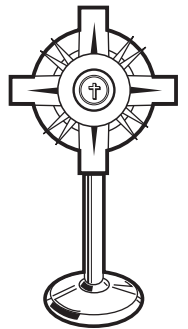
VOCATIONS CROSS



Each week a parish family is presented with the Vocations Cross to take home for the week and asked to pray daily for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The next Sunday, the family returns the cross and another family is presented the cross to pray for vocations. If you are interested in taking the Vocation Cross home, please contact Young Stewart at 332-8732.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Jesus stays with us day and night in the Blessed Sacrament, blessing us with the grace that encourages us, consoles us, strengthens us, guides us and inspires us to place our trust in Him. We stay with the Real Presence of Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration to be more personally involved with Him and to keep the Eucharist central in our lives. Spending time with Jesus in the Eucharist enables us to build a truly personal relationship with Him. Come into His presence in our beautiful chapel - He is looking forward to your visit!



BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL VISITING HOURS:

Monday – Friday	9:00 am – 9:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Sunday	1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Also in the chapel: Each day at 9:00 am a community Rosary and Chaplet of Mercy are prayed, and at 3:00 pm the Chaplet of Mercy is prayed.

DOMINICAN LAITY AT HOLY FAMILY

The Dominican Laity meets here at Holy Family on the first Sunday of every month in St. Mary Hall from 1–3 pm. Come and join us in a way of life of prayer, both private and liturgical, the study of the sacred truth, the sharing of our spiritual life with others in the community, and in our apostolic outreach. For further information call Phyllis Sale at 725-5358.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE - AND BEYOND

WELLSPRING HOLIDAY STORE

Wellspring Women's Center will once again host its Holiday Store at a new location (St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church), on December 18 through the 22nd, for women and children of the Oak Park community. The numbers served daily in our breakfast program have grown significantly the last year and we anticipate serving more families this year - last year we assisted 600 families with gifts.

Donations of new unwrapped gifts may be delivered to St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church Annex at 4020 12th Avenue from December 11th through the 16th. If you have any questions, need more details about the store, wish to volunteer, or need gifts picked up, please call us at 454-9688, Ext. 202.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Catholic Charities of Sacramento in conjunction with Centro Guadalupe is seeking people interested in our Adopt-A-Family program for Christmas. Whether you are interested in adopting a family or need information about assistance for your family, please call the Catholic Charities office at 733-0253.

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Have you ever thought about becoming a Catholic Priest? You are invited to attend a Discernment Retreat, 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 26 through 1:00 p.m., Sunday, January 28, 2007 at St. Patrick's Seminary to better understand if a vocation to the ministry of God's priesthood is for you!

Single Catholic men, 21 years of age or older, are invited to explore the possibility of a priestly vocation. The weekend is designed to provide the tools needed to help you determine if God might be calling you to a vocation to the priesthood. Discernment Retreat will include prayer, discussion and presentations about the priesthood, group interaction and following the daily routine of a seminarian. For further information, please see your parish priest.

BUS TRIP TO SILVER LEGACY, RENO

The Roseville Knights of Columbus #4540 are sponsoring a bus trip to the Silver Legacy, Reno, on Sunday, December 17th. The cost is \$25 per person prepaid with approximately \$15 returned at the casino. Checks should be made payable to Knights Of Columbus #4540. Please call Sue or Dave Mirtoni for reservations and details at 782-3242.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO

The Diocese of Sacramento Youth Office is collaborating with the Los Embajadores Missionary Program to take 24 teens and 6 adults from our Diocese to Tijuana, Mexico in June 2007. Grounded in service work, the program is a week-long experience that serves as a conduit for building relationship with the Mexican people, allows the youth to learn how to form a supportive and interdependent community, and gain a firmer understanding of the social justice issues that underlie poverty. The cost for the week is \$350. Participation is based on an application process and is open to high school students currently in grades 9-12. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the Diocesan Youth Office (916-733-0152) for an application for the program. Hurry as space is limited!

AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS

Cristo Rev High School & The Concerts Of All Hallows invite you to performances of "Amahl and the Night Visitors" on December 15 at 10 am, 11:30 am and 1 pm, and December 18 at 7 pm and 8:30 pm, part of All Hallows' and Cristo Rey's "Christmas Concert Weekend." For more information, including to claim your two complimentary tickets, please contact Cristo Rey board member and All Hallows Concerts Chair Chris Bakes at 916-456-7206.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CHAPLAINCY SACRAMENTO

Sacramento's volunteer community chaplain program responds with law enforcement to homicides, suicides, drownings and other tragedies, providing profound comfort to traumatized survivors. It is the model program of its kind throughout the nation. If this is the ministry to which you think you might be called, please visit www.sacchaplains.com or call 916-857-1801 for more information.

