



SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

1300 Junipero Serra Blvd.
(off Brotherhood Way)
San Francisco, CA 94132-2913
Office: (415) 452-9634
Fax: (415) 452-9653
www.stmchurch.com

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 10th, 2009

In this passage from the Last Supper Discourse (13:31-17:26), Jesus reveals to his disciples and to us that he is the true vine planted and cared for by his Father. We are the branches, depending on Jesus for life just as branches depend on the vine. "Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." Separated from Jesus we cannot bear fruit: like a useless branch we are cut off and soon wither. To be certain that we have some sense of how radical the gift of sharing his life is, Jesus adds two astonishing statements. If we ask for anything, our Father will give it to us because of the communion of life. It is as though his own beloved Jesus were asking. "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me," Jesus prayed before restoring his friend Lazarus to life (Jn 11:42). Further, if we bear much fruit from the new Christian life that we have been given, the Father will be glorified in us as he was through Jesus.

Life Implications

At our Eucharist today we hear the gospel as the Christians of John's community at the end of the first century heard it, not with the incomplete knowledge of the disciples before Jesus' death, resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. We have heard the complete good news beginning with the response of Jesus to the question two disciples asked, "Rabbi, where are you dwelling? Jesus said to them, Come, and you will see" (Jn 1:38-39). Throughout the Last Supper Discourse, Jesus reveals that he dwells in the Father and the Father dwells in him. And he reveals further that he dwells in us and we dwell in him like a vine and its branches. John's placement of the "vine and branches" saying in the context of the Last Supper reminds us of what Jesus said after feeding a large crowd with bread and fish: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me" (Jn 6:56-57).

If we had only the image of the vine and branches, we might draw the conclusion that our finite human life is totally absorbed by infinite divine life. Rather, the good news is that the communion of life in Christ is a communion of love. "As the Father loves me, so I love you. Remain in my love" (Jn 15:9). Life in Christ is a gift freely given, and a gift freely accepted. Tragically, because there is freedom, the life and love of Christ can be rejected.

The fearful possibility of separation from Christ is a consequence of freedom. It is the possibility of seeking an illusory life that the world separated from God offers. The archetypal figure of the disciple Judas, who succumbed to greed in betraying Jesus, is a graphic reminder of that possibility for all of us. We are meant to live in the peace and joy of the Easter gospel, however, not in fear and uncertainty.

"Without me you can do nothing," Jesus tells us. But with him we can do anything. If we remain in his life and love, we can ask anything of the Father and it will be given. Mindful that Jesus out of love for us, and that his Father might thereby be glorified, did not ask to be saved from his hour of suffering (Jn 12:27). We too will always ask to live in his truth and love. In confident hope that the supreme grace of remaining in Jesus will always be given, we can keep his commandment to love each other as he loved us. Thus, the Father's goodness will also be revealed in us for his honor and glory. "And the way we know that he [Jesus] remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us" (Reading II, 1 Jn 3:24). In this knowledge of faith and hope is our peace and joy.

Campion P. Gavalier, OSB

Celebrating the Year of St. Paul

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God for the promise of life in Christ Jesus, to Timothy, my dear child: grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am grateful to God, whom I worship with a clear conscience as my ancestors did, as I remember you constantly in my prayers, night and day. I yearn to see you again, recalling your tears, so that I may be filled with joy, **as I recall your sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice** and that I am confident lives also in you. For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.”
 2Timothy1:1-8

Staff

Pastor: Church & School
 Msgr: Labib Kobti
Parochial Vicar:
 Fr Andrew Johnson
Priest Brazilian Community
 Fr. Sergio da Silva, (415) 454-8141
Deacon:
 Khaled Abu Shaer
Admin Assistant:
 Elvira Garcia
Receptionist:
 Sr Teresa Malave, VDMF
Campus Ministry:
 Verbum Dei Sisters
 Sr. Su Fern Khoo VDMF
 (415) 573-9062
RCIC:
Kathy Sanford
 650) 738-0646
RCIA & Music:
Suzanne Hockel
 (415) 826-6834
STM School:
Principal, Joe Elsbernd
 (415) 337-0100

This Week's Parish

Events

Tue., May 12th
Legion of Mary,
 Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm
Communion & Liberation,
 Scanlan Hall, 8:00 pm

Wednesday, May 13th
 International Food Festival Committee
 Scanlan Hall, 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 16th:
Bible Study Group,
Alma Via, 7:00 PM

Campus Ministry
Regular meeting:
 Thursday 7:00pm
 at Burk Hall 252
 More info:
 newmansfsu@gmail.com

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.

