

Touched by Grace

Blessed Dina Belanger-A Lesser-Known Voice of Divine Mercy

December 10th 2009 by Patrice Fagnant-MacArthur (catholicexchange.com)

I have been blessed this week to read *Divine Mercy: A Guide from Genesis to Benedict XVI* by Robert Stackpole, STD. Stackpole has done an admirable job of tracing the “theological history” of Divine Mercy through scripture and personal revelations to individuals throughout the centuries. As one might expect, he explores the writings of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, a Polish mystic to whom Jesus revealed the image of Divine Mercy and many teachings on the subject. It is through her visions and the efforts of her confessor that has led to much of the present-day devotion to Divine Mercy. To his credit, Stackpole also introduces his readers to a lesser known voice of Divine Mercy.

Like her counterpart St. Faustina, Blessed Dina Belanger of Quebec lived only thirty-three years and died of tuberculosis. Her short life was dedicated to Jesus Christ. She was blessed with good Christian parents. This fact cannot be overstated. Like St. Therese of Lisieux, she was able to grow in a fertile garden of faith. Blessed Dina herself acknowledged her great debt to them: “To prove my gratitude, I am duty bound to become a saint . . . Only thus can I make a fit return for their past and present solicitude. Yes, I will become a saint. I will become holy in the degree God has marked out for me. Thus may I repay [them] for the pains they have taken for my education, and console them in their grief over our separation.”

At the young age of thirteen, she “consecrated her whole life to Jesus through the Blessed Virgin Mary.” She had great natural musical talent and at age 19 she began to study music at a conservatory in New York. While there, she lived at a convent of the Religious of Jesus and Mary where she would spend many late nights in Eucharistic Adoration. She made a habit of praying before her musical exercises. Also like St. Faustina and St. Therese, when she asked to enter the convent she was told to wait. She was disappointed, yet in hindsight she saw God at work in this delay. She felt it was God’s will that she remain in the world and with her parents for a while longer. She had already begun to be granted the blessings of mystical experiences. At age 24, she was granted her great wish to enter the Religious of Jesus and Mary. She took the name Marie Sainte-Cecile of Rome after the patron saint of musicians. The sisters were teachers, and Blessed Dina worked as a music teacher. She loved teaching and the students entrusted to her care.

Jesus spoke to her more and more. She learned to recognize the authenticity of His voice: “His voice is soft, so soft that in the soul all must be hushed; it is a melodious voice, while that of the devil is noisy, abrupt and discordant, and his words are uttered in the midst of agitation and tumult.” Jesus told her that through her writings she would do much good. She thought He was referring to her poetry, but it was actually her autobiography that she was writing under obedience to her Mother Superior that would be this force of good in the world.

Blessed Dina’s motto was “To Love, and Let Jesus Have His Way.” She emphasized “the indwelling of Christ in the soul that brings the soul into the life of the Blessed Trinity, and that leads the soul to undertake a life of reparative suffering, in and with Christ.” Jesus gave St. Faustina the words of the Divine Mercy Chaplet: “Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son.” Just a few years earlier, Jesus gave Blessed Dina a similar prayer, “Eternal Father, through Mary and Thy Spirit of Love, I offer Thee the Eucharistic Heart of My Jesus.” Blessed Dina also wrote of God’s great mercy: “Infinite Mercy is exercised on our behalf in the measure that it finds us miserable and unworthy.” She also spoke of the importance of trust in Jesus while acknowledging that such complete trust is difficult. “My trust in God is not a human trust – wavering, insecure, such as might spring from my weakness, certainly not; it is the trust of God Himself which I borrow, which I make my own.”

Blessed Dina was considerably more educated than St. Faustina. Her writings appeal to intellectuals. Her words may speak to those who, for whatever reason, may not be touched by St. Faustina’s writings. Blessed Dina’s words both complement and enhance those of St. Faustina. While her role in promulgating the message of Divine Mercy has not been as large as St. Faustina’s, Jesus gave her a role in this for a reason. She was beatified on March 20, 1993. Her feast day is September 4th. Thank you, Dr. Stackpole, for bringing her to our attention.

