

REFLECTION

What happens to us after we die? People in every age wonder whether this present life is all there is. Some bury food and favorite items with their deceased, believing that they will need such things in the afterlife. Some hold that people are reincarnated in another life on earth. Christians place their hope in resurrected life, with Christ having already preceded us, then raising all who belong to him, as Paul assures the Corinthians in the second reading. In subsequent verses of this same chapter, Paul speculates on what kind of body we will have at the resurrection. For Paul and other Jews of his day, there could be no existence without a body. Paul speaks of us having transformed, glorious, spiritual and imperishable bodies, bearing the image of the One who has preceded us in resurrected life.

Today's feast underscores the importance of bodiliness, declaring that Mary, "having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory" (Pius XII, "Munificentissimus Deus," No. 44). For centuries Christians had considered that like other holy figures who had been taken up to heaven— Enoch, Moses and Elijah (Gn 5:24; Jude 9; 2 Kgs 2:1-12)— Mary also would have warranted special attention from God at her death. Many different legends grew up, but it was not until 1950 that Pope Pius XII declared infallibly that the Assumption of Mary was a dogma of the Catholic faith.

In today's Gospel there is an emphasis on the holiness of the body as a vehicle for the saving life God brings to birth. Both Elizabeth and Mary exemplify an incarnational spirituality, whereby God's action in this world is known through bodiliness. With the infant in her womb leaping for joy, Elizabeth is filled with the Spirit and she pronounces a blessing on Mary and on the child she carries in her body. Mary, in turn, proclaims God's greatness with her whole being (the Greek word *psyche* in verse 46, usually translated "soul," is not a separate part of the human, as opposed to the body, but rather refers to the whole self in all its vitality). Mary prophesies a new world in which there are no longer hungry or exploited bodies.

In a world in which the emperor claimed the titles "Lord," "Savior" and "Mighty One," Mary insists that it is God who saves lowly persons by a liberating power that undoes exploitative imperial systems. In a world in which people were enslaved for revolting against Rome or for debts from excessive taxes, Mary subverts systems of slavery by presenting herself as an empowered person who chooses to serve; she is not a person upon whom servitude is imposed. In a world where the majority struggled to have enough to eat, Mary sings of a time when all who are poor are filled with the good things of God.

In a time when sexual humiliation and exploitation of women were rampant, Mary dreams of God lifting up to dignity all the "lowly." (The Greek verb *tapeinoo*, translated as "lowly" in vv. 48 and 52, is used often in the Septuagint to refer to the sexual humiliation of a woman, as in the case of the rape of Dinah [Gn 34:2]; the abuse of the concubine of the Levite [Jgs 19:24; 20:5]; Amnon's rape of Tamar [2 Kgs 13:12-32]; and the ravishing of the wives in Zion and the maidens in the cities of Judah by the enemy [Lam 5:11].) In the world to come, incipient already in the present time and exemplified by Mary, transformation includes the whole embodied person.

—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.

All Faith Formation registration forms are located in the Narthex or the Parish Office.

***Kindergarten (5-6 yr olds)** – children attend classes during the 10:00A mass throughout the year. Classes are held in the Parish Center Meeting Room (next to the gymnasium). Children must be 5 yrs by December 2010 to enroll in this class.

***First Holy Communion (2 yr program – 1st & 2nd grades)** – Children attend classes on scheduled Wednesday's throughout the school year from 4:00-5:00P to prepare for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

***Faith Formation (3rd-5th grades)** – Children who have received First Holy Communion will be meeting on Thursday's at 4:15-5:15P

***Confirmation (2 yr program – 6th and 7th grades)** – Children attend classes on scheduled Tuesday's throughout the school year from 5:00-6:15P to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

***OCIC (Non Baptized children 8 yr or older or older baptized children over the age of 8 yrs who have not received their First Holy Communion or Confirmation)** – Children meet on Thursday's throughout the school year at 5:30-6:30P to prepare for their Sacraments.

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. Don't have access to the Internet? Call (916) 733-0123.

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Legion of Mary-Auxiliary Function will be held on Saturday, August 21st 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.

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!**

The Greatest Story Ever Told. Come Listen to Dr. Carol Younger. The Sacramento Catholic forum (on the web: www.SacCatholicForum.org) is sponsoring a luncheon event featuring Dr. Carol Younger at the Sacramento Radisson Hotel (500 Leisure Ln) on Friday, September 17, 2010 at 12:00p.m. \$25 pre-paid online and \$30 at the door. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. Dr. Younger will present a captivating, exciting and fast-moving presentation outlining the Story of Salvation History and how an attractive presentation of "The Story" is key to Catholic evangelization today. *Carol Younger, Ph.D. resides in the Los Angeles area and has more than 30 yrs of experience as a teacher, counselor, and educational administrator. She currently serves as an adjunct professor for the University of Sacramento.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Taste of Italy! Enjoy a food and wine tasting gala at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center on September 24, 6:30-9:30 p.m., 6520 Van Maren Lane, Citrus Heights. Auctions, music and more. Help raise much-needed funds and have fun in the process. Honorary chair is Msgr. Edward Kavanagh, who was the first to welcome Passionists to the area. Tickets to the benefit are \$75 each, and advance purchase is required. A dozen wineries and a similar number of restaurants are participating. Overnight accommodations with breakfast also available for \$125 double occupancy. (Call 725-4720, ext. 343 to make credit card reservations, or download a ticket order form at passionist.org/christtheking/Italy and mail with payment.)

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.



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Week of August 15, 2010

Step One: Listen to the Word
When you hear this reading today, what image or idea strikes you most strongly? What word or phrase catches your ear?



Theme: God's power among us gives us strength.

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: How does your relationship to the Blessed Virgin Mary help your faith?

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Ez 24:15-23; (Ps) Dt 32:18-21 ; Mt 19:16-22
 Tues. Ez 28:1-10; (Ps) Dt 32:26-28,30; Mt 19:23-30
 Wed. Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 20:1-16
 Thurs. Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-15,18-19; Mt 22:1-14
 Fri. Ez 37:1-14; Ps 107:2-9; Mt 22:34-40
 Sat. Ez 43:1-7; Ps 85:9,10-14; Mt 23:1-12
 Sun. Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1-2; Heb 12:5-7,11-13;
 Lk 13:22-30

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 8/16 - 7:00 AM Deceased members of the Gore Family
 Tues. 8/17 - 7:00 AM -----Emiliana Calilan, R.I.P.
 Wed. 8/18 - 8:15 AM ----- Intentions of Sophia Bucher
 Thurs. 8/19 - 7:00 AM-----Josie Gomez, R.I.P.
 Fri. 8/20 - 7:00 AM----- Clifton Theodore Beck, R.I.P.
 Sat. 8/21 - 8:15 AM----- Adoracion Hirang, R.I.P.
 Sat. 8/21 - 5:00 PM----- Antonio Matsumiya, R.I.P.
 Sun. 8/22 - 7:00 AM----- Members of the Parish
 Sun. 8/22 - 8:30 AM----- Sick Members of the Parish
 Sun. 8/22 - 10:00 AM -----Peace
 Sun. 8/22 - 12:00 PM -----Vocations to the Priesthood