

Sunday, September 14, 2014
Exultation of the Holy Cross



Sun. 14 Sept. Exultation of the Holy Cross, II Class
 8:30 am Jesus & Teresa Alatorre
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm John & Casandra Brennan & family

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 15 Sept. Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary, II Class
 7:00 am †Alice Marie Becker
 12:15 pm †Georgia Munsill

Tues. 16 Sept. SS. Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Martyrs, III Class
 7:00 am †Draga Kozina
 6:30 pm Steve Galayda

Wed. 17 Sept. Stigmata of St. Francis, IV Class
 7:00 am †Jeannette Sleight
 12:15 pm †Donald Sleight

Thurs. 18 Sept. St. Joseph of Cupertino, Confessor, III Class
 7:00 am †Donald Dickson
 6:30 pm †Ida White

Fri. 19 Sept. St. Januarius & Companions, Martyrs, III Class
 7:00 am Long Nguyen
 12:15 pm Dolores Cabral
 6:30 pm †Father Kozina

Sat. 20 Sept. St. Eustache & Companions, Martyrs, IV Class
 7:00 am Paz Magana
 9:00 am Edward & Susan

Sun. 21 Sept. 15th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class
 8:30 am Father Matthew McNeely
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Mr. & Mrs. Genius
 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 16—Chesterton Society Meeting
 September 18—CSP Evening of Recollection
 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

Courage

The more a soul loves God, the more courageous it will be in undertaking any work, no matter how laborious, for love of Him. Fear of fatigue, of suffering, and of danger, is the greatest enemy of fortitude; it paralyzes the soul and makes it recoil before duty. Courage, on the contrary, is invigorating; it enables us to confront anything in order to be faithful to God. Courage, therefore, incites us to embrace death itself, if necessary, rather than be unfaithful to duty. Martyrdom is the supreme act of Christian fortitude, an act which is not asked of all, yet one which it is well not to ignore as a possibility. Every Christian is, so to speak, a potential martyr, in the sense that the virtue of fortitude, infused into him at Baptism and Confirmation, makes him capable, if necessity requires it, of sacrificing even his life for the love of God. And if all Christians are not actually called upon to render to the Lord this supreme testimony of love, all should, nevertheless, live like courageous soldiers, accustoming themselves never to desert any duty, little or great, through fear of sacrifice.

It is true that the virtue of fortitude does not exempt us from the fear and alarm which invade our nature when faced with sacrifice, danger, or above all, the imminent danger of death. But fortitude, like all the other virtues, is exercised by the will; hence, it is possible to perform courageous acts in spite of our fear. In these cases, courage has a twofold function: it conquers fear and faces the difficult task. Such was the supreme act of fortitude Jesus made in the Garden of Olives when He accepted to drink the bitter chalice of His Passion, in spite of the repugnance of His human nature. It is by uniting ourselves to this act of our Savior that we shall find strength to embrace all that is painful in our lives.

Grace can give courage even to those who are naturally timid; but we must not expect grace to do this without our cooperation. The virtue of fortitude has been given to all Christians, and in this sense is an infused virtue; however, it remains for us to activate it by practice, and in this sense it becomes an acquired virtue. Furthermore, the same is true of all the theological and moral virtues which are infused into the soul with grace. They are like capital which will increase only if we invest it with good will to make it productive.

We become humble by making acts of humility; likewise, we become strong and courageous by performing courageous acts. It is not within our power to suppress the sensible fear which we inherit with our fallen nature and which we feel in spite of ourselves, but we can prevent it from taking possession of our will and paralyzing our acts. We must act energetically, forcing ourselves in the name of God to do what we should, and not stopping to argue with fear. "Many souls say, 'I have not the strength to accomplish such an act.' But let them begin and put forth some effort! The good God never refuses the initial grace which imparts courage to act. After that, the heart is strengthened, and the soul goes on from victory to victory." This is true. To become courageous, we must make up our minds to act in spite of our natural cowardice and fear. This is particularly necessary at times when, because of physical weakness or because of the privation of the support of actual grace, even the smallest difficulties seem like mountains and everything frightens us. If we were to wait until we felt courageous, we should never undertake anything. "What does it matter if we have no courage," said the Saint of Lisieux to a novice, "provided we act as though we were really brave?" Courageous acts performed when we have no courage are purer and more supernatural: they are purer, because they afford no place for feelings of pride; they are based on grace. (*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

Four Special Favors

The graces which Our Lord promises to those who are devoted to the sorrows of His Blessed Mother are very great. St. Alphonsus, in his discourse on the dolours of Mary, states: It was revealed to St. Elizabeth of Hungary that some years after the Blessed Virgin was assumed into Heaven, St. John, the beloved disciple, was seized with an ardent desire to see her again. This favor was granted him. His dear Mother appeared to him in company with our Divine Lord. Then St. John heard Mary asking of her Son some special graces for those who were devoted to her dolours. Our Lord promised the four following graces:

1. Those who invoke the Heavenly Mother through her sorrows will obtain true sorrow for their sins before death.
2. Our Savior will protect them in their tribulations, especially at the hour of death.
3. He will impress upon them the memory of His Passion, and will reward them for it in Heaven.
4. He will commit such devout servants to the hands of Mary, that she may dispose of them according to her pleasure, and obtain for them all the graces she desires.