Patrice Fagnant-MacArthur has a Master of Arts degree in Applied Theology from Elms College, and is editor of SpiritualWoman.net. She is also the author of Letters to Mary from a Young Mother (2004). (This article is adapted from a weekly column Patrice writes for CatholicMom.com, and is used by permission.)

Financial News, etc.

December 20th
Regular Offering **\$10,511.00**
 St. Vincent de Paul \$1,150.00
 Building Fund - Phase II \$558.00
 Retired Religious Fund \$156.00

December 25th
Christmas Offering **\$8,963.00**
 St. Vincent de Paul \$315.00
 Building Fund \$20.00
 Retired Religious Fund \$17.00

December 27th
Regular Offering **\$8,292.00**
 St. Vincent de Paul \$65.00
 Building Fund - Phase II \$406.00

Mary, Mother of God **\$5,470.75**

January 3, 2010
Regular Offering **\$10,414.00**
 St. Vincent de Paul \$1,053.00
 Building Fund - Phase II \$2,409.00

Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA)
 Monies Pledged
 \$75,634.00
 Monies Collected
 \$57,159.00
 Balance
 \$18,475.00



If you have contribution envelopes, please use them.

People often drop their loose change and checks in the collection rather than using their envelopes. The use of your envelope is important, because it identifies you, not only as a contributor, but as a participating member of our faith community. At the end of the year, you will receive a statement of your contribution for tax purposes.

If you do not have contribution envelopes, please call the Parish Office at 865-7385.

Are You New To Our Parish?

We would like to welcome you to our parish family. Please register in the parish to receive correspondence from San Clemente such as end of year tax reports, contribution envelopes, correspondence, etc. Please fill out the form below [**please print**] and place it in the collection basket or mail it to San Clemente Parish Office, P.O. Box 147, Los Lunas, NM 87031 and we will send a Registration form to fill out. If you are currently registered but have a new address or phone number, please let us know. Thank you.

Head of Household: _____
Last First

_____ Zip _____ - _____
Address City State

Phone: _____
Daytime number Evening number

Best time to call: _____ am or _____ pm

New parishioner New phone New address

Comments: _____

EUCHARISTIC SCHEDULE - January 11 - 17, 2010

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Mon. / 11 **7:00 am Communion Service**

Tues. / 12 **6:00 pm Mass**

†Soul of Alicia Michelle Chavez,
by Ambrose & Mildred Chavez.

†Soul of Ralph Vorbroker,
by Gloria Trudo.

*Health & Wellbeing of Chris Venegas & Family,
by Leroy & Theresa Lucero.

Wed. / 13 **7:00 am Mass**

†Soul of Maria Dolores Salas-Mata,

†Soul of Jacqueline Falquez-Mata,
by the family.

†Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Thu. / 14 **6:00 pm Mass**

†Soul of Ann Witt,
by Chris Witt & family.

†Souls of Freddy & Lloyd Luna,
by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Luna.

*In Thanksgiving to my personal Savior,
by Lupe Jaramillo.

Fri. / 15 **7:00 am Mass**

†Souls of Jacob & Rose Chavez,
by the family.

*Speedy Recovery after surgery for Diane Sanders,
by Van Sanders.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
follows the 7:00 am Mass
Benediction at 6:00 pm**

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Sat. / 16 **8:00 AM MASS AT SAN ANTONIO**

†Soul of Father Robert Stanion, CFR,
by the Leonard family.

5:30 pm - Vigil Mass

†Soul of James Radosevich,
by Tony & Oralia Garcia.

*In Thanksgiving to our Blessed Mother &
Mother Theresa for prayers answered,
by Molly Perea.

*Intention of Mink Price.

Sun. / 17 **8:00 am Mass**

†Soul of Billy Martinez,
by Paula Padilla.

