



December 23, 2007 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." Mt 1:23

† Servant Leader †

HOW DO WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

Isn't it just a little hard to believe that we will be celebrating Christmas Masses again in just a day! It does not seem to be twelve months since last Christmas, although I am sure many children would strongly disagree!

The challenge this Christmas, as it is every year, is "what can we, as individuals and as a faith community, do to make Christmas Masses something special and not just 'same old, same old'?" Here are a few suggestions to perhaps make the Christmas Mass experience more fulfilling:

- **Lend a hand.** Those who prepare liturgical celebrations in our parish have a lot of additional work to do leading up to important celebrations like Christmas. Perhaps you could offer to help decorate or tidy the church, help distribute worship aids or song sheets or just be there to offer a hand on the little things that inevitably pop up at the last minute.
- **Arrive early.** There are plenty of things to be organized before Mass starts, especially with the extra crowds that attend at Christmas time. The regular ushers and hospitality greeters would greatly welcome assistance with making sure the exterior church doors stay closed to keep the church warm and comfortable and all the other jobs that need doing.
- **Be hospitable.** Extend a warm welcome to everyone you encounter at Mass, not just those people you know. Make visitors feel at home by making sure they have worship aids and by not glaring if they choose to sit in 'your' seat or if their children make a noise during Mass. Holy Family Church should always be a place where people feel welcome and wanted - at home - and Christmas is a wonderful time to renew our efforts and hold our arms wide open!
- **Sit near the front of the church** so that back pews are left free for latecomers. Fellow parishioners and visitors will know they are welcome if we don't occupy the end of an otherwise empty pew so they have to climb over us to get to a seat.
- **Participate enthusiastically.** The Second Vatican Council reminded us that liturgy is the work of whole Church, the Head and members. Model "full, conscious and active participation" by taking part enthusiastically in the entire celebration. Listen attentively, join in the responses and singing, share the sign of peace with feeling, engage with the symbols, sounds, smells and tastes of the celebration. We should pray our parts of the Mass as though every prayer depended upon our words.

- **Show gratitude.** Christmas is the time for giving thanks to God for the gift of his Son. That sense of goodwill should be extended to others, including the people who have assisted with preparing and celebrating liturgy in our communities during the year. A word of thanks to preachers, presiders, musicians, sacristans, greeters and other liturgical ministers will be greatly appreciated.
- **Lend a helping hand to those in need.** Each Christmas and Easter at Holy Family, and on numerous other occasions, we offer a second collection specifically to help meet the needs of the poor and struggling people in and around our community. We will continue this holy tradition at all Christmas Masses this year and all are encouraged to be generous, as the wonderful people of Holy Family always have been, to make a difference in the lives of those in need.
- **Spread Christmas cheer.** Our celebration of Mass continues as we live out our mission as the body of Christ in our homes, communities and workplaces. We should always take the Mass and the experience of Eucharist with us throughout our days and weeks, and the joy and festivity of the Christmas Season is a perfect opportunity to begin or renew that mission and start to make it a habit!

All of us are whole-heartedly encouraged to invite the people our lives touch to come celebrate Christmas with us at Holy Family. It's still not too late to take a handful of the bright green Christmas schedules that are near every door of the church and spread the word about our celebrations of the Birth of Christ.

And the evangelization doesn't end with the invitation. Every parishioner present at Christmas Masses can seize this once-a-year chance to evangelize not only through a friendly invitation but also through sharing with those who accept our invitations a joyful, active celebration of the glorious Christmas Mass.

***"God sent his angels to shepherds,
to herald the great joy of our Savior's birth.
May he fill you with joy
and make you heralds of his gospel."
(Solemn Blessing of Christmas)***

A blessed and peaceful Christmas to all and my heartfelt thanks for your encouragement and support during the past year.

PREPARING FOR THE ULTIMATE GIFT

THIS WEEK, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT...

THE GIFT OF LOVE

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Lk 1:67-79
 Tue: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
 Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
 Wed: St. Stephen: Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
 Thu: St. John: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a,2-8
 Fri: The Holy Innocents: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18
 Sat: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
 Sun: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph:
 Sir 3:2-7, 12-14; Co13:12-21; Mt 2:13-15,19-23

Questions of the Week:

Children: When you pray, how do you hear God's voice in response?
 Youth: What will you do within this Christmas celebration to open yourself more fully to "God with us"?
 Adults: What experiences do you have of God "speaking to you" and directing your life and work?

