

## REFLECTION



When people disagree with one another about deeply held convictions, especially those based on religious beliefs, coming to peaceable agreement is no easy task. The vitriolic exchanges and even threats of physical violence that have been voiced in the process of reforming health care in the United States, for example, are quite different

from the way the first Christians resolved their differences regarding observance of the Mosaic law in changing circumstances.

Today's first reading abbreviates Luke's description of the process, as it presents the problem and then jumps to the agreed-upon solution. It is helpful to look at the omitted verses from Acts 15 to see the steps by which communities of faith can accept and live out the gift of peace that Jesus promises his disciples in the Gospel.

As the Jesus movement spread outward to include more and more gentiles, heated debates ensued over whether these newcomers should keep the whole of the Mosaic law. Some said yes, some said no, and others argued for a compromise position: keep some observances, but not others. The next question was inevitable: if gentile Christians did not need to be circumcised or to observe all the dietary regulations, then should Jewish Christians continue to be bound by them? How would a mixed community be able to eat together if some were keeping kosher and others not?

As Acts 15 recounts, albeit in an idealized way, there came a point when a group from Judea, not authorized by the Jerusalem leaders, came to Antioch, where Paul and Barnabas were recounting all that God was doing through them in their missionary travels among the gentiles. The Judeans, who were arguing for full observance of the law by gentiles, created no little dissension and debate, as Paul and Barnabas took them on, holding that gentiles should not be bound by the law.

In the verses omitted from today's first reading, Luke describes how all the leaders gathered in Jerusalem to resolve the dispute. First there was intense listening by all sides. Paul and Barnabas reported what God had done through them in gentile lands. Then some of the Pharisees who had become believers spoke of their conviction that the whole law must be observed by all. After much debate, Peter finally stood and put forth a decisive argument: it was apparent that God had given the Holy Spirit to the gentiles as well as to Jewish Christians, making no distinction between the two. He then argued for a relaxation of observance of the law. Then the leaders listened again to Paul and Barnabas as they described "the signs and wonders God had worked among the gentiles through them" (15:12). Next James, the leader of the Jerusalem community, quoted a text from Am 9:11-12 concerning God's ingathering of gentiles. He then proposed a compromise, as we hear in the remainder of today's first reading.

Through deep and respectful listening to all sides, careful attention to what the Spirit is doing in present experience, study of the Scriptures, reflection on tradition, respectful debate and discussion, silence and prayer the first Christians arrived at a solution that allowed for communal living in peace among people of differing convictions. This process did not resolve the problem once and for all, but it gives us an example of how we might receive and live from the gift of peace given to us by the risen Christ.

— America Magazine, May 2010

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**FOOD LOCKER COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND** - Our monthly canned food collection for St. Mary's Food Locker is this weekend, May 8-9. Food items needed include: boxed cereals, peanut butter, canned chili, ravioli and soups. Please no glass containers. Please pray for those less fortunate in our community.

**Lifeline** - Losing a job, the loss of a loved one, or family struggles can be overwhelming for many of us. Sometimes talking about our difficulties can ease our troubles and help us move beyond our pain or relieve our stress. We at the Lifeline Ministry can help you during this difficult time. We offer one-on-one confidential meetings with you which are a free service offered through the parish. Please contact the Lifeline Ministry at (707) 447-2354.



**St. Joseph Ministry Fair** - Please plan on stopping by and browsing the Ministry Fair after the weekend Masses on May 22-23. Learn the many ways our Parish is active in Ministry, Outreach, and service to our community. Discern how your gifts of time and talent will help in church ministry.

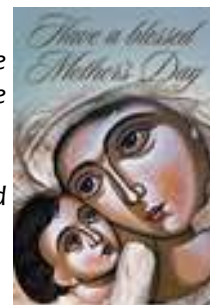
### *Prayer For All Mothers*

*Mary, on this day when we honor all mothers, we turn to you. We thank the Lord whom you serve for the great gift of motherhood. Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession was left unaided by grace. Dear Mother, thank you for your "Yes" to the invitation of the angel which brought heaven to earth and changed human history. You opened yourself to God's word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

*Dear mother, intercede for all of our mothers. Ask your Divine Son to give them the grace of surrendered love so that they could join with you in giving their own "Fiat." May they find daily strength to say yes to the call to the sacrificial love- the very heart of the vocation of motherhood. May their love and witness be a source of great inspiration for all of us called to follow your Son.*

*On this Mothers day, Mother of the Word Incarnate, pray for us who have recourse to you...*

*In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*



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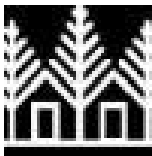
**Notre Dame School** is accepting applications for all grades. Forms are available in the school office. Notre Dame School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, or national/ethnic origin in admission policy or employment practices. For more information, call the school office at 447-1460, office hours: 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM Monday through Friday.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** - Please join us for fellowship at a Pancake Breakfast being held at the St. Joseph Parish Center on Sunday, May 23, 2010 after the 7:00, 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Masses. The menu includes pancakes, eggs, potatoes, sausage, juice, coffee & tea. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5.00 per person. Children 5 & under are free.

