

## REFLECTION

About 1.4 billion people in the world live on \$1.25 a day or less. The majority of poor people worldwide are women. Their opportunities for education are fewer and their earnings still lag far behind those of their male counterparts. Care of home and children go uncompensated. Violence at the hands of their intimate partner costs women in the United States approximately eight million days of work each year, and domestic violence keeps women teetering on the brink of homelessness. How can it be that Jesus would pronounce blessed those who struggle against such poverty?

Biblical scholars point out that the Greek word makarios, like the Hebrew ashre, meaning "blessed," does not confer blessing, but recognizes an existing state of happiness. This happiness is something inherent in God, and when humans experience blessedness it flows from relationship with God. In biblical tradition, poverty is never an indicator of blessedness; it is always regarded as evil. What can Jesus mean by stating the opposite?

In the Gospel of Luke, references to the poor are very frequent. Scholars estimate that 25 percent of people in Roman Palestine were desperately poor. Two concrete individual characters put faces on this mass of struggling humanity: the ulcer-ridden beggar, Lazarus, lying at the rich man's gate (16:19-31); and the widow who put "her whole life," two small coins, into the temple treasury (21:1-4).

Whenever Jesus speaks about such people, however, he addresses his words to disciples who are not among the most destitute. They are the ones who have the means to be agents of divine blessing to those who are needy. His invitation to disciples is to embrace some form of being poor, but not destitution, as an essential aspect of their commitment to Jesus. Luke shows many options for how to respond to this call to embrace poverty. Some of the fishermen and a tax collector leave behind everything to follow Jesus (5:11, 28). Others, like Zacchaeus, give half their possessions to the poor (19:8). Many of the women put their monetary resources at the service of Jesus' mission (8:1-3). Some, like Mary, the mother of John Mark, open their homes for the gatherings of the community (Acts 12:12). There was also the practice of pooling everyone's resources and then each taking according to their need (Acts 2:44; 4:32). The only thing that was not an option was to hoard for oneself, like the rich ruler (Lk 18:18-30), or to lie to the community about one's possessions, as the tragic story of Ananias and Sapphira shows (Acts 5:1-11).

The blessedness that Jesus holds up is the happiness of those who are being liberated from their desperate poverty already in the here and now, a foretaste of the final elimination of all want in the fullness of the reign of God. It is not a wish for future reward for an abstract, unknown group of "the poor" who suffer in the present, but a concrete possibility when the needs of real people are known and the resources are shared in community. Remarkably, the word poor does not occur in the Acts of the Apostles, where the inequities are being dissolved in the community of believers.

As Lent begins this week, it is a good time to renew our efforts to become agents of blessedness through our prayer for those who are in need, fasting in solidarity with those who are hungry not by choice, and by almsgiving to those who are destitute.

- America Magazine, February 2010

## CATHOLICS COME HOME



### Are you Returning to Your Catholic Roots! Welcome Home!

Whether you've been away from the Church for 1, 5, 10, 15, or even 30 years or more, our parish family is delighted to welcome you home to the Catholic Church. If you have not already done so, we invite you to visit the *Catholics Come Home* website in English at [CatholicsComeHome.org](http://CatholicsComeHome.org) or in Spanish: [CatolicosRegresen.org](http://CatolicosRegresen.org). Don't remember how to go to confession? That's alright . . . when you enter the confessional, simply tell the priest you've forgotten how and he will guide you through the process, step by step. [Confessions at St. Joseph Church are held every Saturday evening from 6:30-7:30 PM or by appointment.] Catholics Come Home meetings have begun! **Meetings continue this week on Monday at 7:00 in the Church Meeting Room. All are welcome!** For more information about Catholics Come Home call the Parish Office at 447-2354.

## PARKING AT ST. JOSEPH



We again ask that you obey all parking signs and curb markings and not park in "no parking" areas or "fire lane" zones **and especially in front of the rectory garages**. Some weeks ago the rectory garages were blocked preventing Fr. Jacobo from leaving for an emergency call.

Those cars we find parked improperly in our parking lot will receive a parking warning "ticket" or your car could be towed if you are parked blocking the garages at the Rectory or parked in a fire lane or red zone in our parking lot. There are plenty of spaces at the Parish Center side of the parking lot. Please use the marked spaces. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our parking lot safe.

## LENTEN SCHEDULE



ASH  
WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2010

Mass Schedule  
7:00 AM  
9:00 AM  
12:15 PM  
7:00 PM

**Ashes distributed after each Mass.**

**Daily Mass** - Daily Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 PM in the Chapel throughout the Lenten season in addition to our regular morning schedule.

**Friday Night Soup** - Each Friday night during Lent at 5:30 PM you are invited to enjoy soup and bread in the Notre Dame Gym before praying the Stations of the Cross.

