

REFLECTION



A well-known evangelical preacher recently pointed a finger at the Haitians, declaring that their own sinfulness had brought down upon them the wrath of God in the form of an earthquake. It's such a simple explanation: If something bad happens, then the victims must have done something to deserve it. That's what Jesus figures people are thinking when they report to him about those whom Pilate murdered and the people who were killed when a tower fell on them.

There may, indeed, be sinful causes behind these events but not on the part of the victim. Pilate, who carries out violent executions of innocent people, embodies a sin-wracked system. Deaths caused by shoddy workmanship or construction shortcuts, when profit is prized over human safety, are the result of sinful practices but not those of the ones who fall victim.

In the Gospel, Jesus does not answer the more complex question of why bad things happen to good people, but he does clearly dissociate untimely death from sin and guilt. What he emphasizes in his response is the need always to be prepared—the end could come quite unexpectedly. Are you ready?

A dear friend was recently diagnosed with a life-threatening brain tumor. In an instant her life took a dramatic turn, as the possibility of a shortened life faced her. Her response brought many up short. "I can honestly say I have no regrets," she said. The Gospel today invites all of us more deeply into such a relationship with God, where we too can say we are ready at any moment, with no regrets.

The Gospel also underscores God's patience in waiting for us to repent and "bear fruit." In Luke's Gospel, repentance does not come about by human efforts at reforming our lives. Rather, the process of transformation begins with God's gracious initiative. Our Lenten practices help to sharpen our ability to be transformed and to respond in such ways that can set us ablaze with divine love, like the bush that caused Moses to turn aside and look.

The examples of people dying in unexpected ways are not meant to scare us into repentance. They are a sobering reminder, however, that our time to respond to the divine invitation is limited. We would not want to miss the opportunity to enter more deeply into the heart of "the One who causes to be all that comes into existence," as the renowned biblical scholar William F. Albright translated the mysterious divine name in Ex 3:14.

There is no adequate explanation for sudden, tragic death. Nor is there any adequate way to speak of the one who is and who causes all to be. Yet we long for precise answers to our most difficult questions. Moses insists that he needs to be able to tell the Israelites who it is that sent him. But God rightly resists any limitations of human categorization. In ancient cultures it was thought that knowing another's name gave you power over that person. Not only can we not have power over God, but any words or images we use are completely inadequate to put into speech who and what God is. Any image falls short and captures only a glimpse of our experience of the ever-expanding power of love that emanates from the cause of all being.

As we journey in Lent with those who are being initiated into the faith, it is a good time to let go any overconfidence, as Paul admonishes the Corinthians, allowing ourselves to be enveloped in mystery, to be fashioned anew by the one who causes all to be.

- America Magazine, March 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. 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.] **The Catholics Come Home group continues meeting Mondays at 7:00 in the Church Meeting Room. This week we will be talking about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All are welcome!** For more information about Catholics Come Home call the Parish Office at 447-2354.

LENTEN OUTREACH PROJECTS

As part of our Lenten journey with the Lord, please consider those less fortunate by supporting the following Outreach Commission Projects.

Monthly Food Drive for the Food Locker - The monthly food drive will be held during Lent the weekend of **March 13-14**. Items especially needed include: canned soups, ravioli, chili, peanut butter, oatmeal and boxed cereals. Please pray in earnest for those in need of this food and assistance.

Annual Paper & Plastics Drive for Opportunity House - The weekend of March 20-21, we will hold our annual Paper & Plastic Supplies drive at all Masses for the Opportunity House Homeless Shelter. Please "stock up" while doing your shopping in the next weeks to prepare for this drive. Paper and plastic products needed include: toilet paper, paper towels, plastic "food handling" gloves, plastic food wrap, Ziploc Bags (freezer storage bags and sandwich bags), 13 gallon kitchen garbage bags and "Hefty" Lawn & Leaf bags. Please pray for the homeless and those who assist them.

LENTEN SCHEDULE



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.

Daybreaks - Please pick up your complimentary copy of Daily Reflections for Lent & Easter to help you with your Lenten Resolutions. We have provided only one copy per household.

