



# NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 10, 2008

Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven. —Psalm 85:12

## NOTHING TO FEAR

A rabbi was asked why God sends trials and troubles in to human life. "Because God gets lonely for his people" was the reply. There is some resonance with this wisdom in today's Gospel, as Jesus makes his disciples get into a boat without him and goes off alone while they venture into stormy waters. Of course, neither Jews nor Christians believe that the Almighty plays this sort of whimsical game with them, but there is some truth in the statement that we don't turn to God for saving help until we're in a bind. Peter's role today, as it is throughout the New Testament, is to be a sign or to represent each member of the church and the whole church. Our story is the tale told about Peter's faith today. What can bolster our faith is that even when Christ calls us to face bravely the tempests of life, if we are walking through them with our eyes fixed on him in faith, we have nothing to fear. Even when we falter or sink, simply crying "Lord, save me!" is enough to help us know the steady grasp of God's hand. Then, sheltered inside the walls of faith, the storms we endure lose their power over us. Copyright, J.S. Paluch Co.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 24—A SPECIAL DAY

Please join us for our parish farewell liturgy and reception for Sr. Dolores Barling. Our celebration of her eight year tenure here will begin at our 10:30a.m. liturgy and continue with a reception in the parish hall following Mass.

## VOTER REGISTRATION TODAY

Will be available here at St. Matthew's **after all the Masses this weekend** The federal law requires you to provide your California driver's license or California ID number or the last four digits of your social security number. Did you know that if you have moved, you need to update your registry? You may also register if you will turn 18 years of age on or before election day.

## CAN YOU HELP??

Manna Meals Group will be making bag lunches for the St. Luke's Homeless Shower program this Fri. August 15 at 9-10 a.m. in the parish hall. We would be grateful for anyone who can lend a hand. Thanks.

## ...NEXT WEEK'S READINGS...

The readings for next Sunday, *The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*, are listed below for your quiet reflection throughout the coming week.

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

**SECOND READING:** Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 15:21-28

## —Friday, August 15— THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

### Mass Schedule

Thursday—Vigil Mass, 5:30 p.m. (English)

Friday—8:00 a.m. (English)

Friday—7:15 p.m. (Spanish)

## HELP STOP AB2747-ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL

Please contact State Senator Alan Lowenthal asking him to oppose this bill which has ethical and safety problems. It lowers medical standards by allowing nurse practitioners to determine if a patient has less than a year to live. It requires health care providers and unspecified others to discuss end of life options with terminal patients who so desire. Health & Safety Code Section 1749(9)(1) already makes state licensed end of life counseling available to these patients; and it requires certain lethal end of life options to be discussed that are relatively inexpensive compared to palliative care. It links cost considerations to life and death decisions. Phone, fax or email Sen. Lowenthal to oppose this bill. 562.495.4766 or fax 562.495.1876 or senator.lowenthal@sen.ca.gov.

## DO YOU WONDER...

- WHY THE CHURCH TEACHES ABOUT ISSUES AFFECTING PUBLIC POLICY?
- WHO IN THE CHURCH SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL LIFE?
- HOW DOES THE CHURCH HELP THE CATHOLIC FAITHFUL TO SPEAK ABOUT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS?
- WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY ABOUT CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE?

For many years, the Bishops of the United States have sought to share teachings on political life through a series of statements issued every four years focused on "political responsibility" or "faithful citizenship." You are welcome to read the latest statement called "*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*" at

[WWW.USCC.ORG/BISHOPS/FCSTATEMENT.PDF](http://WWW.USCC.ORG/BISHOPS/FCSTATEMENT.PDF)

## THE BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN FAMILIES

Today Mr. Raji A. Saada will be here to sell hand-carved religious articles made of olive wood. The sale of these precious articles will help to maintain the roots and the existence of the Christian Families who are struggling to remain in Bethlehem.