

Sunday, November 10, 2013
Resumed 5th Sunday after Epiphany



Sun. 10 Nov. Resumed 5th Sunday after Epiphany, II Class

8:30 am All Souls Novena
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm †Maria Nhu

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 11 Nov. St. Martin of Tours, Bishop & Confessor, III Class

7:00 am 670th MP Company
 12:15 pm †Jennifer Marlene Michaela Lindloff

Tues. 12 Nov. St. Martin I, Pope & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am †Patricia Greco

Wed. 13 Nov. St. Didacus, Confessor III Class

7:00 am Suffering Souls in Purgatory

Thurs. 14 Nov. St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr, III Class

7:00 am †Richard Alfred Becker

Fri. 15 Nov. St. Albert the Great, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class

7:00 am †Gasper Galante

Sat. 16 Nov. St. Gertrude the Great, Virgin, III Class

7:05 am Perez Family, living & deceased

Sun. 17 Nov. 6th Resumed Sunday After Epiphany, II Class

8:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Ignatius Sanchez

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Rosa Mystica Girls Society Bake Sale
Today after all the Masses

Please support RMGS today! Have lunch and pick up a special baked item to take home. Lots of goodies available!

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.

...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, †Rhoda Bowen

Important Upcoming Dates

Nov. 10—**Rosa Mystica Bake Sale - TODAY**
 Nov. 19—Chesterton Society meeting after 6:30 Mass
 Dec. 8—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Dec. 12—Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Jan. 25—Walk for Life
 March 26—Confirmation
 May 3—May Procession & Solemn Mass at the Cathedral
 June—21-28—Camp Sacred Heart

The Bond of Perfection

The Epistle for this Sunday recalls to our mind the fundamental duty of a Christian: charity. All programs and resolutions of the spiritual life are of little value if they are not animated by love and directed to the perfection of love. Detachment, mortification, humility, and all the other virtues are of little worth if they do not incline the heart to a wider, more complete and more expansive charity. "But above all these things," St. Paul recommends, "have charity, which is the bond of perfection"; not only love for God, but also for our neighbor. It is under this aspect that the Apostle speaks of charity in today's Epistle, carefully pointing out that all our relations with our neighbor should be inspired by love. "Put ye on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, the bowels of mercy, benignity, humility, modesty, patience; bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if any have a complaint against another." Fraternal charity is the mark of God's elect. If we do not have this distinctive mark, Jesus does not recognize us as His disciples; our heavenly Father does not love us as His children, nor will He take us into His Kingdom. The spiritual life requires the use of so many means, calls for the exercise of so many virtues that care must be taken lest we become lost in details, forgetting the love which should be the foundation and end of all. Of what value is the spiritual life, consecration to God, or even the vows of religion, if they do not help the soul to tend to the perfection of love?

Consider the perfect love which the Apostle asks us to have for our neighbor; mercy, compassion, mutual forgiveness, and that love which leaves no room for divisions or dissensions, which overcomes strife and forgets offenses. This is long-suffering charity which makes every sacrifice and overcomes all difficulties in order to be in harmony with all, because we all form "one body" in Christ, because we are all children of the same heavenly Father.

Fraternal charity of this kind is the surest guarantee of a spiritual life that is advancing toward sanctity.

The Epistle has presented us with the ideal of the Christian life, an ideal of love which should unite all the faithful in singleness of heart; the Gospel shows us the practical way to live this ideal.

"The kingdom of heaven is likened to a man that sowed good seed in his field. Buthis enemy came and oversowed cockle among the wheat." God has sown the good seed generously in His field, the world; He has sown grace and love, and the desire for total oblation, the ideals of an apostolic, religious, saintly life. But, in the midst of all this good, the enemy comes to sow evil. Why does God permit this? To sift His servants as we sift grain, to test them.

Sometimes we are scandalized, seeing evil working its way even into the best places, seeing that even among God's friends, among those who should be a source of edification to other, there are some who behave unworthily. Then we are filled with zeal, like the servants in the parable. We want to remedy this evil and root up the cockle. "Wilt Thou that we go and gather it up?" But God answers, "No, lest perhaps gathering up the cockle, you root up the wheat also together with it." The cockle is spared, not because it is good, but in order to save the wheat. In the same way God spares the wicked and does not destroy them, for the sake of the elect. When God asks us to endure with patience certain situations, as inevitable as they are deplorable, He asks for one of the greatest exercises of charity, compassion, and mercy. He does not tell us to fraternize with evil, to make a league with the cockle, but He tells us to endure it with the longanimity with which He Himself endured it. Was there not a traitor among the Apostles? Yet Jesus wanted him among His intimates—and with how much love He treated him! "*Divine Intimacy*" by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

One Week Only—Mass Schedule Change
IMPORTANT!

