



January 20, 2008 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God." John 1:34

† Servant Leader †

CHRISTIAN SUFFERING - WAR STORIES

Often we think of how the Gospel is meant for the whole world. Christians suffer greatly for their faith in so many places. I share with you today the thoughts of Fr. Dennis M. Linehan about Christians in Iraq.

War stories are an inevitable byproduct of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many are stories of unspeakable tragedy and loss, they are told selectively and with reverence. Others are about the humdrum day-to-day existence of danger, fear and survival. But there are also stories with humorous elements; those are the ones most easily told to family and friends and then repeated by them.

One of my friends was stationed in Mosul, in the north of Iraq. He ran a railroad, a big one with a staggering logistical capacity. Though there was constant danger, the general situation was then more peaceful than it later became. He and his troops actually got to know Iraqis, were careful not to refer to them as hajis, went to their shops and restaurants and came to respect them. The Americans were fascinated to see that university students had discovered Skoal, the smokeless tobacco, and had even perfected the shake of the can. And they picked up local gossip, including the belief that the new wraparound sunglasses afforded the soldiers X-ray vision. As a result, the sunglasses became obligatory for all whenever they took out a convoy. And his entire unit returned safely from Iraq, with their lives and their sunglasses.

Our Christian family war stories have no elements of humor. And from the same city of Mosul come tales of persecution emigration and death.

The Chaldean archbishop of Mosul, Paulos Faraj Rahho, painted a dark picture of conditions in his diocese. He recognizes that the U.S. forces are "cleaning up" in the south of the country; but that has forced the terrorists to move north, and now they are concentrated in Mosul.

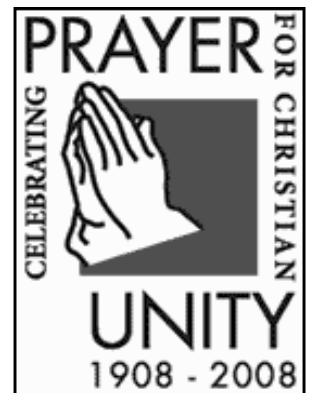
He blames the deplorable state of international politics and the ambitions of Iraq's neighbors for the chaos. "They don't want a free and independent Iraq because it would be too strong. United we would constitute a great intellectual and economic power. By keeping the country weak and divided, it is easier to dominate it." Though Christians in Mosul are only 3 percent of the population, they represent 35 percent of those with higher education; and doctors, lawyers, professors, clergy and journalists are the prime targets of terrorism. Many choose to flee.

In Baghdad it is almost as bad, according to Canon Andrew White, an Anglican priest who ministers to a diminishing community there. Canon White estimates that 90 percent of Iraqi Christians have fled or been murdered. Churches had to close in the city during the worst violence, and Christians were reluctant to seek protection, lest they be accused of collaborating with the U.S. military. Their prudence did not do much good, and Canon White estimates that the situation for Christians in Iraq at present is the most difficult in history.

But even for those who have managed to flee, life is far from easy. Antoine Audo, S.J., the Chaldean bishop of Aleppo in Syria, where there are 50,000 Chaldean Catholic refugees from Iraq, spoke recently of their plight. They left behind danger and instability, sometimes forced from their homes by Islamic jihadis. With few material resources and facing the scarcity of jobs in Syria, poverty and survival have forced many into prostitution, Christian relief organizations and overseas relatives provide some help, but more is needed. Bishop Audo also warned that in addition to the refugee crisis, there is also danger that Islamic jihadism will spread from Iraq to Syria and other neighboring countries.

Clearly there are limits to what relief organizations can do to ease the plight of Iraqi Christians in their own country or in the countries where they have sought refuge. It is equally clear that there are limits to what governments and military forces can do to restore even a semblance of peace and security, even when and where goodwill is present. And it is not clearly present in this maelstrom of horror and suffering. Of course we can pray, give alms, pressure politicians, become active in peace building groups; but there remains a pervasive sadness about how terribly people treat one another.

My officer friend with the railroad and sunglasses is, by coincidence, from Michigan, and Michigan is the center of a vibrant and generous Chaldean Catholic community of Iraqi Christians. May we, with them, dare hope for peace and prosperity for all in Iraq, in God's providence, though it may take decades. We repeat the prayers shall be for peace, which is what we wish uppermost and which we are trying to achieve.



