

Sunday, October 7, 2012
19th Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 7 October, 19th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Charles L. Cantoni
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Monica McDonough

3:00 pm Vespers & Benediction

Mon. 8 October, St. Bridget of Sweden, Widow, III Class

7:00 am Will & Jessica Bulda
 12:15 pm Pregnancy Counseling Center

Tues. 9 October, St. John Leonardi, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Archbishop Jose Gomez
 6:30 pm Barbara Risse

Wed. 10 October, St. Francis Borgia, Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Holy Souls in Purgatory
 12:15 pm Loretta Cantoni

Thurs. 11 October, Maternity of the Blessed Virgin, II Class

7:00 am Estefarin Sandoval
 6:30 pm The Panganiban Family

Fri. 12 October, Feria, IV Class

7:00 am †Jonan Sneeringer
 12:15 pm Felipa Lopez
 6:30 pm Fr. McNeely

Sat. 13 October, St. Edward, King & Confessor, III Class

7:00 am Rita Wyatt & Family
 9:00 am Victor Aranas

Sun. 14 October, 20th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class

8:30 am Rose Wedinsky
 10:30 am Pro Populo
 1:00 pm Solari 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, leave a message, and the priest-on-call will be paged immediately.

St. John Leonardi

Saint John Leonardi was born in Tuscany and, after studying to become a pharmacist, left this profession and became a priest. He devoted himself to teaching catechism to children; in addition, he gathered laymen to work with him in hospitals and prisons, and in 1574 he founded the Order of Clerics Regular of the Mother of God. He later founded in Rome a society of priests dedicated to serving in foreign missions; this eventually became the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Important Upcoming Dates

Oct. 13—Confirmation Class
 Oct. 13—Fatima Procession
 Oct. 16—Chesterton Society Meeting
 Oct. 18—24th Anniversary of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter
 Oct. 18—CSP Evening of Recollection
 Oct 18 - Knight's Social Mixer
 Oct. 27—*Salute to Life* Dinner & Auction
 Oct. 31—All Saints Eve Party
 Nov. 1—All Saints Day - Holy Day
 Nov. 2—All Souls Day
 Nov. 22—Thanksgiving Day
 April 14—Confirmation

The Apostolic Ideal

Just as a seed cannot produce a stalk which will bear a new ear unless it first buries its roots deep in the ground, so we cannot bear fruit for the apostolate if we do not first put forth the roots of a deep interior life, enabling us to draw from God Himself the sap which will make us fruitful. The interior life is the vital principle, the force, and the flame of the apostolate; but on the other hand, the apostolate brings its contribution to the interior life, helping to make it more generous and more intense. When a soul is fired with zeal for the apostolic life, its very desire to win other souls for God impels it to devote itself with greater generosity to prayer, mortification, and the practice of the virtues, with the intention of making itself more capable of a fruitful apostolate. Thus, while the interior life is the soul of the apostolate, the apostolate in its turn is a very powerful mainspring urging the soul on to union with God, to perfection, to sanctity. The apostolic ideal is of its very nature a generator of spiritual energy and a spur to a generous, holy life. St. Teresa of Jesus, moved by an ardent desire to counteract the great havoc wrought by the Protestant heresy in her times, stamped the reform she initiated with a seal of particular austerity and organized the life of her daughters in such a way as to engage them in a continual exercise of prayer, sacrifice, and self-giving for the salvation of souls. The rule of life of the Teresian Carmel, a contemplative life of profound intensity, was thus born of a great apostolic ideal.

When the apostolic ideal is alive and well understood, it does not plunge souls headlong into activity; rather guides them to a deeper interior life, to the total gift of self, to sanctity, for we ourselves must be holy before we can make others holy. "And for them do I sanctify Myself."
 ("Divine Intimacy" by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

Sunday Vespers/Benediction

Sunday Vespers takes place **every Sunday at 3:00pm** followed by Benediction. Pamphlets are available in church entrance. "*All should come to our Churches and there sing the praises of God, and be enriched with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*" - Pope Pius XII, *Mediator Dei*

Knight's Social Mixer

Thursday Oct 18th, 6:30 to 8:30pm (5961 Newman Court, 95819)

Council 953 cordially invites all Catholic Gentlemen and wives to our Autumn mixer. Learn how our Brother Knights support your community. Discover the rich history of the Knights of Columbus, plus the eternal/earthly rewards that membership brings.

More Info: Contact Lewis Munoz membership@kofc953.org or leave a message at 916-736-0953.

Chesterton Society

The Chesterton Society will now meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting is October 16th after the 6:30 pm Mass, in one of the classrooms. All are invited to attend.

...In Memoriam

†Mark Trachera; †Fr. Lawrence Ryan (Sacramento Diocese);
 †Joseph Cortese; †Frank Farinha; †Cesar Chaves;
 †Msgr. Gerard Schons; †Rodolfo Servande; †Felice Johnson;
 †Jim Chun; †Aida Apaza; †Bessie Perez; †Robert Perez;
 †Richard Becker; †George Phillips

Porta Fidei

On Oct. 11th 2011 the apostolic letter "*Porta Fidei*" was published by Pope Benedict XVI, calling for a "Year of the Faith". This coming Oct. 11th will be the opening of the "Year of the Faith". The same day marks the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The "*Door of Faith*" (Acts 14:21) guides us into the life of communion with God. This door is always open for us so that we might enter into the Holy Church who brings us to salvation. This call is given to us as another occasion for conversion and greater love for Our Lord - being brought closer to Him by our knowledge of the Faith. Only Christ can fill our hearts, and as lovers we want to cry out this love.

