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SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 15, 2009

Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do everything for the glory of God.

— 1 Corinthians 10:31

Unclean!

This Sunday's first reading from the *Book of Leviticus* gives just a few of the horrible rules established by the Mosaic community to protect itself from leprosy. In the ancient times leprosy was believed to be deforming, incurable and contagious. Leprosy included most skin disorders: Hanson's disease which is leprosy proper, psoriasis, skin cancer, impetigo, boils and even serious acne. Lepers were ostracized by their families and neighbors, and forced to live outside the villages and towns. They were referred to as the Living Dead. To the ancients they were obviously cursed by God for some sin or other. Lepers had to wear ragged clothes. They had to let their hair go uncombed and uncut. As today's reading says, they had to cover their mouths with one hand and call out "Unclean, unclean" as they walked. Anyone who came into any contact whatsoever with a leper was considered to be unclean like the leper. And Jesus, moved with pity, stretched out his hand, touched the leper, and said to him, "Be made clean." Jesus did not see the unclean leper, or his disease. He was not concerned with the strict prohibitions of Jewish society. Jesus did not see a leper at all; he saw a human soul in desperate need. He stretched out his hand and touched him. He healed him with his touch Jesus gave this power to his disciples. At the conclusion of the *Gospel of Mark*, Jesus proclaims the signs of the members of his people. Among these signs is this one: they will lay their hands on the sick and they will recover.

We possess the wonderful capacity to be instruments of the healing power of Christ. Therefore, we have the duty not only to pray for the sick and to help them get effective medical help, but also to pray over them and extend the touch of Christ to them with our hands. In the second reading for today Paul challenges us to imitate Christ. We are to be ministers of healing. We are to touch not just the physically sick, but all those whose lives are hurting and need healing in any way possible. It is simply not Christian to ostracize anyone for any reason whatsoever. In the Christian society, even those with the most contagious diseases are cared for in a way that gives them dignity and love. Even those who have left Christian society are always welcomed back into the society when they seek to return. For example, even in the extremely rare cases of excommunication, such as when someone performs or assists in abortions, that person can always seek yet, many people throw children or relatives out of their lives. "You are no longer my son, my daughter," a parent hisses. Is there ever a situation where there is no longer any possibility of healing, of mercy, of extending the hand of Christ to those he seek reconciliation? Not in Christianity. The Forgiving Father may not have been able to give his forgiveness and re-entry into the community.

The Forgiving Father may not have been able to give his Prodigal Son the remainder of the farm. That belonged to the Elder Brother. But he was able to welcome the prodigal back into the family. The person who has hurt his or her spouse and children may not be able to resume his or her place in the marriage, but that person still can receive the forgiveness, the healing, he or she longs for. The convicted murderer may never be able to re-assume a place in free society, but he can be forgiven and given an opportunity to correct his sins while incarcerated. When we allow ourselves to be so overcome by hurt and hatred that we refuse to extend the healing hand of the Lord to others, we take upon ourselves the sickness of the other person. Hatred kills. When we allow hatred to be part of our lives, we commit suicide. We cannot allow hatred to destroy us. Perhaps we have to take measures to protect ourselves from those who would destroy us. Still, we do not have the right to hate anyone or any people and at the same time call ourselves Christian.

The Gospels often note that Jesus was moved with pity for the people as he preached the Kingdom of God. When he faced the troubled, the abandoned, the sick, when stirred by two blind men, when crossing paths with the widow of Nain, and today, when face to face with a leper, Jesus was moved not by disgust, not by antagonism, but by pity. Feeling pity and showing mercy are ideal Christian qualities of great minds and large hearts.

Today we are called to follow Christ and allow our hearts to be enlarged by Christianity.

- Father Joseph Pellegrino, jspaluch co.

Celebrating the Year of St. Paul

"For Saul of Tarsus, the moment of his encounter with the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus marked a decisive turning point in his life. His total transformation, a true and proper spiritual conversion, was brought about at that very moment. By divine intervention, the relentless persecutor of God's Church suddenly found himself blind and groping in the dark, but henceforth with a great light in his heart, which was to bring him a little later to be an ardent Apostle of the Gospel. The awareness that divine grace alone could bring about such a conversion never left Paul. When he had already given the best of himself, devoting himself tirelessly to preaching the Gospel, he wrote with renewed fervour: "I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me" (I Cor 15: 10). Tirelessly, as though the work of the mission depended entirely upon his own efforts, St Paul was nevertheless always motivated by the profound conviction that all his energy came from God's grace at work in him." **-HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI**, *Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Friday, 25 January 2008*

Staff

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This Week's Parish

Events

Tue., Feb 17th
Legion of Mary,
 Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm
Communion & Liberation,
 Scanlan Hall, 8:00 pm
Wed., Feb. 18th —
Brazilian Choir Practice, Church 7pm
Fri. Feb. 20th —
AACC Youth Group
 Scanlan Hall, 6-8:30pm
Sat., Feb. 21st
RCIC Classes, Flower Sacristy, 9 am
Teen Confirmation Classes,
 Flower Sacristy, 10:30 am
Young Adults Meeting
 Chapel, 2—5 pm
Bible Study & Prayer Group
 Alma Via, 7 pm.

Campus Ministry.

check schedule for Masses & meetings on church board at the entrance.