†Soul of Concha Quintana,

†Soul of Toni Herrera,
by Donald & Lina Roybal.

9:30 am Mass

†Souls of Jose & Cruz Gabaldon,
by Jim & Teresa Pooler.

†Soul of Frances M. Sanchez,
by the Leonard family.

†Soul of Orlando F. Lujan,
by Ambrose & Mildred Chavez.

11:00 am Mass

†Soul of Julia Allen,
by Dot Casaus & family.

†Soul of Ann Witt,
by Chris Witt & family.

*Health & Wellbeing of James Fernandez.

5:30 pm Mass

*People of San Clemente Parish.



Confession Schedule:

1/2 hour before daily Mass
(Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday)
3:30 pm on Saturdays
or by appointment.

**NO CONFESSIONS ON SUNDAYS
OR MONDAYS.**

Readings for the week of January 10th The Baptism of the Lord

Monday:	I Sm 1:1-8 / Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	I Sm 1:9-20 / Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	I Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 / Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	I Sm 4:1-11 / Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	I Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a / Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	I Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1 / Mk 2:13-17
Sunday:	Is 62:1-5 / I Cor 12:4-11 / Jn 2:1-11

WEEKLY CALENDAR



Sunday, January 10th:

7:00 am	8:00 am	Choir Practice	Parish Hall
8:00 am-12:00 pm		Bloodmobile	in front of church
9:30 am	11:00 am	Choir practice	Parish Hall
12:30 pm		K-2nd Grade Religious Ed.	Portable Bldg
12:30 pm		3rd-6th Grade Religious Ed.	Parish Hall
4:00 pm		Youth Choir practice	Parish Hall
6:45 pm		LifeTeen	Parish Hall
7:00 pm		Funeral Choir practice	Church

Monday, January 11th:

4:00 pm		K-2nd Grade Religious Ed	Portable Bldg
4:00 pm		3rd Grade Religious Ed.	Parish Hall
6:00 pm		K-2nd Grade Religious Ed.	Portable Bldg
6:00 pm		3rd-6th Grade Religious Ed.	Parish Hall
6:00 pm		RCIC	Gathering Room
7:45 pm		LifeTeen Core Member Adoration	Church

Tuesday, January 12th:

1:00 pm		Presentation on Pre-Planning a Funeral	Parish Hall
7:00 pm		Saturday 5:30 pm Choir practice	Church
7:00 pm		RCIA	Parish Hall
7:00 pm		Adult Confirmation	Parish Hall
7:00 pm		<i>Walk for Life</i> meeting	Parish Hall
7:00 pm		Presentation on Pre-Planning a Funeral	Parish Hall

Wednesday, January 13th:

6:30 pm		Pre-Confirmation Class	Parish Hall
6:30 pm		Yr I Confirmation Class	Parish Hall
6:30 pm		Yr II Confirmation Class "A"	Parish Hall
6:30 pm		Yr II Confirmation Class "B"	Portable Bldg
7:00 pm		9:30 am Choir practice	Church
7:00 pm		Apologetics Class	Parish Hall
7:30 pm		Knights of Columbus Meeting	the "Hut" at El Cerro Loop

Thursday, January 14th:

11:00 am		Adult Bible Study	Parish Hall
		" <i>Moved By The Spirit</i> " by Kevin Perrotta	
6:00 pm		Legion of Mary	Parish Hall
7:00 pm		Adult Bible Study	Parish Hall

Friday, January 15th:

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows the 7:00 am Mass

6:00 pm		Benediction	Church
6:30 pm		Catholic 12 Step Meeting	not meeting

Saturday, January 16th:

7:00 am		Men's Coffeeshouse	267 Los Lentos Rd NE
7:00 pm		Baptism Class (second of 2 classes)	Parish Hall

Gamblers Anonymous meets twice a month. They are in the parish hall on the second and fourth Fridays at 6:30 pm.