DIRECTOR OF PARISH OPERATIONS

The Diocese of Sacramento announces an opening for a full-time Director of Parish Operations position at a Catholic parish in Sacramento County. This person implements and maintains the policies and procedures approved by the Diocese for the effective and sound financial management of the parish and parish-related organizations. In supporting the Pastor, the chief administrator of the parish, this person provides leadership, management, and resource development of the financial aspects of the parish and its administration. Strong interpersonal skills, flexibility, patience, a strong self-starter, the ability to attract volunteers to accomplish a project and confidentiality are hallmarks of this person. For consideration, a BA or equivalent experience in business with at least five years of successful managerial experience, a background in business administration, finance, budgeting and basic internal controls is required. Knowledge of QuickBooks Pro, Excel, and Word are important. Complete benefit package and retirement plans are available. For more information regarding this position and its job description, please see the Diocesan website at www.diocese-sacramento.org/ and go to the link for "Employment Opportunities." If you are the person described here, please forward your resume with salary requirements to personnel@diocese-sacramento.org.

Diocese of Sacramento Office of Worship Liturgical Commission

21st Congress on Parish Worship - "Nourished by the Word"

Saturday, January 27, 2007 - 8:00 am - 3:30 PM
Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Rocklin

Saturday, February 3, 2007 - 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Bishop Quinn High School, Palo Cedro

Keynote addresses in both Spanish and English

Registration forms available mid-December.

For additional information please contact
worship@diocese-sacramento.org



ADVENT - A Season of Preparation and Anticipation

The Holy Family Liturgy Council is pleased to present some ways your family can celebrate Advent at home :

Christmas Tree Blessing- Gather as a family around the Christmas tree and do a special prayer of blessing. (A sample Christmas Tree blessing is presented here for your family's use.)

An Extra Place at the Table- As you gather for meals as a family, set one extra place for the Christ Child. This can be a great visual reminder of our anticipation of Christ's coming to be with us.

A Christmas Chain- Make a chain of 25 paper loops in red and green colors. On the red loops write good deeds or kind acts and on the green loops write the names of family members, friends, relatives. Each day when a loop is torn off, encourage family members to either do the act of kindness or keep the person close in prayer for that day.

Every Day is Special- During Advent sit down with your children and create a special calendar. Decide on an activity for each day to make that day a celebration. Examples might be: "Kids choose the menu day" or "Hear a story as many times as you want day" or "Christmas cookie day" or "Pray Day", etc. . . .

Day by Day Nativity- Plan to set up a manger scene step by step. Each day add a new element and have family members share and discuss ideas about the important roles that each part of the manger scene played. For example: Day 1 - set up the stable, Day 2 - add some hay or the crib, Day 3- add the shepherds ...

NextWeek-

**Prayers Around the Christmas Tree
Prayers at a Christmas Manger**

BLESSING OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Once the tree has been prepared, all gather around with the tree lights off. (**Tree lights are turned on during the closing prayer where indicated.)

Introduction: This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful, all that is filled with the gentleness and promise of God. It stands in our midst as a tree of light that we might promise such beauty and hope to one another and to our world. It stands like the tree of paradise that God made into the tree of life - the cross of Jesus.

Scripture Reading: Listen to the words of Paul to Titus . . . But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deed we had done but because of His mercy, He saved us through the bath of re-birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ, our savior, so that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God. (*Titus 3:4-7*)

Shared Prayer: Let us now pray for God's blessing upon all who gather around this tree as we offer any special prayer intentions . . .

Closing Prayer: God of all creation, we praise you for this tree which brings beauty and memories and the promise of life into our home. Let your blessings come upon us as we illuminate this tree.** May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. We ask your blessing upon this tree and those gathered around it. May its ever-greenness be a sign in our life of the hope of Advent and Christmas; its ornaments a sign of joy; the gifts beneath it a sign of love and thanksgiving for our many blessings. We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son, who is Emmanuel, God-With-Us, Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love. Amen.

UPCOMING FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

For more information about these workshops, please contact
Dr. Holly Peterson, Coordinator for Evangelization and Catechesis at 916.733.0153.

January Programs

"The Gospel of Luke" presented by Art Wehr, S.J.-St. Ignatius Church, Sacramento, January 9, 16, 23, 30; 10-11:30 am session or 7-8:30 pm session. Cost: \$10 for the series.

"Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation" Catechetical Leader Workshop presented by Diocesan Committee for RCIA, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Sacramento, January 25th 9:30 am-noon. Cost: \$20.

"A Methodology for Teaching" presented by Holly Peterson, Ed.D., St. Anthony Parish, Mt. Shasta, January 31, 7-9 pm. Cost: free.

Lay Formation Institute

The Lay Formation Institute begins in January in Sacramento, and it is open to all adults interested in developing their faith. For more information on the Institute please contact the Pastoral Center.

The first-of-seven courses will be:

Foundations of Faith-Foundations of Catholicism, taught by Rev. Edward Fassett, S.J.-Pastoral Center, Sacramento, January 26th (6:30-9 pm) and January 27th (8:30 am-4:00 pm).

Course will fulfill 8 hours of credit towards Basic Catechetical Certification. Cost: \$25.