CATHEDRAL EVENT - UNITY WEEK

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
GRAND ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE
TODAY, Sunday, January 20 – 3:00 pm
Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: St. Agnes: 1 Sm 15:16-23; Mk 2:18-22
Tue: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Mk 2:23-28
Wed: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mk 3:1-6
Thu: St. Francis de Sales: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Mk 3:7-12
Fri: Conversion of St. Paul: Acts 22:3-16; Mk 16:15-18
Sat: Sts. Timothy and Titus: 2 Tm 1:1-8; Mk 3:20-21
Sun: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 8:23—9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23



Questions of the Week:

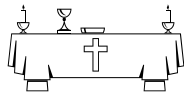
Children: If someone were to ask you, "Who is Jesus?" how would you answer?

Youth: With all the distractions of today's world, where do you see Christ or experience his presence?

Adults: If someone were to ask you, how would you answer this question: Who Jesus is for you?

MASS INTENTIONS

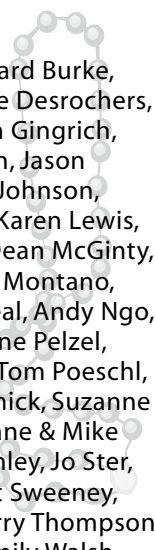
Mon: Edward Patrick O'Malley +
Asuncion Collejo +; Jason Murphy –Int.
Wed: Michael B. Jordan –Int.; Robert C. Jordan –Int.
Lorrie Mathias –Int.
Thu: Richard Bartucco +; Elwina Reeves +
Francis Bradley +
Fri: Art Tetzlaff +
Sun: 12:30 pm Mass Bill McElroy +
6:00 pm Mass Irineo Fernandez +
Modesta Fernandez +
Arthur Fernandez +
Aguilina Fernandez +



PRAYER CORNER

Please remember in your prayers:

Mary Avila, Richard Blanco, Elisa Bulhoes, Bernard Burke, Bob Cleveland, Marie Crane, Darren Crose, Julie Desrochers, Virginia Dulley, Olivia Garcia, Frank Gaul, Ralph Gingrich, Bob Gokey, Robert Gonzaga, Timothy Goodwin, Jason Hayes, Stanley Hayes, Michele Hock, Kathleen Johnson, Phyllis Johnson, Bill Keenan, Jonnie Kuennen, Karen Lewis, Donald Maguire, Kim Malone, 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, Steve Phelps, 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 ~



ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL IN TWO WEEKS

Please give generously to the Annual Catholic Appeal- 25% comes back to our parish Commitment Weekend for the 2008 Annual Catholic Appeal will take place in two weeks (February 2-3). Through our support, we can assure the continued existence of many vital social service programs that assist tens of thousands of people in need; assist with the formation of diocesan seminarians, some from local parishes, and assure the establishment of new parishes in rapidly growing areas. Please respond generously when you are asked to make a gift. God's return to you will be even more generous.

LIVING DIOCESAN SYNOD PASTORAL INITIATIVE 7

Ensure an ongoing commitment to the advancement of the social mission of the church... Can you help?

Catholic Ladies Relief Society

Call Joyce Schweitzer 781-8753

Feed the Needy

Call Nora Martinez 721-1176

Loaves & Fishes

Call Evelyn Campangna 782-8976

Society of St. Vincent De Paul

Call Bill Swars 722-0264

STEWARDSHIP – TREASURE

GENERAL COLLECTION

Weekly Goal	\$	11,000.00
Dec 23	\$	9,895.00
Dec 30	\$	10,371.00
Jan 6	\$	12,846.00
Jan 13	\$	11,062.00
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$	305,078.00
Goal-to-Date (29 Weeks)	\$	319,000.00
% of Goal Collected		95.64 %
Annual Goal	\$	572,000.00

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Legacy Restoration Appeal..... \$ TBD

Today's responsorial psalm is the theme song of the good steward: "Here am I, Lord, I come to do your will." May I, too, stand ready to offer myself and my gifts in service of God.
See Psalm 40



Holy Family School is busily preparing for Catholic Schools Week, which begins next Sunday, January 27. The first event of this enriching week will be the annual OPEN HOUSE. This traditional activity will start with the nine o'clock Mass and continue in all the school's classrooms and learning venues until noon. Students, teachers, support staff, parent volunteers, and administrators will be present to answer any and all questions anyone might have about the school and its excellent curriculum and full menu of co-curricular activities. Please join the school community to celebrate Catholic education and Holy Family Parish's commitment to it!