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon: Jerry Lambirth +; Timothy Goodwin -Int.
 Tue: Jerry Lambirth +; Timothy Goodwin -Int.
 Wed: Jason Murphy -Int.
 Mr. Clarence Sikorski -Int.
 Mrs. Sophie Jedrysek -Int.
 Thu: Mrs. Lu Zemba -Int.
 Fri: Brigido B. Martinez +; Rick Gutierrez +
 Mr. Tony Sikorski -Int.
 Sat: 8:30 am Mass Madeline Ferlisi -Int.
 4:30 pm Mass Alicia Buenrostro +
 Sun: 9:00 am Mass Rick Gutierrez +



PRAYER CORNER

Please remember in your prayers:
 Clair Alway, Mary Avila, Richard Blanco, Elisa Bulhoes, Bernard Burke, Bob Cleveland, Marie Crane, Darren Crose, Julie Desrochers, Virginia Dulley, Frank Gaul, Ralph Gingrich, Bob Gokey, Robert Gonzaga, Jason Hayes, Stanley Hayes, Michele Hock, Kathleen Johnson, Phyllis Johnson, Bill Keenan, Jonnie Kuennen, Karen Lewis, Donald Maguire, Earl Mattingly, Dean McGinty, Rigoberto Mendoza, Jenine Michilena, Xochitl Montano, Mariah Morris, Jason Murphy, Elliott Jerome Neal, Andy Ngo, Scott Ngo, Cora Orzol, LeeAnn Parrott, Maryanne Pelzel, Gilbert Perron, Jennifer Pinnow, Tom Poeschl, Sr. Mary Porter, Christine Regan, Raymond Remick, Suzanne Rose, Nikelle Schafer, Katherine Schottgen, Diane & Mike Smith, Marylyn Smith, Lisa Stamps, Jardee Stanley, Jo Ster, Laura & Paul Studer, Simon Sucharski, Clement Sweeney, Maureena Sutton, Elise Taylor, I. Thompson, Larry Thompson, X. Thompson, Jovita Vargar, Jean Villanueva, Emily Walsh, Marvin Webster, Robert Westbrook, Sharel Wilson

Stewardship

~ a way of life ~

END-OF-THE-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Giving at Christmas and at Year's End is not only a Catholic tradition, but a special way to commemorate the Greatest Gift - God's gift of His only Son, Jesus. This time of year gives us more than a financial opportunity, but a spiritual opportunity to be good stewards of the many gifts bestowed on us this year.

The financial opportunity is significant as well. Many individuals will make charitable contributions late in the calendar year to take advantage of this year's tax benefits. **In order to do so, checks must be dated and envelopes postmarked on or before December 31, 2006.**

If you are in the position to make end-of-the-year contributions, please consider Holy Family Parish as a beneficiary of your support. Many different forms of year-end contributions are available, all of which carry tax benefits.

Visit the parish website at www.holyfamilych.org. In the left column of the home page there is a link to more detailed information on planned giving.

PAY TO THE ORDER OF...

Last Sunday's Dialogue Homily raised the question: "How do you make checks payable for second collections?" Please make all checks payable to "Holy Family Church" and designate the group, cause or purpose for the second collection in the memo line of the check. Thank you.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

There will be a second collection at all Christmas Masses to help the poor and struggling of our community. Please be generous in assisting our brothers and sisters this blessed season.

STEWARDSHIP - TREASURE	
GENERAL COLLECTION	
Weekly Goal	\$ 11,000.00
Nov 25.....	\$ 10,090.00
Dec 2.....	\$ 12,389.00
Dec 9.....	\$ 11,172.00
Dec 16.....	\$ 10,153.00
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ 260,904.00
Goal-to-Date (25 Weeks)	\$ 275,000.00
% of Goal Collected	94.87 %
Annual Goal	\$ 572,000.00
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Religious Retirement	\$ 2,623.00
<i>When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother, Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit!</i>	



Holy Family School

Holy Family School students began their Christmas Vacation on Friday, December 21, secure in the knowledge that they had made Christmas brighter for literally hundreds of area residents and at least two Armed Forces troops through their contributions to the many service projects which the school sponsored during the past two months. Now the school community takes this opportunity to wish all parishioners a very blessed Christmas season and a New Year filled with God's most abundant blessings!

Merry Christmas

GET THE WORD!

It is a truly wonderful experience to hear the Word of God proclaimed at Mass, and the experience can be so richly enhanced when we read the scriptures ahead of time, take a little time to reflect on what we've read and come to Mass with a personal interest in the gift of the Word we are about to receive. The new church year is now here, and the Holy Family Liturgy Council encourages all parishioners to utilize one of the many great resources for upcoming lectionary readings.

