



The
shepherd
calls his
own sheep
by name

Fourth Sunday of Easter May 7, 2017

BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

4540 El Cerrito Dr.
San Diego, CA 92115
Parish Office: 619-582-5722

Parish Website: www.blessedsacrament-sandiego.org
Parish E-Mail: jjin@blessedsacrament-sandiego.org

Fr. Jon P. Kirby, SVD: Pastor
Tony Albers: Deacon
Herb Kelsey: Deacon

MASSES:

Saturday: 8:00AM; 5:00 PM (Vigil)
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 6:00 PM
Weekdays: Tuesday-Friday 8:00 AM
(Mondays: 8:00 AM Communion Service)
Holy Days & Special Services: see bulletin

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays, 4:00 PM

PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA: Tuesdays 8:30 AM

MARRIAGES: Those wishing to be married must contact the priest at least 9 months before date of marriage.

Parish ID # for United Way Contributions.....9753

BAPTISM INFORMATION.....619-582-5722

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)619-582-5722

Sara Dickman.....619-840-2983

FAITH FORMATION, grade 1-8.....619-582-5722

Natalie Kathol, Coordinator

CONFIRMATION, Teens.....619-582-5722

Justine Coliflores

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH SCHOOL.....619-582-3862

Anne Egan, Principal

School Website: www.bsps-sd.org

From The Pastor

*Viri Probati*

In the readings of Easter season we see how thousands become followers of Christ, share everything in common and joyfully celebrate the Eucharist together. There seems to have been no “vocation crisis” then as there is now. Why not?

Easter is the “most solemn festival” on the church’s calendar. But actually, it happens every Sunday. Since the time of the apostles, the followers of Christ have celebrated the day of His resurrection—the eighth day—every Sunday. This was reaffirmed at Vatican II in the document on the liturgy where it states that Christ’s faithful are bound to come together in one place to take part in the Eucharist and bring to mind “the passion, the resurrection and the glorification of the Lord Jesus.” The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Church’s life, and it is impossible to build a Christian community without ordained presbyters or persons ordained and sanctioned by the church authorities (the bishops) to preside at the Eucharistic liturgy, the Mass.

Today there is a serious shortage of ordained presbyters—and therefore the Eucharist—almost everywhere in the world, and it has been here for some time. Pope Pius VI wrestled with the problem but, in the end, forbade any discussion on the possible ordination of the so-called *virii probati*—married men of proven virtue. Although highly problematic, this is only a small part of an even larger problem—how to discern, recognize, distinguish and verify the very necessary but different charisms or spiritual gifts that Christ bestows on His people. As Paul said, “To some, his ‘gift’ was that they should be apostles; to some prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; to knit God’s holy people together for the work of service to build up the Body of Christ” (Eph. 4:11-12). But over the centuries, church authority has subsumed all of these charisms under Holy Orders. In so-doing has it resisted the working of the Holy Spirit? After Vatican II many theologians and some bishops tried to keep this “off-limits” discussion going. But everything was brought to an abrupt halt by Pope St. John Paul II. From then until now, there has been absolutely no further discussion of the possibility of *virii probati*, optional celibacy, or women priests.

After 1990, Pope St. JPII began an iron-fisted enforcement of the sixteenth-century Tridentine model of the priesthood and seminary formation, with an added sprinkling of psychology and sociology, but this did little to reverse the downward vocational spiral. Churches began to close and parishes merge, and the “Eucharistic communities” envisioned by Vatican II, became male celibate, priest-centered communities. Then we began importing foreign priests who were very often from countries where the priest-to-

people ratio was even lower than ours. This has often been touted as “reverse mission” but the vast majority are not from missionary congregations and do not have the essential training, let alone vocation, for this work. This fake solution of “International priest” is starting to look more like “mercenary priest”—and as the years go by, it is becoming more than merely an interim measure.

I am convinced there are proportionately as many vocations now as there were in the early church. Perhaps they are unable to hear the call. Perhaps the church is not sounding the call in the right direction, or in the right way. But the church authorities might also have inadvertently blocked those who have a real charism and feel the call. We are talking about married men, women, or those who are willing to serve for a time and season. Celibacy is not divinely ordained and there were women deacons and, on reliable sources, presbyters in the early church.

Today the Spirit is palpably at work, and Pope Francis has broken the log jam by reopening discussion on the ordination of *virii probati*. In *Evangelii Gaudium* Francis said that it is not the role of the papal magisterium to give “a definitive or complete word on every question which affects the Church and the world”. In line with the grass-roots principles of Vatican II, he urges national episcopal conferences to take the initiative. They, in turn, need to listen to and respond to the voice of the people. He invites everyone “to be *bold and creative* in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities” (EG, 33). But many bishops are too afraid to speak up—especially on the question of the priesthood. Yet this is precisely where we need to be most *Bold and Creative*.

