

Sunday, August 18, 2013
13th Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 18 Aug, 13th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Louise Szabo
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Charlie Dana

Mon. 19 Aug, St. John Eudes, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am †Martha Robison
 12:15 pm FSSP

Tues. 20 Aug, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbot & Doctor, III Class

7:00 am Suffering Souls in Purgatory
 6:30 pm Jerry & Kathy Scarry

Wed. 21 Aug, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Widow, III Class

7:00 am Patrick Risse
 12:15 pm Barbara Ryan

Thurs. 22 Aug, Immaculate Heart of Mary, II Class

7:00 am Edward Wedinsky
 6:30 pm Rose Wedinsky

Fri. 23 Aug, St. Philip Benizi, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Bertoli Family
 12:15 pm Kalinowski Family
 6:30 pm Dr. Josepha Adubofore

Sat. 24 Aug, St. Bartholomew, Apostle, II Class

7:00 am Fr. Jeff Wilson
 9:00 am Fr. Mark Wagner

Sun. 25 Aug, 14th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am †James R. Sheldon
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Nicolini Family

Sick Calls

If anyone is in need of the Sacrament (i.e. homebound) please call the parish office. If it is an **emergency**, outside of office hours, dial (916) 455-5114, then press 1, leave a message, and the priest-on-call will be paged immediately.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Sister Marie Jeanne, Charles Cantoni, Mitzi Vandenburg, John Reyes, Dr. Gerald Foy, Cindy Yumoto

...In Memoriam

†Ray Keller, †Elin Frances Terra, †Martha Robison, †Gabriel Vargas, †Olympia Gonzalez, †Forrest Long, †Jenna Telles, †Bernard Beronio, †Georgia Munsill, †Patricia Greco, †Draga Kozina, †Doug McNeely, †Louis Solton

Important Upcoming Dates

Aug. 20—Chesterton Society Meeting (7:00 pm)
 Sept. 13—Fatima Procession
 Oct. 18—25th Anniversary of the Fraternity of St. Peter
 Oct. 31—All Saints Eve Party

Sincerity

“Lord, who shall dwell in Thy tabernacle, or who shall rest in Thy holy hill?” asks the Psalmist. And he gives the answer: “He that walketh without blemish, and worketh justice.”

God is truth, and no one can be admitted to His intimacy who does not strive as much as he can, to live in truth and to be sincere in all his actions. First of all, we must seek to possess truth in the depths of our heart, that we may know ourselves as we really are in the eyes of God, stripped of all disguise and artificiality. To do this we must accept, not only the truths which please us, but also those which are painful and wound our pride to the quick, revealing our faults and evil tendencies. A person who is sincere never closes his eyes to these truths, but values them, even if they are humiliating, knowing that humiliation which reveals the truth is worth more than illusion which flatters pride and keeps us in error. Sometimes God permits difficult pride and keeps us in error. Sometimes God permits difficult circumstances which are especially hard and trying for the practice of virtue, that we may see the truth and know ourselves as we really are. Under the onset of contradiction, we experience movements, hitherto unknown, surging up within us in movements of anger, rebellion, selfishness, from which perhaps we had had the illusion that we were free. In such cases, instead of turning our gaze away, it is necessary to have the courage to recognize these faults and confess them, humbly and frankly. St. John of the Cross speaks of certain pious souls who, in confession, “palliate (their sins) and make them appear less evil, and thus...excuse themselves rather than accuse themselves.” A soul that loves the truth is very far from acting in this way; even if it has only venial sins and imperfections of which to accuse itself in confession, it exposes them all very sincerely, without magnifying or minimizing them, never blaming circumstances, but only itself for all that is faulty. Sincerity in confessing our faults is the first step toward freeing ourselves from them.