One such resource is "Magnificat" which is available in our religious articles store; another popular source is the St. Joseph's Missal which is published in both daily and Sunday formats.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER

Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference is having their annual Pot Luck dinner on Saturday, December 29th, in St. Joseph hall, after the 4:30 mass. Everyone is invited to join us as we celebrate another year of seeking the presence of Christ in those whom we serve. Please bring your favorite dish and join us for an evening of fellowship as we look back on the year's blessings and look forward to the joys and challenges of the coming year. With heart felt gratitude and sincere appreciation, for all of your support this year, we ask for God's blessing upon you as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and look, with confidence in God's goodness and mercy, towards the New Year.

POINSETTIAS WELCOME

In keeping with our annual tradition, Holy Family is asking for donations of poinsettias to adorn the church this Christmas. We are now accepting donations, and you may bring your flowers and leave them at the entrances by the chapel any time this weekend. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. May your Holidays be blessed!

MONTHLY COMMUNAL ANOINTING

On the first Saturday of each month beginning on January 5th, Holy Family Church will offer an Anointing of the Sick at the 8:30 am Mass.

Joyful Noize

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND SINGALONG **IN THE CHURCH, TONIGHT** **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23RD:**

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."

YOUTH MINISTRY

WARM HANDS, WARM HEARTS

As we begin Advent this weekend, so begins the CYM blanket and warm clothing drive. Each family is asked to donate a blanket, or sleeping bag which will be distributed to the homeless on the day after Christmas. We are also accepting stocking hats, gloves, sweats, and socks. Please consider sharing the gift of warmth during this cold winter season of giving! These items can be placed in the red tubs in the sanctuary area.

SANDWICH DRIVE- DECEMBER 26TH

All Parishioners are invited to give food/cash donations to the Youth Ministry and Joyful Noize effort to feed the hungry on the day after Christmas. Donations of turkey/ham leftovers, loaves of bread, mayo, mustard, lettuce, bottled water, canned soda, snacks are needed! Please drop off your items on the 26th at St. Joseph Hall at 9:00 am.

GOT GLASSES?????

Help the Lions Club give renewed sight to someone who desperately needs it. During the months of January and February, Holy Family will be collecting your old eyeglasses. You will see collection boxes in the vestibules and in the school office. This is an easy way for us to help an unknown someone, somewhere in the world.

MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT:

First call for the men of the parish to our annual retreat at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center on the weekend of Jan 18-Jan 20, 2008. Don't miss out on this great experience of spiritual renewal. Space is limited, so make your reservation early. Phone Chuck Rose at 725-7119 or Ed Clark at 725-3371 to make a reservation or call the Retreat Center at 725-4720. You can view the Center at: www.passionist.org/retreats/christtheking.



**Christ the King
Passionist Retreat Center**



ADVENT - A Season of Preparation and Anticipation

PRAYERS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The leader may begin:

In the beginning God made the world and saw it was good. Long ago, God placed a tree in the garden of paradise as his gift to all human beings, a tree of wisdom and knowledge and laden with every good thing. Our Christmas Tree reminds us of that tree. Long ago too, God's kindness appeared in the coming of Christ, who is our hope of eternal life. This tree is a sign of Christ's blessings.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis: Genesis 2: 4-9

This is the story of the heavens and the earth after their creation. When the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, there was neither shrub nor plant growing on the earth, because the Lord God had sent no rain; nor was there anyone to till the ground...

The Lord God formed a human being from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, so that he became a living creature.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden away to the east, and in it he put the man he had formed... and in the middle of the garden he set the tree of life.

Then all pray:

Lord, our God,
The heavens are the work of your hands,
the moon and the stars you made;
the earth and the sea and every living creature
came into being by your word. And all of us, too.
May this tree bring cheer to this house
through Jesus Christ your good and holy Son,
who brings life and beauty to us and to our world.
Lighting this tree, we hope in His promise.

The lights of the tree are illuminated and a carol may be sung.

PRAYERS AT A CHRISTMAS MANGER

The leader may say:

It was St. Francis of Assisi who first popularized the Christmas manger. Wanting to see how Christ was born with his own eyes, he had a stable and some images made before Christmas and then invited his neighbors and friends to come and join him at his "Bethlehem." As we look on our manger, may the Christmas story unfold before our eyes, too.

Listen to the Holy Gospel according to Luke: Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree was issued by the emperor Augustus for a census to be taken throughout the Roman world. This was the first Registration of its kind; it took place when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone made his way to his own town to be registered. Joseph went up to Judaea from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to register in the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house of David by descent; and with him went Mary, his betrothed, who was expecting her child.

