

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
August 3, 2008

Dear faith family,

In today's Gospel, we hear the account of Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fish. When the disciples tell Jesus that the people are hungry, he says to them **"give them food yourselves!"** When they respond that all they have on hand are five loaves and two fish, Jesus blesses the food and tells the disciples to distribute it, and all are fed. It is key to note that Jesus first tells the disciples to feed the people themselves. Aware of the inadequacy of what they have, they turn to Jesus who provides what is needed out of what food the disciples bring to him.

In today's bulletin, there are several articles inviting us to bring to Jesus what we have, and then to share it. That's what ministry is all about - extending the work and action of Jesus in the Church and in the world by using our gifts to feed the people. The Liturgical ministries of our parish need people who will bring whatever gifts and talents they have to feed their brothers and sisters with the nourishment of Word and Sacrament.

Our Altar Servers assist at the Table of the Word and Eucharist as they bring their gifts of youth and service to help the priest celebrate the Mass with care and reverence. Our Choir members bring their gift of music to encourage and support the song of the Assembly as we join the angels in proclaiming the praise and goodness of the Lord who feeds us. The miracle of the loaves and the fish prefigures the Eucharist, and our Eucharistic ministers emulate the disciples who fed the people with the work of Jesus' hands.

Our calling to minister in the Church flows from our baptismal commitment. It is not a choice, but a duty to participate in ministry. For most of us, that ministry is to actively participate as a member of the Liturgical Assembly, fully aware of what we are about as members of the Mystical Body of Christ joining ourselves to Christ's offering of Himself to the Father. We do this not only by raising our voices in prayer and song, but, most importantly, by focusing our minds and hearts on the Mass, and being totally attentive.

Today, I invite you to take a few moments as you are reading this to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to consider the gifts you have been given - the "loaves and fish" of your life. What can you bring to Jesus to be "blessed"? Do you have the courage to step forward and offer those gifts in one of our liturgical ministries? If you do, please give me a call, or speak to Father Mark, so that in dialogue with you, we can discern your gifts and see how they can best be used to "feed" the people of Holy Cross.

Thank you for your generosity in today's collection for our Liturgical Ministries.

Gratefully,
Sister Barbara Ann Long, OP
Director of Liturgy and Music

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, August 4: Jeremiah 28:1-17; Matthew 24:22-36
Tuesday, August 5: Jeremiah 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Matthew 14:22-36
Wednesday, August 6 (The Transfiguration of the Lord): Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10; Matthew 13:1-9
Thursday, August 7: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 16:13-23
Friday, August 8: Nahum 2:1, 3, 3:1-3, 6-7; Matthew 16:24-28
Saturday, August 9: Hebrews 1:12-2:4; Matthew 17:14-20
Sunday, August 10 (The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time): 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 2

8:30: communion service

5: Scott Simons, Dolores Esposito, Agnes White

Sunday, August 3

8:30: deceased benefactors

11: people of Holy Cross

12:30: int. of Vickie and Marty Martinez

Monday, August 4

8:30: Diane Netto Berndt, int. of Ron and Gladys

Tuesday, August 5

8:30: Stella Bible, Angela Marengi

Wednesday, August 6

8:30: Barbara Ralston, Stephen Reid

Thursday, August 7

8:30: Elsie Tori, Jim Whearty, int. of Roberta Bernard

Friday, August 8

8:30: communion service

Saturday, August 9

8:30: communion service

5: people of Holy Cross

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for those who are unable to join us: Roberta Bernard, Carmen Chirinos, Jan Larson, Ann Coonerty, Sal and Laurine Sgambati, Adela Cerda, Leo Esposito, Emelia Gusman, Tony Knebel, Haddie Dowson, Deirdre Hoban, Louise Presepi, Argia Dellamina, Fran Sargenti, Ida Mungai, Ed Mockus, Michael Matus, Holly Pucket, Mary Martin, Nat Bertolli, Erma Dalbesio, Harry Bible, and Rose Davighi.

A TASTE OF VIETNAM

We will have our third themed dinner of 2008, "A Taste of Vietnam", on Thursday, August 21, at 6 p.m. in the parish hall. Tickets are \$20 adult and \$10 children under 12. Tickets will be sold between the masses August 16 and 17 and are also available in the parish office. Our featured entrée will be chicken in caramel sauce with hot and sour vegetables. See the kiosk for additional information.

ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Once again the Santa Cruz Y.L.I. #95 invites you to participate in their annual school supply drive. They will be collecting back packs, binders, folders, paper, pencils, markers, rulers, erasers, socks, underwear, and gift cards or money. 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 mainly the poor of Santa Cruz. Any money will go to Grandma Sue's Community Program for the purchase of P.E. uniforms. Any donations can be left in the box at the back of the church or in the rectory. Thank you for your on-going support!

