



## March 4, 2007 – Second Sunday of Lent

*“Wait for the LORD, take courage; be stouthearted, wait for the LORD!” Psalm 27:14*

### † Servant Leader †

#### THE CALIFORNIA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

*The California Catholic Conference represents and advocates for the 12 (arch) dioceses of California in its dealings with the Legislature and the Administration of the state of California.*

*February 23, 2007 was the last date for California Legislators to introduce bills this year. By that date, Assembly members proposed 1760 bills—or an average of 22 bills per member; Senators introduced 1077 bills—or an average of 27 bills per member.*

*As in the past, the California Catholic Conference will track approximately 10 percent of these bills—those that align with our legislative priorities of reverence for life; religious liberty; restorative justice; human, civil and economic rights; family life and education.*

*To date, we know we will be advocating on (either for or against):*

- *AB 374 (Berg, D-Santa Rosa and Levine, D-Van Nuys) California Compassionate Choices Act (Legalizing Assisted Suicide)*
- *SB 160 (Cedillo, D-Los Angeles) Student financial aid: eligibility: California Dream Act (any California secondary school graduate residing in the state)*
- *AB 21 (Jones, D-Sacramento) Income Taxes: earned income tax credit and AB 650 (Lieu, D-Torrance) Income Taxes: earned income tax credit: notification*
- *Numerous bills dealing with the environment—implementing the landmark bill AB 32 passed last year and signed by the Governor*
- *Numerous bills dealing with healthcare: we will advocate that at least all children in California—including those who are undocumented—are covered*
- *Numerous bills dealing with prison reform: one bill we are currently reviewing is AB 360 (Carter, D-Rialto) Juvenile Court law: purpose*
- *Numerous bills dealing with high school dropouts: one bill we are currently reviewing is SB 344 (Steinberg, D-Sacramento) Pupils: drop out prevention and intervention*

*Of particular interest is AB374, a bill to legalize assisted suicide in California. I have included greater detail given by the California Catholic Conference inside the back cover of this bulletin. I join the CCC in urging you to stay aware of what issues are before our lawmakers and to be involved in the protection of the things we hold dear and sacred as Christian citizens. Please review the information provided.*

*God Bless*

#### MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI FOR LENT 2007

*“Contemplating ‘him whom they have pierced’ moves us...to open our hearts to others, recognizing the wounds inflicted upon the dignity of the human person; it moves us in particular to fight every form of contempt for life and human exploitation and to alleviate the tragedies of loneliness and abandonment of so many people.*

*May Lent be for every Christian a renewed experience of God’s love given to us in Christ, a love that each day we, in turn, must ‘re-give’ to our neighbor, especially to the one who suffers most and is in need. Only in this way will we be able to participate fully in the joy of Easter.*

*May Mary, Mother of Beautiful Love, guide us in this Lenten journey, a journey of authentic conversion to the love of Christ. I wish you, dear brothers and sisters, a fruitful Lenten journey, imparting with affection to all of you a special Apostolic Blessing.”*

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38  
 Tue: Is 1:10,16-20; Mt 23:1-12  
 Wed: Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28  
 Thu: Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31  
 Fri: Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a; Mt 21:33-46  
 Sat: Mi 7:14-15,18-20; Lk 15:1-3,11-32  
 Sun: Third Sunday of Lent  
 Ex 3:1-8a,13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6,10-12; Lk 13:1-9



#### Questions of the Week:

For Adults, Teens and Children:  
What do you most want God to help you with?

#### MASS INTENTIONS

Mon: Charley Steele +; Francis Eichler +;  
Kathryn Hollier & Family -Int.

Tue: Michael G. Hickey -Int.; The Norwood Family -Int.;  
Kathryn Hollier & Family -Int.

Wed: Fred Gonzales, Jr. +; Victoria Pangelinan +;  
Kathryn Hollier & Family -Int.

Thu: John Hickey -Int.; Pauline Jower +;  
Kathryn Hollier & Family -Int.

Fri: Libby Gall +; Kathryn Hollier & Family -Int.

Sat: 8:30 am Mass Kathryn Hollier & Family -Int.  
4:30 pm Mass Kathryn Hollier & Family -Int.

Sun: 9:00 am Mass Pro Populo  
6:00 pm Mass Kathryn Hollier & Family -Int.

