

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2006

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit. -- *John 15:16*



Upcoming Parish Events

Mon. May 22— Bible Study & Prayer Group, 7:30 pm, Chapel

Tues May 23— Parish Council Mtg. 7:30 pm, Scanlan Hall

Wed. May 24— Boy Scouts, 7:30pm Carrol Hall

Thurs. May 25 — Girl Scouts, 7:30 pm. Scanlan Hall

Fri. May 26 — AACC Youth Group, 6:30 pm, Scanlan Hall

Prince of Peace, 8:30 pm, Scanlan Hall

When a book of "Fictions", Speaks about "Facts" Matters on "DA VINCI CODE" —Collected by Fr. Labib Kobti

I could not stop reading and reading this best seller "The Da Vinci Code" translated to over 40 languages and sold around 50 thousand copies. I read also from the same author, Dan Brown "Angels and Demons". Brown as a novelist fascinated me. His way of intriguing his readers to stick to the books and forget everything so as to finish the novel shows Dan Brawn's great ability as a storyteller. But when Brown pretends to mix "fiction" and "facts" and pretends to rediscover the moon, **then I ask two questions: 1) What does Dan Brown really want to sell to his faithful readers? 2) If he really rediscovered the truth, why then did he not write a scientific-historical research with documented proofs?**

So as not to be subjective in evaluating the book of Brown, I compiled a few of what the historians, theologians, scientists and art experts have said about the book.

* From Cracking a Controversial "Code" by Wendy J. Madnick <http://www.jewishjournal.com/home/preview.php?id=12070>

When Rabbi Rachel Bovitz sat down a few months ago to read the novel, "The Da Vinci Code," she was curious about the buzz surrounding the controversial bestseller. Bovitz said, "Parts of the book upset me because of the claims it made about Judaism which were not true, and because of its general undermining of religion and faith." ... "The Da Vinci Code' finds fans among some members of the Christian community because of its negative take on the Catholic Church and for giving an expanded role for women via Mary Magdalene," he said, "but for Jewish readers there is a different appeal."

* **"What grabs Jews** is the return to history," Landres said. "If you look at the adult education classes being offered all over town, you see people in the Jewish community are very hungry for history, for learning." That is where "The Da Vinci Code" is the most dangerous, Landres noted. "On the one hand, it resonates with a deep desire for education; on the other hand, you're satisfying that desire with inaccurate information. It's like watching 'CSI' and taking it all as scientific fact, or watching 'ER' and trying to practice medicine." <http://www.jewishjournal.com/home/preview.php?id=12070>

* "Brown invited ridicule when his opening page began with the word FACT and then proceeded to expound fiction. Even more ludicrous is his claim that "all description of artwork, architecture, documents and secret rituals in this novel are accurate". James L. Garlow, an author with degrees in theology and historical theology, a nationwide speaker, coauthor of the New York Times bestseller "Cracking Da Vinci Code". See "The Da Vinci CodeBreaker, by James L. Garlow" page 9.

* "Brown gives the impression that he's also a historian - which he is not...Just everything he says about Leonardo da Vinci is wrong" Jack Wasserman, expert on Leonardo Da Vinci, retired professor of art history, Temple University, Philadelphia. See "The Da Vinci CodeBreaker", by James L. Garlow " page 9.

* "The Da Vinci Code is fiction but the author makes assertion about history and presents them as widely accepted facts introduced by such phrases as "historians say" and "scholars understand", Archbishop of San Francisco, George Niederauer, Catholic San Francisco, May 12, pages 12-13.

* "Babble is generally what Brown has given us. And we need to be able to say that without sounding defensive", Daniel Connors, editor in chief of Catholic Digest, see The Truth About the Da Vinci Code, Answers for Catholic" Catholic Digest, page 16

For more information go to STMchurch.com you will find a lot of links to websites that can help you to know all about.

