

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JUNE 17, 2007

I LIVE, NO LONGER I, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME.

— Galatians 2:20

HOPE AND FORGIVENESS

There were some interesting conceptions of sin prevalent in the time of the Hebrew scriptures. There was the belief that God punished sin immediately. Those who suffered disease or misfortune were, therefore, sinners getting their due from the Almighty. Today's first reading hints at another kind of God. When David admits his sin, Nathan declares, "The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin" (2 Samuel 12:13b). Here was not a vengeful God but a merciful God. What good news that must have been to David and those who, like him, could be honest enough to admit their sinfulness!

Jesus is the good news of God's mercy and forgiveness incarnate. Without Jesus, perhaps the good news would have been too good to believe, too difficult to imagine. But there he is in today's Gospel, the God-man, forgiving a sinner and declaring that she is forgiven because of her great love.

There is hope, then for the rest of us sinners, if only we love enough!

LIFE IN GOD'S PRESENCE

CENTERING OURSELVES IN A MULTI-TASKING CULTURE
SUNDAY, JULY 1, 2007 1:00 TO 4:00 P.M.
JOHN PARR HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

St. Mary Med Center Campus 1050 Linden Ave.

Centering prayer helps us to be more deeply aware of God's presence and the action of God's grace within us and all around us. Sister Adeline's extensive experience in leading retreats and facilitating centering prayer groups will be beneficial both as an introduction to centering prayer and as an enrichment opportunity for those already familiar with centering prayer.

For further information please call Don Carlos or Dr. Lu Martin-Carlos at 562.429.7830.

ATTENTION LECTORS, SERVERS, AND MINISTERS

Please call in your non-availability dates for the months of July and August by June 18th. Please e-mail your dates to csaiza@stmatthewlb.org or call 562 491-1217 and leave a message.

AIDS WALK NEXT SATURDAY

St. Matthew parish is sponsoring a walking team for *Aids Walk Long Beach* to be held next Saturday, June 23rd. Members of Comunidad will be collecting donations to sponsor our walking team after all the Masses today.

BLESSING FOR FATHERS

*Blessed are You, God and Father of us all,
for the gift of our father.*

*Today we honor and thank him
for the gift he is in our lives.*

*His love for us is a reflection of Your divine love.
Bless him this day with Your strength and Your power
that he may continue to be a sign of Your abiding love.
May we, who have the honor of bearing his family name,
assist him with our obedience, respect and deep affection.
Bless him on this special day with happiness, health,
peace and good fortune so that he who shared of his very
life may live together with You, his God and heavenly
Father, for ever and ever.*

Amen.

HFDB

MARRIED COUPLES WEEKEND RETREAT

July 13-15, 2007

"A Toolbox for Building a Strong and Happy Marriage"

Presenter: Fr. Pat Brennan, C.P. and Retreat Team

(100.00 non-refundable deposit completes registration)

The retreat begins on Friday evening after dinner and concludes on Sunday after lunch. The weekend will focus on communication, healing and forgiveness, faith and prayer and celebration in your life together. There will be time for quiet meditation, walks on the beautiful retreat grounds, inspiring conferences and liturgies.

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center

700 N. Sunnyside Ave., Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Registrar: 626.355.7188 ext. 1067

REFLECTIONS....

Try to take time this week to sit and read **next Sunday's Gospel**. Afterwards, reflect on the following questions:

In this week's gospel, Elizabeth gives birth to a son who is named John, a name given to him by an angel. What is the story of how you received your name? How has your name shaped your life?

When John was born, many people rejoiced and wondered what life the child might lead. How has your life been shaped by God? What is he calling you to do?

— THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST —

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-6

SECOND READING: Acts of the Apostles 13:22-26

GOSPEL: Luke 1:57-55, 80

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Doris Felton