Silent Apostasy

There is no doubt that we are living in a world that is far away from God, or from any religiosity. The Pope is urging us to enter into and participate in the "New Evangelization". This initiative is linked to the western cultural context. From the first evangelization was born an exceptional Christian civilization that reached its *climax* in the Middle Ages. From that time, we inherited the teaching of great theologians and a culture which is, whether we wanted it or not, still existed in our societies even if so unconsciously.

Unfortunately, we are forced to face the new era, which brings us into what Bl. John-Paul II called the *Silent Apostasy*. Christianity has ceased to flourish in our western culture thus allowing errors to plague the Church as they did in its beginning. The difference between now and those early years is that we already received the first evangelization.

The Second Vatican Council

Also, this year will see the 50th anniversary of the opening of the last council - Vatican II. As the Pope said Dec. 22nd 2005 in his Christmas message to the Curia "*What has been the result of the Council?... No one can deny that in vast areas of the Church implementation of the Council has been somewhat difficult... The nature of a Council as such is therefore basically misunderstood... The dialog must now be developed with great open-mindedness but also with that clear discernment that the world rightly expects of us in this very moment.*"

The main difficulty with the last council is that it did not provide clues for its interpretations. In its documents we do not find any definitions of doctrine, explanation of the Faith, there are no condemnation of heresies or modern errors. The fathers of the council were preoccupied with the declaring of the Gospel. In this context they thought that it was preferable to avoid highlighting errors of others; rather, they wished to look more deeply within the religious and moral life in order to see what corresponds to the Truth, and from that point invite others to seek for the Truth and then to give up their errors.

Shortly after the council's conclusion many contested it. We know that this was squandered primarily due to personal interpretations of the texts - claiming the "*Spirit of the Council*". Pope Benedict XVI decried this spirit, stating that according to some: "*it would be necessary not to follow the texts of the Council but its spirit*". The will of the Pope is to find a "*hermeneutic of continuity*" versus that of rupture. That is to say that the last council is a waiting further commentary and only the Pope can give us its right interpretation.

Dictatorship of relativism

Widespread relativism is a threat to our Faith. Relativism doesn't recognize the absolute character of the Truth. Many of our contemporaries see the Faith merely as an opinion. As such we have as a consequence a multiple-choice faith lived as such even by Catholics. The teaching of the Church becomes a supermarket: "I can choose myself what is good for me at this present time because the Church doesn't understand my situation so I have to accommodate the reality not seen by clerics".

This is not exactly what the Faith is about. The Faith is an unconditional acceptance of Revelation, given to me through the only true Church. The Faith is not a feeling, a passion, a heartbeat but an ascent of my intellect to an intellectual content giving me an opportunity to reach God and fulfill my part of His plan for mankind. The act of Faith is not always an easy one and it can be very challenging at times in our modern world.

Rediscover the Faith

"*The Church as a whole and all her Pastors, like Christ, must set out to lead people out of the desert, towards the place of life, towards friendship with the Son of God, towards the One who gives us life, and life in abundance.*" Benedict XVI, April 24th 2005.

Our Lord Himself invites us to meet: "*Come and see*" John 1: 46.

More than ever we need to stay focused on our Faith. First of all for our own benefit; and then, in order to be a witness to the world. Because the Faith is not a private act, the Christian has the duty to be an apostle. Living the Faith is living with Our Lord by the motion of the Holy Ghost.

Given time for study and reflection this will not be difficult, or more, as a result you will exude Charity. We need the virtue of Charity in order that the Faith will be fruitful and in return the Faith will not be a doubtful sentiment.

Throughout this "Year of Faith we will have a talk, twice a month, rediscovering our catechism and strengthen our commitment not to forget our baptismal engagement: "*Man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved*" Rom 10:10.

Knowing our Faith is also a great expression of our love for Our Lord and our neighbor. As a "living stone" of the Church, I participate in Her life. Participating in the "New Evangelization" is an occasion to do that, because we cannot accept the light to be kept hidden "*So let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven*" Matthew 5: 16.

We can all be proud of our Faith with Saint Paul: "*For I delivered unto you first of all, which I also received*" 1 Cor 15: 3. **Conferences will be held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7.30 p.m. Light refreshments will follow. We will begin on Oct. 9th.**

Fr. Hugues Beaugrand

Salute to Life Dinner—October 27th

If you are interested in sharing a table with St. Stephen parishioners / priests, put your name on the list in the parish office. Cost is \$125.00 per person.

9th Annual Walk for Life

Save the Date!

Bus tickets will go on sale after all the Masses in October. See Mike or Kathleen DeSantis for more information.

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.

Please Keep in Your Prayers ...

Mike Hayes, Jim Carlson, Kaehler Family, Mike McGrath, Barbara Graichen, Patricia Becker, Munsill Family, Benny Stinson, Michael Gould; Sister Marie Jeanne, Elizabeth Pierini; Charles Cantoni, Hayden Garcia, Mitzi Vandenburg, John Reyes; Lori Bates; Fred & Terry Bose; Ed Wedinsky,