

Random thoughts from Fr. Joe...

When Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906) was a young child, his family enjoyed a comfortable way of life financed by his father's great success in the timber shipping industry. Within a few years, however, his family's financial fortunes were dramatically changed and they found themselves in dire need. His mother turned to religion for solace, while his father sank into a lingering depression. Ibsen's sense of loss and insecurity was given voice through the characters of his plays; his themes dealt with financial difficulty and the moral conflicts that arise in such circumstances. Ibsen's famous evaluation of wealth has been quoted countless times and continues to ring true: "Money may be the husk of many things, but not the kernel. It brings you food but not appetite; medicine but not health; acquaintances but not friends; servants but not faithfulness; days of joy but not peace and happiness" (quoted in *The Forbes Scrapbook of Thoughts on the Business of Life*, Forbes, Inc., New York: 1968).

Ibsen's words echo the thoughts expressed by the ancient philosopher and author of Ecclesiastes, Qoheleth (first reading). They are also like the wisdom of Jesus in Luke's gospel, who aptly summed up the value of wealth for human beings: "One's life does not consist of possessions" (Gospel). Qoheleth had grown weary of the pointlessness of a life spent accumulating more things. He asked: In the end, what does it all amount to? His commentary on the human condition remains timeless in a world that continues to listen for the "ka-ching" of the cash register as if it is a lovely symphony. Granted, money in our bank accounts makes us feel good and helps us to hold at bay the wolves of worry. By the same token, lack of money often tests us to the limit. Even the best of us can get weighed down with the frustration of dealing with difficult economic times.

But it is precisely during those times of financial stress that we most clearly discover the value we place on wealth. If we depend on money too heavily for our well-being, peace of mind and spiritual balance, then we need a shift in focus. To that end, the scriptural authors continually redirect our spiritual energies and physical efforts toward the alternative existence suggested, and exemplified, in both the Jewish and Christian testaments.

Choosing to live an alternate lifestyle is at the essence of what it means to be a faith community or church. Members of the *ekklesia*, the church, have been literally "called out" of the world (in Greek *ekklesia* is related to *kaleo*, "to call") in order to live free of its dictates and to belong fully, at every moment, to God and to one another. In this alternative community, every human need is attended by the care of others, and money becomes only one tool among many for serving others, rather than an end in itself.

In order to cultivate a way of life that does not measure happiness by possessions, Jesus advised his followers to become "rich in what matters to God" (Luke 12:21). These riches, explains theologian and scripture scholar Luke Timothy Johnson, will belong only to those who are willing to "learn Jesus" (*Living Jesus: Learning the Heart of the Gospel*, HarperCollins, New York: 2000).

"Learning Jesus," says Johnson, begins with trusting that

Jesus is raised from the dead and now lives as powerful Lord, and that he is available to us in the Spirit. We are also to trust that the means by which Jesus has chosen to communicate with us are reliable, that the portrayals of him by his early witnesses and the authors of the Christian scriptures are also authentically faith-filled. We who would learn Jesus are to trust that the encounter with him in word and bread is not fantasy, nor is it purely symbolic. Rather, the Eucharist, like the Gospel, constitutes a sacred experience during which Jesus and his disciples cultivate their relationship. That is how we find the grace to sustain the alternative way of life we call church.

Learning Jesus does not mean that we will no longer know need or hunger or hard times. On the contrary, belonging to the One who suffered for us will necessarily entail our own suffering. Johnson calls this suffering a stretching of the self in order to reach a higher place. It is an element of growth in the Spirit that allows us to lean on Jesus rather than any material or worldly base of security. "Life", as Jesus said, "does not consist of possessions," unless, of course, that possession is Jesus Christ.



LIVING OUT TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Seeing Jesus transfigured made Peter want to *do* something to mark the event. But the Voice from the cloud said clearly that the first task of those who recognize Jesus as Lord is to *listen* to Jesus – and then act!