JANUARY 22ND PRO-LIFE MASS

Bishop Jaime Soto will be celebrating the annual Pro-Life Mass on Tuesday, January 22nd at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacramento, 1017 11th Street in Sacramento at 10:30 am in reparation for the sin of abortion. Come join us as we pray to promote a culture of life! Pro-life rosary will be recited at 10 am. For more information, contact the Respect Life Office at (916) 733 -0133.

PRO-LIFE MASS FIRST FRIDAY February 1, 2008

There will be a Pro-life Mass at Holy Family Church on First Friday, February 1st, at 8:30 AM. Recitation of the Pro-life rosary will occur after Mass in the Adoration Chapel. Won't you please join us? Please mark the date on your calendar.

"In an age of artifice, many voters are hungry for substance. They admire and support political figures who speak out sincerely for their moral convictions. For our part, we commend Catholic and other public officials who, with courage and determination, use their positions of leadership to promote respect for all human life." (US Bishops, Living the Gospel of Life, 1998, D. 31)

WOMEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT: Are you with us? Jesus is inviting you to share in His Word and His gifts at our annual weekend retreat. Join us at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center on the weekend of Feb 29-Mar 2, 2008. Sign-up by calling Chyrl Marquez at 723-1468 or Barbie Meistas at 725-5973 or the Retreat Center at (916) 7254720. You can also visit the Center at our website: www.passionist.org/retreats/christtheking.



**Christ the King
Passionist Retreat Center**

YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Holy Family Youth Ministry is taking a little break to build a leadership team and prepare to go bigger and better this Spring! Starting in March we will have weekly programs and events geared towards Middle School and High School Teens. Check the bulletin each week for updates...

IT TAKES US ALL...

The Young People of Holy Family Parish need You! The Youth Ministry is expanding to offer weekly programs to middle school, youth, high school youth, and young adults. We are looking for Young Adults and Adults who are willing to serve out their baptismal call with the young Church. We often think of Youth Ministry as a few people who work directly with the youth each week... and that is a part of it...but we also need people with gifts and talents like yours (cooking, baking, fundraising, driving, chaperoning events) to be a part of the support system for the ministry to the youth of the parish. Join us on Wednesday, January 23rd from 7:00—8:00 PM in the St. Joseph Hall to find out more about the joys and opportunities that await you in Youth Ministry! Questions? Contact Victor Alvarez at the Youth Office, 721-8329.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

On the Feast of the Holy Family three years ago, my family started to feed the homeless on the streets every Sunday. This year, through the kindness of many in our parish, we were able to bring jackets, sweatshirts, hats, gloves, canvas bags, blankets and sleeping bags. We also received peanut butter and jelly to make our sandwiches. In thanksgiving to all, I have been and will continue to be in the chapel at 3:00 pm during the weekdays of January to offer the Chaplet of Mercy for all your intentions. Join me if you can. God bless you, Ginny Brown
P.S. I'm still collecting winter clothing in large and larger sizes.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY'S 10 LARGEST FAITH GROUPS

It is interesting to look at the numbers below from a study done in 2000 on the various denominations and faiths in Sacramento County. This will vary to some extent but be fairly representative throughout the diocese.

Religious Group	# of adherents	% of total
Roman Catholic	224,265	49.6
Mormon	30,936	6.8
Assembly of God	27,227	6.0
Independent Charismatic	20,595	4.6
Southern Baptist	20,451	4.5
Jewish	16,800	3.7
Episcopal	16,284	3.6
Presbyterian	10,869	2.4
Evangelical Lutheran	8,705	1.9
United Methodist	7,419	1.6
Muslim	6,637	1.5

Prayer Opportunities

SPECIAL ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY

Fr. John Sullivan continues his series of classes on the historical development of the sacraments. The talks and discussions involve the theological and liturgical development of each sacrament. The remaining meetings are January 24th and 31st from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Holy Family School Library. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to learn and grow in your Catholic faith.

REMAINING CLASS SCHEDULE:

1/24	Marriage and Ordination
1/31	The Eucharist

MONTHLY COMMUNAL ANOINTING - TIME CHANGE

On the first Saturday of each month, beginning on February 3rd, Holy Family Church will offer an Anointing of the Sick at the **4:30 pm Mass**.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

If you or someone you know has not completed their Sacraments of Initiation, Holy Family Parish will be offering Adult Confirmation classes beginning January 31st from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Faith Formation class room of the Community Center. Please contact Becky in the Faith Formation Office at 726-7217 for more information and to register.

