



Easter Sunday

April 16, 2006

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

— Psalm 118:17

HAPPY EASTER

My Dear Parishioners,

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said “*I have a dream.*” God also has a dream. When He created humans, he envisioned that everyone from the beginning to the end of time would live as one family after being formed in His own Image. Peoples’ history has proven that God’s dream was shattered by human decision. As a consequence we experience unhappiness, violence and war. But God has proven His determination to make His dream come true: He sent His only son to bring us back to life! And, in what manner! His death has rescued us from our own death, and His resurrection has planted the new seed of eternal life in every human being.

My personal dream here at St. Matthew’s is that Easter will be our renewal in the Spirit of the Risen Lord. We will be the new unleavened bread, who through the Eucharistic celebration, will pass from individual groups, ministries and nationalities, to the beauty of one body in the Risen Lord.

Because of your prayers and generous contributions you are a very important integral part of our Parish.

Sincere wishes for a peaceful, joyful Easter,

Fr. Guillermo

PARISH RENEWAL BEGINS NEXT WEEKEND

The Easter Season this year will be the occasion for our Parish Renewal. The theme, ***Sharing Our Faith***, will be the basis for reflections offered at three Masses beginning next weekend. Our first presenter is **Mr. Ted Furlow**. Ted is a member of St. Barnabas Church, married for 38 years, and is presently studying for his Masters Degree in Pastoral Theology at LMU. He is Director of Planning, serving the San Bernardino Diocese by assisting in planning efforts at the local and diocesan levels. His office develops pastoral councils for parishes and provides workshops and retreats. He supervises the office of construction and real estate, and is the lead agent on all property and land acquisition activities on behalf of the Bishop.

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED
John Devereaux, Mary Reynolds

TOGETHER IN MISSION NEEDS MORE HELP

We thank all of those parishioners who have pledged and paid towards the 2006 Annual Catholic Appeal “*Together In Mission.*”

It is very important that all pledges be paid so that our parish will reach our goal. As you can see from the numbers below, we have work to do. Because of this, our Parish Finance Council thinks that funds collected from a second collection today will help in reaching the mandatory goal decided upon by the Archdiocese. Please keep in mind that the *Together in Mission* campaign encourages everyone to share their financial gifts in order to provide funding for ministry, education and services in our subsidized parishes and schools that could not be provided without this support.

On behalf of Cardinal Mahony and most especially on behalf of those who will benefit from your contributions, I thank you for your contribution to this Appeal. May God bless you.

Fr. Guillermo

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| PARISH GOAL: | \$ 38,142.30 |
| AMOUNT PLEDGED: | \$ 19,808.00 |
| AMOUNT PAID: | \$ 9,920.00 |

REMAINING BALANCE \$ 28,222.30

CATHOLIC CHARITIES THANKS YOU

Catholic Charities would like to thank St. Matthew parishioners for their generous contributions of personal hygiene items and Easter baskets. Your generosity and commitment are always evident. Long Beach has the sixth highest poverty rate among big cities in the nation and the third highest poverty rate among children. Please keep us in your prayers.

Anna Totta, Regional Director

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

*Sister Margaret O’Leary, Dolores Rodriguez,
Tonya Grant, Annabelle Fraser*

APRIL 23 — SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 20:19-31