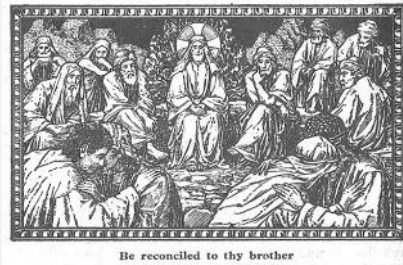


Sunday, July 13, 2014
5th Sunday after Pentecost



Sun. 13 July	5th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class
8:30 am	Sam Wean
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	Sergio Reali
3:00 pm	Vespers & Benediction
Mon. 14 July	St. Bonaventure, Bishop, Confessor & Doctor, III Class
7:00 am	Bruce Walbraua
12:15 pm	Dittmer Family
Tues. 15 July	St. Henry the Emperor, Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	†Dorothy Handy
6:30 pm	†Richard Stanford
Wed. 16 July	Our Lady of Mount Carmel, IV Class
7:00 am	†Margaret Scholl
12:15 pm	Auxillium Christianorum
Thurs. 17 July	St. Alexis, Confessor, IV Class
7:00 am	†Charles Lutz
6:30 pm	Grace Brennan
Fri. 18 July	St. Camillus de Lellis, Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	Arthur & Marie Jorge
12:15 am	George Reslock
6:30 pm	Joseph McDonough
Sat. 19 July	St. Vincent de Paul, Confessor, III Class
7:00 am	Baby Mathias Eli Watts & Family
9:00 am	Ander Jay & Ethel Davis
Sun. 20 July	6th Sunday after Pentecost, II Class
8:30 am	Gia Prigmore
10:30 am	Pro Populo
1:00 pm	George Harbaugh
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

Important Upcoming Dates

July 17—CSP Evening of Recollection
 August 3—Patronal Feast—Pig Roast & Square Dance
 August 15—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 August 23—English Martyrs Pilgrimage
 September 6—Girls' Club resumes
 October 18—26th Anniversary of the FSSP
 October 31—All Saints Eve Party

The Divine Perfections

Jesus has said, "Be you therefore perfect, as also your heavenly Father is perfect," thus turning our attention to God's infinite perfection. Here on earth, we can see some pale reflection of this infinite plenitude through the consideration of the limited perfections that we find in creatures, but we cannot know it in itself, for the human mind is incapable of embracing and comprehending the infinite. Our ideas tell us something about God and His infinite perfections, but they cannot show Him to us as He really is. "God," says St. Paul, "inhabiteth light inaccessible": light which infinitely exceeds the capacity of the human intellect, light too bright and dazzling to be gazed at directly by the eye of our mind, even as the sun, which in the full power of its summer brilliance so far exceeds the capacity of our sense of sight that no human eye can look at it fixedly.

Yet on several occasions when Jesus spoke about the divine perfections, He invited us to raise our eyes to these heights. He taught us that although we can understand very little about them, this little will not be useless, but rather, of great value. In fact, the more a soul advances in the knowledge of God, the more it understands that what it knows about Him is nothing compared with what He is in reality. Far beyond its ideas, there is an infinite ocean of splendor, beauty, goodness, and love which no human intellect can ever fathom. This awareness of God's immensity, which infinitely surpasses the capacity of our mind, is a great grace because it infuses into the soul an ever deepening realization of God's immensity and infinite transcendence; and, by contrast, it also gives it a greater understanding of its own nothingness and the extreme limitation of any human perfection.

Only in heaven shall we be permitted to see the divinity "face to face," without the intermediary of ideas. As St. Paul says, "We see now through a glass in a dark manner... Now I know in part; but then I shall know even as I am known." This partial knowledge of God, which is all we can have on earth, reaches us through the "glass" of creatures; they give us, it is true, a reflection of His infinite perfections—His goodness, wisdom, justice, and beauty—but a reflection which is very imperfect and limited. For example, there is no man so learned that he knows everything that exists; no man is so good that he does not sometimes fail in goodness because of his frailty; no man is so just that he is not sometimes unjust through too great severity. Only by stripping the perfections that we find in creatures of the defects and limitations that are always found therein, shall we be able to form a vague idea of the divine perfections. God is good: He is always good, infinitely good.

We should reflect, then, how we err when we become attached to any creature. However beautiful, good, or wise it may be, its goodness, beauty, and wisdom are nothing in comparison with the perfections of God. St. John of the Cross goes even further when he says: "All the goodness of the creatures of the world, in comparison with the infinite goodness of God, may be described as wickedness... Therefore, the soul that sets its heart on the good things of the world is supremely evil in the eyes of God. And, as deformity cannot attain to beauty and as wickedness comprehends not goodness, even so, such a soul cannot be united to God who is supreme goodness and beauty." Thus we can understand that if we wish to unite ourselves to God, we cannot allow our heart to be held by the beauty or good qualities of any creature and that we must place our affection and our hope in God alone, without fear of being deceived.