ESCRITURA LAS LECTURAS DE HOY

Al ver a Jesús transfigurado, Pedro quiere hacer algo para marcar el acontecimiento. Pero la Voz desde la nube dice claramente que el primer deber de aquellos que reconocen a Jesús como su Señor es, primero, escucharlo, y luego actuar!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, August 2: Jeremiah 28:1-17; Matthew 14:13-21
Tuesday, August 3: Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Matthew 14:22-36
Wednesday, August 4: Jeremiah 31:1-7; Matthew 15:21-28
Thursday, August 5: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 16:13-23
Friday, August 6 (The Transfiguration of the Lord): Deuteronomy 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Luke 9:28-36
Saturday, August 7: Habakkuk 1:12-2:4; Matthew 17:14-20
Sunday, August 8 (Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time): Wisdom 18:6-9; Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Luke 12:32-48

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes, agosto 2: Jeremías 28:1-17; Mateo 14:13-21
Martes, agosto 3: Jeremías 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Mateo 14:22-36
Miércoles, agosto 4: Jeremías 31:1-7; Mateo 15:21-28
Jueves, agosto 5: Jeremías 31:31-34; Mateo 16:13-23
Viernes, agosto 6: Deuteronomio 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Pedro 1:16-19; Lucas 9:28-36
Sabado, agosto 7: Habacuc 1:12-2:4; Mateo 17:14-20
Domingo, agosto 8: Sabiduría 18:6-9; Hebreos 11:1-2, 8-19; Lucas 12:32-48

PAX CHRISTI NEWS

This Friday, August 6, communities across the country remember the 65 anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At Los Alamos, some members of Pax Christi and other peace activists have already gathered in prayer, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 'Think Outside the Bomb', the largest youth-led network for nuclear abolition in the USA will also be there. Close to home, all who cherish peace and justice are invited to come to Livermore Lab for a solemn remembrance of the past, and a joyous rededication to the task of achieving a future free of nuclear weapons. Livermore Labs is one of two sites that has developed every nuclear weapon in the U.S. arsenal. Today, its nuclear weapons budget is increasing and its research on new and modified nuclear bombs is continuing. Friday, August 6, northwest corner of Livermore Lab, intersection of Vasco Road and Patterson Pass road in Livermore. Rally: 8a.m. and March 9-10 a.m. For more information: www.trivalleycares.org or Jane at 475-0774.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

ORACIONES PARA LOS ENFERMOS

Por favor, recuerde en sus oraciones—Please pray for those who are unable to join us: Claudia Valdez Cisneros, Michael Emerson, Doreen Evans, Theresa Antonetti, Mela Guerrero, Ellen Kloster, Dan Petrolino, Frank Fenton, Mary Martin, Albert Kidder, George Oliveira, Ida Mungai, Erma Dalbesio, and Rose Davighi.



INTENCIONES DE MISA+MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 31

8:30: Liturgy of the Hours-Liturgia de las Horas
5: Dolores Esposito, Leo Esposito, H.T. Riley, Donald Hoga

Sunday, August 1

7: deceased benefactors
8:30: H.T. Riley, Joe Bertoli, Jim Pope
11: Bob McPherson, Larry Shaffer, Tim Martin
12:30: Teodora Mancillas, Lazaro Padilla

Monday, August 2

8:30: Evelyn Cope

Tuesday, August 3

8:30: Louise & Amerigo Presepi, int. of Dr. James Mullen

Wednesday, August 4

8:30: int. of Ron & Gladys Cox

6:30: for our youth

Thursday, August 5

8:30: Marlene Park

Friday, August 6

8:30: Fr. Joe Occhuito

Saturday, August 7

8:30: Liturgy of the Hours-Liturgia de las Horas
5: Jim Whearty

LOST CAMERA

A video camera in blue case was left in the church on Sunday, July 17, after the baptism of our son at 10:30 a.m. \$100 Reward for its return. Please call Ron Rhodes at 458-2573. Thank you!

BLOOD DRIVE

Holy Cross will be hosting The American Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, August 12, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please set up an appointment on-line at www.redcrossblood.org or call 469-3560.



