



MAY 25, 2008

## THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

*Not by bread alone does one live,  
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the Lord.* —Deuteronomy 8:3b

### TRUST IN JESUS

Today's feast celebrates another central mystery of our faith—the mystery of the Eucharist. Like the mystery of the Trinity, the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist can never be fully understood, but can only be believed. Just as the Israelites in the desert were invited to put their trust in God's word to them, we are invited to trust wholly in the word of Jesus. In today's Gospel Jesus promises to give us a share in his very own flesh and blood, and a share in eternal life besides. We are called to take him at his word and open our hearts to receive true nourishment and life from our participation in the Eucharist.

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### "HOUSING LONG BEACH"

would like a member of our parish to be on their committee which meets on the first Thursday of each month at City Hall. If you are interested in affordable housing and other housing concerns please call Claire Marmion for more information — 597-4030.

### ARE YOU CONSIDERING A RELIGIOUS VOCATION?

For help in choices please call Fr. James Forsen in the Vocation Office at the Archdiocese of L.A. 213.637.7248.

### ELECTRONIC GIVING

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? St. Matthew Church now offers Electronic Giving for those of you who wish to have your contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with your intended offerings. It allows you to avoid having to make up the difference later. If this program sounds like something that will simplify your life, you may contact the parish office to receive the necessary authorization forms.

### ...REFLECTIONS...

The readings for next Sunday, *The Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*, are listed below along with a question to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life.

**FIRST READING:** Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28, 32

**SECOND READING:** Romans 3:21-25, 28

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 7:21-27

**In today's gospel Jesus sets quite a high bar for his followers. How am I, a disciple of Christ, responsible for living a life that merits my entry into the kingdom? Have I followed Christ's instructions? Have I built my life on rock or sand?**

### PRIESTLY ORDINATION

As Pastor of this community of Faith, it is an honor and a privilege to officially announce the priestly ordination of our beloved son, Angel Castro. The little "chubby" boy that I proudly accepted into full Communion in our church through the sacraments of initiation grew up by the altar at our Sunday liturgies as he helped as "monaguillo (altar server). His classmates at school put him to the test calling him names like "the priest's cat", etc. but he was firm and won the battle!

In his youth he received a call — to follow Jesus more closely. His "yes" to the Lord also went through many tests — to leave his family was very painful; moving to Mexico City for his philosophical formation. It was not an easy move. He was forced to mature through disillusion, he got caught between two different cultures or perspectives in formation: Anglo and Hispanic. Life was not easy for him. Thanks be to God that he met some friends and mentors at the Seminary like Fr Rodrigo and Fr Pacheco who guided him to safe waters in the middle of the storms of personal doubts and concerns. From a distance we also were there for him: prayers, moral support and now and then a little monetary help.

Back to Los Angeles he enrolled for Theology at St. John's Seminary.

Now, after this long process of formation he is about to be anointed priest in the following of the Lord for the benefit of His people, which is His Church. From now on he will be the "Pontifex"—the bridge that will connect God with His people, and humankind with God.

I thank the Castro Nolasco family for sharing their son with the church. His priestly ordination is a blessing for the universal church, and, in a very special manner, to St. Matthew's parish.

Angel's ordination to the priesthood will take place this Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the Cathedral in downtown LA. His First Eucharist as main celebrant will take place here at St. Matthew's on Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 p.m. You are more than welcome to attend his first Mass.

Respectfully,  
Fr Guillermo