

**Sunday, September 7, 2014**  
**13th Sunday after Pentecost**



<b>Sun. 7 Sept.</b>	<b>13th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class</b>
8:30 am	†Claude Meauze & family
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	†Draga Kozina
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
<b>Mon. 8 Sept.</b>	<b>Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, II Class</b>
7:00 am	†Phil Rutschow
12:15 pm	Rita Wyatt
<b>Tues. 9 Sept.</b>	<b>St. Peter Claver, Confessor, III Class</b>
7:00 am	†Denise Inge
6:30 pm	Father John Lyons
<b>Wed. 10 Sept.</b>	<b>St. Nicholas of Tolentino, Confessor, III Class</b>
7:00 am	†Richard Alfred Becker
12:15 pm	Carolina Dichoso
<b>Thurs. 11 Sept.</b>	<b>SS. Protus &amp; Hyacinth, Martyrs, IV Class</b>
7:00 am	†Father Kozina
6:30 pm	FSSP
<b>Fri. 12 Sept.</b>	<b>Most Holy Name of Mary, III Class</b>
7:00 am	†Jonan Sneeringer
12:15 pm	†Ethel & Emil Mantz
6:30 pm	Rose Wedinsky
<b>Sat. 13 Sept.</b>	<b>Saturday of Our Lady, IV Class</b>
7:00 am	Priests of St. Stephens
9:00 am	†Gertrude & †John Dittmer
<b>Sun. 14 Sept.</b>	<b>Exultation of the Holy Cross, II Class</b>
8:30 am	Jesus & Teresa Alatorre
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	John & Casandra Brennan & family
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction

**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, and the priest-on-call will be paged immediately.

**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.

**...In Memoriam**

†Charles Cantoni, †Manuel Nino, †Margaret Correa,  
 †Cindy Yumoto, †Fr. Vladimir Kozina, †Philip Rutschow,  
 †Jennie Tomasi

**Important Upcoming Dates**

September 7—Confirmation Classes begin  
 September 13—Fatima Procession  
 September 16—Chesterton Society Meeting  
 October 18—26th Anniversary of the FSSP  
 October 31—All Saints Eve Party  
 April 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm  
 May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations

**Simplicity**

Simplicity is a virtue very much like sincerity, its indispensable foundation, but one which surpasses it when perfect, embracing man's whole moral life and reducing it to unity. Simplicity excludes every form of duplicity and complication stemming from egoism, self-love, or attachment to self and to creatures; hence it impels the soul in one direction only: to God, to live for Him, to please Him, and to give glory to Him. The whole spiritual life consists in this progressive simplification which proceeds at an equal pace with interior purification. When a soul is perfectly purified from every passion and attachment, then is it reduced to perfect simplicity, that simplicity which makes it live only in God and for God. To reach this goal, we must, during our whole life, let ourselves be guided in everything by one light alone; we must rely on one power alone, and seek but one end: God.

A soul who wishes to acquire holy simplicity accepts no light but that which comes from God, which is God Himself; therefore, it puts aside its selfish and egoistic point of view; it rejects the deceptive voice of the passions and the blinding but false maxims of the world, knowing that all is darkness and illusion except the light of truth which can come from God alone, from His law, from the Gospel. It judges all things in the light of faith, seeing the hand of God in every circumstance and happening, even the most painful. It makes use of everything to go to Him, without wasting time in reasoning about the conduct of creatures, for to do so would complicate its life and create obstacles to the practice of virtue. Nothing holds it back in its rapid pace, because it finds in God, not only the light by which to see the right path, but also the strength to pursue it. A simple soul leans on God at every moment, at every step of its life, seeking in Him its sole support and strength. In whatever difficulty it finds itself, it immediately looks to God for help, and with complete confidence, convinced that only in Him will it find the strength necessary to sustain its weakness, and that this strength will never be refused. It is not prevented, however, from seeking the help of wise, prudent persons, but it does so with detachment, and does not become troubled or disturbed when God permits it to be deprived of this help.

In everything, a simple soul considers but one end, God, and has but one intention, to serve God and to please Him. Therefore, it watches very carefully lest any secondary intention arising from self-love ever insinuate itself into its actions, as, for example, a desire of making a good appearance, of procuring the esteem of others, or of satisfying its own curiosity or love of ease. These secondary intentions are like the little foxes of which the Canticle of Canticles speaks; they stealthily penetrate into the blossoming vine of the soul and destroy the flowers and fruits of our good works. How many good actions begun out of love for God, lose at least half their value because, before they are completed they are contaminated by some secondary intention not sufficiently suppressed or rectified! And how many others which also began well are transformed into evil by lack of rectitude in the intention. The simple soul has declared war on all such deviations and repeats with St. Francis de Sales: "My God, if I knew that even one fiber of my heart did not beat for You, I would tear it out at once and throw it far from me." Purity of intention makes all its words and actions simple, clearly reflecting its thoughts and intentions. Its language is simple: "Yes, yes; no, no"; its conduct is simple: it does what it should without pretense or dissimulation. It fears nothing because it is seeking only God and His approval. (*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

**The Reed of God**  
**"Emptiness"**

That virginal quality which, for want of a better word, I call emptiness is the beginning of this contemplation.

