

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MAY I NEVER BOAST EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

— Galatians 6:14

JULY 8, 2007

PEACE

The greeting of peace at Mass adds substance to a message to today's readings: peace is relational. When we greet in peace the person near us at Mass, we share the touch of a handshake or embrace, sincere eye contact, and friendly words.

The scriptures speak of a similar peace. The first reading from Isaiah describes the peace of the holy city, Jerusalem, a place of prosperity and comfort where the "Lord's power shall be known to his servants" (Isaiah 66:14c)

The Christian understanding of peace changes slightly. Paul writes of the "peace and mercy" on all who are created anew. Jesus describes a feeling of peace that will rest on those who accept his disciples and their message. Peace is both an absence of strife and a personal blessing. May we always and sincerely bring peace to our own lives as we share it with others.

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COMUNIDAD ANNUAL RETREAT

Comunidad is holding its annual retreat on September 28-30th at the Claretian Center near downtown L.A. The retreat begins Friday night and closes Sunday noon. This year's theme is "Stand in the Light." Father Dan Lackie, O.F.M., from St. Simon and Jude parish will be the retreat director. For reservations or information, contact Anna Totta, 562.987.0130.

REFLECTIONS....

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

Consider 3 people who are your 'neighbors.' How are they needing compassion from you?

— THE 15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME —

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:10-14

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-20

GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED

Please join us on Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the church to pray the Rosary.

*Honor peace more than anything else.
But strive first of all to be a peace in yourself.*
—John of Apamea, Syriac monk and spiritual writer

PARISH HEALTH NEWS

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

IS AVAILABLE TODAY IN CLASSROOM #2 AFTER
10:30A.M. AND 12:30 P.M. MASSES.

BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a blood drive held here at St. Matthew's on August 5 in a mobile unit located on the church parking lot from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

If you would like to donate blood, you may sign up today (Sunday) in classroom #2 after the 10:30 and 12:30 p.m. Masses. Future sign-ups will take place on July 22 and July 29th from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00p.m. in the courtyard area.

Since we will include blood pressure screenings on August 5 within the same time frame as the blood drive, we will not be having blood pressure screenings on August 12.

RE: OFFERING OF LETTERS CAMPAIGN

Thanks to all who supported our Offering of Letters campaign on behalf of a more equitable farm policy. Three hundred letters were signed and we trust our efforts, joined to those of many others throughout the country, will make a difference. Updates will follow.

RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

Join the Mary and Joseph Volunteer League

The Mary & Joseph Retreat Center is looking for people to join the Mary and Joseph Volunteer League. Volunteers are needed to help with mailings, answer telephones and assist our staff with projects. This year we especially need assistance with our August 18 Casino Night. We will need help the evening of the event and beforehand in getting items for prizes and for the silent auction. For our Holiday Tea, we will need volunteers to serve as docents, decorate the Retreat Center for the holidays and act as hostesses for the Christmas Creche exhibit. We will have an organizational meeting on Sunday on Sunday, July 15, from 3-5p.m. Of course, refreshments will be served. No experience is necessary! We only require that all volunteers enjoy themselves and help the Retreat Center at the same time. For more information contact Annette Lenneman at 310.377.4867 ext. 223.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Max Berry