A soul can be insincere in its interior life and its relations with God, but it can never deceive Him, and its lack of sincerity will only redound to its own disadvantage. But with respect to our neighbors it is not so; a want of sincerity can easily harm them, or at least deceive them. Hence, not only charity, but also justice demands that we conduct ourselves with the greatest sincerity in our relations with our neighbor. “Wherefore putting away lying,” St. Paul exhorts, “speak ye the truth every man with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.” Because of the natural ties, and still more, the supernatural ones, which bind us to our neighbor, he has every right not to be deceived either by our words or by our actions.

To be sincere, our words must, first of all, correspond to our thoughts. To be convinced of one thing and to affirm another, with the intention of deceiving someone, is directly contrary to truth and, therefore, an offense against God, who is infinite Truth. Such an act is absolutely inadmissible in any soul, and especially in one who aspires to union with God. How can falsehood hope to be united to deficiencies in sincerity are not wholly absent from the conduct of devout souls—little subterfuges, words spoken in such a way that they ward off a just rebuke, conceal a mistake which one does not wish to admit, or even attract a little praise or admiration...and all this through vanity or human respect, in order to avoid humiliation or suffering. These are mean ways of acting, unworthy of a sincere, noble spirit. Any want of sincerity, however small, in a soul who has consecrated itself to God, is very displeasing to Him, and is a serious obstacle to its spiritual progress. St. Margaret Mary writes: “If I should see a soul adorned with all the virtues except sincerity, and if I knew that she had been favored with great graces, it would all seem to me but deceit and illusion.”

It is not sufficient to be sincere in our words; we must also be sincere in our actions and conduct. Sincere conduct is that which makes us appear just as we are, with no affectation, and no desire to appear to be what we are not. Our words and actions should express the truth which has been sought and loved interiorly. Sincerity does not require us to reveal all that we think or know to everyone; this would be contrary to prudence and to other virtues. It does, however, demand that everything we do reveal, by word or act, or even by silence, corresponds to truth.

(“Divine Intimacy” by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

Confirmation 2014

Registration is now open for Confirmation classes.

Please bring a copy of your child’s baptism certificate to the parish office or bookstore and fill out the registration forms as soon as possible—**all paperwork must be in before the first class.**

Classes will begin the **second Saturday of September** starting with Holy Mass at 9:00 am.

Please Do Not Leave Thrift Store Items

If you have items you want to give to charity, please take them to St. Patrick’s Thrift Store—do not leave them on the benches in the courtyard.

Sewing Machines Needed & Buttons

If you have a sewing machine you no longer use, the Rosa Mystica Girls Society would love to take it off your hands! Because of the many girls we have this year, we are in need of 3 more sewing machines. We could also use buttons for a project we have planned.

If you have something to donate, you may bring it to the parish office or bookstore—or call us @ 916-455-5114.

My Other Self

By Clarence Enzler

You know, my other self, that you cannot often do magnificent things; but you can always do little everyday things magnificently. You may never have an opportunity to practice fortitude in persecution, to give to the poor all that you possess, to risk your life to save that of another, or to offer yourself as a martyr. But every day you have a hundred opportunities to be kind to your neighbor, instantly obedient to your obedient to your superiors, generous to your inferiors, cheerful in your work, helpful to your family and companions, meek in your imperfections, submissive to the circumstances of the weather, uncomplaining when plans go wrong, forbearing when slighted, forgiving when wronged.

I love the practice of the virtues in little things. That is why I said in My Sermon on the Mount: “Blessed are the meek and gentle, for they will inherit the land.”

Hardly any virtue is so frequently tested as this. How many times daily do you have occasion to be patient with others or with circumstances not of your liking! You are in haste and people get in your way. You long for peace and quiet and others interrupt you. Your superior is cross, your inferiors are insolent, your companions slight you. Your children spill food or paw the furniture with greasy hands or mark the walls with crayons or tear up the yard with their games.

What do you do? Do you brush aside those who get in your way, shout at those who disturb you, snap back at those who criticize you? And with what result: tension, irritation, shame-faced anger at yourself?

How much better it would be if you were patient, serene, at peace.

I will help you learn patience.

First, pray. Again I say: In this and all your spiritual activities you will make more progress in a moment of humble prayer than in a lifetime of your own unaided striving.