(*Divine Intimacy* by Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, OCD)

Saints Who Saw Mary

The Blessed Virgin Mary has revealed to the world that she wants to draw all humanity under her protecting and sanctifying mantle by means of her Brown Scapular. In two marvelous apparitions, she has solemnly promised us that if we sincerely fulfill the conditions of this beautiful devotion, we shall not only be saved, but she will see that we do not remain long in Purgatory before joining her in Heaven!

For the noble task of giving us her Scapular, Mary selected the great Carmelite Order of contemplative religious, whose sacred tradition of devotion to her goes back to the Old Testament Prophet Elias and to the holy Mount Carmel on which he and his followers dwelt, by the sea, not far from her home in Nazareth.

In the Third Book of *Kings*, we read that when a terrible drought was afflicting Palestine, Elias on Mount Carmel prayed seven times for rain, and at last, "Behold, a little cloud arose out of the seas...And behold, the heavens grew dark with clouds and wind, and there fell a great rain...And the hand of the Lord was upon Elias." And it has always been a holy tradition in the Order of the Hermit-Brothers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, which Our Lord Himself has called "The Order of My Mother," that when Elias saw the little cloud, he was shown in a mystical vision a prophetic image of the Virgin who was destined to give to the world the Messias who would save men from the drought of sin. The Prophet therefore instructed his disciples to pray for the coming of this Virgin Mother. And the Carmelite tradition states further that during her life on earth Mary visited the holy mountain near her home, and that after Pentecost the hermits were converted to the Christian Religion, thanks to the prayers of her for whom they had prayed so much.

Ever since, the Carmelites have continued to honor Our Lady and spread devotion to her. In the fourteenth century, the Blessed Virgin appeared to a Carmelite Saint and told him: "*Our Order of Carmel will last until the end of the world, for Elias, the first patron of the Order, asked this of my Son at the Transfiguration and obtained it.*"

During the Crusades and the resulting persecution of Christians in the Holy Land, the Hermits of Mount Carmel organized themselves into a religious order and migrated to Europe, where they were welcomed by several rulers who had been greatly edified by their holiness during visits on Mt. Carmel. It was at this time that Mary appeared to the Carmelite, St. Cyril of Jerusalem, and said: "*Carmel is to be a light, not for Syria and Palestine alone—its rays must illumine the entire world!*"

And in the year 1245, when the first General Chapter of the Order in the West was held in Kent, England, the White Friars, as they came to be known, unanimously chose as their General the remarkable Englishman, St. Simon Stock, through whom the Blessed Virgin was soon to give her Scapular to the world. After his election as General, the Saint found the task of organizing a group of contemplative hermits into an order of mendicant friars in Europe almost beyond his capacities. And so, when disruption and ruin threatened his beloved Order in the summer of 1251, the aged St. Simon Stock withdrew to his monastic cell and begged the Heavenly Patroness of the Brothers of Carmel to help her children in their hour of need.

Suddenly, Our Lady of Mount Carmel appeared to Simon holding in her hand a large Brown Scapular, and said: "*Receive, my beloved Son, this habit of thy Order: This shall be to thee and to all Carmelites a privilege, that whosoever dies clothed in it shall not suffer eternal fire!*" Thus, did the Blessed Virgin grant to the Carmelites a favor that saved the Order. The following January, the Pope and the King of England issued letters of protection and favor for the Carmelite Order. (*Saints Who Saw Mary* by Raphael Brown)

Confraternity of St. Peter 2014 Pilgrimage

There are still a few places available on the "English Martyrs" pilgrimage in August. For information call Tish at 916-223-3112 or visit www.syversentouring.com/confraternity.

**Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Rosa Mystica & Little Flowers**

Registration is now open for Rosa Mystica (ages 9-14) & Little Flowers (ages 5-8). Forms are available at the Parish Office, bookstore, or by e-mail. The **deadline** for registration is August 1st and **space is limited**. Registration forms are also available for the Sodality of Our Lady, (ages 14 & up)

Spiritual Adoption Progress Report—Month 7

It is time to check out the new Spiritual Adoption poster in the vestibule to see the developmental progress of our parish spiritually adopted "babies"! S/he is now seven months old in utero. We are in the home stretch with our spiritually adopted babies. S/he is completely formed, and has been since 8 weeks. All he is doing now is gaining weight—and making his mother uncomfortable with his size. But, she is not worried now. In a short time, her baby will be born. She has planned to bring her baby home or to place her baby for adoption. Either way, she knows she can receive the assistance she needs from the Catholic Church and from the crisis pregnancy centers. Your baby's mother appreciates the prayers you have said for her and her baby throughout the pregnancy. It hasn't been easy, but your prayers have given her grace to seek the help she needs, so, don't forget to keep praying! Soon we'll also start to think about the baby shower in early September which will benefit the Sacramento Life Center and Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home.

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.

Reminder— Chesterton Society meeting:

July 22th at 7:30pm
 We will be reading :

**Manalive &
 Fr. Brown - The Fairy Tale**
 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 & Cesar Morales, Richard Corbin, Robert Nunez, Renee Burns, Sue McGrath, Lorraine Peterson, John Patrick Corr, Norman Sayles