



† Servant Leader †

**POPE BENEDICT'S WORLD YOUTH DAY MESSAGE – PART II**

We continue the beautiful message of Pope Benedict to the young people of the world on the occasion of the XXIII World Youth Day, 2008. This is the second of three parts, with the conclusion to follow in next week's bulletin. If you missed part one, you can find last week's bulletin on the parish web site at [www.holyfamilych.org](http://www.holyfamilych.org).

**3. Pentecost, the point of departure for the Church's mission**

*On the evening of the day of resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples, "he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'" (Jn 20:22). With even greater power the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. We read in the Acts of the Apostles: "And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them." (2:2-3). The Holy Spirit renewed the Apostles from within, filling them with a power that would give them courage to go out and boldly proclaim that "Christ has died and is risen!" Freed from all fear, they began to speak openly with self-confidence (cf. Acts 2:29; 4:13; 4:29,31). These frightened fishermen had become courageous heralds of the Gospel. Even their enemies could not understand how "uneducated and ordinary men" (cf. Acts 4:13) could show such courage and endure difficulties, suffering and persecution with joy. Nothing could stop them. To those who tried to silence them they replied: "We cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). This is how the Church was born, and from the day of Pentecost she has not ceased to spread the Good News "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).*

**4. The Holy Spirit, soul of the Church and principle of communion**

*If we are to understand the mission of the Church, we must go back to the Upper Room where the disciples remained together (cf. Lk 24:49) praying with Mary, the "Mother", awaiting the Spirit that had been promised. This icon of the nascent Church should be a constant source of inspiration for every Christian community. Apostolic and missionary fruitfulness is not principally due to programs and pastoral methods that are cleverly drawn up and "efficient", but is the result of the community's constant prayer (cf. Evangelii Nuntiandi, 75). Moreover, for the mission to be effective, communities must be united, that is, they must be "of one heart and soul" (cf. Acts 4:32), and they must be ready to witness to the love and joy that the Holy Spirit instills in the hearts of the faithful (cf. Acts 2:42). The Servant of God John Paul II wrote that, even prior to action, the Church's mission is to witness and to live in a way that shines out to others (cf. Redemptoris Missio, 26). Tertullian tells us that this is what happened in the early days of Christianity when pagans were converted on seeing the love that reigned among Christians: "See how they love one another" To conclude this brief survey of the Word of God in the Bible, I*

*invite you to observe how the Holy Spirit is the highest gift of God to humankind, and therefore the supreme testimony of his love for us, a love that is specifically expressed as the "yes to life" that God wills for each of his creatures. This "yes to life" finds its fullness in Jesus of Nazareth and in his victory over evil by means of the redemption. In this regard, let us never forget that the Gospel of Jesus, precisely because of the Spirit, cannot be reduced to a mere statement of fact, for it is intended to be "good news for the poor, release for captives, sight for the blind ...". With what great vitality this was seen on the day of Pentecost, as it became the grace and the task of the Church towards the world, her primary mission!*

*We are the fruits of this mission of the Church through the working of the Holy Spirit. We carry within us the seal of the Father's love in Jesus Christ which is the Holy Spirit. Let us never forget this, because the Spirit of the Lord always remembers every individual, and wishes, particularly through you young people, to stir up the wind and fire of a new Pentecost in the world.*

**5. The Holy Spirit as "Teacher of the interior life"**

*My dear young friends, the Holy Spirit continues today to act with power in the Church, and the fruits of the Spirit are abundant in the measure in which we are ready to open up to this power that makes all things new. For this reason it is important that each one of us know the Spirit, establish a relationship with Him and allow ourselves to be guided by Him. However, at this point a question naturally arises: who is the Holy Spirit for me? It is a fact that, for many Christians, He is still the "great unknown". This is why, as we prepare for the next World Youth Day, I wanted to invite you to come to know the Holy Spirit more deeply at a personal level. In our profession of faith we proclaim: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son" (Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed). Yes, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the love of the Father and of the Son, is the Source of life that makes us holy, "because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us" (Rom 5:5). Nevertheless, it is not enough to know the Spirit; we must welcome Him as the guide of our souls, as the "Teacher of the interior life" who introduces us to the Mystery of the Trinity, because He alone can open us up to faith and allow us to live it each day to the full. The Spirit impels us forward towards others, enkindles in us the fire of love, makes us missionaries of God's charity.*