As a missionary-anthropologist, who for the last 40 years has fought for a more creative posture in the life of the Church, I find in the voice of Pope Francis truly refreshing. It is the life-giving breath of the Holy Spirit. When he convenes the Synod of Bishops next year to discuss young people and vocational discernment, I hope that many will boldly and creatively come forward. But remember that it will be easier for them to shed their long-guarded fears if they are carried along by the voice of their people (adapted from *Commonweal*, <https://www.commonwealmagazine.org/letter-rome-12>).

Bibliodrama

All parishioners are invited to attend our BSP Bibliodrama sessions. Come and learn about the background of your weekly scriptural texts and experience the dynamism of the Gospel.

Next session will be in the Parish Hall Library Monday May 15, 6:30pm.

Parish Events

- May 6-7 Holy Land Olivewood Religious Articles Sold
- May 7 - 1st Communion 10am Mass for children
- May 10 - Soup & Salad 5pm-7pm PH
- May 11 - Women's Club Mtg. 9am PH
- May 14 - Mother's Day 9 Day Novena Begins
- May 14 - Diocesan African Mass & Gathering 1pm
- May 15 - Bibliodrama 6:30pm PH Library
- May 29 - Memorial Day
- May 29 - Bibliodrama 6:30pm PH Library
- June 4 - Pentecost & Ethnic Potluck
- June 8 - Women's Club Mtg. 9am PH
- June 9 - BSPS Last Day of School
- June 11 - Diocesan African Mass & Gathering 1pm

PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS

Interested in joining a ministry group?
Contact the person listed below or church office.

(area codes are (619) except were listed)

- Adoration Chapel.....582-5722
- Altar Servers:**
Judy Cromwell..... 582-5722
- Cares For Kids-Blessed Sacrament**
Teresa Markey.....582-2141
- Contemporary Choir:**
(10:00 am & 6 pm Masses).....582-5722
- Culture of Life:**
Margie Morrison.....582-8651
- Eucharistic Ministers:**
Church Office.....582-5722
- Knights of Columbus:**
John Agoh.....278-8405
- Lectors:**
Cynthia Gonzales.....218-8155
- BSPS Parent-Teacher Group (PTG):**
Kristen Crisostomo (President).....klhbones@aol.com
- Prayer Chain**
Maria Contreras.....917-5850
- Traditional Choir:**
Patti Burch (8 am Mass).....735-6330
- Tuesday Fun Club:**
Peggy Raynoha.....582-3657
- Ushers:**
Church Office.....582-5722
- Vocations Committee:**
Dick Reid.....583-1081
- Women's Club:**
Pat Luebbers.....262-8522
- Youth Ministry (High School Students):**
Parish Office.....582-5722

Daily Prayer for Our Priests

O Jesus,
I pray for your faithful and fervent priests;
for your unfaithful & tepid priests;
for your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields;
for your tempted priests;
for your lonely & desolate priests;
for your young priests;
for your dying priests;
for the souls of your priests in Purgatory.
But above all, I recommend to you the priests dearest to me: the priest who baptized me, the priests who absolved me from my sins, the priests at whose Masses I assisted & who gave me Your body & blood in Communion, the priests to whom I am indebted any other way especially (name....)
O Jesus, keep them all close to your heart, and bless them abundantly in time & in eternity. Amen.

--St. Therese of Lisieux

- Monday ~ May 8
Rev. Guangfeng Wang, SVD
- Tuesday ~ May 9
Rev. Edmundo Zarate-Suarez
- Wednesday ~ May 10
Rev. Gabriel Afeti, AJ
- Thursday ~ May 11
Rev. Lawrence Agi
- Friday ~ May 12
Rev. Francisco Alejo, OFM
- Saturday ~ May 13
Rev. William Ameche, SJ
- Sunday ~ May 14
Rev. Alexander Aquino



June 4 ~ Pentecost Sunday
Ethnic Potluck
after 10:00am mass
(Plan to bring a dish to share)

AROUND TOWN

May 19-21 - Holy Spirit Parish Rummage Sale; 5/19-20 7am-9pm & 5/21 7am-3pm; also Food & Snacks

July 14-16 SUMMER FAMILY CAMP at Whispering Winds in Julian for BSP parishioners, Fun activities: zipline, pool, horseback riding, & more. Spiritual enrichment programs are tailored for children, teens & adults; Online registration is now open at www.whisperingwinds.org; More info. Matt & Brianne Kojis 619-964-6174 or mattkojis@gmail.com

Retrouvaille-Marriage Help! Give troubled marriages & their hurting famili es a chance to heal. More info. on upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples contact registration team @ 951-259-9474 or visit helpourmarriage.org.