

## REFLECTION



frequent rebuffs.

In today's Gospel there is an equally determined mother, who pleads with Jesus to heal her daughter. It happens in the region of Tyre and Sidon. It is puzzling that he should go there, since the Matthean Jesus is intent on ministering only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Mt 10:6). Matthew has just recounted the execution of John the Baptist, preceded by the ominous notice that Jesus has also come to Herod's attention (Mt 14:1-12). Most likely, Jesus goes to the coastal cities to get out of Herod's jurisdiction and to lie low for a while. He needs time to grieve over his beloved teacher and relative. He can be anonymous in Tyre and Sidon and can regroup and strategize about when and how to continue his mission publicly.

But he is recognized. A Canaanite woman comes pleading for her daughter. By labeling the woman with the outmoded term Canaanite, Matthew makes her the archetypal enemy; one of those with whom Israel struggled for possession of the land. Oddly, this so-called enemy knows both the right Jewish prayer formulas and the proper messianic title for Jesus. Her impassioned plea, "Have mercy on me, Lord," echoes Ps. 109:26 as well as the pleas of the blind men (Mt 9:27; 20:30, 31) and the father of the boy with epilepsy (Mt 17:15). In those instances, Jesus quickly heals. To the woman he makes no response at all. Never before has Jesus ignored someone who pleaded with him for compassion. The disciples also urge him to send her away. When he finally speaks with her, he insists he has nothing for her and that his mission is only to his own people.

If the woman had been seeking healing for herself, she might have given up, but there is nothing that fuels a mother's audacity more than concern for her child's well-being. She kneels before Jesus, a gesture of homage, but in so doing she also blocks his way, insisting that he act on her behalf. This time Jesus' response is terribly insulting: "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." Some biblical scholars try to tone down the insult, understanding it as an endearing address to a pet. Others think Jesus is reciting a common saying of his day that reflected the animosity of Galileans toward the people on the coast, to whom their wheat would be exported, even in times of shortage (see 1 Kgs 5:11; Acts 12:20). Whatever the genesis of Jesus' comment, calling the woman a dog is a gross insult.

Rather than turn away or return insult for insult, the mother redirects her rage, finding clever words and remaining respectful toward Jesus: "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table." With that, something shifts in Jesus. The woman stretches him to see her not as "other," or as "enemy," but as one of his own, one with whom he shares a common humanity, a common faith in God and a common desire for the well-being of children. He recognizes her great faith, having often chided his disciples for their "little faith" (Mt 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8; 17:20). Beyond securing the healing of her daughter, the narrative depicts this woman sparking in Jesus the idea that his mission is for all people, a notion that will be fanned into flame by those who carry on his mission after his death (Mt 28:19).

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## FAITH FORMATION



Registration for Children's Faith Formation program begins now through September 15th. Registration forms are available in the Narthex to pick up and are also available at the parish office (M-F 9:00A-4:00P). A copy of your child's baptism certificate is required for all classes (if you haven't turned one in already), along with fee's at the time of registration. NOTE: NDS Registration forms for Communion and Confirmation will be distributed when school resumes.

- **Confirmation (2 yr program - 6th-8th grades+)** - Classes are held on Tuesday's from 5:00P-6:15P throughout the school year to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please note: all requirements must be met in 1st Year in order to continue to 2nd year Confirmation prep.
- **Kindergarten (5-6 years old)** - Children attend classes on Wednesday from 3:45-4:45P; classes are no longer available on Sunday's. (Children must be 5 yrs by 12/1/11)
- **First Holy Communion (2 yr program - 1st -3rd grades)** - 1st year children attend classes on scheduled Wednesday's from 3:45-4:45P and 2nd year from 4:00-5:00P and 5:15-6:15P throughout the school year to prepare for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion.
- **Faith Formation (3rd-6th grades)** - Children who have received their first Holy Communion and are entering their age specific classes will attend elementary grade classes on Thursday's from 4:15-5:15P weekly throughout the school year. Please note: Children in 6th grade who have not had had FF classes since Communion will be placed in these classes.
- **OCIC - Order of Christian Initiation for Children (Non baptized children 8 yrs and older or baptized children who have not received First Communion)** - Children meet on Thursday's from 5:30-6:30P weekly throughout the school year to prepare to receive their Sacraments. Please note: children enrolled in this program must also attend their age appropriate class.

Children's Faith Formation will begin during the 10:00am Mass on Sunday, Sept 18 (Catechetical Sunday). Parent/Child meetings will immediately follow the week of 9/26-10/7 to inform parents of requirements for each program, calendar and Q&A. Call the parish office at 447-2354 with any questions.

## RCIA



### RCIA TEAM MEMBERS WANTED

Join us to accompany catechumens and candidates as they walk through the RCIA process. If you have Wednesday evenings free, please contact the parish office at 447-2354. Classes begin in September and end in May.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### St. Joseph's & St. Mary's Pastors' Fellowship Feast

AUGUST 18, 2011

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH HALL

(Proceeds to Benefit the Notre Dame School Scholarship Fund)

Come join us for this fellowship event with our priests. Special guests will include current and past priests of St. Joseph's and St. Mary's. Prayers begin in the church at 5:30pm followed by a no host bar at 6:00pm and dinner at 6:30pm. This will be a catered event and the fee is \$25/person. For more information call Yolanda Addiego at 707-448-4543.