## THE PRAYER CORNER

One of the many wonderful things about being a faith community is the support that we can count on from each other in our times of need. Prayer is an integral part of that support. Each week we publish the Prayer Corner in our bulletin to keep our Parish Family aware of those in special need of our prayers of support and hope – those suffering anew in body, mind or spirit. We ask our heavenly Father, Christ our Savior and the Holy Spirit to be strength, comfort and healing in these times of special need.

While we consistently offer our support and prayer in many other ways, the Prayer Corner helps us address new and immediate needs of which we otherwise would not be aware. Some of the other ways we offer our prayers are through the Book of Intentions, the Prayers of the Faithful and offering Masses, to name a few.

As you have seen, the Prayer Corner has grown through time. Although we seek to keep the list contemporary, some of the names have been on this list for over two years – others are new this week. We are in the process of assessing the administration of the list to keep it accurate and up to date.

There are many names on the current list that we believe can be removed – perhaps the issue that prompted their inclusion has been resolved, and perhaps some have been called to their heavenly home, God rest their souls.

If you have personal knowledge of the background of a particular name on the list, and if we remove a name that you feel needs to be put back on the list, please contact the parish office so we can keep the Prayer Corner current. It is certainly not our intention to cause any additional pain by making an untimely omission, but sometimes we need a little friendly advice from those intimate with a certain need or situation.

The Parish Health Ministry has graciously offered to help in the maintenance of the Prayer Corner, as well as to assist those with various needs and to make referrals when appropriate. Keep an eye on future bulletins for the details when we have completed our evaluation of the process and put new procedures into practice. Thank you and God bless you and your loved ones in good times and in bad.

### 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, Bob Cleveland, Abraham Conant, Darren Crose, James Crutcher, Julie Desrochers, Maria Dixon, John Dooney, Jim Espinoza, Lois Espinoza, Andrew Flores, Jennifer Ford, Loretta Francescon, Genny Giles, Frances & Leo Girard, Bob Gokey, Evelyn Gonsalves, Winfred Gonsalves, Robert Gonzaga, Manuel Guerra, Max Guerra, Charlene Gutierrez, Kathleen Hansen, Eric Hayes, Jason Hayes, Stanley Hayes, Allison Herring, Glean & Kathryn Hollier, Betty Kava, Bill Keenan, Randy Kennedy, Kimberly Kolodzie, Jonnie Kuennen, Ian Larmore, Jey Lemes, Karen Lewis, Nancy Lopez, Nancy & Marty Lucas, Maria Mamauog, Maria Martinez, Earl Mattingly, Luke McCord, McElroy Family, June McMaught, Jenine Michilena, Paul Moran Jr., Paul Moran Sr., Elliott Jerome Neal, Mary Nkrassoff, Betty O'Neil, Cora Orzol, Lee Ann Parrott, Nita Parrott, Maryanne Pelzel, Maria Perez, Gilbert Perron, Bud Phelps, Tom Poeschl, Sr. Mary Porter, Christine Regan, Fred 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, Maureen Sutton, Elise Taylor, I. Thompson, Lawrence Thompson, X. Thompson, Jovita Vargar, Natividad Vargas, Jean Villanueva, Frank Vogel, Emily Walsh, Marvin Webster, Mike Williams, Ken Zebroski, Claudette Zompetta

# Stewardship

~ a way of life ~

## SOCIAL MINISTRY SUMMIT MARCH 18TH

One of the most important aspects of church is the care for the poor in the parish and the wider community.

"Wherever there are people in need of food and drink, clothing, housing, medicine, employment, education; wherever (people) lack the facilities necessary for living a truly human life or are afflicted with serious distress or illness or suffer exile or imprisonment, there Christian charity should seek them out and find them, console them with great solicitude, and help them with appropriate relief." *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, 1965*

Diocesan Synod Pastoral Initiative No. 7 calls us to "ensure an ongoing commitment to the advancement of the social mission of the church." Bishop Weigand has consistently voiced a desire for the further development of social service ministry at the parish level.

Holy Family will be holding a special meeting to determine how best we can minister in charity and justice as a parish family. The meeting will be on Sunday, March 18, 2007, in St. Joseph Hall at 1:30 pm (right after the 12:30 Mass).

Please watch for more information in next week's bulletin.