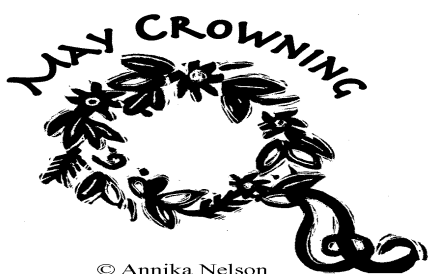
READINGS FOR THE WEEK, SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: May 21— Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98; 1 Jn 4:7-10, or 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 15:9-17 or Jn 17:11b-19
Monday: St. Rita of Cascia; Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26 -- 16:4a
Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22 -- 18:1; Jn 16:12-15
Thursday: The Ascension of our Lord; Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13]; Mk 16:15-20
Friday: St. Philip Neri; Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23
Saturday: St. Augustine of Canterbury; Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28
Sunday, May 28— for Ascension Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47; Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 [1-7, 11-13]; Mk 16:15-20

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.



*The **Bishop of Tunis**, the very **Rev. Maroun Lahham** will celebrate the **10 & 11:45 AM Masses next Sunday, the 28th**. The capital of Tunis is Cartage, where St. Augustine and St. Monica are from, Tunis also gave us three Popes in the first three centuries.



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May Crowning/Flores de Mayo after all Masses on May 28th. Pick a flower or two from your home garden to offer to the Blessed Mother, bring it/them to Mass on Sunday.

*We are giving away **10 37" LCD TV's** on June 3rd after the 5:00 PM Mass. Get your raffle tickets now! Only 1500 tickets printed. Odds are 1:150! \$50 per ticket. Each family is requested to purchase or sell two tickets for a donation of \$100. Proceeds will go towards our Annual Appeal assessment of \$47,700 and hopefully have some left over for the roof. **Tickets are available after each Mass on Sundays.**

*The **Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas** will worship with us on June 4th at our 8:00 PM Mass. The group was founded in 1982 with 45 initial members by William R. Adams, Artistic Director of the choir. They have now grown into 5 performing ensembles with 200 choristers. They have toured throughout North America and Europe, and sang to the Pope in the Vatican.

NERT *Mark your calendars: **NERT (Emergency Response) training** for 6 Thursdays starts on 06/01/2006 6:30-9:30 PM in church.

Pilgrimage to Rome & Italy

*Fr. Andrew and Fr. Govindu are planning a **Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy** this Fall for 11 days **November 12-22**. The travel agency has proposed a Pilgrimage for 11 days to the Shrines in Rome (including an audience with the Holy Father), Giovanni Rotondo (Padre Pio), Lanciaio (Miracle of the Eucharist), Assisi, Florence, Venice & Milan at about \$2,680, (includes airfare). Pls register your names, preferably by the end of this month. Contact Fr. Andrew or Elvira, our Parish Secretary, for further info and registration.

STM ARCHDIOCESAN SCHOOL

***Congratulations** to **Megan Graves** who received Consistent Academic Excellence Award & to **Brian Fogarty** for Most Improved Academic Excellence Award, both from the School of Education and the Education Alumni Society at USF last Wednesday.

***Congratulations** to 1st grader **Alexandra Diaz** for winning third place in SF Chronicle's Are You Prepared coloring contest!

ALMA VIA

*Needs a receptionist: Demonstrated good people skills, ability to multi-task and computer literacy a plus. Please call 337-1339 for more information.

OTHERS

*Free legal clinic on June 6, 6-8 PM at the Manilatown Center on the corner of Kearny & Jackson Streets (868 Kearny), SF. Call Carmen Choy (415) 703-5654 for appt. by June 2nd. Sponsored by FBANC, APILO & Manilatown Ctr. Walk-ins welcome.

MASS INTENTIONS

May 21— May 27 2006

- 05/21 S 10:00 am Jack Cunningham†
8:00 pm People of STM
- 05/22 M 8:30 am BJ Garcia (Sp. Int.)
- 05/23 T 5:30 pm Teresa McGinty (Sp. Int.)
- 05/24 W 5:30 pm Agnes McLaughlin(Sp. Int.)
- 05/26 F 8:30 am Josephine Ryan†
- 05/27 S 8:30 am Vincent Duc Luu†
- 05/27 S 5:00 pm Thomas&Samiere Family

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. Romana Pinedo.

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 May 14th was **\$3,618**.

This weekend's 2nd collection will be for the Catholic Charities Appeal (Local). Thanks for your generosity.



Actual Construction and Repairs Money in Bank is \$108,212

Additional Expenses:
Replacement of lighting for cross: \$400.00
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!