PARISH BLOOD DRIVE RESCHEDULED IN MARCH:

At the request of the Sacramento Bloodsource, we are rescheduling our February 3rd blood drive to Sunday, March 2nd. If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment call Larry Larsen at the evening number of 961-1036.

PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOP

Learn to establish a closer relationship with the Lord. In this 15 week Workshop you will learn different methods of prayer, different ways of speaking with the Lord. In the process you will become more Christ-like: You will become more loving, more forgiving, more humble. The Workshop is held on Wednesday evening 7-9 PM in the School Math Room. For more information call Irene Cervantes, 972-8585.

SPRING - LENTEN 2008 "40 DAYS FOR LIFE"

It's official--we have been given the go ahead by Bishop Weigand. Sacramento is registered for the Spring (Lenten) "40 Days for Life," February 6th (Ash Wednesday) through March 16th. All churches are invited to participate. Spend some of your Lenten fasting, penance and prayer time in front of a clinic. Pray to end the scourge of abortion and speak out for the unborn baby who has no voice. Those who participated last year truly felt God's graces. Please call Sally Fisher at 780-5305

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.

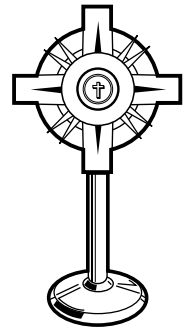


VOCATIONS CROSS

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

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.

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

WEEKEND PROGRAM

The "Beginning Experience of Sacramento" support group is offering a special weekend program of healing, hope and encouragement for divorced, separated or widowed persons of all faiths. The weekend retreat is Friday, February 15 through Sunday, February 17, 2008 at Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat Center near Applegate, CA. For more information or to request an application, please call (916) 835-2282 or visit our website at: www.sacramentobe.org.

ENCOUNTERING LIFE ALONE

The "Beginning Experience of Sacramento" support group is offering its "Encountering Life Alone" program of healing, hope and encouragement for divorced, separated or widowed persons of all faiths. This 10 week program starts on February 21, 2008 at St Michael's Episcopal Church 2140 Mission Ave., Carmichael. The meetings are held from 7:00-9:00 P.M. There is a one-time registration fee of \$10.00 and a \$5.00 weekly fee. For more information please call 835-2282 or visit our website at: www.sacramentobe.org.

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

GOD May be Calling YOU! Would you like to find out more about the will of God for you?

Come & join others for a DISCERNMENT RETREAT! (Bilingual-English/Spanish) There is no cost for this retreat. Find out where God is calling you!

Select a weekend that best fits your schedule: February 15 -16, 2008 or March 14 -15, 2008.

For more information, please contact: Office of Priestly & Religious Vocations Diocese of Sacramento - 2110 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95818 Telephone: (916) 733-0258 - E-Mail: callserve@diocese-sacramento.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.

INTERESTED IN GIVING A YEAR OF SERVICE TO THE CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES AS A LAY VOLUNTEER?

Mercy Volunteer Corps, a lay volunteer program sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy provides opportunities for men and women over the age of 21 to give a year of service to those in need. The emphasis of the program is service, community and prayer. Volunteer possibilities include teaching or nursing, working in homeless shelters, clinics and social service agencies in urban and rural settings throughout the United States. Room, board, medical insurance and a small stipend are provided. Loan deferments are available. For more information contact: Mercy Volunteer Corps Office (215) 641-5535 or Sheila Devereux, RSM (415) 751-9574.

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY:

Time is running out to register for the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. Let a cozy weekend for just the two of you keep you warm on these long winter nights. For more information, or to register for the upcoming weekend: Feb 15-17, Sacramento, call Raul & Gayla Ponce, 866-825-2046, or email: srsregistrar@comcast.net.

ST. IGNATIUS PARISH CRAB FEED DINNER AND DANCE

Saturday. February 9, 2008, 6:30 p.m. All-You-Can-Eat pasta, salad, bread, dungeness crab, ice cream, and coffee. Price: \$45.00 per person. Location: St. Ignatius Parish Center, 3236 Arden Way. Please stop by our rectory office to purchase your dinners in advance, Early reservations are encouraged. Monday- Friday 10 a.m. -4 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome - if space is available.

NEW YEAR'S / LENTEN RESOLUTION:

Learn modern Natural Family Planning! 99% effective; safe; no chemicals or devices; Church approved. Improve your marriage. An all new series will be offered beginning February 13th at St. Rose Parish in Sacramento. For more information or to register, call now (916) 369-0844.