The ROSARY is recited:

Monday through Friday:
6:30 am,
12:10 pm (except Mondays) and 5:30 pm

Monday at 7:45 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday:
8:00 pm

Wednesday at San Antonio Mission:
6:00 pm

Saturday:
7:30 am at San Antonio Mission Church
6:30 pm at San Clemente Church

Sunday:
7:00 am, 12:10 pm, and
6:30 pm



Our Lady's promise:

"True servants of my Rosary shall enjoy great glory in heaven."

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday:	Bl. Francis Rogacawski (Poland) 1892-1940, priest, arrested for being a priest, one of the Polish Martyrs of World War II
Tuesday:	St. Marguerite Bourgeois (France) 1620-1700, she was invited to Montreal, Canada to teach school and religion classes, became a Sister of the <i>Congregation of Notre Dame</i>
Wednesday:	Bl. Godfrey of Cappenberg (Germany) 1097-1127) layman who became a monk, was studying for the priesthood when he died
Thursday:	Bl. Peter Donders (Holland) 1809-1887, priest, later joined Redemptorist Order
Friday:	St. Francis Ferdinand de Capillas (Spain) 1607-1648, Dominican missionary to China, martyr
Saturday:	Bl. Juana Maria Condesa Lluch (Spain) 1862-1916, helped form the <i>Congregation of the Handmaids of the Immaculate Conception, Protectress of Workers</i>
Sunday:	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

San Clemente Parish News and Happenings

Religious Education News

MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY....No Religious Education classes will be held on Sunday, January 17th and Monday, January 18th due to the holiday. Classes will be held on Wednesday, January 20th. Sunday and Monday classes will resume on January 24th and January 25th.

A REMINDER FOR YEAR II PARENTS AND SPONSORS...sponsor permission forms are due on January 20th. Please bring them to the Religious Education office on or before January 20th.

YEAR II PARENT/SPONSOR MEETING coming up soon.....January 27th at 6:45 pm in the Gathering Room of the church. All parents and sponsors of Year II students are asked to attend this important meeting. Students will attend class while parents and sponsors attend the meeting.

YEAR II CONFIRMATION RETREAT coming up on January 29-31, 2010. The permission forms were given to the students in class on November 4, 2009. The form and fee need to be brought in to the Religious Education office by January 20th. More information to be given out at the January 27th Parent/Sponsor meeting.

ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF STUDENTS preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation.... a Parent Meeting will be held for all parents/guardians of students preparing to receive their First Reconciliation. You have a choice of attending one of three different meeting times. On Sunday, February 7th the meeting will begin at 12:45 pm and on Monday, February 8th at 4:15 pm and 6:15 pm. You may attend the day and time that is most convenient for you. The meeting will be held in the Gathering Room of the church while the students attend their class.



PAVER BRICKS to be placed in the courtyard are still available to purchase. Cost is \$100.00 per brick. If you would like to order one, please call the parish office at 865-7385 or come to the office between 9:00 am and noon or 1:00 and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

The Catholic 12 Step Program for persons with any addiction will **NOT** meet in January.

If you would like to have written or audio material during these weeks, please contact Mink at 917-8086.

The Gamblers Anonymous group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at 6:30 pm. You are welcome to join them if you need additional support during the month.



Presentations at San Clemente Church in 2010
Sponsored by Riverside Funeral Home

Tuesday, January 12th

Topic: Reasons for establishing pre-arrangements and abiding by Catholic Church policies.

Time/Place: 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm (same presentation in afternoon and evening) in the parish hall

Tuesday, February 9th

Topic: Choosing the right life insurance in the beginning. Is your life insurance performing for you and your family?

Time/Place: 7:00 pm (only one workshop offered) in the parish hall

Father Doug and the parish staff would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and holiday goodies we received during this Christmas season.

May God bless you always.

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS:

Our Archbishop, the Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan, has asked us to pray for the priests in the Archdiocese who have dedicated so much of their lives to serving the people of God.

The *Year of the Priests* will end June 11, 2010. Each week we will list priest names and the date we are asked to pray for this priest. Please remember to pray every day. Also remember the deceased priests from the Archdiocese.