*I know very well that you young people hold in your hearts great appreciation and love for Jesus, and that you desire to meet Him and speak with Him. Indeed, remember that it is precisely the presence of the Spirit within us that confirms, constitutes and builds our person on the very Person of Jesus crucified and risen. So let us become familiar with the Holy Spirit in order to be familiar with Jesus.*

To be continued in next week's bulletin...

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon: St. Monica: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Mt 23:13-22  
 Tue: St. Augustine: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Mt 23:23-26  
 Wed: St. John the Baptist: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Mk 6:17-29  
 Thu: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51  
 Fri: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Mt 25:1-13  
 Sat: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Mt 25:14-30  
 Sun: Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time:  
 Sir 3:17-18,20,28-29; Heb 12:18-19,22-24; Lk 14:1,7-14

**Questions of the Week:**

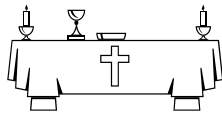
For Adults: As you wrestle with today's Gospel, what signs do you see in your own life that you are "with God?"

For Teens: Of all the things that Jesus tells us about the way that we are to live our lives, what is the hardest thing for you to do? Why?

For Children: How do you show that you are a follower of Jesus?

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Mon: Rose Rappuhn +  
 Tue: Richard Ahearn -Int.  
 Fred Regan -Int.  
 Wed: Bruno Geronimo +  
 Sun: 9:00 am Mass Pro Populo  
 12:30 pm Mass Carl Campagna -Int.



**PARISHIONERS IN NEED OF TRANSPORTATION**

Parishioners from Orangevale, near Madison and Hazel, are looking for a ride to the Saturday 4:30 pm Mass or the Sunday 9:00 am Mass. They are also in need of transportation to purchase groceries. Please call the Parish office if you can be of assistance. They are willing to offer compensation.

**PRAYER CORNER**

Please remember in your prayers:  
 Michael Albin, Peter Alvarez, Marcel Arnal, Mary Avila, Pam Bardwil, Cody Bartley, Drake Bazzeroni, Teresa Bennett Smith, Charles Black, John Boyle, Shirley Bryant, Larry Cannon, Margaret Cioffi, Abraham Conant, Art Connolly, Christina Cowan, Darren Crose, James Crutcher, Julie Desrochers, Maria Dixon, John Dooney, Andrew Flores, Jennifer Ford, Olivia Garcia, Bob Gokey, Timothy Goodwin, Evelyn Gonsalves, Winfred Gonsalves, Robert Gonzaga, Max Guerra, Charlene Gutierrez, Kathleen Hansen, Jason Hayes, Nancy Hayes, Stanley Hayes, George Hernandez, Allison Herring, Michele Hock, Glean & Kathryn Hollier, David E. Jones, Bill Keenan, Randy Kennedy, Kimberly Kolodzie, Jonnie Kuennen, Ian Larmore, Kay LaTondre, Jey Lemes, Karen Lewis, Nancy Lopez, Nancy & Marty Lucas, Laura Maciej, Donald Maguire, Maria Mamauog, Maria Martinez, Earl Mattingly, Luke McCord, Mike McCord, McElvy Family, June McMaught, Rigoberto Mendoza, Jenine Michilena, Xochitl Montano, Mariah Morris, Jason Murphy, Elliott Jerome Neal, Dorothy Nellis, Andy Ngo, Scott Ngo, Cora Orzol, Maryanne Pelzel, Maria Perez, Gilbert Perron, Tom Poeschl, Sr. Mary Porter, Christine Regan, Raymond Remick, Suzanne Rose, Nikelle Schafer, Katherine Schottgen, Diane & Mike Smith, Marylyn Smith, Lisa Stamps, Jo Ster, Laura & Paul Studer, Simon Sucharski, Clement Sweeney, D. Sweeney, Maureen Sutton, Elise Taylor, I. Thompson, Larry Thompson, X. Thompson, Jovita Vargar, Stephen Vidrine, Jean Villanueva, Emily Walsh, Lori Weaver, Marvin Webster, Sharel Wilson