November 12th—16th, there will only be a 7:00 am Mass each of these days. There will be no noon or evening Masses and no Thursday adoration.

Spiritual Adoption Project

To help stop the anti-life push in the US, the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen encouraged the spiritual adoption of an unborn child. This is done by praying that one particular but unknown child's life be spared abortion and be allowed to continue to live.

To help accomplish this, it is recommended that an individual say the following daily prayer for a period of nine months: "*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.*"

During our earthly life, this spiritually adopted child of ours will be known only to God, but in the world to come, it is hoped that we will meet the child whose life was spared by our prayers and spend eternal happiness with them. We are also invited to name our spiritually adopted baby.

At St. Stephen's we will start a parish spiritual adoption project on **Sunday, December 8th**, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother. Spiritual Adoption prayer cards will be distributed after all Masses and a poster will be displayed in the vestibule each month to show the progress of our little ones! Every parishioner is encouraged to get involved in this project.

On Sept. 8th, 2014, to celebrate the birth of our babies, we will have a parish baby shower with the proceeds to go to the Sacramento Life Center and Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home.

Reminder—Chesterton Society meeting:
Oct. 19th at 7:30pm.

We will be discussing Chapter 3 of "Orthodoxy" "*The Suicide of Thought*," and the Father Brown mystery "*The Man in the Passage.*"

All are welcome!

Confraternity Prayer for Priests

V. Remember, O Lord, Thy congregation.
 R. Which Thou hast possessed from the beginning.
 Let us pray.
 O Lord Jesus, born to give testimony to the Truth, Thou who lovest unto the end those whom Thou hast chosen, kindly hear our prayers for our pastors. Thou who knowest all things, knowest that they love Thee and can do all things in Thee who strengthens them. Sanctify them in Truth. Pour into them, we beseech Thee, the Spirit whom Thou didst give to Thy apostles, who would make them, in all things, like unto Thee. Receive the homage of love which they offer up to Thee, who hast graciously received the threefold confession of Peter. And so that a pure oblation may everywhere be offered without ceasing unto the Most Holy Trinity, graciously enrich their number and keep them in Thy love, who art one with the Father and the Holy Ghost, to whom be glory and honor forever. Amen.

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, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Ceasar Morales

Commandments of God
Detraction and Calumny

The immediate focus of the Eighth Commandment is falsehood that does injury to one's neighbor. Harm to another person's reputation, therefore is the special prohibition of this divine mandate.

A person's reputation may be injured in various ways, notably by detraction and calumny or slander. Detraction is the unjust violation of the good reputation of another by revealing something true about him. Calumny or slander differs from detraction in that what is said or imputed about a person is not true.

A good reputation is the esteem that one person has formed and entertains about another. It may regard his moral qualities, such as honesty, chastity, or truthfulness; it may regard physical and mental qualities or attainments. In either case, reputation is the object of an acquired right, and consequently to take it away or lower it becomes an act of injustice. Not only the living but also the dead have a right to good esteem. During life we wish to remain in the grateful memory of mankind, and such an expectation can lead us to great exploits.

What needs to be stressed, however, is that a person's good name is something he cherishes even though we may not think he deserves it. No matter; it is his good name, not ours. We may, if we wish, forfeit our good name provided no harm is done to others. But another person's good reputation belongs to him, and we may not do it injury by revealing, without proportionately grave reason, what we know is true about him.

Detraction is consequently a sin against justice because it deprives a man or woman of what they ordinarily value more than riches. Socrates' statement that the way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear highlights the effort required to acquire a good name. All of this, more even than accumulated wealth, can be destroyed by a single criminal act of detraction.

The seriousness of the sin committed will mainly derive from the gravity of the fault or limitation disclosed. But it will also depend on the dignity of the person detracted and the harm done to him and others by revealing something that is hidden and whose disclosure lowers (if it does not ruin) his standing in the public eye.

All that we said about detraction applies to calumny, with the added malice of falsehood. Moreover, since an untruth was told about another person, reparation is more urgent and mandatory. Somehow the slanderer must not only undo the harm done to his victim's reputation, but he must also correct the falsehood he spoke; it may be with considerable embarrassment to himself.

Closely connected with detraction and calumny are rash judgments, where we entertain an unquestioning conviction about another person's bad conduct without adequate grounds for our judgment.

The sinfulness of rashly judging people arises from two sources: the hasty imprudence with which a critical judgment is reached, and the loss of reputation that the person suffers in our estimation because we have judged him adversely.

(*Read more about the Commandments in "The Catholic Catechism" by Fr. John Hardon, S.J.*)

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.

Save the Date!

Save the date—**Saturday, January 25, 2014.** Tenth Annual Walk for Life. Contact **Mike (916) 335-4553** or **Kathleen (916) 204-9125** to make bus reservations.