CAMPAÑA DE DONACIÓN DE SANGRE

Santa Cruz será la sede de la Cruz Roja Americana de donación de sangre el miércoles, 12 de agosto, 11-4 Por favor, haga una cita en línea en www.redcrossblood.org o llame al 469-3560.

Collection *over* Colectas Semanales

COLLECTION—LA COLECTA DE LA SEMANA

PASADA FUE

\$3,805.00

SEGUNDA COLECCIÓN—SECOND COLLECTION

\$906.50

Last Week—Semana Pasada: Youth Ministry/Ministerio de Jóvenes

This Week—Esta Semana: Liturgy/Liturgia

Next Week—Próxima Semana: Faith Formation/Faith Formation/Formación de Fé

Gracias por su generosidad ahora y durante todo el año. We thank everyone for their generosity, now and throughout the year.

YOUTH MINISTRY/MINISTERIO DE LA JUVENTUD

High School Confirmation Registration

Materials will be mailed to all returning candidates in early August. Please remember to complete any service reflection sheets that are due and return them to the Youth Ministry Office. Materials for teens interested in beginning the Confirmation preparation process will be available at the Information meeting on Sunday, August 29, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Escuela Secundaria: inscripción para la Confirmación

A principios de Agosto se enviarán los materiales necesarios a todos los candidatos que vuelvan a la escuela. Si no lo han hecho previamente, por favor acuérdense de completar las hojas de servicio y devuélvanlas a la Oficina del Grupo Juvenil. Los materiales para adolescentes interesados en comenzar su preparación para la Confirmación serán distribuidos durante la reunión de información el domingo 29 de Agosto, a las 6:30 de la tarde, en el Salón de la Parroquia.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Young adult and/or adult volunteers are needed to work with our Holy Cross Youth Committee in planning and executing social and service activities for our High School Youth. This can be for a one time event, such as the parish carnival, pizza sales, bonfire, etc. or on an ongoing basis. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact the Youth Ministry Office at 459-7540.

SE NECESITAN VOLUNTARIOS

Se necesitan personas jóvenes y adultos para trabajar con nuestro Comité del Grupo Juvenil en el planeamiento y ejecución de actividades sociales y de servicio para la Escuela Secundaria. Podría tratarse del planeamiento y organización de acontecimientos especiales, como el carnaval de la parroquia, ventas de pizza, hogueras, etc., o también de eventos permanentes. Si le interesa participar o desea mas información, por favor llame a la Oficina del Grupo Juvenil, 459-7540.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT AT HOLY CROSS

Saturday, July 31

8:30: Morning Prayer — chapel

3:30-4: Reconciliation/Reconciliación — church

Monday, August 2

9 to 7: Eucharistic adoration — chapel

5:30: Contemplative prayer — chapel

6:30: Rosary — chapel

7: Scripture/Lector Group — 108

Saturday, August 7

8:30: Morning Prayer — chapel

3:30-4: Reconciliation/Reconciliación — church

Monday, August 9

9 to 7: Eucharistic adoration — chapel

5:30: Contemplative prayer — chapel

6:30: Rosary — chapel

7: Scripture/Lector Group — 108

Youth Ministry News

The August Youth Ministry News is available on the Parish website. Print copies are also available in the Youth Ministry Rack in the back of Church. This issue includes sacramental preparation guidelines for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Noticias del ministerio de la juventud

Las noticias del ministerio de la juventud de agosto están disponibles en el Web site de la parroquia. Las copias de la impresión están también disponibles en el estante del ministerio de la juventud en la parte posterior de la iglesia. Esta edición incluye las pautas sacramentales de la preparación para el sacramento de la confirmación.

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS

We are glad and grateful to have new people celebrate with us. If you would like to register at Holy Cross, please fill out the form below and place it in the collection basket, or mail it to the parish office.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

{ } NEW PARISHIONER

{ } NEW ADDRESS

{ } PLEASE SEND ME SUNDAY ENVELOPES

BIENVENIDOS A HOLY CROSS

Estamos feliz y agradecidos para celebrar con nuevas personas. Si usted no está registrado, por favor llene la siguiente forma y devuelta en la canasta de la colecta o regreso por correo a la oficina.