LIVING OUT TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

"The hand of the Lord feeds us," sings the Psalmist; "He answers all our needs." Often, though, it is with open hands of generous stewards willing to share His many gifts that God's people are fed and their needs met.

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME BINGO?

Bingo is a new social ministry for adults designed to promote fun and fellowship. Please join us at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 4 in the hall. All adults are welcome to participate as players or as helpers. Bring a friend! Your parish needs your support and participation as callers, floor workers and kitchen help. There will be good food and plenty of games. Come and join us for a wonderful evening of fellowship! Sign up sheets are available at the back of the church.

'ART & THE SPIRIT' SYMPOSIUM COMING IN SEPT.

Mark your calendars now for a special treat that has been years in the making: A weekend of events celebrating the connection between art and the Spirit of God. It will be held at Holy Cross on the weekend of Sept. 12 through 14, which is the feast of our parish. It will include a concert on Friday night, a panel discussion on art and spirituality, an art exhibit by Brother Emmaus of New Camaldoli Hermitage, and Masses with Bishop Richard Garcia. It promises to be an enriching weekend, so we hope you can plan to participate in any or all of the events.

ALTAR SERVERS CLASS

Young people are invited to serve the parish as Altar Servers. This ministry is open to any young person who has received the Eucharist for the first time, and whose family regularly attends Holy Cross Church. To complete the program you will be required to attend three sessions. The sessions will be held in room 108 in the 210 High Street building from 3:30 to 4:30 on September 9, 16 and 23. If you are interested please call Sister Barbara at 423-4973.

YOUTH MINISTRY CORNER

Confirmation 2 Registration

Registration materials for High School Confirmation have been mailed to all returning year 2 candidates. Please return them to the Youth Ministry Office promptly. If you did not receive this mailing, please contact the Youth Ministry Office after August 11.

Confirmation 1 Registration

There will be a meeting for parents and high school age teens interested in beginning the Confirmation process on Sunday evening, August 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Registration for Confirmation 1 will take place at this time. For more information, please contact the Youth Ministry Office after August 11.

Youth Leadership Team

Information on being part of the High School Youth Ministry Leadership Team have been mailed to all confirmed high school students. Members of this team will help to plan social events and activities. Those who are interested can also help as mentors for the Confirmation process.

Youth Ministry News

The August issue of the Youth Ministry News is available in the Youth Ministry rack in the back of Church. Families with high school age teens are encouraged to take one and read about what is being planned for our teens this year.

I.C.F. SUMMER B.B.Q., AUGUST 3

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a great Italian Festival from 12:30 to 3 p. m. on Sunday August 3. The menu includes New York Steak(\$15), chicken (\$12-by reservation only), beans, corn, salad, garlic bread, watermelon, panettone and beverages. Free hot dogs for the kids! Children under 12 years \$5. Please bring your own table service. Country Store and fun starts at 11.30 a.m. R.S.V.P. by Sunday July 27 to Diana Petrolino at 427-2575 or Julie Locatelli at 423-9663.

TRAINING FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We are in great need of individuals who would be willing to serve the parish as Eucharistic Ministers. The next formation session will be Saturday, August 30, from 9 a.m. until noon in room 108 in the 210 High Street building. Please call Sister Barbara at 423-4973 if you are interested.

DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

Our choirs are rehearsing for the many beautiful liturgies that we will be celebrating in the coming months. We welcome and need more members. If you like to sing, can carry a tune, are free to attend one rehearsal a week and willing to commit to regularly participating in Mass we would love to welcome you. The 8:30 Mass choir rehearses on Wednesdays, in room 101, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The 11 a.m. choir rehearses on Thursdays, in room 101, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

This year the Junior Choir will rehearse on Mondays from 3 to 4 p.m.. Our Youth Choir, composed of students in grades 6, 7 and 8, continue rehearsing from 4 to 4:45 p.m. The combined Junior and Youth Choir generally sing about once a month at the 5 p.m. Mass. The choirs will be participating in the Northern California Pueri Cantores Festival of Catholic Children's Choirs on November 15 at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. Rehearsals for Junior and Youth Choir will start on Monday, August 25, at 3 p.m. in room 101 of the 210 High Street building. All parish children are welcome to join the choir. Parents are asked to make a commitment that the members will regularly attend rehearsals and participate in scheduled Masses when the choir is singing.

Please call Sister Barbara at 423-4973 for more information on joining any of these choirs

LAYETTE PROJECT TO MEET, AUGUST 15

The next In-Gathering of the Santa Cruz County Churches Layette Project will be held on Friday, August 15 at 1 p.m. at the Vintage Faith Church, (formerly First Presbyterian Church) at Mission and Highland Avenue. For more information please call Jeri at 458-3217 or Diane at 427-1646.

COLLECTION: \$4,382.00

SECOND COLLECTION:

Last Week: Youth \$1,024.50

This Week: Liturgy

Next Week: Faith Formation

We thank everyone for their generosity, now and throughout the year.