

## REFLECTION



It happened as I was leading a group on a trip to the Holy Land. Every other person in the group was happily claiming their bags. I waited, eager to see mine come rolling down the conveyer belt. Then the belt stopped. There were no more bags. My heart sank. How would I manage without the changes of clothing, the toiletries and the books that I had so carefully packed? Three days went by before

the airline found my suitcase and delivered it to me. Meanwhile others in the group shared with me whatever they had. It was humbling for me to put on others' clothes and to rely on others' generosity. Yet their acts of unselfishness created an instant bond; I was not the only one sharing from my "expertise."

In today's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are sent on their first foray in mission. Missionary journeying is never solitary; it is necessarily a communal endeavor. Jesus imparts to them his authority over unclean spirits and sends them out in pairs. He then gives them very specific instructions about what they are to pack—nothing! He does not say to travel lightly. He insists that they take nothing with them except a walking stick and sandals on their feet, just as the fleeing Israelites did at the Exodus (Ex 12:11). As they proclaim liberation they are to take no food, no bag, no money, no change of clothing. They are to go completely empty-handed.

This is a totally different model of mission than one in which the persons sent consider themselves to have a whole cache of "goods" to share with others who have nothing. It is just the reverse. A Christian missionary is to go out needy and vulnerable, so that there can be a mutual exchange of gifts between missionaries and the people to whom they are sent. Missionaries are to put on the clothes of others and eat whatever the local people share, thus becoming one with those with whom they share the good news.

Sharing the Gospel is always a two-way street. The message preached in such an exchange is that of a crucified and risen Christ who makes apparent that God's power works through vulnerability and mutuality. These kinds of exchanges do not take place in an instant. Jesus instructs his disciples to stay in one home so that the relationships can deepen and grow. It is also a warning not to look around for the best accommodations. A missionary is content to share whatever is offered.

Jesus warns his disciples that not all will accept the Gospel message. Wherever there is sustained hostility toward them, the disciples are to "shake the dust" from their feet and move on. Christian missionaries are ready to experience tribulation, but they do not go looking for it.

A thread runs through all three readings today: that divine initiative calls people to participate in the mission. Amos protests that he never belonged to a guild of prophets, nor ever wanted to be a prophet. He was a simple shepherd tending his flocks

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and his sycamore trees when God called him forth to prophesy. The reading from Ephesians highlights that it is by God's choice that believers, both Jews and Gentiles, belong to God and share the good news. In the Gospel, it is Jesus who summons the Twelve and sends them on mission. Christian missionaries are not self-appointed. The call to mission is part and parcel of every Christian's baptismal call. The Twelve symbolize how the whole renewed people of God participates in the mission, bringing healing and restoration to any who will welcome a needy bearer of the good news.

—America Magazine, July 2009

## ST. JOSEPH BIBLE STUDY

Join us on the first and third Thursdays of the month at 7:00 PM in the Parish Center Meeting Room to discuss the Bible, beginning with the First Epistle of St. John. Expect to learn, to share, to have fun and to grow. Bring your favorite Bible. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 447-2354.



## NOTRE DAME SCHOOL



**Notre Dame School** is accepting applications for **all grades** for the 2009-2010 school year. Notre Dame School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, or national/ethnic origin in admission policy or employment practices.

**The School Office is now closed for the summer and will re-open on August 3rd. For more information call the school office at 447-1460 after August 3rd.**

## ST. JOSEPH GOLF TOURNAMENT

**The St. Joseph Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner** will be held on Friday, September 11, 2009, with proceeds benefiting the St. Joseph Parish Development Fund. For those interested in joining the Golf Tournament Committee, please call the Parish Office at 447-2354.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SJC Youth Group** - The Youth Group will be taking a break until late August. Thank you for all your support and donations in making our first year of Youth Ministry a huge success! Together we can make a difference in the lives of our teens and Young Adults.

**Attention Catechists and those who are interested in becoming Catechists:**

There will be a Catechist Ministry Day entitled "Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word" held on Saturday, September 26 at St. Francis Catholic High School, Sacramento. This is an all day event starting at 8 AM to 4 PM with lunch included. Mass with Bishop Soto begins at 9 AM. Please check the link below for more details or contact Josephine Mislant at 447-2354, x 833. Registration will be taken until the first week of September, however space in each workshop is limited. [http://www.diocese-sacramento.org/evangelization\\_catechesis/cmd.html](http://www.diocese-sacramento.org/evangelization_catechesis/cmd.html).



**Faith Formation/Religious Education Classes** - Watch the bulletin in July and August for announcements regarding registration for Faith Formation/Religious Education classes which will begin at the end of September.



**OUR LADY OF FATIMA (PILGRIM VIRGIN)** - The Legion of Mary is inviting you to participate in the Rosary devotion to our Blessed Mother. Those who would like to bring the Pilgrim Virgin statue to their home for prayer can fill out a sign-up card in the Narthex and drop them off either at the Parish Office or in the collection basket on Sundays. If you would like more information regarding this program, please contact Irene at 469-7434.

**Lost & Found** - Please check the lost and found in the Meeting Room. Any items not picked up by July 12th will be delivered to Opportunity House.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**FOOD COLLECTION** - The monthly food collection for St. Mary's Food Locker is this weekend. Please drop your canned and packaged food items in the marked bins in the Narthex. Remember those less fortunate in our community. The next monthly food collection will be the weekend of August 8-9.

**Prayer Line** - If you have a prayer request, please contact the Parish Office at 447-2354.



**Parking** - Reminder: all parishioners must park only in marked parking spaces in the Church parking lot. The curb areas must be left clear for emergency vehicles. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.



### Thank You Bulletin Advertisers!

Their support makes publishing our bulletin on a weekly basis possible. If you are interested in advertising in our bulletin, contact Denise at the Parish Office at 447-2354.



St. Joseph Parish Development Fund 2009  
"Fundraising Update"

Through your great generosity, we have now raised \$354,057 in Pledges for our Parish Center Development Fund. We would like to make it to \$400,000 before Father Dan returns from vacation. We are looking for 50 more families to pledge \$1,000 over three years. That is a payment of only \$25 per month. If you are interested in participating and contributing to the Development Fund, volunteers will be at a table in the Church Meeting Room after Masses throughout the Summer. Please stop by and learn how you can help with this campaign.

—Lou Kalish, Pledge Drive Chairman

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon. Ex 1:8-14,22; Ps 124:1-8; Mt 10:34-11:1  
 Tues. Ex 2:1-15; Ps 69:3,14,30-31,33-34; Mt 11:20-24  
 Wed. Ex 3:1-6,9-12; Ps 103:1-4,6-7; Mt 11:25-27  
 Thurs. Ex 3:13-20; Ps 105:1,5,8-9,24-27; Mt 11:28-30  
 Fri. Ex 11:10-12:14; Ps 116:12-13,15-18; Mt 12:1-8  
 Sat. Ex 12:37-42; Ps 136:1,10-15,23-24; Mt 12:14-21  
 Sun. Jer 23:1-6; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 7:00 AM -----Xochitl Marin, R.I.P.  
 Tues. 7:00 AM ----- Mary Stella, R.I.P.  
 Wed. 8:15 AM ----- Corozon Sison, R.I.P.  
 Thurs. 7:00 AM ----- Martin White, R.I.P.  
 Fri. 7:00 AM ----- Paul Joseph Millam, R.I.P.  
 Sat. 8:15 AM ----- Int. of Dolores & Bob Skinner  
 Sat. 5:00 PM ----- Int. of Kathy Daly  
 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