### STEWARDSHIP – TREASURE

#### GENERAL COLLECTION

<b>Weekly Goal</b>	\$ 11,000.00
Feb 4 .....	\$ 12,726.00
Feb 11 .....	\$ 10,155.00
Feb 18 .....	\$ 10,332.00
Feb 25 .....	\$ 11,364.00
<b>YEAR-TO-DATE</b>	\$ <b>364,600.00</b>
Goal-to-Date (35 Weeks)	\$ 385,000.00
% of Goal Collected	<b>94.70 %</b>
<b>Annual Goal</b>	\$ 572,000.00

#### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COLLECTION

<b>Weekly Goal</b>	\$ 3,750.00
Feb 4 .....	\$ 2,237.50
Feb 11 .....	\$ 3,195.00
Feb 18 .....	\$ 2,167.50
Feb 25 .....	\$ 1,002.50
<b>YEAR-TO-DATE</b>	\$ <b>57,662.50</b>
Goal-to-Date (35 Weeks)	\$ 131,250.00
% of Goal Collected	<b>43.93 %</b>
<b>Annual Goal</b>	\$ 195,000.00

#### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Ash Wednesday (for the poor).....	\$ 3,202.00
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*Peter, James and John wanted to build a "booth" for Jesus and just stay on the mountain where His transfiguration took place. But the Son of God, the Chosen One, knew that He must instead keep moving toward His crucifixion. We, too, must rise from worship and do what we can to work toward the coming of the kingdom.*



**HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL'S** Class of 2007 will take the first step of the last mile on the Road to Graduation this Thursday, March 8. All potential graduates and their homeroom teachers, Mrs. Adamson and Mrs. Keith, will spend the day at Christ the King Center reflecting on the journey they have taken thus far in their spiritual and academic development and anticipating the next steps. The theme of the retreat will be Decisions, a concept that has permeated their entire experience in Catholic education.



The faculty, staff, and students asks you, the parishioners, to keep these young adults in your prayers as they make choices now that will indeed affect the course of their lives.

**PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ AUCTION GALA**

Holy Family Students in all grades are preparing special projects for the annual Auction scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 5:00 pm to 1:00 am. This year the Puttin' on the Ritz Auction Gala is headed for Nashville - the Grand Ole Opry to be precise! Shine your boots for a very full evening - silent and live auctions, no-host bar, formal gourmet dinner with reserved seating, live entertainment, great raffle prizes and dancing into the night. All class projects are part of the Live Auction, and watching the bidding on these is almost as much fun as seeing the live entertainment show produced by Joann Lewis and starring faculty and staff members. All this for just \$50 per person, a bargain at twice the price! Call the school office at 722-7788 to reserve your tickets!



**SCOUTING FOR FOOD**

Cub Scout Pack 212 of Holy Family School will be accepting donations of canned food March 10th after the 4:30 pm Mass and March 11th after the 7:30 and 9:00 am Masses. Canned food collected will be donated to the Holy Family Church food locker with the assistance of Ed Clark from the Knights of Columbus, Pack 212's chartered sponsor. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Cooper at 722-2726. Thank you, and God Bless.



**YOUTH MINISTRY**

**YOUTH CASTING CALL: GOOD FRIDAY PRESENTATION**

Holy Family Youth Ministry is looking for cast members for the Dramatic Presentation of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Please call the youth office at 721-8329 if you are interested.



**LET THERE BE LIGHT!**

As part of the Legacy Restoration appeal, we are now enjoying new lighting in the church. The amazing part of the story is that the new type of light will also help us save a significant amount through reduced energy costs. These special "bulbs" are more energy efficient and much brighter at the same time!

If there's a "downside" to the new light, you might say it has given us a much clearer view of the other projects needed around our beloved home! Next week, the Stewardship page of the bulletin will give additional detail on work that has been done, work that is in progress and work that still resides on the **Wish List**.

Part of the success of the Legacy Restoration program has been the work-in-kind donations of parishioners on the restoration projects. Please look carefully at next week's bulletin to see if there's an area of need in which you can offer your skills and expertise.

**STATIONS of the CROSS**

**THIS WEEK, FRIDAY, MARCH 9 7:00 PM**

**FOLLOWED BY SOUP & BREAD MEAL**

**Lent — Begin the Journey . . .**

Are you or someone you know contemplating a **journey of faith** into the **Catholic Church**? How long have you thought about it? Now is the time to take that first step.

**You are invited to ask questions and begin a journey that will guide the rest of your life.**

Are you a Catholic who has resolved to learn more about your Catholic faith?

Join with others on a journey that will guide the rest of your life. For more information, please call the parish office at 723-2494.