It is not a formless emptiness, a void without meaning; on the contrary it has a shape, a form given to it by the purpose for which it is intended.

It is emptiness like the hollow in the reed, the narrow rifless emptiness, which can have only one destiny: to receive the piper's breath and to utter the song that is in his heart.

It is emptiness like the hollow in the cup, shaped to receive water or wine.

It is emptiness like that of the bird's nest, built in a round warm ring to receive the little bird.

The pre-Advent emptiness of Our Lady's purposeful virginity was indeed like those three things.

She was a reed through which the Eternal Love was to be piped as a shepherd's song.

She was the flowerlike chalice into which the purest water of humanity was to be poured, mingled with wine, changed to the crimson blood of love, and lifted up in sacrifice.

She was the warm nest rounded to the shape of humanity to receive the Divine Little Bird.

Emptiness is a very common complaint in our days, not the purposeful emptiness of the virginal heart and mind but a void, meaningless, unhappy condition.

Strangely enough, those who complain the loudest of the emptiness of their lives are usually people whose lives are overcrowded, filled with trivial details, plans, desires, ambitions, unsatisfied cravings for passing pleasures, doubts, anxieties and fears; and these sometimes further overlaid with exhausting pleasures which are an attempt, and always a futile attempt, to forget how pointless such people's lives are. Those who complain in these circumstances of the emptiness of their lives are usually afraid to allow space or silence or pause in their lives. They dread space, for they want material things crowded together, so that there will always be something to lean on for support. They dread silence, because they do not want to hear their own pulses beating out the seconds of their life, and to know that each beat is another knock on the door of death. Death seems to them to be only the final void, the darkest, loneliest emptiness.

They have no sense of being related to any abiding beauty, to any indestructible life: they are afraid to be alone with their unrelated hearts.

Such emptiness is very different from that still, shadowless ring of light round which our being is circled, making a shape which in itself is an absolute promise of fulfilment.

The question which most people will ask is: "Can someone whose life is already cluttered up with trivial things get back to this virginal emptiness?" Of course he can; if a bird's nest has been filled with broken glass and rubbish, it can be emptied.

Zealots and triflers and all besides who have crowded the emptiness out of their minds and the silence out of their souls can restore it. At least, they can allow God to restore it and ask Him to do so.

(Excerpt from *The Reed of God* by Caryl Houselander)

**Prayer of Parents for Vocations**

(based on a prayer recited by the parents of Lu Monferrato, Italy)

O God, grant that at least one of our sons may become a priest, or religious brother, and one of our daughters a religious sister. We ourselves want to live as good Christians, and to guide our children always to do what is right, so that we may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give You a holy priest, brother or holy religious sister! Amen.

**Confirmation Classes to Begin September 7th**

Registration is now open for Confirmation classes. Students must have completed their 12th birthday by June 1, 2015 in order to enroll. **Baptism Certificates** are required prior to the first class in order to participate.

Registration forms are available in the bookstore.

Classes will be held at 12:30 every Sunday in one of the classrooms.

**Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for young ladies ages 14-20, begins Saturday, Sept 6th and generally meets the First Saturdays of the year through May. by Fr. Lasance: *The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or the Congregation of the Children of Mary, has for its object to assemble its members at the feet of the Mother of God, to dedicate them in a very special manner to the veneration and service of the Blessed Virgin, and to place them under her particular patronage and protection both in life and at the hour of death.* Thus, the main focus is to deepen our spiritual lives through the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Meetings consist of prayers, activities (like altar linens and flowers), and a spiritual talk. The year will include reading assignments from the Fr. Lasance Girl's Guide and other activities, like singing Christmas carols at a nursing home. Participants will be expected to follow the Sodality Handbook, a copy of which is available in the bookstore. Please review the handbook and sign up in the bookstore.

**Much Ado About Nothing**

St. Stephen students involved in presenting the play helped raise \$1,346.00 for the Fraternity seminary in Nebraska. Thank you to everyone for your support.

**Spiritual Adoption Progress Report—Month 9**  
**"Baby Shower" September 14th**

"Happy Birthday" to our spiritually adopted babies who will be born tomorrow, September 8th, on the day we celebrate our Blessed Mother's birthday! Thank you for your prayers and for participating in this project. You are encouraged to start praying for nine months for another little one any time. If you need another prayer card, they are available in St. Stephen's bookstore and we will have some to distribute next Sunday.

Next weekend, **September 14th**, will be the "**BABY SHOWER**". There will be special receptacles for your gifts on that day. We will be collecting disposable diapers, layette items, and new baby clothes (up to 24 months size) for mothers who cannot afford these items. We will also accept checks made out to either: **Sacramento Life Center** or **Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home**. All proceeds will be distributed between these two organizations shortly thereafter. Thank you for your participation. May God bless you!

**~ 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 visitors in this matter be left to the priests or their delegates.

**Please Keep in Your Prayers ...**

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Sister Marie Jeanne, Mitzi Vandenburg, John Reyes, Dr. Gerald Foy, Carlos Aldana, Liliana, Luz & Cesar Morales, Richard Corbin, Robert Nunez, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, John Patrick Corr, Ron Carlon