

# 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CHRIST JESUS . . . IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY, THE CHURCH

— Colossians 1:15, 18

JULY 15, 2007

## THANK YOU, LORD

My Dear Parishioners,

After finishing my first year as Pastor of this community of faith, with a deep sense of gratitude I say: Thank you, Lord, for giving me the special grace of serving your people at St. Matthew's church. Thanks, to all of you, all the different ministries, parish groups leaders, volunteers, for being so patient and supportive during my first year of pastorship.

This parish of St Matthew's is so special and unique that in return to the exercise of my priestly ministry I have been blessed twice as much.

During this past year we have had some accomplishments : a more "relaxed" parking lot, a beautified church building, and you will soon see Our Lady of Fatima Grotto totally remodeled.

In the area of finance, thanks to your weekly and generous contributions, we have been able to keep up with building maintenance expenses, personnel and priests salaries, utilities, retreats, days of formation for ministries, RCIA, etc. We are not rich, we are not poor! We are simply afloat, and moving ahead!

A very important aspect of our parish life is the process of Spiritual Renewal that we initiated with those who are already involved in the different ministries and in the role of any kind of leadership in our parish.

I am fully aware that there is a lot more to do, but I am taking "one step at a time."

Again, thank you, and let us keep striving to keep our parish as a truly community of faith, where everyone is welcome, without differences of color, race, language or culture.

Sincerely,  
Fr. Guillermo Rodriguez  
Pastor

## ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED

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

## IN THESE LAZY, HAZY, DAYS OF SUMMER...

You are encouraged to open your bible every week and reflect on next Sunday's gospel reading. The readings for next week are listed below along with two questions to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life.

### — THE 16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME —

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 18:1-10a

**SECOND READING:** Colossians 1:24-28

**GOSPEL:** Luke 10:38-42

- *What am I anxious and upset about? How can I better listen to Jesus about these matters?*
- *Perhaps we are all 'part Mary and part Martha.' Which one needs strengthening in me? How can I do that?*

### You may also...

Pick up a book to enrich your spiritual life before or after the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass. Ten minutes of spiritual reading per day can really *make your day!*

## PARISH BLOOD DRIVE—YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

There will be a blood drive held at St. Matthew's on August 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in a mobile unit located on the church parking lot. **If you would like to donate blood, sign-ups will take place on July 22 and July 29th from 10:00a.m.—2:00p.m. in the courtyard area.**

Blood pressure screenings will be available August 5 within the same time frame as the blood drive, we will not have blood pressure screenings on August 12.

## DID YOU KNOW...

The overwhelming majority of our clergy and lay leaders are hardworking individuals who are dedicated to serving the people of God in our parishes and schools. All of us together are responsible for making sure that all of our ministries are as safe as possible for our children and young people. That means each of us has a responsibility to educate ourselves about the real danger of sexual abuse. The Los Angeles Archdiocese has produced two excellent pamphlets, "*Respecting the Boundaries: Keeping Ministerial Relationships Healthy and Holy*," and "*Working Together to Prevent Sexual Abuse*." Both pamphlets are available online at [www.la-archdiocese.org](http://www.la-archdiocese.org).