

Sunday, October 5, 2014
17th Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 5 Oct.	17th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class
8:30 am	Jim & Monica Blazyack
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Eleanor Roberts
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 6 Oct.	St. Bruno, Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	Elaine M. Miller
12:15 pm	Bernard & †Marie-Theresse Meauze
Tues. 7 Oct.	Our Lady of the Rosary, II Class
7:00 am	Family of Gladis Chanchayac
6:30 pm	Colette Aranas
Wed. 8 Oct.	St. Bridget of Sweden, Widow, III Class
7:00 am	†Father Kozina
12:15 pm	†Louise Rivolta
Thurs. 9 Oct.	St. John Leonardi, Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	†Jonan Sneeringer
6:30 pm	Mary E. Miller
Fri. 10 Oct.	St. Francis Borgia, Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	†Francis J. Covy
12:15 pm	†Carolyn Sugars
6:30 pm	Holy Souls
Sat. 11 Oct.	Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, II Class
7:00 am	†Father K. Walker
9:00 am	Grisell & †Gabriel Vargas
Sun. 12 Oct.	18th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class
8:30 am	Father Joseph Terra
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Father Joseph Terra
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

October 13—Fatima Procession
 October 19—CSP New Member Ceremony
 October 31—All Saints Eve Party
 January 24—11th Annual Walk For Life
 April 13—Confirmation at 6:30 pm
 May 30—FSSP Priestly Ordinations

The Gift of Knowledge

By the gifts of fear, fortitude, piety, and counsel, the Holy Spirit regulates our moral life; whereas, by the other gifts—knowledge, understanding, and wisdom—He governs our theological life more directly, that is, our relations with God. The first four gifts perfect the moral virtues especially; the last three perfect the theological virtues. They are the so-called gifts of the contemplative life, that is, of the life of prayer and union with God.

In our ascent toward God we find one great obstacle: creatures which impress and allure us by their attractions, tempting us to stop at them and thus drawing us away from God, the infinite good, who transcends human experience. It is not easy for us who live in the realm of sense to believe that God is all, that He is the only good, the only happiness, and to place our hope in Him alone, while He is veiled from sight. We find it difficult to believe that creatures are nothing, to be convinced of their vanity, while they present themselves to us so alluringly. It is true that faith comes to our aid, and in it light we have often reflected on these truths, yet in practice, our reasonings have often failed. Confronted with the attractions of creatures, we forget and perhaps even betray our Creator. Therefore we need more powerful help, a divine light, which illumines from within, without the need of passing through our reasonings, so limited and rude: it is this light that the Holy Spirit infuses into our soul by means of the gift of knowledge. This gift does not make us reason on the vanity of things; but it gives us a living, concrete experience of them, an intuition so clear that it admits no doubt. Under the influence of this gift, Francis of Assisi suddenly left his merry companions to espouse Lady Poverty, and when his indignant father drove him out of his house, he exclaimed in the fervor of his spirit, "Henceforth I will not call Peter Bernardone my father, but our Father who is in heaven!"

Under the impulse of this gift, Teresa of Avila wrote these words: "All things pass, God never changes. He who has God, finds he lacks nothing: God alone suffices"; and the dying words of Blessed Maria Bertilla were: "One must work only for Jesus. All else is nothing."

Inspired by the gift of knowledge, St. John of the Cross traced the famous way of the "nothing," the way which, leaving aside all created goods, goes quickly and directly up the mount of perfection, on whose summit the soul finds God. "Nothing, nothing," the saint repeats, "neither this, nor that, neither the goods of earth, nor the goods of heaven," that is, not even spiritual joys and consolations, but God alone. So much renunciation, so much sacrifice, so much stripping of self terrifies poor human nature. But the soul illumined by the Holy Spirit understands: nothing at all, because "all is vanity, except to love God and serve Him alone." In the measure that the gift of knowledge develops in the soul, it understands and tastes the "nothingness" of creatures, which makes it relish the "all" of God and feel the need of escaping from creatures to plunge into Him. This is the first step toward contemplation.

"All the being of creation, then, compared with the infinite Being of God, is nothing." The wonders of creation are nothing, the most marvelous works of human genius are nothing, the knowledge possessed by the most learned men is nothing: God is the only reality, and it is He who gives value to all things, either because they are the works of His hand, or because they are works done by man for His glory. In the midst of our most beautiful undertakings and our solicitude for earthly things, the Holy Spirit reminds us of the words of Jesus: "For what shall profit it a man, if he gain the whole world, and suffer the loss of his soul?" (*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

Holy Rosary

To say the Holy Rosary, considering the mysteries, repeating the Our Father and Hail Mary, with praises to the Blessed Trinity and the constant invocation of the Mother of God, is a continuous act of faith, hope, and love, of adoration and reparation.

