



SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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The Most Holy Body and Blood Of Christ

June 14th, 2009

The Eucharist: Commitment and Strength

A number of years ago the Harrington Family came to visit me with their then twelve-year-old daughter, Stephanie. Stephanie was a special needs child. The purpose of the meeting was to ask me if Stephanie could begin to receive communion. I had to discern with them whether or not the child was capable of discerning in some way what she would be doing or, better yet, Whom she would be receiving if she were admitted to the Eucharist. Now Stephanie had her own way of communicating, partly with words and sounds and partly with signs. Stephanie's sign for God was to point up. I acted out for her what her Mommy and Daddy were doing when they came to communion, walking up the aisle, holding out their hands, putting something in their mouths. Then I made a questioning look and pointed to my mouth. I asked her, "Who is this?" Stephanie immediately pointed up. She knew that when her Mommy and Daddy received communion they were receiving God. Now, throughout much of the meeting in my office Stephanie just sat on the sofa seemingly oblivious to what was going on. But when I said, "Well, if she understands that this is this, then she can receive," Immediately Stephanie stood up and clapped her hands. She understood that she was going to receive the Lord, and she was excited.

At the beginning of May our little children received their First Holy Communion. They also were excited that they were finally going to receive the Lord. Three weeks before this the members of our Rite of Christian Initiation were received into the Church. I am absolutely convinced that the most important aspect of their reception into the Church was that they were now communicants in the Church. As I see them coming up to the Eucharist every Sunday I can see in their faces that they are excited that they are able to receive the Lord. The purpose of the celebration today, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Lord, is to remind us all of the importance and joy at receiving the Eucharist. We are reminded of Who it is we are receiving and what we are doing when we approach the Eucharist.

The original celebration of the Body of Christ was begun in the thirteenth century promoted by one of our spiritual ancestors named St. Juliana of Liege, a visionary and an Augustinian nun. Soon after this the pope, Pope Urban IV, asked the great theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas, to prepare a Mass to celebrate this new feast. We still sing some of the hymns that St. Thomas Aquinas wrote for this Mass, particularly the Tantum Ergo, which is part of the Pange Lingua, and the O Salutaris Hostia. On this day the Eucharist was honored by carrying the host in a solemn procession, stopping several times for Benediction. This custom is still encouraged and practiced in many countries throughout the world, including our own. The readings for this Sunday emphasize the Eucharist as the Blood of the New Covenant. Covenants were those solemn promises of the Bible that demanded action on both sides. They were also always sealed with a sign. The rainbow was a sign of the covenant with Noah. Circumcision was the sign of the covenant with Abraham. Another rather strange way of sealing the covenant was mentioned in the first reading. As their way of accepting the Covenant of the Ten Commandments, people were sealed into the covenant by being sprinkled with the Blood of a sacrificed animal.

All this is presented to emphasize the Eucharist as the sign of the covenant Jesus made with the Father for us. We are reminded in today's Gospel that this is the Blood of the New Covenant. This means that when we receive communion we are entering into a covenant with God. The very reception of communion is a solemn commitment on our parts to make the Kingdom of God real in the world. Most often we refer to the Eucharist as "communion". But we should understand that the communal aspect of the Eucharist is far more than a group of people sharing a meal. It is the union of those who share the Body of Christ into the Kingdom of God. When we receive communion we are by that very action recommitting ourselves to the Battle for the Kingdom, to fighting paganism in our lives and our world. We are recommitting ourselves to be active members of that community that spreads the Kingdom of God through sacrificial love.

—Fr. Joseph Pellegrino, jupaluch.com

Celebrating the Year of St. Paul

The "New Characteristics" of Paul the Christian

A significant text with regard to concretizing the Word is 2 Cor. 3: 1-18, in which Paul says: "You are a letter of Christ." That is, you are a letter written by Christ and everyone should be able to read that letter without effort. This letter is not hidden but "known to all people," which is to say it is understandable, decipherable. "Written not with ink": it is not a "dead" letter, which can be manipulated and interpreted at will; instead, it is a living letter. "...but through the Spirit of the living God; not on tablets of stone, but on the living tablets of your heart."

Paul says that the Spirit fulfills the function of ink: it is the Spirit who renders Christ visible, sketching out features and characteristics in us. To say that the Spirit "writes" the Word in us is the same as saying the Spirit "sketches out Christ in us." [...]The Christian life is characterized by relationships, which are constructed under the impetus of the Spirit who works in our hearts to lead us to communion with God and with others.