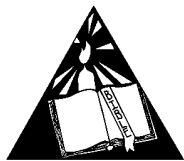


**Blood Drive at St. Joseph** - Saturday, May 15, 2010 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the parking lot. Please contact Tom Harlow at 446-0276 or register online at [www.BloodHeroes.com](http://www.BloodHeroes.com) and enter sponsor code: sjchurch to schedule your appointment.

**CAMP PENDOLA**, the official summer camp of the Diocese of Sacramento, is now accepting registrations for the 2010 summer season. This year, the traditional summer camp program will be celebrating 51 years of serving children and youth ages 6-17. Campers are encouraged to live in, understand, and respect the wonders and beauty of the world around them. For more information and registration materials, check our website at [www.pendola.org](http://www.pendola.org) or call 916-PEN-DOLA (736-3652).



**2010 Graduates** - St. Joseph would like to acknowledge the members of our parish who are graduating from high school and college this year. Please contact the Parish Office at 447-2354 before June 9 with the graduate's name, school, and if college, the degree received.



**St. Joseph Bible Study** - First and Third Thursdays of the month at 7:00 PM in the Church Meeting Room. Call the Parish Office at 447-2354 for more information.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Fellowship Feast**  
Honoring our priests and benefiting Notre Dame School

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

6:00 PM - No Host Bar

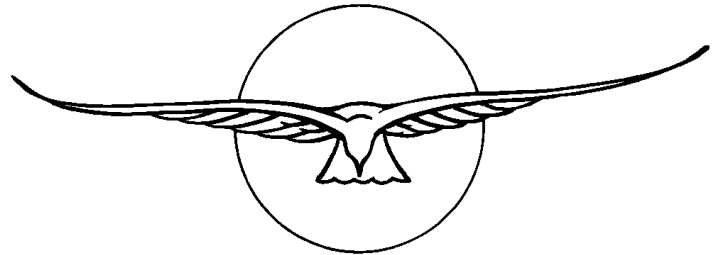
6:30 PM - Dinner

\$25.00 donation

Gathering will be held at St. Mary's Parish Hall. Join us for Vespers at 5:30 PM at St. Mary's Church. Tickets are available at the St. Mary's Rectory or St. Joseph Parish Office. Contact St. Mary's Church at 448-2390 for more information.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

## FAITH FORMATION



**Confirmation** will be held on  
**Wednesday, May 12 at 7:00 PM.**

**Faith Formation Open Enrollment** for new students, Kindergarten through 8th Grade begins in July through September 15th. More information will be available in July.

**Communion Certificates** are ready for pick up at the Parish Office. Please stop by Monday-Friday from 9am to 4pm for pick up.

**No Youth Group Meeting** on May 9 due to Mother's Day. Please enjoy some quality time with your mom.

**Love working with children?** We are always looking for enthusiastic and dedicated Catechists willing to learn and deepen their Faith. Faith Formation classes are held just once a week for about an hour. If interested in answering God's call, please contact the Office of Faith Formation at 447-2354 x833. Ongoing training will be provided.

If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office at (707) 447-2354.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a,9b; Jn 15:26-16:4a  
 Tues. Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3,7c-8; Jn 16:5-11  
 Wed. Acts 17:15,22-18:1; Ps 148:1-2,11-14; Jn 16:12-15  
 Thurs. Acts:1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3,6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Lk 24:46-53  
 Fri. Acts 1:15-17,20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17  
 Sat. Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3,8-10; Jn 16:23b-28  
 Sun. Acts:7:55-60; Ps 97:1-2,6-7,9; Rv 22:12-14,16-17,20;  
 Jn 17:20-26

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 7:00 AM----- Sharon Hernandez, R.I.P.  
 Tues. 7:00 AM ----- Daniel Winters, R.I.P.  
 Wed. 8:15 AM----- Francisco Ferraro, R.I.P.  
 Thurs. 7:00 AM----- Frank Andrews, R.I.P.  
 Fri. 7:00 AM ----- Antonio Carag, R.I.P.  
 Sat. 8:15 AM ----- Ana Tipay, R.I.P.  
 Sat. 5:00 PM ----- Jason Brown, R.I.P.  
 Sun. 7:00 AM ----- Members of the Parish  
 Sun. 8:30 AM ----- Sick Members of the Parish  
 Sun. 10:00 AM----- The Holy Souls  
 Sun. 12:00 PM----- Vocations to the Priesthood