



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 24, 2008

“Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven;
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

—Matthew 16:19

BE A ROCK

Peter’s history as a follower or friend of Jesus is a bit spotty. It might be natural to wonder if Jesus, in giving him the keys to the kingdom, didn’t feel a bit like a parent giving a teenager the keys to the family car. But it was at the moment when God’s power and presence broke through everything else to raise up Peter’s great profession of faith in Christ as Messiah that Jesus chose to establish the bond between the loving, forgiving mercy of heaven and our vocation to be witnesses of that love, mercy, and forgiveness on earth.

Like any parent, Jesus no doubt foresaw the failings, the irresponsible maneuvers or impaired senses, the collisions that the church would be headed for. But, most importantly, he also saw us at that moment as God prefers to see us: capable of manifesting great faith, with a willingness to remain at the feet of Christ to understand what it truly means to be Messiah and Christ. As the letter to the Romans points out to us today, we have not known the mind or the wisdom of God, but God knows us and still chooses to manifest the reign of justice, joy, beauty, and peace through us. Let this be our vocation. Let us always strive to be solid ground on which the church of Jesus Christ can be founded and on which it can continue to be built.

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IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR LECTORS, SERVERS AND MINISTERS

Your non-availability dates for the months of September
and October

**ARE DUE BY TOMORROW -
MONDAY, AUGUST 25TH**

Please email you dates to csaiza@stmatthewlb.org or
leave a message at 491.1217.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PROMPT RESPONSE!

TAKE TIME FOR REFLECTIONS

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-9

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-2

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-27

Derision? Self denial? Living sacrifice? The Cross? Just as night dissolves into dawn’s brilliant newness, so must our selfish wills dissolve into Jesus’ total love embrace. Peace. Hope. Joy. Life. Eternity.

SISTER DOLORES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH

On behalf of St. Matthew parish community, I want to express to you our deepest gratitude for all those many years of your faithful ministry to our parish.

What God has in store for all of us will always be a mystery. Very often in the exercise of our ministry we find ourselves surrounded by “moments” that only in the quietness of our hearts can be treasured.

I can assure you, Sister Dolores, that all your efforts, sacrifices and generous self-giving to our community will continue to flourish. You planted the seed, some others will collect the harvest. Your ministry will continue in their ministry.

We will get separated only physically; you will continue living in our hearts.

¡THANK YOU, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
WHEREVER YOU GO, MAY GOD CONTINUE
POURING UPON YOU ALL HIS LOVE AND
BLESSINGS.

With all our Love,
Father Guillermo

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PEACE AND JUSTICE MEETING

This Monday evening, August 25 at 7:00 in classroom #2.
Please consider coming to this meeting and finding out
about our fall projects.

**We welcome new voices and ideas!
See you there!**

DID YOU KNOW ...

The *Senior Center* at 1150 E. 4th Street, Long Beach, has a cozy little room full of books and magazines for you to take advantage of? By signing up for a Senior Center Library Card, you can check out hardback books, rent videos, listen to books on tape and trade paperback books. Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m. 562.570.3500.

ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH

in Lomita, is holding it’s annual fair on September 5, 6 and 7th. You are invited to take part in all the fun including great food a silent auction and great live entertainment all weekend long.