Www.daughtersofstpaul.com

<p align="center">Staff</p> <p>Pastor: Church & School Msgr: Labib Kobti</p> <p>Parochial Vicar: Fr Andrew Johnson</p> <p>Priest Brazilian Community Fr. Sergio da Silva, (415) 454-8141</p> <p>Deacon: Khaled Abu Shaer</p> <p>Admin Assistant: Elvira Garcia</p> <p>Receptionist: Sr Teresa Malave, VDMF</p> <p>Campus Ministry: Verbum Dei Sisters Sr. Su Fern Khoo, VDMF (415) 573-9062</p> <p>RCIC: Kathy Sanford 650) 738-0646</p> <p>RCIA & Music: Suzanne Hockel (415) 826-6834</p> <p>STM School: Principal, Joe Elsbernd (415) 337-0100</p>	<p align="center"><u><i>This week's</i></u> <u>Parish Events</u></p> <p align="center"><u>Tue., June 16th</u> Legion of Mary, Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm Communion & Liberation, Scanlan Hall, 8 pm</p> <p align="center"><u>Wednesday, June 17th</u> International Food Festival Meeting Scanlan Hall, 7 pm</p> <p align="center"><u>Thursday, June 18th</u> Liturgy Committee Meeting, Scanlan Hall, 7 pm</p> <p align="center"><u>Saturday, June 20th</u> Bible Study Group, Alma Via, 7:00 PM</p> <p align="center"><i>Campus Ministry</i> SFSU Campus Ministry wishes all students a happy vacation. If you are in the area, stay tuned for upcoming activities this summer!</p>	<p align="center">MASS SCHEDULE</p> <p>Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM</p> <p align="center">Sunday 8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian; 10:00 AM English 11:45 AM Arabic; 8:00 PM English</p> <p align="center">Weekdays: 8:30 AM (Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.); 5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)</p> <p align="center">Holy Days: 8:30 AM & 8:00 PM</p> <p align="center">First Saturdays: 10:00 AM Burmese</p> <p align="center">First Fridays: 8:30 AM 7:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Followed by Mass for healing at 8:00 PM</p> <p>Sacrament of Baptism (infants): Parents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.</p> <p>Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.</p> <p>Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Funeral arrangements: Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.</p>
<p>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</p> <p>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) <i>[Pls call the office for contact numbers.]</i></p> <p>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</p> <p align="center"><i>Holy Land Museum & Shroud of Turin Exhibit</i> <i>Open 9-4:30 Monday-Friday</i></p>		

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, 8:00 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 can of vegetables, 1 can of fruit, 1 canned meat or tuna, 1 box of granola bars/healthy snack item. Pls., no glass items. Thanks.

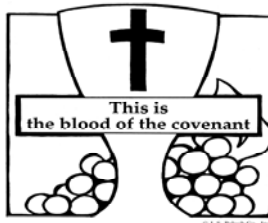
ANNOUNCEMENTS

My dear STM family,
At this time of my illness, I started dialysis 3 times a week. I want to thank you all for your support and prayers. The treatment is promising, and with God's blessing, I hope to be around to serve you, my dear STM family. I would be most grateful for your continued prayers, let us all pray for each other. — Abouna Labib

***Congratulations** to Catherine & Julie Nepomuceno, Helen Sanchez, Lourdes & Maria Tanedo, Bernice Aguas, Jamila Dozier, Michelle Lawas, Victoria & Bianca Medina, Arturo Sanchez on your commissioning as Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist. Thank you for helping out.

***St. Benedict Youth.** In case you didn't know, our Young Adult Group (late 18—20's) is the 'brainchild' of a young man 28 years of age, named Benedict Aguas and his sister, Bernice. Benedict had health issues & passed away last week. As a tribute to him and to honor his memory, the group will be called St. Benedict Youth. Thank you to the Aguas family for sharing him with us, short though it was.

***Year of the Priests.** Pope Benedict has designated June 19, 2009 to June 19, 2010 the Year of the Priest. Let's begin the year with a very special prayer of thanksgiving for priests; not only for our STM priests, but also for all priests of the Archdiocese, and around the world.



***Year of St. Paul.** To mark the end of the Pauline Year, everyone is invited to a potluck dinner after the 5 PM Mass on Sunday, June 27, in Carroll Hall. Please bring a dish to share.

Plenary Indulgence (St. Paul Year). A plenary indulgence will be granted to the faithful of the Archdiocese if the following conditions are met:

- 1) Participation in a sacred liturgy in any of the churches of our Archdiocese; honoring St. Paul & in observance of the closing of the Pauline Year anytime from Sat. June 27 from 4 pm to June 29,
- 2) reception of absolution through the Sacrament of Penance & Holy Communion within a week of this participation,
- 3) offering a prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, &
- 4) reciting the Lord's Prayer and the creed during the visit. (There are no specific prayers required.)

***The Ramallah Club.** The Annual Convention of the American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine will be hosted by the Ramallah Club of S F this year. It will be the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Burlingame, from June 24-28. Call Samir Totah at (510) 233-1908 or email him at Samirtotah@sbcglobal.net.

MASS INTENTIONS June 14th — June 20th, 2009

- 6/14 Sun 10:00am People of the Parish
 8:00pm All Souls in Purgatory †
- 6/15 Mon 8:30am For All Homebound
- 6/16 Tue 5:30pm Adelaida Marbibi †
- 6/17 Wed 8:30am Sara & Collin F. Noguera (hlg)
- 6/18 Thu 5:30pm Donal Ahern †
- 6/19 Fri 8:30 am Arthur & Helen Sanchez (Anniv)
- 6/20 Sat 8:30 am Sara & Collin F. Noguera (hlg)
 5:00 pm Daniel Marbibi †

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



All the sick people in our parish, especially Christian Yousef, Lina Susbilla, Jane Boyle, 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 Benedict Aguas, Sainick Gonzalo & Cornelio Dayao

Weekly Offering



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Weekend of June 7th, 2009

\$3,937

Tithing Collection

\$2,825.50

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 use 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