**Stewardship**  
 ~ a way of life ~

**SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND**

Bishop Weigand has requested that there be a special collection in all the parishes of the diocese to assist with disaster relief efforts on behalf of those affected by the earthquake in Peru and those affected by Hurricane Dean. The wonderful people of Holy Family Church have always responded generously to the needs of those stricken by sudden hardship and tragedy. Thank you for your continued generosity and genuine concern for all God's children.

**STEWARDSHIP IN SCRIPTURE**

"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."  
*2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

"Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining, like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen."

*1 Peter 4:8-11*

| <b>STEWARDSHIP – TREASURE</b>   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>GENERAL COLLECTION</b>   |                     |
| <b>Weekly Goal</b>  | \$ 11,000.00        |
| Jul 29 .....  | \$ 9,001.00         |
| Aug 5 .....   | \$ 12,412.00        |
| Aug 12 .....  | \$ 9,724.00         |
| Aug 19 .....  | \$ 10,099.00        |
| <b>YEAR-TO-DATE</b>   | <b>\$ 83,746.00</b> |
| Goal-to-Date (8 Weeks)  | \$ 88,000.00        |
| % of Goal Collected   | <b>95.17 %</b>      |
| <b>Annual Goal</b>  | \$ 572,000.00       |
| <b>SPECIAL COLLECTIONS</b>  |                     |
| Solemnity: Assumption.....  | \$ 2,031.00         |
| <p><i>Today's reading from Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord "in clean vessels." The gift of myself — my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God — is as important as the monetary gift I offer.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">..... See Isaiah 66:20</p> |                     |



## *Holy Family School*

**Holy Family School's** principal, Sister Arlene Connelly, IBVM, and the faculty and staff will formally welcome all families to the 2007-2008 school community this Tuesday, August 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center. One of the highlights of this year's meeting will be the video presentation of A Year in the Life of Holy Family, produced by alumni parents Gerry Larrea and Joann Lewis. Following this, parents and guardians will visit their children's classrooms to hear each teacher's plans and procedures and to acquire a further understanding of how the curriculum supports the school community's mission: To nurture Christ-like behavior in one another.

### **Holy Family Preschool**

**Fall Enrollment** - August prices have been slashed!!! Enroll between August 20th and August 31st to receive the one time deduction of \$90.00 (registration fee). We offer part time, school day and full time programs, available from 7:00 am until 6:00 pm. Your child will be participating in a Literature Based Program that will prepare them for entrance into Kindergarten. Call Mrs. Lucy Eberhardt at 722-4620 to learn more about our preschool!

**Holy Family Preschool has a new look!** Stop by for a tour! We are proud to show off our new playground equipment, bike path, sand box and Plexiglas art station! The enlarged playground offers the children more options for gross motor activities, creative spirit and just plain FUN!

### **FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION**

**Sunday morning Faith Formation sessions will begin on September 9, 2007 at 10:10-11:25 am.**

Have you registered your children for Religious Education Sessions for the fall? **Pre-registration will be held on Sunday August 25th following the 9:00 and 12:30 Masses in the community center.** Registrations forms are also located at each entrance of the church which can be mailed or dropped by the parish office. If your child attended last year, please fax your registration form that you received in the mail to 624-2731, attn: Bonnie. This helps when placing the order for student books in advance. In this way every child will have their book on the first day of sessions.

To assist us in the allocation of staff and materials for all programs, especially in preparing for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation next spring, **it is essential that all students be registered no later than October 1, 2007.**

Please call Bonnie Johnson @ 726 -7217 for more information. Thank you!

### **HISTORY OF THE CHURCH - DATE CHANGE**

Due to Back to School Night this week, Fr. John's class on the History of the church has been moved to Tuesday evening, September 4th at 7:00 pm in the Faith Formation Room.

