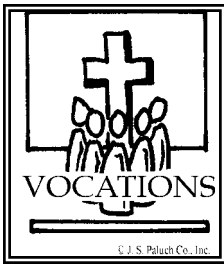




Fourth Sunday of Easter May 7, 2006

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God. -- 1 John 3:1



Upcoming Parish Events

**Mon. May 8—
Bible Study &
Prayer Group,**
7:30 pm, Chapel

**Wed. May 10—
Jewish & Arab
Dialogue—** 6pm
to 10 pm in Scanlan
Hall

**Thurs. May 11—
Girl Scouts,** 7:00
pm Scanlan Hall

**Fri. May 12—
AACC Youth Group,**
6:30 pm, Scanlan
Hall

**Sat. May 12—
Flower Festival—**
School event at
Carroll Hall

Congratulations for the First Communion and the Confirmation

By Fr. Labib Kobti and Fr. Andrew Johnson

Yesterday, May 6th we had a wonderful day. We were all excited to celebrate the First communion of our dear children from the second grade at the Archdiocesan St. Thomas More school. In a week we will be having Dear Bishop John Wester, May 14th to celebrate the confirmation of our 7th grade children. It will be also a very exciting moment for the children and the parents as well for our school and church.

We need to offer to all our children all the best for these days of real encounter with the Risen Jesus during this very season of Easter. We want to congratulate the parents for encouraging their dear children to take these steps of Christian faith as their children will receive two important sacraments that should enhance their life in Christ. We want to thank the school and especially the teachers that gave from their time to build the faith of these our dear children of the school. The school has been doing this for many years and this is what makes it different from any other school. It is a Catholic School that prepares the children to live a real life of faith and prepare them with the basic knowledge of Catholic teaching and bring them up to receive the first important Sacraments of their Catholic Faith: 1st Reconciliation, first Communion and Confirmation.

In fact at this same school and at this same house of God, the Church, our children who start Kindergarten will discover their first relation with God. They will start to come to mass for the first time and the teachers and priests will initiate them to know slowly what is imperative to know about God, about the Sacraments, about the church and about their life as good Christians at home, at school, with their sisters and brothers and every where. They will discover that Christianity is a mission of love, forgiveness and good relations with God that cannot but reflect their good relations with the people around them: a life of honesty, faithfulness, generosity, forgiveness, caring and love. In this same school and church and after few years and of solid preparation the children, like yesterday, will receive their First Communion at the second grade and then their Confirmation, after a longer preparation at 7th grade.

This is a great responsibility on the parents to take to heart the work of the School and the church. And then a great privilege to the parents to know that they are called to continue the mission of the school and the church in the Christian life of their dear children. What a great recovery to some parents who may have lost some of their faith to return back home to the church and start again with enthusiasm to build a holy family and protect their children from many evils surrounding their young lives.

When we ask the children at the weekly Masses if they were at Mass on Sunday, Fr. Andrew and Fr. Labib feel sad that many children do not go to Mass. More than a third of the children say they did not. It is really sad. So what do our school teaching and what do our church teaching do to our children? Is it the fault of the school, the church or of the parents if their children do not go to Mass, the first commitment of our Christian faith?

It is also more sad to see that from the third grade those who received their first communion, last year, and from the eighth grade those who received their confirmation last year, most of them do not go to Mass at any church.

As the children cannot drive, and before the children have their own cars and start to drive, we urge the parents to teach them that the first route they are supposed to teach their dear children to take is the route to church on SUNDAY. We insist the parents to take to heart the responsibility. It is not an extra thing that you do. It is a must that every parent should do. The church will not betray you or your children. The church will help you and build a good future life for your children. How many children lose their way because of ignorance or the way that the parents live their faith at home! As we congratulate you dear parents and children for the will to take your first communion and confirmation we make you responsible for the faith of your children. The church will always be there for you after you leave school to help you guide your life and make you good citizens and good faithful Christians.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK, SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday May 7— World Day of Prayer for Vocations; Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18
Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday: **Blessed Damien Joseph de Veuster of Moloka'i;** Acts 12:24 -- 13:5a; Jn 12:44-50
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20
Friday: **Ss. Nereus and Achilleus; St. Pancras** Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6
Saturday: **Our Lady of Fatima;** Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14
Sunday May 14— Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8



Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations of canned foods and dry goods & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 box of cereal, 1 can of stew or chili, 1 can of tuna or chicken, 1 container of 100% juice. No glass items, please. Thanks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

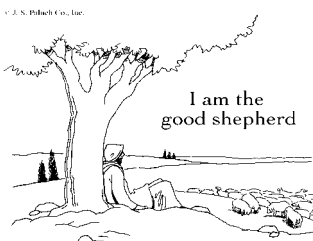
*We continue the Easter season with the celebration of Good Shepherd Sunday today, May 7th. It is also **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. Let us all honor our commitment to our individual ministries and vocations, and pray most especially for our young people to heed the call to the **priesthood and religious life**.