You are invited to **visit us Tuesday evenings at 7:30** in our faith formation classroom in the **Community Center** on the East side of the parking lot, across from the church...





## WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS



Once again it's time for our St. Patrick's Day Dinner. The Knights of Columbus will join us to make it a memorable evening. The Knights always do a wonderful job of cooking the corned beef and cabbage!

The date is March 17, 2007, with Happy Hour at 5:30 pm and dinner served at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$12.00 per person. There will be entertainment, door prizes and a raffle.

For reservations, please call Anita Marsolais at 723-1775 by March 15, 2007 so that we can get a good count. Anita will be very happy to help you.

We hope you will come and have a great time with us - as we always do! Tickets will also be sold after the Masses starting next weekend.

Hope to see you there!



## 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.

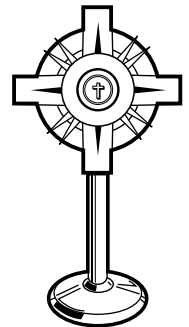
### VOCATIONS CROSS



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 THE KNIGHTS



### COUNTRY WESTERN HOE-DOWN

The Knights of Columbus of Northern California are having a major event in the Sacramento area on the weekend of April 13-15, 2007. On April 13, 2007, a Country Western Hoe-Down dinner will be served. Everyone is invited to attend this fun outdoor event at the Doubletree Hotel at 2001 Point West Way in Sacramento (across the street from Arden Fair Mall). The main course will be Tri-tip/Chicken. Live music will be provided by "Country Road". Social hour will be at 4:30 PM and dinner at 5:30 PM. The dress is casual and the dinner cost is \$20.00 per person. For further information, please call: Frank Nava at (916) 359-6282 or John Norwood (916) 783-0453. For reservations, please make your check payable to Christ the King Assembly and mail to Frank Nava, 42 Cedro Circle, Sacramento, CA 95833-1419.

### WHEEL CHAIR PRESENTATION

At the 9:00 O'clock Mass this morning, March 4 2007, the Knights of Columbus Assembly, Christ the King, 2797 4th degree along with Holy Family Council 4964, will be presenting a Wheel Chair to Mrs. Ruth Boyle wife of Joe Boyle. The Knights of Columbus Wheel Chair Foundation has delivered 525,000 wheel chairs to 150 countries/regions around the world. This occasion is special. It's a brother Knights wife that we are supporting. Come join us in this celebration and then learn more at the breakfast on March 4 2007. We have several film presentations and books that are free to learn more about this program. Did you know \$75.00 will buy a wheel chair for this humanitarian program? May God bless each and everyone for supporting the Knights of Columbus in this world wide project.

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# NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE - AND BEYOND

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**HEALING AFTER ABORTION RETREAT:** Mar 30 - Apr 1, 2007  
Struggling after an abortion? Still seeking peace years after the choice? Experience the healing love of Jesus at Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, March 30 - April 1st, in Auburn, sponsored by the Diocese of Sacramento. The weekend retreat will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, sacrament of reconciliation, memorial service and Mass. The cost is \$150 for meals, private room and all retreat materials. Financial assistance is available. For a registration packet or more information, call Edie @ (916) 733-0161 or 1-888-HOPE-790 or email [esickman@diocese-sacramento.org](mailto:esickman@diocese-sacramento.org). Inquiries and participation are strictly confidential.

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY UNIV. OF SACRAMENTO**

The University of Sacramento, a new private Catholic university, has two exciting new job opportunities: Student Services Manager/Coordinator and Receptionist/Office Assistant. For full job descriptions, please visit us at [www.universityofsacramento.org](http://www.universityofsacramento.org) or call (916) 443-4760.

## **FILIPINO NIGHT WITH THE KNIGHTS AT ST. IGNATIUS**

The Knights of Columbus Council 4970 is having a dinner-dance social on Saturday March 10th at Saint Ignatius Parish Center. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and dinner will start around 7:00 p.m. Dinner will include Chicken Adobo, Pancit, (rice noodles) and Lumpia (Filipino egg roll). In addition, DJ music will be provided by Mora Entertainment for your dancing and listening pleasure. Bar for this event is hosted. The officers & members of the Council invite ALL of you to join the Knights on what we hope to be an enjoyable evening. Reservations & prepayment are required. Dinner donation cost is \$20.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children 12 and under. For inquires, please contact Ponce by phone, 715-2958, or by email @ ([ponciano.marquez@gmail.com](mailto:ponciano.marquez@gmail.com)).

