

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

Christ Jesus . . . Emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness.

—Philippians 2:7

CHRIST'S HUMILITY

Our age has been called the Age of Entitlement. We seem to have lost the ability to distinguish between needs and wants. Advertisers frequently urge consumers to grasp at more and more goods because “*you deserve it.*” Our expectation of reward seems to be disproportionately high for the effort we put forth to earn it. Certainly everyone deserves the basic rights of human life: food, clothing, shelter, freedom, and peace. But this language of deserving doesn't seem to be applied to these things. It is inevitably appended to the desire for luxuries, honors, and riches. It seems to be designed to appeal to our greed rather than our need.

In that context, Paul's simple statement about the humility of Christ stands in stark contrast: “Christ Jesus . . . Did not regard equality with God something to be grasped” (Philippians 2:6). And how did he humble and abase himself? By becoming human, one of us. What could we possibly think ourselves entitled to?

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ST. MATTHEW FEAST DAY NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, September 21 we will be celebrating the feast day of our patron, Saint Matthew. In remembrance of St. Matthew's martyrdom, please wear the color red to Mass next weekend.

You will want to come and enjoy the company of friendly parishioners, good food, fun games and lively music at our outdoor festivities which will begin after our 10:30 a.m. Mass and end at 6:00 p.m.

HELP THE POOR AND NEEDY

Help the poor and needy by volunteering for Catholic Charities in Long Beach. Call Cecilia for a volunteer application at 562.480.2506 to bring food and a friendly smile to the homebound elderly once a month. Contact her by email at:

gatekeeperproject@hotmail.com.

TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD

The readings for next Sunday are listed below along with questions for your quiet reflection throughout the coming week.

FIRST READING: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13

Jesus directly called Matthew by saying “Follow me.” He entrusts us with the mission to continue to call others to follow him. Who is waiting for my invitation or witness? How can I carry this mission out in my life?

MARRIAGE PRE-EXISTS CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT

Marriage is an ancient yet modern, human institution which pre-exists both Church and government. Marriage, history shows us, is intrinsic to stable, flourishing and hospitable societies. Although cultural differences have occurred, what has never changed is that marriage is the ideal relationship between a man and a woman for the purpose of procreation and the continuation of the human race.”

—*The Catholic Bishops of California 2008. For more information about the Catholic teaching on marriage, please visit: www.catholic.org*

MARKETPLACE OF FAIR TRADE CRAFTS 2008

On Sunday, September 28, Concern America returns with the Marketplace of Fair Trade Crafts—just in time for birthdays, weddings, baptisms or any other special event you may celebrate. Please consider purchasing gifts that will warm the heart of the recipient and promote justice and fair trade for the families in Central America and Bangladesh who produce the crafts. Through your appreciation of their crafts and your generosity, many materially poor artisans will be able to earn a just wage, support their families, experience hope, and keep alive their cultural heritage.

Concern America is an international development and refugee aid organization based in Santa Ana, CA 714.953.8575. You may view a selection of their crafts on their website: www.concernamerica.org.

ROSARY

The Saturday morning rosary group will be praying the rosary novena for our country and the coming elections. Please join us at 8:30 a.m. any or every Saturday morning.

WOMEN OF ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

You are all invited to the district meeting on Sept. 25th at St. Cyprian parish in Long Beach. Registration begins at 9:30 followed by a talk by Mr. Gavin Kiernan speaking on “Decency in the Media.” Mass and lunch follow. Cost is \$10 payable in advance to Collette Collins, 4857 Dunrobin Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 **before Sept. 20.**

PROSTATE SCREENINGS

Because our parish nursing ministry is always looking out for our physical well-being, St. Mary Medical Center will be offering prostate screenings (which includes a digital exam and PSA testing) for men over 45 years of age for only \$10.00. The exams will take place here at St. Matthew's on Saturday, September 27 between 9am. to 12:00 noon. Several appointments are still available by calling 562.437.0791 option 3.