Besides these great graces, Father Faber enumerates others which are obtained through devotion to Mary's sorrows:

This devotion has a remarkable connection with great interior holiness.

It reveals the emptiness of worldly joys. Worldliness finds no soul harder to attack than one entrenched in the sorrows of our Blessed Lady. The world can graft itself upon nothing in this devotion.

It gives us a permanent share in the sorrow for sin which Jesus and Mary felt.

It keeps our thoughts close to Jesus Christ, and to Him Crucified.

It communicates to our souls the spirit of the Cross and gives us strength to endure our own sufferings with resignation to the holy Will of God.

This devotion is wholly covered with the Precious Blood of Jesus and leads us directly into the depths of the Heart of our Savior.

Anyone who during his lifetime has cherished compassion for this afflicted Mother may consider this as a most assured sign of predestination.

September 18, 2014

Evening of Recollection Confraternity of St. Peter

Don't miss out on the spiritual benefits of our CSP Evening of Recollection on Thursday, September 18th, beginning with Holy Mass at 6:30 pm. Each month we are given a wonderful sermon and conference along with Holy Mass and CSP prayers.

The Confraternity of St. Peter is a group of lay men and women united to the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter.

- Conforming our lives in the Spirituality of the Holy Mass
- Praying for the priests and seminarians of the Fraternity of St. Peter.
- Praying for more vocations to the Holy Priesthood

For more information visit www.confraternityofstpeter.com or call the parish office 916-455-5114.

Confraternity of St. Peter

On October 19th there will be a ceremony for Confraternity members who have joined since last October, after the 10:30 Mass. If you are a new Confraternity member please let us know, by e-mail or by coming into the office or bookstore.

CSP members who have belonged longer than a year are invited to join in saying the CSP Prayer on that day.

The Little Flowers of Saint Francis

How large a measure of grace God oft bestowed on poor followers of the gospel that forsook the world for love of Christ was shown forth in Friar Bernard of Quintavalle, who, after having put on the habit of St. Francis, was rapt many times in God through contemplation of celestial things. Among others, it befell on a time that when he was in church hearing Mass, and with his whole mind lifted up to God, he became so absorbed and rapt in God that he perceived not when the body of Christ was elevated, nor knelt down, nor drew off his cowl as the other friars did: but without moving his eyes, stood with fixed gaze, insensible to outward things from morn till noon. And after noon, returning to himself, he went about the friary crying with a voice of wonder, "O friars, O friars, O friars, there is no man in this country, were he ever so great or so noble, but if he were promised a beautiful palace filled with gold would not find it easy to carry a sack full of dung in order to win that treasure so noble." To this celestial treasure, promised to those that love God, the aforesaid Friar Bernard had his mind so lifted up that for full fifteen years he ever went with his mind and his countenance raised to heaven; during which time he never satisfied his hunger at table, albeit he ate a little of that which was placed before him: for he was wont to say that perfect abstinence did not consist in foregoing that which a man did not relish, but that true abstinence lay in using temperance in those things that were of pleasant savour in the mouth; and thereby he attained to such a degree of clearness and light of understanding that even great doctors had recourse to him for the solution of the knottiest questions and of difficult passages in the Scriptures, and he resolved all their difficulties.

(Excerpt from *The Little Flowers of Saint Francis* translated by Thomas Okey)

11th Annual Walk for Life—Save the Date!

Saturday, January 24, 2015

Bus tickets will be on sale in the gym after all Masses in October. For earlier tickets or additional information contact Mike at 916-335-4553 or Kathleen at 916-204-9125

Reminder—Chesterton Society meeting

September 16th at 7:30pm

We will be reading the first four chapters of "What's Wrong with the World" (the chapters are short). All are welcome!

~ 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 & Ceasar Morales, Richard Corbin, Robert Nunez, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, John Patrick Corr, Ron Carlon, Michael Cuellar, Heather Cuellar, Msgr. Kavanaugh, Katherine Kelly, Katy Fiori