For Children and Youth: Under 6 years old, STM offers a “Crying Room” where parents can follow Mass, while children play away from the community. Over 6 years old, we have the “Children’s Liturgy”, RCIC and RCIA and FLA groups and Summer Camps

For Adults: English Charismatic group, Sundays 6:00 PM : Young Adults Group (18-late 20’s) 2nd and 4th Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM; Arabic Youth Group, Fridays 6:30 PM; Brazilian Charismatic group, Mondays 7:00 PM; Burmese Youth Group, Sundays 2:00 PM; SFSU Campus ministry, Thursdays 7:00 PM (on Campus) *[Pls call the office for contact numbers.]*

For Families: Bible Study, Saturday at 7:00 PM; Couples For Christ: Saturday 5:00 PM; Legion of Mary, Communion & Liberation, Perpetual Novena to the Sto. Nino; Prince of Peace and Friday adoration

Holy Land Museum & Shroud of Turin Exhibit
Open 9-4:30 Monday-Friday

Regular Activities

Parish Council	To Be Announced	Bible Study & Prayer	Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via
Liturgy Committee	As Announced	AACC Youth Group	Friday, 6:00 PM
Legion of Mary	Tuesday, 6:30 PM	Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino	Last Friday, 7 PM
Communion & Liberation	Tuesday, 7:30 PM	Prince of Peace	Friday, 8:30 PM
Charismatic groups for different ethnics	See schedule	FLA Youth Group	1st & 3rd Wed. at 6:30pm

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

May 10 — May 16, 2009

05/10 Sun 10:00am Domingo Beltran †
8:00pm People of STM
05/11 Mon 8:30am Salud de la Peña †
05/12 Tue 5:30pm Joan Carew †
05/13 Wed 8:30am Aurelia Olives †
05/14 Thu 5:30pm Rowena Molina-Gomez
05/15 Fri 8:30 am Kathleen de Martini †
05/16 Sat 8:30 am Victor Robles †
5:00 pm Balthazarah Gonzales †
*Please call the office to schedule your Mass.
Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.*



"Happy Mother's Day"

A MOTHER'S LOVE

Wednesday,
May 13 —
Our Lady of Fatima
Pray the Rosary.
Regularly scheduled
Mass:
8:30 AM



*A Mother's love is something that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may*

*For nothing can destroy it or take that love away . . .
It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking . . .*

*It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems . . .*

*It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation . . .*

*A many splendor miracle man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand.*



~Helen Steiner Rice~

Confirmation

***Thank you** to Archbishop George Niederaeur for the gift of Confirmation to our 7th graders and RCIC teens last Tuesday.

***Congratulations** to our Confirmation who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this past Tuesday. We trust you will cherish and nurture that special gift the rest of your lives. Thanks also to their teachers, parents and all who in one way or another have been and are their guide and mentor on their faith journey.

All the sick people in our parish, especially Joseph Hoyt, 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, Annika de Leon and for all who are ill in our parish.

All the deceased in our parish especially Virginia Evangelista.

Weekly Offering



Weekend of
May 3, 2009:
Offertory: \$4,344.50
Tithing: \$984
Thank you for your generosity!

Deep Debt
"My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her"
—George Washington

All mothers alive and deceased...
"Dear Lord, bless all the Mothers for heir unconditional love, for loving us no matter what, and for frequently showing love in ways that make us feel valued and cherished.

Lord, please bless all mothers mightily. Strengthen them, soothe them, wrap them in Your infinite love and shower them with blessings too numerous to count, too magnificent to describe.
We love them, admire them, respect them, and we wish that You would give them back many times the good they gave to us"
Amen.

By Joanna Fuchs



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 5 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