(The figures are then placed in the manger, and after a short period of quiet, the reading continues.)

While they were there, the time came for her to have her baby, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Then all pray:

O God, whose mighty Son was born in Bethlehem those days long ago, lead us to that same poor place, where Mary laid her tiny Child. And as we look on in wonder and praise, make us welcome him in all new life, see him in the poor, and care for his handiwork the earth, the sky and the sea.
O God, bless us again in your great love.
We pray for this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Christmas song may conclude the blessing.

*"... They made known the message that had been told them about this child.
All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them..." Luke 2:17-18*



Holy Family Christmas 2007

Christmas Vigil - Monday, December 24, 2007

Faith Formation & Children's Choir Program begins at 5:20 pm

Vigil Masses - 6:00 pm in English; 9:00 pm in Spanish

Christmas Midnight Mass - Begins Monday, December 24, 2007

Christmas Music Program Begins Monday, December 24, at 11:15 pm

Mass - 12:00 Midnight (Tuesday, December 25)

Christmas Day - Tuesday, December 25, 2007

Masses: 7:30 & 9:00 am, 12:30 pm in English; 10:30 am in Spanish



SIMBANG GABI

Novena Masses in preparation for Christmas
December 15-23, 2007

The Filipino-American Community has organized for everyone to gather together in festive celebration of the Eucharist and agape (fraternal snack).

FINAL MASS:

Sunday, December 23, 4:30 pm

GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE - PLAN AHEAD!

The following dates are confirmed for our 2008 blood drives:

- Sunday, February 3, 2008 - Round Table Coupon
- Sunday, May 4, 2008 - Memorial Day T-Shirts
- Sunday, August 5, 2008 - Baskin-Robbins Coupons
- Sunday, November 2, 2008 - To be determined...

Any questions or for more information, please call Larry Larsen at 961-1036 (evenings).

CELEBRATING NEW YEAR'S EVE AT HOLY FAMILY

On New Year's Eve, we are getting together for a Thanksgiving Liturgy in the Church (Te Deum) at 8:30 p.m., followed by a Gala Dinner and Dance in Holy Family Community Center. The contribution is \$25.00 per person and includes dinner. Reservations are encouraged. To get tickets, please get in touch with Dina or Ruben Moreno 916-481-2963.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING (NFP)

The Creighton Model Fertility Care system teaches couples how to live in harmony with God's gift of fertility, rather than looking for ways to alter or interrupt the natural process. While highly effective at avoiding pregnancy, it is also used effectively to achieve pregnancy, making it a true method of family planning. In addition, it can assist a trained medical consultant in the diagnosis and treatment of infertility and other gynecologic problems. Our next Introductory Session is Wednesday, January 9, 2008, 7:30 p.m., at Mercy Women's Center, 650 Howe Ave., Suite 530, Sacramento. Please call 614-2200 to pre-register.

SIMPLE, RELIABLE CAR NEEDED

An individual in our Diocese faced with particular difficulties and extraordinary circumstances is in great need of a simple, reliable car for daily transportation. If you or someone you know is blessed with such a vehicle that you no longer use and you have the ability to fill such a special need, please contact Fr. Kiernan at 723-2494.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL FOR LIFE-JANUARY 4 & 5

All Night Vigil for Life at St Rose Catholic Church, 5961 Franklin Blvd, Sacramento on the First Friday, January 4th beginning with 7:30 PM Mass and ending on the first Saturday, January 5th with 8:00 AM Mass. Msgr. Kavanagh will lead a Holy Hour of Reparation to the Sacred Heart immediately after the 7:30 PM Mass. Please join us for an hour or more or spend the night. Following the Vigil we will pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at the Abortion Clinic on Wright St. and Alta Arden. Any questions call June Schott at 967-9158.

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.

PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOP (www.tovpil.org).

In this 15-week Workshop you will learn different methods of praying, from basic prayer to contemplative prayer. In the process you will acquire traits of serenity, love, patience, forgiveness and humility, and you will establish a personal relationship with the Lord. The Workshop will be held on Wednesday evenings starting January 16, 2008, from 7 - 9 PM at Holy Family Church (Math Lab), 7817 Old Auburn Road, Citrus Heights. For more information and to reserve a place, call Irene Cervantes, 972-8585.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DIOCESE AND BEYOND

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION AND MASS: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28.