## **CATHOLIC BREAKFAST CLUB**

On March 14 the Catholic Breakfast Club presents "Behind the Walls of Academia" by speaker Ernest Pierucci. Each year a multitude of parents blindly spend thousands to put their kids through Catholic universities that virtually ignore the church's teachings on vital issues. Pierucci will give you an insider's look at one of the most popular majors in academia — business. If your child is even considering a business major, this talk is crucial. He will expose the status of business education in Catholic universities and make suggestions about how they should change to reflect the Church's teachings on business ethics. Pierucci has practiced law since 1975 and taught at St. Mary's College and Holy Names College. Pierucci will address the role the Catholic community can play in shaping the business world. The Catholic Breakfast Club meets monthly at the Sacramento Hilton, 2200 Harvard Street. Mass is offered at 6:15 a.m. and breakfast is served at 7 a.m. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. Reserve your seat online at [www.catholicbreakfastclub.org](http://www.catholicbreakfastclub.org) or mail your payment to the Catholic Breakfast Club at P.O. Box 254848, Sacramento, CA 95865-4848.

## **BUS TRIP TO SILVER LEGACY, RENO**

The Roseville Knights of Columbus #4540 are sponsoring a bus trip to Silver Legacy, Reno, on Sunday, March 25th. 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.

## **PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND & ITALY**

My name is Father Stanislaw Zak, and I am the Pastor at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Oakland. This year I am organizing a Pilgrimage to Poland and Italy - "In the footsteps of Pope John Paul II" - April 16 - 30, 2007. I still have some room for Pilgrims. Complete Price \$ 3,495.00 includes the following services: Round Trip airline ticket: From San Francisco to Poland; Italy & to San Francisco. All accommodations (double occupancy in hotels) with 3 meals a day, all transportations within Poland & Italy, sightseeing, guide services, entrance fees to all attractions, taxes, and Cancellation insurance.

For brochure & detailed itinerary, or if you have any questions please contact Rev. Stanislaw Zak, (510) 336-0698, or Mr. Andre Sobczyk, (408) 229-1950.

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

St. Francis Catholic High School is seeking a Varsity Golf Coach. The season runs from mid-August until November. Practices and competitions are held after school; time requirement is 3-4 hours per day. To apply, download the Coaching Position Application from the St. Francis website at [www.stfrancishs.org](http://www.stfrancishs.org) and submit with resume to: Patricia Maier, St. Francis High School, 5900 Elvas Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819.

Questions: Athletic Director, Kolleen McNamee, 452-3461, ext. 125. Application deadline is March 19.

St. Francis Catholic High School is also accepting applications for the following positions:

Assistant Principal for Academics  
Teachers (all areas)

Information and applications available on the St. Francis website at [www.stfrancishs.org](http://www.stfrancishs.org). Questions: Patricia Maier, 452-3461, ext. 290

## **ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION**

4th Annual Alumnae Luncheon and Fashion Show - Spring Fling. Don't miss this wonderful Alumnae Association event on Sunday, April 29, 2007. Representatives from the "decades" classes of '57, '67, '77, '87, '97 and '07 will model great fashions for all ages. Members of the Class of '57 will be honored and presented with the 50-year anniversary Golden Diploma. Cost \$30.00 per person. Please R.S.V.P by April 20th, 2007. For reservations or additional information, please contact Jan Millner 452-3461, ext. 220 or [jmillner@stfrancishs.org](mailto:jmillner@stfrancishs.org).

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## **THE CALIFORNIA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE ON AB374 – ASSISTED SUICIDE**

*On Thursday, February 15, 2007, Assembly members Patty Berg and Lloyd Levine introduced AB 374, a bill to legalize assisted suicide in California. The bill is virtually identical to AB 654/AB 651, the legislation that failed in the 2005-2006 session. AB 374, with the title of The Compassionate Choices Act, would make it legal for a physician to prescribe lethal drugs to a person, diagnosed with a terminal disease, who had six months or less to live.*

*However, this time they recruited the Speaker of the Assembly, Fabian Nuñez as a co-author (along with Assembly Members Feuer, Bass, Beall, Brownley, De Leon, De Saulnier, Dymally, Eng, Evans, Huffman, Jones, Karnette, Laird, Leno, Ma, Saldaña, Wolk and Senators Calderon, Kuehl, Lowenthal, Oropeza, Romero, Steinberg, and Wiggins). Assemblymembers Bass, Dymally, Laird, Leno, Wolk and Senators Kuehl, Lowenthal and Romero were also co-authors of AB 651.*

