

## REFLECTION



In a rural village in Chiapas, Mexico, an indigenous woman reflects: “My whole life I was taught to obey. First of all, I obeyed my father and mother. At age twelve my father decided whom I would marry. My father and his father made the agreement. I had no say. I could not object that I didn’t even know the man to whom my father had promised me. My only choice was to do my father’s will.

“My father and mother told me to obey the commands of my father-in-law and my mother-in-law and my husband. He said I would only be happy if I obeyed. After I was married I tried to obey my husband in everything. He was the one who always made the decisions. I tried to be an obedient daughter and wife, but my father was wrong. I was not happy. My heart was always sad. I would cry out to God in my prayers, but the only answer I got was that God ordained that it should be this way.”

This woman’s story, along with the stories of others like her, is shared in the book *Con Mirada, Mente y Corazon de Mujer*. She, through the sharing of Scripture with other women who have learned how to read “with the eyes, mind and heart of a woman” discovered a new meaning of obedience that took her far beyond her initial understanding. In this she is like Abraham and Sarah, as described in the second reading, and like Peter and the other disciples in the Gospel.

The reading from Hebrews emphasizes how obedience flows from faith in a trustworthy God. It elaborates how Abraham obeyed the call from God to go out from the place he knew “not knowing where he was to go.” All he and Sarah had to go on was God’s promise and their experience of generative power that was given to them by God. They set out obediently in faith, because everything they had experienced of God’s gracious goodness led them to trust the Holy One for whatever lay ahead.

The Gospel outlines how one becomes disposed to hear, to know and to act on God’s will. First, one must let go of fear so as to be able to receive the gift of God’s kingdom. This is God’s great joy: to find us unafraid and delighting in this indescribable gift. Obedience out of fear of a punishing God has no place among Jesus’ followers. Rather, obedience is the single-hearted response in faith to the One who is love incarnate and who frees us to love in like manner. Freeing the heart from attachment to anything but God’s love and God’s realm is the next step in obedience. Selling belongings and giving alms ensures that possessions do not become the treasure that grips the heart. Also needed is a sharpening of the senses, watching intently for all signs of divine presence and directives, through vigilance in prayer and attentiveness to the hungers of our world. Finally, when the master becomes the servant, there is a dismantling of systems wherein some are masters and others servants. The meaning of this parable becomes clear in the Last Supper scene, where it is enacted by Jesus himself.

Obedient faith that dismantles unjust master/servant dichotomies is not an easy road, as women from the Bible study groups in Chiapas attest: “At first we felt guilty; we thought we were disobeying the law of God. It’s been a long process, but we kept talking and listening to one another. Now we know that it is not God who commands it to be so, but it is a matter of culture and education. We were not born to be subservient as we had been made to believe, but to be obedient to God, who wants us to be happy.”

—America Magazine, August 2010

## FAITH FORMATION



**Faith Formation Open Enrollment for new students, Kindergarten through 8th Grade continues now through September 15th.** Avoid the rush and register early before classes are filled. Call the Parish Office if you have questions.

Registration forms for Communion and Confirmation for Notre Dame Students will be distributed during the first week of school.

All Faith Formation registration forms are located in the Narthex or the Parish Office. You can pick up or drop off completed forms Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM or call 447-2354 with any questions.

**Youth Group** SJC (Spiritual Junior Catholics) Youth Group starts September 12 from 1:15-3:00P (after 12P Youth Mass) in the Church Meeting room. If you’re in the 7th grade to College age, stop by and join us. We have so much in store this year, including our first Youth Rally, ON FIRE! at Six Flags Marine World on 10/16. Come and share your Faith and meet new friends. Looking forward to seeing you soon! Any questions, contact Josephine at 447-2354.

**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 Josephine at 447-2354 x 833. Ongoing training will be provided.

**Catechist Ministry Day** - Are you a catechist? Involved in RCIA, Youth Ministry, Parish Religious Education, Adult Faith Formation, Marriage or Sacramental Preparation, or Respect Life Ministry? Then you won’t want to miss this year’s Catechist Ministry Day on Saturday, September 18th, at St. Francis High School in Sacramento. The day (8a to 4p) will include powerful keynote speakers, Mass with Bishop Soto, helpful workshops, vendor tables, and a delicious lunch. Full details and online payment/registration are available online at [CatechistMinistry-Day.com](http://CatechistMinistry-Day.com). Don’t have access to the Internet? Call (916) 733-0123.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Week of August 8, 2010

Step One: Listen to the Word - As you hear this reading, what words or phrases strike you? What in this reading touches your heart? What lingers in your memory?



**Theme: Do not live in fear. Live, and be ready!**

Step Two: Look into Your Life

**Question for Children: Jesus tells us to always be ready to hear him. What are some ways that he speaks to us?**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Save the Date - Fabulous 50's "Bowl-A-Thon"** to benefit Notre Dame School's Scholarship Fund. Friday, August 13, 2010 at Stars Recreation Center from 1-4. Team Captains and bowlers needed! Register now - Lanes going quickly! Contact Emma McDonald at 448-7318 or Bill Bollman at 455-STAR for more information.

**Legion of Mary-Auxiliary** Function will be held on Saturday, August 14th Mass and Rosary after Mass. Get together at the Parish Center. Call Paul Pagarigan at 448-9043 if you need further details.