**GOLF TOURNAMENT**—Hold the date! St. Joseph 2011 Golf Tournament will be Friday afternoon, October 14, 2011. Please contact Jim Fazzino at (504)908-2847 for more information or to lend a helping hand.

### Catechist Ministry Day

You are invited to attend this year's Catechist Ministry Day on Saturday, September 17 at St. Francis High School in Sacramento. This event's theme is Do This In Memory of Me, with an emphasis on liturgy. This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the Church, the Mass, and the changes coming with the new edition of the Roman Missal! More than 40 workshops will be offered, along with several keynote addresses. Call the Dept. of Evangelization & Catechesis at (916) 733-0123 or visit [www.CatechistMinistryDay.com](http://www.CatechistMinistryDay.com) for more information and online registration.

**Tea Time** —The Fellowship of Catholic Christian Women is sponsoring a **"Tea with Our Lady"** on Saturday, October 22, 2011 in the Holy Spirit Parish Center. The theme is the **Eucharist**. The guest speaker will be the Most Reverend Jaime Soto, Bishop of Sacramento. Currently reservations are being taken for **table hostesses** only. Please call Elba Hernandez-Zuvich at 422-2458 or Jane White at 372-6657. Space is limited. Come and see. [www.fellowshipofcatholicchristianwomen.org](http://www.fellowshipofcatholicchristianwomen.org)

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Rv 11:19;12:1-6,10; Ps 45:10,11-12,16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56  
 Tues. Jgs 6:11-24; Ps 85:9,11-14; Mt 19:23-30  
 Wed. Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-7; Mt 20:1-16  
 Thurs. Jgs 11:29-39; Ps 40:5,7-10; Mt 22:1-14  
 Fri. Ru 1:1,3-6,14-16,22; Ps 146:5-10; Mt 22:34-40  
 Sat. Ru 2:1-3,8-11;4:13-17; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 23:1-12  
 Sun. Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-3,6,8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sacramento Catholic Forum

### Mexico's Martyrs & the Secret War Against the Church

Few people realize how brutally the Catholic Church in Mexico was persecuted in the twentieth century. Just south of our borders in the 1920s and 1930s, priests were hunted down and shot, Church property was confiscated, and the teaching of religion was forbidden – even in the privacy of the home. Join us at the Sacramento Radisson Hotel at noon on August 12, as Msgr. James Murphy, vicar general of the Sacramento diocese, brings to light what life was like under President Calles, described as a Mexican version of the brutal Emperor Diocletian. Visit [www.SacCatholicForum.org](http://www.SacCatholicForum.org) for more information and to pre-register for the luncheon. Doors open at 11:30 am, lunch is at noon. Cost is \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door. All are welcome!



### BAPTISMS TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER—

Baptisms will be held on the weekend of September 10 and 11 at the 5:00 pm, 10:00 am and Noon Masses. Registration is taking place now and classes begin at 7:00 pm on August 23. Please contact the office for to register or get more information. (707) 447-2354

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY NEWS**—A huge thank you to Meg Nealon who has stepped down as coordinator of Eucharistic Ministers. Meg has done an outstanding job and we are very grateful for her dedication to the ministry. She will continue as an EM and Sacristan and will assist wherever needed in ministry. Please join us in welcoming Audrey Weiand as the new coordinator and offer her your support.

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

#### 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Week of August 14, 2011

**Theme:** Trust in God and never be afraid to ask God for anything.

**Question for Adults:** When you pray, how do you know that Jesus will really respond?

**Question for Children:** What is your favorite way to talk with Jesus? What words do you use?



### MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 8/15— 7:00 AM ----- Intentions of the Siaki Family  
 Tues. 8/16— 7:00 AM -- Thanksgiving for all Blessings Received  
 Wed. 8/17— 8:15 AM----- Dorothy Deramo, R.I.P.  
 Thurs 8/18—7:00 AM -- Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners  
 Fri. 8/19 — 7:00 AM ----- Josie Gomez, R.I.P.  
 Sat. 8/20 — 8:15 AM ----- For Vocations  
 Sat. 8/20— 5:00 PM ----- Intentions of B & J  
 Sun. 8/21— 7:00 AM -----For Peace  
 Sun. 8/21— 8:30 AM----- For Vocations  
 Sun. 8/21— 10:00 AM----- Members of the Parish  
 Sun. 8/21—12:00 PM ----- Sick Members of the Parish  
 Sun. 8/21— 5:00 PM Misa en Español -----Por Vocaciones

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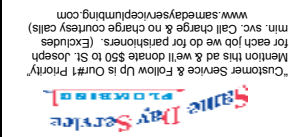
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