Meet at the Cathedral (11th & K) at 5:45 p.m. and walk in procession to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (7th & T) for Mass at 7:00 p.m. This annual March for Life commemorates those male infants of Bethlehem who were killed by decree of King Herod, as well as those innocent unborn babies killed by abortion today. Candles will be provided. Bring umbrellas if needed. Carpool shuttles will return people to their cars. Info: call Carol 916-791-1819.
Thank you and God Bless

BUS TRIP TO SILVER LEGACY, RENO

The Roseville Knights of Columbus #4540 are sponsoring a Bus Trip to Silver Legacy, Reno on Sunday, January 27th. The cost is \$28 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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CATECHISM

The University of Sacramento is excited to announce our Spring 2008 course entitled Introduction to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This course on the Catechism will introduce students to the origin and history of catechesis as found in Scripture and the Church Fathers. The course will focus primarily on the four pillars of the Catechism: Creed, Liturgy, Moral Life, and Prayer. Emphasis will be placed on passing on and teaching these truths to others.

This course provides the content requirement for the Basic Catechist Certificate and is approved by the Diocese of Sacramento.

Faculty: John Hamlon, M.A., et al.

Wednesday, Jan. 16 - Apr. 23; 6:00 - 9:10 PM

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact me at (916) 443-4760, extension 16, or at lmcperson@universityofsacramento.org.

Applications and Registration Forms for all three of our programs in Catholic Faith Formation may be located online at www.universityofsacramento.org.

CATHOLIC HIGH-SCHOOL PLACEMENT EXAM

The High School Placement Exam for prospective students of all Catholic high schools will be on Saturday, January 26 at 8:00 a.m. Registration for the exam should be done at the school you plan to attend in the fall. For more information contact the individual school's admission's offices at:

Christian Brothers: 733-3690; www.cbhs-sacramento.org

Cristo Rey: 733-2660 x2004; www.cristoreysacramento.org

Jesuit: 482-6060 x 227; www.jhssac.org

Loretto: 482-7793 x 103; www.loretto.net

St. Francis: 452-3461 x195; www.stfrancishs.org

ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL SPEAKERS SERIES

On Tuesday, January 22nd, 2008, the St. Francis High School Alumnae Association will host California Secretary of State Debra Bowen and Executive Director of the California Catholic Conference Edward "Ned" Dolejsi for a Speakers Series presentation, "California Catholics: Legislation, Elections and Social Justice." With the California Presidential Primary Elections on February 5th, Debra Bowen and Ned Dolejsi will provide timely information about the electronic voting process and the Catholic Church's stand on some of the major ballot measures in the 2008 elections. Location: St. Francis High School Theatre: 5900 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento. Doors open at 6:30 pm; presentations 7 pm - 9 pm. \$5 per person - proceeds benefit the St. Francis High School Scholarship Fund. Please RSVP: Carrie Harcharik, 737-5020 or CHarcharik@stfrancishs.org.

HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY

The Abbey of New Clairvaux is the only men's Cistercian ("Trappist") monastery serving our diocese and is offering the opportunity to be part of its historic building project. For gifts of \$360 or more, you can sponsor one of the 800-year-old Sacred Stones of a former Cistercian monastery that is being reassembled on the Abbey's Vina grounds. When complete, this building, a true architectural treasure, will enhance the spiritual experience for the monastery's visitors for the next 1,000 years. Stone sponsors may name a stone in honor of or in memory of someone they love - a lovely gift option for Christmas. For more information, please contact Valerie Husek at (530) 839-9936 or vhusek@newclairvaux.org.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

"Acts of the Apostles," Art Wehr, SJ will present at St. Ignatius Parish Campion Center on Tuesdays January 8, 15, 22 & 29, from 10:00-11:30AM and again from 7:00-8:30PM. Cost is \$10.00 for the series. Call 916.482.9666 ext.238 or email fohlisen@stionatiussac.org. Renewal of Certification Credit: 6 hrs for Scripture.

"First Eucharist - A Family Process" Sharon Laitinen, Coordinator of English Catechesis for the diocese, will be sharing practical ways to involve the family in First Eucharist Preparation at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Wed., Jan. 16, 9:15am to Noon. The focus will be blessing ceremonies and rituals adapted from the RCIA process. No charge. Register by calling Sharon at 916.733.0153.

GUIDING YOUR STUDENTS THROUGH THE CATHEDRAL

An In-Service for Teachers Day will be given on January 9, 4:00-9:00pm for those who are planning to tour the Cathedral with a group of students. The workshop includes a complete unit with interactive lesson plans for your students appropriate for grades 4-8, as well as RCIA classes. Workshop Cost is \$15.00 and includes materials and a light dinner. To register contact Denise Fracchia, denise@fracchia.com. Earn 5 hours toward Renewal Basic Certification in "Nature of Catechesis and Development of Catechesis."