Sunday, January 10

Rev. Wayne Gibbeaut OFM, Pastor, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Peña Blanca

Monday, January 11

Rev. Msgr. Leo Gomez. Retired

Tuesday, January 12

Rev. Carlos Gonzales, Chaplain Latin Mass Community, Albuquerque

Wednesday, January 13

Rev. Julio Gonzalez, SF Pastor, Holy Family, Chimayo

Thursday, January 14

Rev. Mark Granito, Pastor, Holy Child, Tijeras

Friday, January 15

Rev. Eugene Gries O. Praem., Parochial Vicar, Holy Rosary, Albuquerque

Saturday, January 16

Rev. Javier Gutierrez SF, Pastor, Santa Cruz de la Cañada, Santa Cruz

ALL CURRENT ALTAR SERVERS

Mandatory Altar Server Refresher Training
Saturday, January 23rd at 9:00 am in the church.



Anyone interested in becoming an Altar Server, please come to a training on Saturday, January 23rd at 9:00 am in the church. (You must have received your 1st Holy Communion.)

LITURGY CORNER

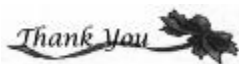
Today is The Baptism of the Lord and officially ends the Christmas Season. (Yes, now the Christmas decorations can come down.) Monday we begin the first and shortest Ordinary Time. "We cannot speak of Ordinary Time without speaking of Sunday. The every seven-day celebration of the Lord's Day is the basic structure upon which the Church Year is built. The great liturgical seasons of Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter are more expansive celebrations of particular aspects of the one paschal mystery which we celebrate every Lord's Day. These special seasons focus our attention upon critical dimensions of one mystery, a mystery so overwhelming that we are compelled to separate out its various elements for particular attention. These seasons in no way minimize the critical importance of the Sunday celebration throughout the rest of the year. Ordinary Time is not very ordinary at all. Ordinary Time, the celebration of Sunday, is the identifying mark of the Christian community which comes together, remembering that on the first day of the week the Lord of Life was raised up and creation came at last to completion." (ORDO 2010, page 30) Couldn't have said it better... During Ordinary Time we catch our breath, we listen and learn, and we look forward. "What happens in our churches every Sunday is the fruit of the week. What happens as the fruit of the week past is the beginning of the week to come. Sunday, like all sacraments, is simultaneously a point of arrival and departure for Christians on their way to the fullness of the kingdom. This is not ordinary at all. This is the fabric of Christian living."

Gay Snell

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CORNER

We have moved out of the buildings at the State of New Mexico Campus (former Los Lunas Hospital and Training School) to our new building. Our new location is **east** of the parking lot from *The Galleria* at *Guggino's* store.

We are open Monday through Friday from 12:00 to 3:00 pm for "yard sale" items and 1:00 - 2:00 pm for food distribution for the needy in our area.



Thanks to all the volunteers that come to help every day with pantry operations. We are also grateful for food and clothing donations from all our parishioners and friends.



The Catholic Daughters have church cookbooks available for \$10.00 in the parish office.

**Please read this column.
Important.**

**ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE
2009 ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING
FOR ADULTS:**

**CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR
CHILDREN**

*(PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS THE SEXUAL ABUSE
MISCONDUCT PREVENTION WORKSHOP)*

**Attendance at the workshop is encouraged for all
Catholic adults and is required of the following
persons:**

- a) all priests and deacons incardinated in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe;
- b) all religious employed by or volunteering for the Archdiocese or any of its entities;
- c) all employees of the Archdiocese, Catholic schools, parishes and affiliated entities;
- d) all volunteers serving in Archdiocesan and affiliated Catholic schools;
- e) all volunteers in Archdiocesan parishes whose services place them in regular contact with or close proximity to children and youth; and
- f) all persons who supervise those who work with children and youth in any capacity.

Pre-registration is necessary. These workshops are sponsored by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Contact: Annette in the Victims Assistance Coordinator's Office, 505-831-8144.