COMPASSION
AND GENEROSITY

*Let your heart feel for the
 afflictions and distress of everyone,
 and let your hand give in proportion
 to your purse.*

—George Washington

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian;
 10:00 AM English
 11:45 AM Arabic;
 8:00 PM English

Weekdays:

8:30 AM
 (Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.);
 5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)

Holy Days:

8:30 AM & 8:00 PM

First Saturdays:

10:00 AM Burmese

First Fridays:

8:30 AM;

7:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 Followed by Mass for healing at **8:00 PM**

Sacrament of Baptism (infants): Parents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.

Communion to the homebound and the ill: Anyone who is ill and unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion may call the office to schedule a visit.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time upon request. If a parishioner is seriously ill at home, please inform the parish office regarding a visit for anointing.

Funeral arrangements: Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.

Regular Activities

Parish Council
 Liturgy Committee
 Legion of Mary
 Communion & Liberation

To Be Announced
 As Announced
 Tuesday, 6:30 PM
 Tuesday, 7:30 PM

Bible Study & Prayer
 AACC Youth Group
 Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino
 Prince of Peace
 FLA Youth Group

Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via
 Friday, 6:00 PM
 Last Friday, 7 PM
 Friday, 8:30 PM
 1st & 3rd Wed. at 6:30pm

Enrich your faith, tune in to 24-hour 1260 AM, Immaculate Heart Radio

Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 container of 100% juice, 2 cans of vegetables, 1 canned meat, 1 bag of rice. No glass items, please. Thanks.

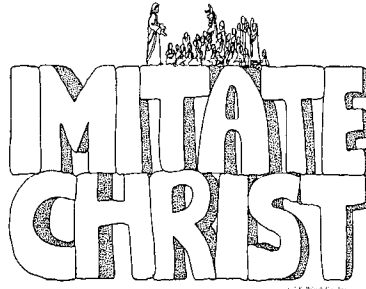


***President's Day.** The office will be closed tomorrow, Monday in observance of President's Day, a national legal holiday. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday. We wish you safe and productive holiday!

***Third Order Seculars' Mass.** A mass for the Third Order Seculars will be held at our church on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at 10:30 am. All are invited to attend this annual event. Anyone interested in finding out more about the Third Order Seculars will have the opportunity to meet with members of the secular communities of Carmelites, Franciscans, Dominicans and Augustinians. Potluck reception to follow after the Mass.

***QoP Donation.** H & R Block will make a donation to our Queen of Peace Foundation if you use their income tax services. Queen of Peace Foundation was set up to help people in need. Please go to any H & R Block office, however our parishioner Robert Archer's office is at 5109 Mission Street at Geneva, phone: 415 334 4362 ext. 229. Please print the referral form from our website: www.stmchurch.com so we get the credit.

***Yearbooks.** The yearbook from the International Food Festival is available at the vestibule for a donation of \$5.00. This donation will be applied to our 2008 Archbishop's Annual Appeal.



***Couples for Christ.** Family ministries will start a Christian Life Program on Saturday, February 21, 2009 here at STM. Program will open with the 5:00 PM Mass and will meet every Saturday thereafter. For more information, take a flyer from the vestibule.

***Marriage Help.** Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with the weekend March 6-8, 2009 call (415) 893-1005 or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com (also available in Spanish).

***Solidarity & Spirituality.** Come to a "Lenten triduum" Feb. 26-28, 2009 "**Somos Uno En Cristo**" (**We are One in Christ**) and concert "**Canto a la Vida**" with Msgr. Camilo Perez, theologian & vicar general of the Diocese of Cuauhtemoc, Chihuahua in Mexico and the group Voces y Voces (Voices & Voices). English translation available for all events. For more information, please call the Office of Worship, (415) 614-5586 or Ana Maria Perez, (415) 614-9362. "

MASS INTENTIONS
February 15th —21st, 2009

- 02/15 Sun 10:00am Lily Santost
8:00 pm People of STM
- 02/16 Mon 8:30am William Cook†
- 02/17 Tue 5:30 pm Edwin Vitugt†
- 02/18Wed 8:30 am Agnes Grace Simont† & lvg family
- 02/19 Thu 5:30pm Terrence Pinert†
- 02/20 Fri 8:30 am Con Burns†
- 02/21 Sat 8:30 am Jose de la Peña, Jr. †
5:00 pm Chin-chin Montesa

Please call the office to schedule your Mass. Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.



All the sick people in our parish, especially Linda Biagini, Patricia Colburn, Barbara Cunningham, Carmel Desmond, Collin & Sara Fernando-Noguera, Catherine Moynihan, Mac Nuqui, Marie Paynor-Cia, John Schulz, Lourdes Tam, Filemon Trinidad, Alejandro Villavicencio, Ruby Jimenez, Gordon Lu, Rosauo Tan, Jean Lu, Bridget Suazon, Rhona Palencia and for all who are ill in our parish.

All the deceased from our parish.

Weekly Offering



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**Your weekly offerings:
Weekend of 02/08/09:
\$3,628.80**

**Thank you
for your generosity!**



If you are new to the area and not yet registered at Saint Thomas More Parish, we invite you to fill this out, cut it out and return it to the parish office/rectory or drop in the collection basket.

I choose to become a member of St. Thomas More and commit myself to building a community that seeks to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God. I will commit myself to this mission by my active & consistent presence at worship financial giving even when I can't be present.

Name _____ Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____ Phone (s) _____
 Email: _____ I want to receive the envelopes and commit myself to a weekly contribution.
 Yes, please _____ No, thanks. _____ Subscribe to our mailing list by e-mailing us: stmchurch@aol.com