

# TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 17, 2008

Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed.

—Isaiah 56:1

## CALLED TO ACT IN GOD'S NAME

“Let all the nations praise you!” (Psalm 67:4) today’s psalm response exclaims. In the psalms and other Hebrew scriptures, this kind of invocation is actually an invitation to God to act, to intervene in human lives in a manner that will cause everyone—not just the Chosen People—to give praise. Stated a bit more strongly, it is something of a “*put up or shut up*” challenge to God, the sort of strong statement the psalmists of Israel, trusting in their intimate and loving relationship with God, were not afraid to make.

The Gospel has its own exclamation, announcing the appearance of the Canaanite woman with “Behold!” (Matthew 15:22) “Behold!” is a scriptural flag that tells us that God is about to act or announce something through an individual or a situation. In the case of Jesus, God was going to act through this woman, whom nobody among Jesus’ followers would have believed to be an agent of the divine will. Like the psalmists, we might passively inform or perhaps even actively challenge God to do something so that everyone will come to belief, but God will always turn the tables on us. It becomes our calling, our duty (as it was for Jesus) to behold the situations and persons of our daily lives so that God can act through us, so the Kingdom can be announced through our living.

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## 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.

## TAKE TIME FOR REFLECTIONS

The readings for next Sunday, *The Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time*, are listed below along with questions for your quiet reflection throughout the coming week.

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 22:19-23

**SECOND READING:** Romans 11:33-36

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 16:13-20

We read about the rise of two leaders: Eliakim and Peter. In what way did the men serve the Lord before their elevation? Which virtues and gifts will help them stay on course throughout their lives? What rewards will come with the great responsibilities?

## PLEASE JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY!

Please join us next Sunday 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 with a reception following in the Fr. Gerald Meisel Parish Hall.

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR POSITION

The Spirituality Center, on the Doheny campus of Mount St. Mary's College, was founded, as stated in its Mission Statement, "to be a listening, discerning Christian presence in the midst of a busy world; to serve as a place of information and support for those who desire to grow in their relationship with God; through its emphasis on spiritual direction, to follow in the ministry of Jesus, leading to wholeness and holiness; to welcome people of all faiths, and to draw from the ancient contemplative tradition of the Catholic Church. The Spirituality Center is now taking applications for the Institute in Retreat/Spiritual Direction, a program which began in 1984 to prepare participants for the ministry of spiritual direction. To request an informational brochure or an application form, please call the Center at (213) 747-6508.

## 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)

## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Blood pressure screening is available today after the 10:30a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Masses in classroom #2