*****NOTE: Please do not bring children.*****

No one under age 18 is allowed in the Workshop.

Wednesday, January 13th 6:00—9:00 pm
Catholic Center - Sandia Room
4000 St. Joseph Pl. NW
Albuquerque, NM
831-8144

Saturday, February 6th 9:00 am—noon
Catholic Center - Sandia Room
4000 St. Joseph Pl. NW
Albuquerque, NM
831-8144

Saturday, March 6th 9:00 am—noon
Catholic Center - Sandia Room
4000 St. Joseph Pl. NW
Albuquerque, NM
831-8144

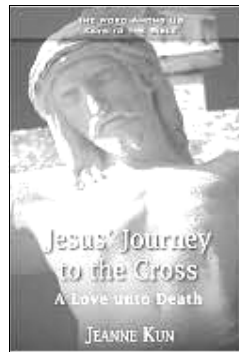
January 16th and 17th, the teens
traveling to San Francisco for the

Walk for Life West Coast

will be out in the courtyard selling burritos.

Stop by and say hello and pick up
a delicious burrito...or two.

Thank you for your continued love
and support of our teens.



**NEW DAYTIME BIBLE
STUDY
STARTING IN FEBRUARY**

Starting February 4th, 2010, a new
daytime Bible Study entitled
"Jesus' Journey to the Cross" by
Jeanne Kun will begin in the
parish hall from 11:00 am to 12
noon.

Accompany Jesus through the events of his passion,
death, and resurrection in this newest scripture guide of
the popular "Keys to the Bible" series. You can follow
Jesus on his jubilant entry into Jerusalem, sit with him
during his last supper with his apostles, pray with him
during his agony in Gethsemane, and stand at the foot
of the cross on Golgotha where-with a love unto death-
he offered his life for our salvation. What a blessed way
to spend the six weeks of Lent!

Please register and order your study book at the
Religious Education office, 865-9370, as soon as
possible to assure having it available for the first
session.

**THE WONDER OF
MYSELF**

A special one-day class for
mothers and their adolescent
daughters, ages 10 to 12,
designed to emphasize the

beauty and gift of human sexuality. Self-esteem,
friendships, peer pressure, the physical and emotional
changes of adolescence, reproductive systems, the
menstrual cycle, reproductive hygiene, decision-
making, and chastity will be discussed in a relaxed and
comfortable atmosphere.

Date: Saturday, January 16, 2010.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Cost \$15.00/person.

**Pre-registration is required. Call 831-8222 or
831-8117 in Albuquerque.**



January 19 marks the beginning of our New Mexico legislative Session

Allen Sanchez, Director of the New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops, represents the concerns of the three Dioceses of New Mexico at our New Mexico legislature in Santa Fe. The purpose of the Conference is to promote the greater good of humankind by addressing issues of moral concern and social justice as seen through the eyes of the Catholic faith. The Conference informs and educates its members and the public about those issues and encourages all to advocate for those issues and the betterment of humanity.

This year is our 30-day session, beginning on January 19 and ending on February 18, which focuses on fiscal matters and issues on the Governor's call. This session covers legislative issues of concern to the NM Conference of Catholic Bishops and includes recent proposed cuts to essential social programs for the most vulnerable and tax on food items.

Listen to Catholic radio or go to the Archdiocese of Santa Fe web site for more legislative updates from Allen.

Sanctity of Life Awareness and Unity Day, January 22, 2010 in Santa Fe

The three Dioceses of New Mexico mark the 37th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade legalizing abortion with a Sanctity of Life Awareness and Unity Day on January 22, 2010. The day includes a series of events including a Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis in Santa Fe, a rally at the statehouse and visiting legislators. The three Bishops of our State, Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan (Archdiocese of Santa Fe), Bishop Ricardo Ramirez (Diocese of Las Cruces) and Bishop James Wall (Diocese of Gallup) will be concelebrating Mass at noon.