***Sign the parental Notification Initiative...**Do you know that anyone can bring a minor (imagine if it was your daughter!)—as young as age 12—to get an abortion without the parents' consent or knowledge? Volunteers are collecting **signatures today after all our Masses** for a parental notification initiative to be placed before California voters in the November election. **Please sign the petition, we need your signature!**

*Please pray also for our confirmandi who will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation next Sunday, May 14th** at 10am Mass. Bishop John Wester will administer the Sacrament. Congratulations and best wishes to our Confirmandi!

*Our **annual golf tournament** last Monday (May 1st) made \$15,941! A **very sincere thank you** to all the sponsors, the players and of course, to each and everyone who worked behind the scene and kept the wheels going and made the event the success that it was. We topped last year's event which made \$14,000. **Thank you again to everyone!**

*We would like to make a special event of, for some, the **May Crowning of the Blessed Mother**, for Filipinos, the **Flores de Mayo** on the last Sunday of May, the 28th. We need volunteers to help us coordinate this event, we'd be glad to hear from you.....Pls. call the office.



***Raffle tickets** were sent out last week. Please support our raffles by selling your tickets or buying them yourself. We hope the proceeds of the raffles would cover the greater part of our \$47,700 Archbishop's Annual Appeal assessment. If you haven't received yours, please let us in the office know. Thank you for your support.

*Archbishop George H. Niederauer will receive his Pallium as the **Metropolitan Archbishop of San Francisco** from the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, on June 29, 2006, in St. Peter's Square. The Archdiocese office is organizing a pilgrimage around this event. Travel days are from June 27th to July 3rd. Barring unforeseen circumstances, Fathers Andrew and Labib will go. Hopefully, an STM contingent will go with them & represent our parish. Please call the office for more details.

STM ARCHDIOCESAN SCHOOL

*Yesterday our second graders had their first Holy Communion. Congratulations to: Maopeli Ali, Ari Arrospeide, Samantha Basco, Noelle Bumanglag, Emily Cano, Kingston Chua, Chloe de Guzman, Amaya Echarte, Adrian Embry, Samuel Gagucas, Andrea Garcia, Austin Grotkin, Marco Hernandez, Kevin Hughes, Nicholas Lobre, Kiana Malbas, Colin Murphy, Michelle Nguyen, Kaitlyn Nori, Rowby Ocampo, Remy Phaophongsavath, Megan Pritchard, Rosin Quirke, Jenyse Rojo, Josette Rojo, Brandon Ruiz, Mike Santos, Melia Schelstrate, Matthey Schivo, Dominic Soriano, Joseph Teahan, Iza Tongol, Joseph Vannelli, Stacey Velasco, Anthony Vigna. Receiving blessing: Peter Kolokotronis.

MASS INTENTIONS

May 7 — May 13, 2006

05/07 Sun 10:00 am People of STM
8:00 pm Valentino Alfonso †
05/08 Mon 8:30 am Vincent Duc Luu†
05/09 Tue 5:30 pm Irene & Russell De Haven†
05/10 Wed 8:30 am Wilfrido Macias†
05/11 Thur 5:30 pm Salud de la Pena†
05/12 Fri 8:30 am Souls in Purgatory†
05/13 Sat 8:30 am Anna Hood†
05/13 Sat 5:00 pm John Small (Sp.Int.)

Please call the office to schedule. Participating in the mass you offer is preferred.



All the sick people in our parish especially Brian D'Arcy, George Crawford, Restituto de Guzman, Michael Karney, Majida Totah, & Dino Rulloda, William & Deena Tannous. We also pray for **all the deceased members** of our parish esp. Napoleon Oribello, Jalileh Sabbah, Romarico Castillo & Virgil Castillo.

Pls. give us names of the sick in your family, and your beloved departed; names will be changed as needed.

Thank you for your contributions. Please remember us in your prayers.

Your offerings for weekend of April 30 was **\$3,295**

Actual Construction and Repairs Money in Bank was \$116,509

Expenses:
Electrical Wk: (Parking area) \$550
Backflow Ins. & Repairs: \$1,246
Sound System in Church: \$4,601
Lights for the Cross: \$1,100



Please continue to support our Construction fund. We need to repair the Skylight, upgrade the lights in the church and upgrade Carroll Hall.

Thank you!