

Second Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2006

Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

—1 John 5:5

SHARING OUR FAITH

PARISH RENEWAL BEGINS TODAY

Today we welcome Mr. Ted Furlow, who will be speaking at all of our English Masses this weekend. Ted and his wife of 38 years are members of St. Barnabas Church. Ted serves as Director of Planning for the Diocese of San Bernardino. Along with developing pastoral councils, workshops and retreats for parishes, 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. In addition to this job, Ted is a student at LMU working towards a Masters Degree in Pastoral Theology.

Next weekend we shall welcome Sister Kathleen Bryant, who describes herself as “a Religious Sister of Charity who has worked for the Archdiocese for 19 years as Vocation Director and presently as Director of Seminarians.” Sr. Kathy has lived and worked in Ireland, Africa and California. She teaches, leads retreats and workshops and also works with young adults. Sr. Kathy earned her Doctor of Ministry Degree in 1995 from Graduate Theological Foundation.

“SPIRITUAL MEDICINE FOR OUR RESTLESS HEARTS”

Presenter: Fr. Jack Stoeger

Sunday — May 7th — 1:30-3:30p.m.

John Parr Health Education Bldg. 1050 Linden Ave.

Exploring God’s Promise:

*“I will give you a new heart
and place a new spirit within you.”*

Ezekiel 36:26

- Examination of any clogging in our spiritual arteries
- Reflecting on how God’s grace leads us to develop grateful, forgiving, joyful, peaceful, mellow hearts.
- Opportunity for small group discussion and interfaith dialogue.

For registration info please call 562.429.7830.

Must register before May 1.

EASTER CELEBRATION THANKS

With great joy we thank our presiders, liturgical ministers, musicians, environment committee members, RCIA team and all those who prepared and participated in our Holy Week liturgies. The beauty of our sanctuary and the solemnity of the Triduum liturgies were a source of inspiration to all. Thank you very much.

IT’S A MYSTERY TO ME!

The term “mystagogia” or “mystagogy” is indeed a mystery to most Catholics, even to those in RCIA who are involved in this fourth phase of Christian Initiation. You may remember that the first three stages are called “Inquiry” (when those who are searching for God and membership in the church come to “inquire”), the “Catechumenate” (when the unbaptized and candidates participate in reflection on the Sunday readings and in catechesis), and “purification and enlightenment” (when the elect participate in intense preparation for the Easter Vigil.

The fourth phase of Christian Initiation, “Mystagogy” means guiding into mystery, the great mystery of the unfathomable love of God in Christ. This happens primarily during the whole Easter season, the great 50 days before Pentecost. The neophytes (persons newly baptized) continue mystagogy by attending monthly meetings for a year and by continuing to grow in their understanding of the mystery of God’s love. Since we are all continuing to experience the profound mystery of God’s love for us, we are all participating in mystagogy until the time when we behold God face to face. Last week we wished everyone “Happy Easter.” As the season goes on let us wish one another “Happy Mystagogia!”

THANKS ALL AROUND

- Thank you to all of the soup and bread providers, all of the people who attended our soup suppers and all of the people who helped set up and clean up. Our free-will offering donations for the 6 Mondays of Lent totaled \$1,252.47! Nickels and dimes add up! Your generous donations will be put to good use for those in need.
- Thank you to Sister Dolores for providing the spiritual part of our evenings with the Stations of the Cross.
- Thank you to those who gave donations of hygiene items to be distributed by Catholic Charities.
- Thank you to those who participated in filling Easter baskets. Over 60 baskets were assembled for the good folks at Catholic Charities to distribute and watch children smile.

Once more, thank you St. Matthew’s parish! Your generosity and support is the best!!

The Peace and Justice Organization

APRIL 30 — THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Second Reading: 1 John 2:1-5a

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48