Participants are asked to bring baby items like diapers, blankets, bottles, etc. and toiletries/socks for the elderly to be collected at the Mass and distributed to organizations in the three Dioceses that provide support to expectant moms and the elderly in nursing homes. Immediately following Mass, at approximately 1:30 pm there will be a procession from the Basilica to the Roundhouse and a rally at the roundhouse at 2:00 pm led by Allen Sanchez, the Director of the New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops. Other groups will host other events surrounding the Mass and rally.

The men in the Recovery Academy in Los Lunas would like to thank San Clemente parishioners for their generosity during Christmas. The gifts and food were greatly appreciated!

DETENTION MINISTRY DAY

The Eighth Annual Detention Ministry Day will be held **Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 8:00 AM until 1:45 PM at San Jose Mission in Los Duranes, 2110 Los Lucero's Rd. NW, Albuquerque, 87104.**

This year's theme is "*Devoted Disciples of Jesus Christ through Intentional Discipleship.*" The keynote speaker is Sister Kay Taylor, FdCC, Sister has a vast array of experiences including: Group Counselor of the Residential Renewal Program, and Spiritual Director.

There is no fee for this event however, we will need pre registration as lunch will be served.

Call the Office of Pastoral Outreach for more information and/or for directions 831-8174.

Sponsored by Archdiocese of Santa Fe Office of Pastoral Outreach, Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA), and The Catholic Foundation.

RETROUVAILLE



Retrouvaille Alumni: Please join us for our Annual Retrouvaille Mass to pray for the success of Retrouvaille in this Archdiocese and for hurting couples everywhere.

Date: Sunday, January 24, 2010

Time: 11:30 am Mass

Place: John XXIII Catholic Community, 4831 Tramway Ridge Drive NE, Albuquerque (near Tramway & Montgomery). Fellowship will follow the 11:30 am Mass

For questions contact Glen or Penny Fehringer at 505-294-6532 in Albuquerque.

Retrouvaille, a lifeline for troubled marriages.

Is your marriage tearing you apart? Is there little or no meaningful communication? Are you considering separation or divorce? We believe **Retrouvaille** can help. Retrouvaille will teach you a method to re-establish communication. Retrouvaille consists of a weekend experience and a series of 7 follow-up sessions over a three month period. The next program begins on February 5-6-7, 2010. For more information or to register, please call (505) 890-3495 in Albuquerque or 1-800-470-2230.



Why We Confess to a Priest

I often hear someone, especially non-Catholics, say 'I don't need to confess to a priest, I confess directly to God.' That is all well and good, but it is also unbiblical. No where in scripture does Jesus say 'Just confess your sins directly to me and I will forgive them.' Let us, take a look at what the Bible does say about the forgiveness of sins. We begin with the book of Leviticus in which God commands us to confess our sins and to make a sin offering,

"...then whoever is guilty in any of these cases shall confess the sin he has incurred, and as his sin offering for the sin he has committed he shall bring to the LORD a female animal from the flock, a ewe lamb or a she-goat. The priest shall then make atonement for his sin." (Lev 5:5-6)"

In the book of numbers we find,

"The LORD said to Moses, 'Tell the Israelites: If a man (or a woman) commits a fault against his fellow man and wrongs him, thus breaking faith with the LORD, he shall confess the wrong he has done, restore his ill-gotten goods in full, and in addition give one fifth of their value to the one he has wronged. ... this is apart from the atonement ram with which the priest makes amends for the guilty man'." (Num 5:5-8)

It is God who commands us to confess our sins to a priest that he may make atonement for those sins. This now makes clear what Jesus did when the leper asked to be healed,

"Now there was a man full of leprosy in one of the towns where he was; and when he saw Jesus, he fell prostrate, pleaded with him, and said, 'Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean.' Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, 'I do will it. Be made clean.' And the leprosy left him immediately. Then he ordered him not to tell anyone, but 'Go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them'." (Luke 5:12-14)

We should recall that in scripture leprosy is considered to be an external manifestation of serious sin. Note that after healing the leper Jesus sends the man - who has already been healed - to the priests to make the proper atonement for his sins. God is the one who commands us to confess our sins through a priest and to make the proper atonement for our sins. Jesus not only does not abolish this practice, he reinforces it by sending the leper to the priests.