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



INSTRUCTIONAL MASS - Fr. Dan will be holding an instructional Mass on Monday, March 15th at 7PM in the Church. This is open for all in the Catholics Come Home group, adult faith formation, and anyone else in the parish who has questions about the meaning of the parts of the Mass. Father will explain the Mass as it proceeds and answer any questions. Please join us.

Chrism Mass - At this Chrism Mass the Bishop blesses the Holy Oils, which are used in sacramental celebrations in all parishes of the Diocese throughout the coming year. This is truly a celebration of the entire Sacramento Diocese, and you are most cordially invited to join with Bishop Weigand, the priests of the diocese and your Catholic brothers and sisters as we pray for God's continued blessings on the Church of Sacramento.



Knights of Columbus - Please join us at a Pancake breakfast being held at the Notre Dame Gym on Sunday, March 21, 2010 after the 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM Masses.

The menu includes pancakes, eggs, potatoes, sausage, juice, coffee & tea. Tickets will be sold at the door at \$5 per person. Children 5 & under are free. Proceeds will be used to help our Notre Dame School, a seminarian from our Diocese and the good works of the Order.

Memorial Easter Lilies - Flowers will adorn our church during the Easter Season this year. Please consider purchasing an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one. Names of loved ones and donors will be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin. The cost is \$20. Please Return this form to the Parish Office with your payment.



In Memory Of: _____

Donor Name: _____

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. 2 Kgs 5:1-15; Ps 42:2-3;43:3-4; Lk 4:24-30
 Tues. Dn 3:25,34-43; Ps 25:4-5,6,7,8-9; Mt 18:21-35
 Wed. Dt 4:1,5-9; Ps 147:12-13,15-16,19-20; Mt 5:17-19
 Thurs. Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2,6-9; Lk 11:14-23
 Fri. Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6-11,14-17; Mk 12:28-34
 Sat. Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4,18-21; Lk 18:9-14
 Sun. Jos 5:9,10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3,11-32

FAITH FORMATION

SJC Youth Group: Thank you to all the generous donations for the Blue Star Mom's project. Care packages for the soldiers were gathered, distributed and sent out. The youths enjoyed making cards for the soldiers and making a difference in our community. Heartfelt gratitude to all. We will be continuing with this project later towards the end of the school year, closer to summer. Please stay tuned for details...

Faith Formation: Faith Formation Spring break starts March 23-April 1. Classes will resume on Thursday, April 1 for OCIC and the week of April 5th for the other classes.

The Sacrament of Communion will be held during 10AM & 12PM Masses on Sunday, April 25 and 10A on May 2. Confirmation will be held on Wednesday, May 12 at 7PM. Please mark your calendars.

Faith Formation registration will begin in April. Classes for the 2010-2011 year begins mid September. Communion and Confirmation will now be a 2 year preparation program with Communion beginning at 1st grade and Confirmation beginning at 6th grade.

If you have additional questions, please contact the office.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL



Please give generously to the Annual Catholic Appeal - 25% comes back to our parish.

Countless lives are touched by every contribution to the 2010 Catholic Annual Appeal. Seminarians currently in formation, Catholic school students, the sick, the aged, and people in need—they all depend on our generosity. Thank you for pledging today to help meet our parish goal. Greatly increasing participation here in our parish assures the continuation of these efforts.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 7:00 AM----- Concepcion Torres, R.I.P.
 Mon. 12:15 PM----- Int. Dottie Deramo
 Tues. 7:00 AM ----- Henry Edward Jessup, R.I.P.
 Tues. 12:15 PM----- Francisco Ferraro, R.I.P.
 Wed. 8:15 AM ----- Johnie Owings, R.I.P.
 Wed. 12:15 PM----- Int. of J & B Families
 Thurs. 7:00 AM----- Fr. Vincent Meskenas, R.I.P.
 Thurs. 12:15 PM----- Mo Llano, R.I.P.
 Fri. 7:00 AM-----
 Fri. 12:15 PM----- Douglas Southworth, R.I.P.
 Sat. 8:15 AM----- Carolina Amundson, R.I.P.
 Sat. 5:00 PM----- Brother Kevin Hargadon, FSC, 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