**Marriage Spirituality Weekend** - "Come to me all you who are weary and heavily burdened and I will give you rest" (Mt. 11:28). We all need a place to get away to rest if not in our dreams then somewhere else. The Marriage Spirituality weekend offers couples the kind of rest only Jesus can give. Come now...take a break...and join us for this once in a lifetime experience at the **Marriage Spirituality** weekend on **August 21-22, 2010** at **Holy Spirit Church Parish Hall** at 1050 N. Texas, Fairfield, CA. For more information please call Wally & Suki LaForga at (707) 450-6298.

**See and Hear Radio Host Teresa Tomeo LIVE!** The Sacramento Catholic Forum (On the Web: [www.SacCatholicForum.org](http://www.SacCatholicForum.org)) is sponsoring a luncheon event featuring Teresa Tomeo at the Sacramento Radisson Hotel (500 Leisure Ln.) on Friday, August 13, 2010 at 12:00p.m. \$25 pre-paid online and \$30 at the door. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. Teresa will address how our media-saturated culture dominates our lives and dismantles our families. Hear Teresa's action plan, overcome the NOISE and engage the culture to make a difference. *Teresa Tomeo is a veteran broadcast-journalist with more than 20 years of experience as a radio and TV news reporter & anchor woman. She hosts "Catholic Connection" M-F at 8a.m. on 1620 AM in the Sacramento area.*

**Peer Counselors needed for the Elderly** - Do you have a good ear for listening? Do friends and family admire you for your ability to give out good advice? Faith in Action is looking for volunteers who would like to become Peer Counselors for some of the elderly care recipients who are a part of our programs. Faith in Action is presenting a series of free training modules to prepare you to become a Peer Counselor. The training is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, August 18th from 1-4:30 p.m. at the Fairfield Seniors Center. Faith in Action serves seniors residing throughout Solano County, so volunteers will be matched with someone from their own community. People with open hearts who enjoy giving of themselves to others are encouraged to apply. Call (707) 469-6675 for additional information and to register. **Someone out there in your community is waiting for YOU!**

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Ez 1:2-5,24-28; Ps 148:1-2,11-14; Mt 17:22-27  
 Tues. 2Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2,5-9; Jn 12:24-26  
 Wed. Ez 9:1-7;10:18-22; Ps 113:1-6; Mt 18:15-20  
 Thurs. Ez 12:1-12; Ps 78:56-59,61-62; Mt 18:21-19:1  
 Fri. Ez 16:1-15,60,63; (Ps) Is 12:2-3,4,5-6; Mt 19:3-12  
 Sat. Ez 18:1-10,13,30-32; Ps 51:12-15,18-19; Mt 19:13-15  
 Sun. Rv 11:19;12:1-6,10; Ps 45:10-12,16; 1Cor 15:20-27;  
 Lk 1:39-56

## SECOND COLLECTION

**Catholic Communication - Help Us Connect the World with God's Word!** This week's second collection is for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). If Jesus Christ were on earth today, how would he spread his message? The CCC believes Jesus would use every means available, so it makes use of media outlets to evangelize and promote gospel values. You can truly make a difference right here in our diocese through your donation to today's collection. Half of all funds collected in our diocese are used for local communications projects such as our diocesan newspaper and televised Mass for homebound persons. To learn more about CCC's national communications projects, visit [www.CatholicCommunicationCampaign.org](http://www.CatholicCommunicationCampaign.org).

## RCIA

**Becoming a Catholic** - Are you interested in exploring the Catholic faith or do you know someone who has an interest?

- Please join us for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) inquiry sessions. There will be 3 sessions on consecutive Wednesday evenings, beginning on September 1 and continuing on September 8 and September 15. They will be held in the Parish Center Meeting Room at 7PM.
- **Confirmation for Adults** - If you have received baptism and First Communion, but have missed confirmation, please join us for adult confirmation classes beginning on September 1 at 7PM in the Parish Center Meeting Room.



### Note from the Pastor regarding Latin Mass:

I was appointed to this parish with a specific request to host the Latin Mass (the Tridentine Rite) at this parish. I thought it was the people of this parish who wanted it and so I replied saying that I would cater to the needs of the people. Then I was informed that the Bishop had promised the Latin Mass Community that they can have their Mass here at St. Joseph, so I had to honor this request. Therefore we are hosting the Latin Mass Community from the first Sunday of this month. They are part of the Catholic Church and I will pay attention that they will not be a burden on this community in any way (financially or in the use of the facilities). So I hope everyone of you will have an understanding heart in this regard and welcome this community (though you may not meet them because of their schedule). Thank you.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 8/9 - 7:00 AM -----Marjorie Gore, R.I.P.  
 Tues. 8/10 - 7:00 AM -----Edmund Dumuk, R.I.P.  
 Wed. 8/11 - 8:15 AM -----Anthony Gomez, R.I.P.  
 Thurs. 8/12 - 7:00 AM----- Fr. Jude Ban Ngoc Nguyen, R.I.P.  
 Fri. 8/13 - 7:00 AM----- Mary Bernal, R.I.P.  
 Sat. 8/14 - 8:15 AM----- Estelita Laureta, R.I.P.  
 Sat. 8/14 - 5:00 PM Deceased members of the Matsumiya Family  
 Sun. 8/15 - 7:00 AM ----- Members of the Parish  
 Sun. 8/15 - 8:30 AM -----Sick Members of the Parish  
 Sun. 8/15 - 10:00 AM -----Peace  
 Sun. 8/15 - 12:00 PM -----Vocations to the Priesthood