### **SAVE THE DATE - SALUTE TO LIFE**

Friday November 16th is the annual "Salute To Life" dinner and auction for the Sacramento Life Center. Join our Priests for dinner and a good time at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento. Prices are the same as last year: a table of 10 is \$1100, individual tickets are \$125. For additional information and tickets, phone Larry and Roseann Larsen at 916 961-1036 or 916 904-6969.

### **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION**

If you are currently a minister of communion or would like to be, please mark your calendar for Saturday, September 15th. We will have a training session on that Saturday morning beginning at 9:30am, after morning Mass. We invite everyone to gather together for 8:30 Mass, and the training will follow Mass immediately. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Deacon Mark after Mass or in the parish office.

### **ALTAR SERVER TRAINING**

Altar Server training is currently scheduled for Saturday, September 29th, beginning at 9:30 am after the morning mass. Training is also scheduled for the first and second Tuesday evenings in October, October 2nd, and October 9th, at 6:00 pm. All training session will be in the church. We will try to ensure that every altar server has the opportunity to walk through the procedures. These training sessions will be required for all new and current altar servers. Although it is expected that each altar server will attend at least one training session, all servers will be more than welcome to attend as many as they need.

### **ATTENTION ALL LECTORS:**

New or Current Lectors ~ We invite you to join together for the 8:30 morning Mass on Saturday September 8th. There will be a brief meeting after mass for all current , as well as new readers. This meeting is required for the commissioning in November. A training session for new readers will also be presented that morning. Please take this opportunity to explore the calling to this awesome ministry of Proclaiming God's Word....Please call If you are interested or have any questions, Deacon Holt at the parish office or Bonnie Johnson at 408-5191. Thank you!

**LECTORS: Schedules for September are ready and have been emailed...copies are available in the hallway to the sacristy....Thank You**

*"All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of the field; the grass withers, and the flower wilts; but the word of the Lord remains forever." 1 Peter: 24-25*



## WOMEN'S COUNCIL NEWS

Here we are with only two weeks left until our Annual Pasta Dinner. The tickets are available, so see any of our members at the doors of the church this week, or call for reservations to Anita Marsolais at 723-1775 or Tom Barca at 722-7022. Last week there was a mistake in Tom's phone number, so ignore the number that was in the bulletin. This week it is correct. Sorry Tom, and to all whom were inconvenienced by this mistake.

So don't delay, the tickets are going fast!

Again the date is September 8, 2007

from 5:30pm to 10:00pm with dinner

being served at 6:00pm. The price

is \$10.00 per person. We're

looking forward to seeing you

again. Bring the whole family.

See you there!



## CONSTRUCTION ZONE - OLD AUBURN ROAD

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) and County Sanitation District I (CSD-I) have started construction on sewer system improvements in the Citrus Heights area. Construction is taking place along Old Auburn Road from Sylvan Road to Sunrise Boulevard for approximately the next six months. This schedule could be delayed for unforeseen reasons.

Construction Hours:

7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturdays

\*Certain exceptions will apply

Two-way traffic will be maintained at most times. However, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. materials unloading operations are allowed to take place. At those times the east or west-bound available lanes may be closed for 30 minute intervals, allowing traffic both ways alternating through one lane.

The project team will work diligently to minimize disruptions. However, access to residences, businesses and schools could be impacted during construction.

Pedestrian access will be provided at all times. Pedestrians are asked to observe the sidewalk closure signs and proceed only in designated areas through the construction zones. Children should stay away from construction areas and parents, guardians and school teachers are encouraged to talk to them about the dangers of construction zones.

If you have any comments or concerns regarding the construction, please call the toll-free, 24-hour project hotline at (866) 479-0600.

## ATTENTION CURSILLISTAS FOURTH DAY:

Fourth Day will be held on Monday, August 27, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Mary Hall of the Community Center. Prior to the meeting, if you desire, we will meet in the Chapel for prayer at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please call Young Stewart at (916) 332-8732.