Even before Jesus begins his ministry God sends people to John the Baptist to be baptized as they acknowledged their sins (Mt 3:6, Mk 1:5). Jesus himself exercised the power of forgiveness of sins and proved that he had this power with miracles (Mk 2:10) and he gave this power to his disciples,

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Mt 18:18)

"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (John 20:23)

Making a non-sacramental confession of what we have done wrong to the one we have injured is a good and holy thing to do, as St James says:

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful." (James 5:16)

The Catholic Church does not compel the indiscriminate confession of our sins and she does allow us to keep private that which should be kept private, to reveal our sins only to one, whose salvation depends on keeping secret our sins. We are called to repent of our sins from the very depths of hearts and the Church gives us a spiritual guide to help us and to assure us that we have not only forgiveness but also absolution. This is why we confess our sins to a priest.



Q: *Over the past few months it seems that there is more applause after homilies. It seems that some people look at the homily as a performance. Should we applaud after a stirring or moving homily? I thought the purpose of a homily is for quiet and prayerful contemplation about living the Gospel.*

A: THANK YOU, I have been wondering how to handle this situation.!!! It is very inappropriate to applaud a homily. A homily should be Gospel centered and should help us grow in our understanding of the faith; it is not entertainment. If a particular homily was helpful to you, by all means complement the person who gave it but, please, do not applaud.

Q: *During the consecration, it is said that Jesus said “the blessing” and in Matthew, Mark and Luke, during the last Supper Discourses, it also says he said “the blessing”. This indicates that there was a specific blessing said over the meal. What are the words to “the blessing”?*

A: I checked with Professor Block at UNM about this and his answer was as follows:

“Blessed art thou, O eternal our God, King of the Universe....who brings forth bread from the earth.
Blessed art thou, O eternal our God, King of the UniverseCreator of the fruit of the vine.”

The special blessing below for unleavened bread would be paired with the first before the seder meal.

“Blessed art thou, O eternal our God, King of the Universe....who has sanctified us with thy commandments and commanded us to eat unleavened bread.”

Dr. Block was raised Jewish but is now Catholic and he and his wife did the Seder supper presentation for us last year during Lent.

Q: *What is the “Gospel of Peter” and why is it not in the Bible?*

A: The non-canonical “Gospel of Peter” is a pseudepigraphical text, that is, one that bears the name of an author who did not actually write the text. No complete version of the Gospel of Peter exists, although some of the Church Fathers (Origen and Eusebius) refer to it. It was condemned as a false gospel by the Bishop Serapion, Patriarch of Antioch, who said:

“For we, brethren, receive both Peter and the other apostles as Christ; but we reject intelligently the writings falsely ascribed to them, knowing that such were not handed down to us. When I visited you I supposed that all of you held the true faith, and as I had not read the Gospel which they put forward under the name of Peter, I said, ‘If This is the Only Thing Which Occasions Dispute Among You, Let It Be Read.’ But now having learned, from what has been told me, that their mind was involved in some heresy, I will hasten to come to you again. Therefore, brethren, expect me shortly. But you will learn, brethren, from what has been written to you, that we perceived the nature of the heresy of Marcianus, and that, not understanding, what he was saying, he contradicted himself. For having obtained this Gospel from others who had studied it diligently, namely, from the successors of those who first used it, whom we call Docet (for most of their opinions are connected with the teaching of that school) we have been able to read it through, and we find many things in accordance with the true doctrine of the Saviour, but some things added to that doctrine, which we have pointed out for you farther on.”

Only three fragments of the Gospel survive and there is some question as to whether two of those belong to the original. The text seems to have been condemned because it contained both Gnostic and Docetic heresies that deny the physical reality of Jesus’ body and his crucifixion.