*At their press conference, the authors and the Speaker excitedly declared that “this time it would pass” and insisted that what they wanted to legalize wasn’t “suicide” but “aid in dying” and “compassionate choice.”*

*Although the Speaker’s influence may have some effect on the votes in the Assembly, Californians Against Assisted Suicide (CAAS), an eclectic coalition that includes physicians, nurses, hospice workers, advocates for low-income workers, a Latino civil rights organization, disability rights groups, as well as Catholic institutions (including the California Catholic Conference) and pro-life advocates, is committed to stopping the passage of AB 374.*

*As Catholics we oppose euthanasia or assisted suicide because we believe that human life is a gift from God, that we are stewards—not owners—of that life, that we are made in God’s image and that human life is sacred from conception to natural death. This, of course, informs and underlies our policy perspectives.*

*Members of the coalition bring many different religious and philosophical beliefs with them, but we all join in opposing the legalization of assisted suicide. Below are the arguments which have been effective in our advocacy with California legislators in the past—and we pray will prevail again. We urge you to use these when contacting your Assembly member or Senator.*

- California law already gives every patient the right to refuse extraordinary end-of-life treatment. AB 374 isn’t about improving care for the terminally or chronically ill; it is about legalizing assisted suicide. The authors—wishing to soften their language—call it “compassionate choice,” or “aid in dying, or “death with dignity.”*
- AB 374 is strongly opposed by both the American Medical Association and the California Medical Association, as well as hospice workers whose job it is to provide compassionate care. Legalizing assisted suicide could seriously damage the relationship between patients and healthcare workers.*
- It is especially remarkable that the Legislature is considering AB 374—legalizing assisted suicide—at a time when millions of low-income Californians and their families don’t have access even to basic health care.*
- AB 374 poses real danger to people with new disabilities or chronic diseases. Research overwhelmingly shows that people with new disabilities will often initially experience despondency and even suicidal feelings, but later will adapt well and enjoy life. Working through this despondency often takes longer than the mere two-week waiting period—making it all too easy to succumb to despair.*
- AB 374 would provide a powerful incentive for health insurance providers, disaffected family members or potential heirs to promote assisted suicide over long-term expensive care.*
- People often live many years after a “terminal” diagnosis, yet initial depression and temporary thoughts of suicide are common. Physicians who specialize in end-of-life care know that these thoughts are transitory, and that patients respond to support from health care providers (or professionals), family and hospice workers.*
- Studies confirm that most of those killed under Oregon’s assisted suicide law consented to the lethal procedure for reasons of “autonomy” or fear of “loss of dignity” or abandonment rather than for intractable pain.*

*The coalition’s website has contact information for those of you who wish to call, FAX or visit their legislators in order to communicate your views. It also has facts, articles, essays and statistics.*

*We urge you to be “faithful citizens” and participate in this important issue.*

### **MARCH FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO**

“God, Grace & Growth-Not Guilt: our Lenten Journey” with Fr. Ben Innes, O.F.M., St. Francis Parish, March 12-15, 7-8:30 pm. Senior Session March 13, 10 am. Teen session, March 11, 5-7 pm. Cost: free. For registration call 443-8084.

LAY FORMATION INSTITUTE: Celebration of the Christian Mystery, presented by Jackson Schoos. Pastoral Center, Diocese of Sacramento. March 9th (6:30-9 pm) and March 10th (8:30 am-4:00 pm). Course will fulfill 8 hours of credit towards Basic Catechetical Certification. Cost: \$25. For more information contact Kathy at 733-0123.

LAY FORMATION INSTITUTE: Nature of Catechesis/Catechetical Development. Presented by Dr. Holly Peterson. Our Lady of Mercy, Redding. March 23rd (6:30-9 pm) and March 24th (8:30 am-4:00 pm). Course will fulfill 5 hours of credit towards Basic Catechetical Certification. Cost: \$25. For more information contact Kathy at 733-0123.

Women’s Day of Prayer for Women in the North Area. Facilitated by Sr. Janel Sawatzki and Sr. Gloria Heese. Sacred Heart, Red Bluff, March 31st. Cost: \$20 (\$25 at the door). For more information contact: (530) 527-1351.