## 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.

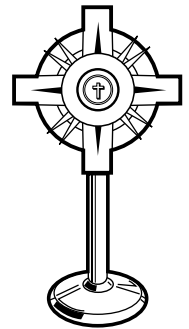
### VOCATIONS CROSS

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.



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# NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE AND BEYOND

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## LIFE-LONG CATECHESIS: A DREAM OR A REAL POSSIBILITY?

with Bill Huebsch

Pastors – Deacons - Pastoral Associates - Parish Council  
DRE/CRE - RCIA Coordinators - Youth Ministers

Thursday, September 27, 2007; 9:00 am to 3:30 pm  
Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Redding

or

Friday, September 28, 2007 9:00 am to 3:30 pm  
Diocesan Pastoral Center, 2110 Broadway, Sacramento

Questions? Call the Evangelization Department 733-0123

## FIRST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER DINNER FOR BISHOP GALLEGOS MATERNITY HOME

DATE: Sunday Evening, September 30, 2007  
Reservations Close: September 19, 2007

TIME: 5:00 p.m. No-host Cocktail Hour  
6:00 p.m. Roast Chicken Dinner, including wine  
7:00 p.m. Short Program

PLACE: Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento  
PRICE: \$55 per person

HONOREE: BGMH's Director Lenore Mullarkey

Tables of ten can be reserved. Any questions, call dinner chairwoman, Betty Ann Lambert 485-7579 or BGMH Board Treasurer, Carol Schoner 791-1819. Mail checks and guest list to BGMH Dinner, P.O. Box 305, Fair Oaks, CA. 95628.

Please list all guest names and your phone number.

The BGMH Board and Guild look forward to meeting, thanking, and greeting all of you, our loyal pro-life supporters and BGMH donors, at our very first fundraiser dinner.

## MASS FOR SINGLE ADULTS:

The Single Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Sacramento in conjunction with St. James Catholic Church in Davis invites all adult singles to a Mass on Saturday, September 8, at 5:30 pm at St. James Church, 1275 B Street, Davis. Mass will be followed by a brain storming session, gathering and potluck dinner. Please bring a potluck dish to share. For more information, please contact MaryLee Barcena (916) 419-9845 or email MaryLee at mbarceno@earthlink.net.

## HEALING AFTER ABORTION RETREAT, SEPT. 21 - 23, 2007

Do you know someone hurting after an abortion? Still seeking peace years later? Experience the healing love of Jesus at Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, September 21-23rd, in Auburn, sponsored by the Diocese of Sacramento.

The weekend retreat includes sharing of stories, spiritual exercises, sacraments and a memorial service. Open to women, men, couples and family members touched by abortion. 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. Inquiries and participation are strictly confidential.

## **8TH ANNUAL GOLD RUSH DAYS**

**Old Sacramento August 31 - September 3, 2007**

Celebrate with the Sisters of Mercy –  
150 years of ministry in the Diocese of Sacramento

You are invited to experience:

- Daily life in early Sacramento
- "Living History" characters such as the Sisters of Mercy in their traditional habits, cobblestone roads, horse drawn wagons and Wild West shoot-outs
- Mercy vignettes at the Old School House and the Eagle Theatre and an exhibit in Waterfront Park.
- Pony Express re-enactments, cooking, dancing, a traveling salesman, Colt revolver demonstrations, butter churning, biscuit making, a blacksmith and gun shop, street dramas, musicians, wagon and pony rides, and gold panning
- Discovery Museum exhibit **"When There is Need, There is Mercy,"** commemorating the milestone year
- And more!

This event is FREE to the public. For more information please visit [www.discovergold.org/goldrush](http://www.discovergold.org/goldrush).

## **SINGLE CATHOLIC ADULTS**

A 'Meet & Mingle' Potluck Picnic will be held

Sunday, September 9th, 2007 1 :00 pm

Mc Kinley Park near the rose garden.