**Stations of the Cross** - You are invited to pray the Stations of the Cross each Friday evening at 7:00 PM The service will conclude each week with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**FOOD LOCKER COLLECTION** – The food collection to benefit St. Mary's Food Locker is this weekend, February 13-14. Please remember those less fortunate in our community.

**Pasta Feed** - Bring the Family to a Pasta Feed sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Saturday, February 20, 2010 in the Notre Dame School Gym from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The menu includes: Spaghetti with choice of meat or vegetable sauce, bread, salad, coffee or tea, and dessert. The cost is \$8.00 per person (children ages 5 and under eat free). Proceeds benefit Notre Dame School, seminarians and the good works of the Knights of Columbus.



**40 Days for Life - Bilingual Mass** will take place on Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, 11th & J Streets, Sacramento. Fr. Michael Kiernan will offer the Mass and Monsignor Edward Kavanagh will give the homily. Confession will be available before mass beginning at 6:15 PM. A Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will take place immediately following Mass. Please join us in prayer as we beseech God for very fruitful 40 Days for Life prayer vigils in our area and throughout the U.S. and Canada. For more information, call Julian at 916-451-2402 or Jan at 916-749-6719 or visit [www.40daysforlife.com/sacramento](http://www.40daysforlife.com/sacramento).



**St. Joseph Relay for Life Team** - This year's Relay for Life will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2010 at Vacaville High School. Team St. Joseph is already registered to participate and our online link is up. It's not too early to join our team and start fundraising to find a cure. Go to: [www.RelayForLife.org/VacavilleCA](http://www.RelayForLife.org/VacavilleCA) team name: St. Joseph. Sign ups will also be done after Masses beginning in April. Please pray for all those affected by this disease.

**BUSY PERSON'S RETREAT** will be February 20, 2010 and the third Saturday of each month through June 2010. These retreats take place from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at the Christian Brothers' Mont La Salle Novitiate (off Highway 29 on Redwood Road), Napa, California. Time is offered for both communal and personal prayers and discussion. There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at each retreat. Refreshments are available throughout the morning. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67-68,71-72,75-76; Mk 8:11-13  
 Tues. Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13,14-15,18-19; Mk 8:14-21  
 Wed. Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6,12-14,17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6,16-18  
 Thurs. Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4,6; Lk 9:22-25  
 Fri. Is 58:1-9; Ps 51:3-6,18-19; Mk 9:14-15  
 Sat. Is 58:9-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32  
 Sun. Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2,10-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDENTS' DAY



**Parish Office Closed for President's Day Holiday**

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 15th for President's Day. The office will re-open on Tuesday, February 16th.

## FAITH FORMATION

*Liturgy of the Word and Youth Group will not have classes this Sunday, February 14, due to the President's Day holiday.*

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be held on Tuesday 2/23 for all Confirmation and OCIC candidates and Wednesday 2/24 for all Communion candidates from 4:00-6:00 PM. Notre Dame Students will receive Reconciliation on 2/24 after their regularly scheduled school mass at 9:30 AM.

**The Youth Group is working with "Blue Star Moms"** on a community service project sending care packages to support our troops. On the weekends of 2/20-2/21 and 2/27-2/28 we will be collecting snack sized, individually packaged items such as mints, candies, cookies, granola bars, energy bars, cereal, fruit snacks, powder drinks, beef jerky sticks, canned foods and meats (with pop tops). We also need gallon size plastic zip top bags to collect all the donated goods, packing tape and monetary donations made payable to "Blue Star Moms." Blue fliers are located in the Narthex for additional information or log on to [www.solanobluestarmoms.org](http://www.solanobluestarmoms.org). Thank you for your generous donations!

## NOTRE DAME SCHOOL

**Notre Dame School** is now accepting applications for Kindergarten for the 2010-2011 school year. These forms are available in the school office. You need to bring a copy of the child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization records, and a letter from your parish. Notre Dame School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, or national/ethnic origin in admission policy or employment practices. For information, call the school office at 447-1460, 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM Monday-Friday.



### MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 7:00 AM ----- Mary Espinosa, R.I.P.  
 Tues. 7:00 AM ----- Emmanuel Valbuena, R.I.P.  
 Wed. 7:00AM,9:00AM,12:15PM, 7:00PM ----- The Holy Souls  
 Thurs. 7:00 AM ----- Mauro & Emerlinda Gapasin, R.I.P.  
 Thurs. 12:00 PM ----- Int. of Alicia Topete  
 Fri. 7:00 AM ----- Josie Gomez, R.I.P.  
 Fri. 12:00 PM ----- Tim Creeden, R.I.P.  
 Sat. 8:15 AM ----- Int. of Cindy Cooper  
 Sat. 5:00 PM ----- Alfonso Kwek, R.I.P.  
 Sun. 7:00 AM ----- Members of the Parish  
 Sun. 8:30 AM ----- Sick Members of the Parish  
 Sun. 10:00 AM ----- World Peace  
 Sun. 12:00 PM ----- Vocations to the Priesthood