



TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 26, 2004

Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love,
patience, and gentleness.

— 1 Timothy 6:11

GATE TO HEAVEN—The plight of Lazarus and the wealthy man of this world, Dives, is a favorite image of our ancestors in the faith. If it were not for Jesus we would all be in the place of the rich man on the wrong side of the abyss roasting in Hades. Jesus is the one risen from the dead, come to lead us by the ladder of his cross across that great gulf and into paradise. We have Moses and the Prophets and Jesus, also, to help us to repent. Jesus is the way and the gate to heaven. Be warned, repent, and follow him!

Philip J. Sandstrom, STD © 2001 Oregon Catholic Press

VOTER REGISTRATION AT ST. MATTHEW'S
TODAY, BEFORE AND AFTER ALL MASSES

To find out where the presidential candidates stand on a wide range of issues, including many which directly relate to church teaching, log on to

www.votinginfo.org.

BY POPULAR DEMAND—Fr. Dick Benson, a Professor of Moral Theology at St. John's Seminary, will speak on **Stem Cell Research and Cloning: a Catholic Moral Analysis**. This topic, scheduled for Sunday, October 17, following the 10:30 A.M. Mass is particularly pertinent at this time since we will be voting on *Proposition 71* in the November election. We hope many parishioners will plan to attend.

COMUNIDAD MEETING—Tuesday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Our guest speaker will be Fr. Gary Clemins of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Fr. Clemins is an outgoing, frank, dynamic speaker who will share with us the *"State of the Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Persons in the Episcopal Church."* All are welcome to attend this lively discussion.

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD...

Jacqueline Brady

PRAY FOR OUR SICK...

Louise Clark, Margaret Verhaegen

PRECIOUS LIFE SHELTER BABY SHOWER—Once again it is time for our annual baby shower to benefit the Precious Life Shelter, a facility that assists pregnant women who have been abandoned by the father of their baby. **During the month of October**, Respect Life Month, we will have a baby bassinet at the side altar to collect items to benefit the moms and babies at the shelter. Needed items include: receiving blankets, quilted or crocheted blankets, newborn diapers, nightgowns, sleepers, T-shirts, bibs, baby powder, shampoo, lotion, baby wipes. Checks are welcome and should be made out to *Precious Life Shelter*. Cash donations should be put in an envelope marked *Precious Life* and dropped in the regular collection. Thank you for your help.

LITURGICAL FORMATION EVENING FOR NEW MINISTERS—who have begun service during the last year are encouraged to attend an evening of prayer and discussion about ministry on Monday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Also we welcome any parishioners who may want to begin Eucharistic Ministry at the Altar or Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS—Soon we will be making out a new schedule for November and December. Please e-mail or call in your non-availability dates for these two months by Friday, Oct. 15th. If you know your Christmas plans, please let us know that specifically, since so many ministers travel at that time and it is difficult to assign people for the holidays. Thank you so much.

CATHOLIC PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES—offers professional counseling services to individuals and families at Catholic Charities Long Beach location—123 E. 14th Street. Fees are on a sliding scale depending upon income and start at \$25.00 per session. Please call 562.949.2496 for an appointment or further information.

27TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME — OCT. 3

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10