Newcomers, present and past members of CAC are welcome

Call the Catholic Alumni Club hotline: (916) 962-6107

## **The 8th Women of Grace® Conference - September 21st – 23rd**

"The Spirit and the Bride say 'Come.'" Rev. 22:17

Johnnette Benkovic, Founder and Director of Living His Life Abundantly® International, Inc., and Women of Grace®, invites you to attend the 8th Women of Grace® Conference "The Spirit and the Bride say 'Come'" (Rev/ 22:17) at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver, Colorado the weekend of September 21st – 23rd, 2007. Be encouraged and inspired by Johnnette Benkovic, Dr. Edward (Ted) Sri, Theresa Tomeo, Mary Beth Bonacci and Curtis and Michaelanne Martin! Enjoy fun and fellowship throughout the weekend. Let your soul soar with beautiful and uplifting music by Lynn Cooper. Soak up the graces with daily Eucharist and adoration. A special track for high school age young women will also be included in this conference with moderator Mary Beth Bonacci!

This is a weekend that every woman should attend.

Contact Sally Sutter at 624-5947 or at [ssutter@starstream.net](mailto:ssutter@starstream.net) for more information. For registration information call 1-800-558-5452 or visit [www.womenofgrace.com](http://www.womenofgrace.com) today! Call the Adam's Mark for hotel reservations at 1-800-444-2326 and mention the Women of Grace® Conference.

Johnnette Benkovic, can often be heard in the mornings on 1620 Catholic Radio.

# **JOINT CATHOLIC-ORTHODOX CELEBRATIONS FOR THE ARRIVAL IN AMERICA OF THE HOLY RELICS OF SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA**

On September 8th and 9th, 2007, the Catholic and Orthodox Christian faithful of the Sacramento area will hold a series of celebrations on the official arrival of the Holy Relics of Saints Joachim and Anna in America. These celebrations, to which all are invited, will be attended by the major Catholic and Orthodox Christian hierarchs of the region, including the Most Reverend William Keith Weigand, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento and His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco.

The full schedule of all events and locations is as follows:

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2007**

Location: Catholic Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament  
1017 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

7:30 pm Service of Thanksgiving  
Celebrated by the Most Reverend William Keith Weigand, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento, attended by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco.

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2007**

Location: Saint Anna Greek Orthodox Church  
1001 Stone Canyon Drive, Roseville, CA 95661

10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
With His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

3:30 pm Media availability with the Holy Relics of Saints Joachim and Anna, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, and Kristen Bruskas, Executive Director of the Metropolis Family Wellness Center

5:00 pm Service of Supplication  
Celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, attended by the Most Reverend William Keith Weigand, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento, followed by a reception

## **SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA**

According to the extra-biblical account, a rich and pious couple, Joachim and Hannah lived in Nazareth. They were childless. On a feast day, Joachim presented himself to offer sacrifice in the temple, but he was repulsed by a priest named Ruben, under the pretext that men without children were unworthy to be admitted. Joachim, bowed down with grief, did not return home, but went instead into the mountains to fast and pray to God in solitude. Hannah, having learned the reason for Joachim's prolonged absence, cried to the Lord to take away from her the curse of sterility, promising to dedicate her child to the service of God. Their prayers were heard, and an angel came to Hannah proclaiming that she would conceive and give birth to a child that would be blessed. The angel made the same promise to Joachim, who returned to Anna. Hannah gave birth to a daughter whom she named Mary, born without sin to be the mother of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

## **THE HOLY RELICS**

The term Holy Relics refers to the material remains of a saint after his repose or to those items which have come into contact with his sanctified body. For members of the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church the pious veneration of Holy Relics remains a living tradition. The Holy Relics of Joachim and Anna, the maternal grandparents of the Christ, were taken from the Garden of Gethsemane and venerated by the early Christians. These Holy Relics were brought to France by Charlemagne in the 9th century. They were later taken to Cologne, Germany, some relics being placed in the respective Cathedrals of Joachim and Anna, while other Relics were placed in the private collection of the Archbishop of Cologne. The Greek Orthodox Church received these relics from Cardinal Joachim Miesner of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cologne, Germany in a private ceremony in 1997. The Holy Relics of Joachim and Anna were gifted to representatives of the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Anna in Roseville on August 3, 2007 in the 10th Century Byzantine Church of the Mother of God Chalkeon in Thessalonica, Greece.