NOMBRE _____

TELÉFONO _____

DIRECCIÓN _____

CIUDAD _____ ZIP _____

{ } NUEVO MIEMBRO A LA PARROQUIA

{ } POR FAVOR CORRIJAN MI DIRECCIÓN

{ } ENVÍENME SOBRES DOMINICALES

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a process for anyone interested in joining the Catholic Faith or completing their sacraments of initiation. The next inquiry group meetings are Tuesdays, August 3 and 31, at 7 p.m. in Room 108 of the 210 High Street building. Please call Mary Sue Babb at 459-7540 for more information.

ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



The Young Ladies Institute #95 of Santa Cruz invites you to participate in their annual school supply drive. They will be collecting back packs (please no red or blue backpacks), binders, folders, paper, pencils, etc. These supplies will be divided between CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) which serves children in the court system, mainly foster children, and Live Oak Family Resource Center, which serves families in need in Santa Cruz. Any donations can be left in the box at the back of the church or in the rectory. For more information or questions please call Sharon Fassio at 476-8809. Thank you for your on-going support!

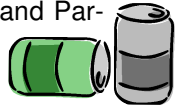
YOUTH & JUNIOR CHOIR FUNDRAISING NEWS

Thank you for your support of our children's fund raising efforts for our Holy Cross youth & junior choir pilgrimage to Rome. Our latest fund raising effort, our Rummage for Rome #2 raised \$1,651.00. Our total funds raised are: \$5384.00. Thank you for your support!

We look forward to seeing you at our "Pancake for Pilgrims" breakfast, September 19, at the Holy Cross Hall! Mark your calendar now!

CANS FOR CHOIR

Your help is requested! Please bring empty aluminum cans and plastic beverage containers to church and place them in the special recycling containers marked, "Cans for Choir." All sizes of aluminum and plastic containers that once held water, juice, soda, beer or sports drinks are needed. This will be on-going recycling program at Holy Cross School and Parish. Thank you for your donation!



NECESITAMOS VOLUNTARIOS

El ministerio de Formación de Fe necesita voluntarios para las clases de catecismo. Si usted esta interesado en compartir sus dones con los niños de nuestra parroquia por favor comuníquese con Claudia Manrique al 458-3041.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL



We are accepting applications for Pre-school, Kindergarten, Grade 3 and Middle School Entry Level Grade 6. Please call 423-4447 to schedule a visit and learn more about our school online at www.holycsc.org. From Pre-school through Grade 8, we motivate, guide, and encourage our young people to grow spiritually and intellectually, fostering their development as individuals of faith, tolerance, and service.

Hemos abierto la inscripción para la Pre-school, Kindergarten, 3r. grado y Escuela Intermedia nivel de ingreso 6to grado. Sírvase llamar al 423-4447 para fijar la hora de una visita. Vea mas detalles sobre nuestra escuela en línea al www.holycsc.org. Desde el nivel de Preschool hasta el 8vo Grado motivamos, guiamos y alentamos a nuestros jóvenes para que crezcan espiritual e intelectualmente, fomentando su desarrollo como individuos de fe, esperanza y servicio al prójimo.

FOOD PANTRY CLOSURE

The Holy Cross Food Pantry will be closed for the months of July and August and will re-open the first Wednesday in September. Check the bulletin board outside room 104 at 210 High Street for other services.



CIERRE DE LA DESPENSA DE ALIMENTOS

La despensa de alimentos de Holy Cross estará cerrada durante los meses de Julio y Agosto, y reabrirá el primer Miércoles de Septiembre. Para otros servicios, vea la tabla de anuncios que está afuera del cuarto 104, en 210 High Street.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED IN SEPTEMBER

In September the Food Pantry will need an additional volunteer to help pick-up produce (ONCE A MONTH ONLY) on Wednesday mornings. If you could assist please call Sandy Butler at 438-3729 as soon as possible.