These lines are not written for "little women." —They are written for full-grown men, and very... manly men who at times, no doubt, have raised their hearts to God, crying out to Him with the Psalmist: *Notam fac mihi viam, in qua ambulem; quia ad te levavi animam meam.* —Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

I must tell these men a secret that may very well be the beginning of the way that Christ wants them to follow.

My friend, if you want to be great, become little. To be little it is necessary to believe as children believe, to love as children love, to give yourself up as children give themselves up... to pray as children pray.

And you have to do all this if you are to achieve what I am going to reveal to you in these lines

The beginning of the way, at the end of which you will find yourself completely carried away by love for Jesus, is a trusting love for Mary.

—Do you want to love our Lady? —Well, then, get to know her. How? —By praying her Rosary *well*.

But, in the Rosary... We always say the same things! —Always the same? And don't people in love always say the same things to each other?... Might it not be that you find the Rosary monotonous because, instead of pronouncing words like man, you mumble noises while your mind is very far from God?

—Moreover, listen: before each decade we are told the mystery to be *contemplated*

—*Have you... Ever contemplated these mysteries?*

Become little. Come with me and — this is the essence of what I am to tell you — we shall live the life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Each day we shall do something new for them. We shall hear their family conversation. We shall see the Messiah grow up. We shall admire his thirty years of hidden life... We shall be present at his Passion and Death... We will be amazed at the glory of his Resurrection... In a word: carried away by Love (the only real love is Love), we shall contemplate each and every moment of the life of Christ.

For you, my friend, the reader of this book: I have written the *Holy Rosary* to help you and me become absorbed in prayer when we pray to our Lady.

Don't let the sound of words disturb you as you meditate on these thoughts: don't read them aloud, for then they would lose their intimacy.

But do pronounce the Our Father and the Hail Marys of each decade clearly and without rushing: this will help you always to get more and more out of this way of loving Mary.

(*Holy Rosary* by St. Josemaria Escriva)

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, 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 Thee a holy priest or holy religious sister! Amen.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Munsill Family, Sister Marie Jeanne, Mitzi Vandenberg, 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

All Saints Eve—Donations and Help Needed

Please help us to celebrate the Communion of Saints by making a **donation of candy and cash**. This is an evening for everyone—young and old alike.

Would you be interested in running a game or snack booth? What fun it is to give treats to miniature St. Therese or St. John Bosco!

Envelopes for **donations** and sign-up sheets are available in the vestibule.

For more information or to help please call Marisol at 916-717-8908.

Handmaids of the Blessed Sacrament—Altar Society

Are you interested in ironing, making or mending sacred linens for use at the altar? Would you enjoy arranging flowers for our altar? We need you! There are many other opportunities as well to serve the church by being a part of our altar society. Stop by the parish office or bookstore or call and leave your name. No previous experience is necessary—we will teach you!

40 Days For Life—Prayer Vigil—Sign Up

Please join the world wide movement to protect mothers and babies! From Sept. 24—Nov. 2, Sacramento is joining hundreds of cities around the world participating in "40 Days for Life", a life-saving campaign with three components: prayer and fasting, community outreach and peaceful vigil. The fall vigil will take place on the sidewalk at Women's Health Specialists, 1442 Ethan Way, Sacramento, Monday—Friday between 7am and 7pm. There is free parking along Hallmark Dr. and the clinic entrance is located there too. You are encouraged to make a weekly prayer vigil, if possible. You can register on line at: 40daysforlife.com/sacramento, or sign up in the vestibule after Mass. See the flyer posted in the vestibule for more information. You can also contact: Susan Money at 530-320-1614 or e-mail her at: susanalive@gmail.com. Those unable to participate in the prayer vigil are encouraged to pray and fast for this life-saving cause.

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.

Spiritual Adoption "Baby Shower"

On behalf of The Sacramento Life Center and Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home, **Thank You** for all the gifts donated by parishioners at the "Baby Shower", honoring our spiritually adopted babies born on September 8th! Thank you so much for your generosity! All gifts were very much appreciated and will be put to good use.

Simplicity

When I read certain treatises where perfection is set forth as encompassed by a thousand obstacles, my poor little head grows weary very quickly. I close the learned book which puzzles my brains and dries up my heart, and in its stead I open the Holy Scriptures. Then all appears clear, luminous...one single word discloses to my soul infinite horizons, perfection seems easy. I see that it is sufficient to recognize our nothingness, and to leave oneself like a child, in the arms of the good God. Let great souls and sublime intellects enjoy the beautiful books which I cannot understand, still less put in practice; I rejoice in being little, since "*children only and those who resemble them will be admitted to the Heavenly banquet.*"

It is well that the Kingdom of Heaven contains many mansions, for if there were none other than those of which the description and the way seem incomprehensible to me, I should never be able to enter therein. (*Thoughts of Saint Therese* translated from the French *Pensees* by an Irish Carmelite)