Pray for the grace to see Me in others with the eyes of faith. Pray for light to understand that when you are irritable with your fellow men you are irritable with me.

Surely if I could wash the feet of My disciples, you can with patience wipe up an egg that your child has broken, bear in peace a word of criticism, or hold your tongue in the face of discourtesy.....

(read more....available at St. Stephen’s bookstore)

New to St. Stephen’s?

Please stop by the office or bookstore and pick up a registration form. It is very helpful for us to have contact information for your family, even if you cannot come to St. Stephen’s every week.

If you do not have envelopes and would like them you can pick up a box in the bookstore. The use of envelopes is very helpful for our bookkeeping system.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary

When the Blessed Mother first appeared at Fatima on May 13, 1917, Lucia, the oldest of the visionaries, was only ten years old. At the age of fourteen, she was admitted as a boarder in the school of the Sisters of St. Dorothy in Vilar. Wanting to dedicate her life to Our Blessed Mother, she entered the Institute of the Sisters of St. Dorothy as a postulant in the convent in Tuy, Spain, on October 24, 1925, and pronounced her perpetual vows on October 3, 1934.

During her years of religious life she continued to receive messages from our Blessed Mother, starting on December 10, 1925, while she was still a postulant. In this apparition, Lucia saw the blessed Mother standing over a cloud of light with the Child Jesus at her side. The Blessed Mother put one hand on Lucia’s shoulder while the other hand held her Immaculate Heart that was surrounded with thorns. The Child Jesus spoke, “Have compassion on the Heart of your Blessed Mother. It is surrounded with thorns that ungrateful men pierce each moment and there is no one that is willing to offer an act of reparation to take the thorns away.”

The Blessed Virgin then spoke, “Look my daughter, My heart is surrounded with thorns that ungrateful men pierce unceasingly with their blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console me. You should announce that I promise for all those who on five consecutive first Saturdays, confess, receive Holy Communion, pray the Holy Rosary with the intention to do reparation, I will assist at the hour of death with the graces needed for salvation.”

Our Lord Himself revealed to Lucia the offenses; and blasphemies which wound the immaculate Heart of Mary: those who deny or question the Immaculate Conception, her virginity, her divine maternity and those who instill in children their prejudices against the immaculate Heart, and those who insult or offend her sacred images.

Our Lord once again appeared to Lucia in February 1926, asking about the promotion of the requests made by His Mother. Lucia could only explain the difficulties she encountered, but Jesus replied that His grace was sufficient.

(“See How She Loves Us” by Joan Carroll Cruz)

The Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home 7th Annual Fundraiser

Dinner celebrating 21 years of ministry to women in need will be held on Sunday, September 15, at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., in Sacramento. Bob Dunning will MC an exciting evening and mega-affle with Social Hour at 5 p.m. and Dinner at 6 p.m. Choice of Prime Rib, Chicken with Gorgonzola Cream Sauce, or Vegetarian Ravioli with wine included. Still only \$65 and tables of 10 may be reserved. Mail reservations and dinner choice to BGMH Dinner, P.O. Box 1596, Folsom, CA 95763 or call Kathy Baxter at 916.337.6824.

25th Anniversary Mass to be offered by

Fr. John Berg in Rome!

We are nearly full—If interested, contact us soon!

Travel to Rome, Italy see the most important religious sites of the Eternal City and then travel south to visit the shrines of Pompei, Nettuno, Materdomini, Naples & Amalfi.

For more information call 916-223-3112 or visit the website @ www.syversentouring.com/confraternity

~ Summer Dress Code ~

Please recall that everyone is expected to dress with modesty and in a way befitting the house of God. Our choice of clothing is an expression of our worship; it may also affect the ability of others to worship. Dress should conceal rather than reveal. There is a sign in the vestibule that gives more details regarding proper dress. It is further expected that modesty in dress be maintained on the church grounds at all times.

We do request that the correction of strangers in this matter be left to the priests or their delegates.