

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 12, 2008

I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

—Philippians 4:13

THE HEAVENLY BANQUET

The mountain of the Lord described in today's first reading is a place where there is no more hunger, no more weeping, and no more division of any kind. We need to pause and ponder these images every now and then, especially given the fact that we live in such a fractured world. The responsorial psalm continues to paint a picture of a place where only goodness and kindness flourish. These readings describe the heavenly banquet, to which God calls each of us through baptism and continues to call us throughout our lives. Let us "RSVP" to God's invitation and live our lives consistent with gospel values so that one day we will be welcomed to the table of the kingdom.

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CROP WALK—next Sunday, October 19

Peace and Justice members are outside the Church today to tell you all about the outreach programs this walk helps with. Three members of Peace and Justice are walking this year! Please sponsor them or pick up forms to walk with them!

GUEST CHEF PROGRAM

St. Matthew parishioners provide one dinner per month for the Catholic Charities Shelter *Guest Chef Program*. We prepare and serve the meal on the **3rd Thursday of every month**. We need more volunteers who are willing to make a salad, casserole or dessert. We are also in need of folks who are able to help serve the dinner from 5:45-6:45p.m. The people who receive these meals are most grateful. If you can help, please call Claire at 562.597.4030. Thank you!

CAN YOU HELP??

Manna Meals Group will be making bag lunches for the St. Luke's Homeless Shower program this coming Friday October 17 from 9-10 a.m. in the parish hall. We would be grateful for anyone who can lend a hand — many hands really do make quick work!

TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-21

What can I do, even in some small way, to change unjust systems in my area? Remembering all life is sacred, what can I do to help protect life in my corner of the world?

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Life is precious, not because civilized people have learned that it is so or because philosophers have deduced that it is so or because anyone simply decided it is so. It is precious because it is part and parcel of the mystery-wrapped gift of God. As such, human life is always and everywhere to be cherished, not a difficult problem to be solved.

Pope John Paul II, Christifideles laici

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO OUR BABY SHOWER FOR THE PRECIOUS LIFE SHELTER

As in the past, we will highlight **Respect Life Month** with an on-going "baby shower" to benefit the moms and babies at the **Precious Life Shelter**, a facility which provides quality care and a safe living environment for homeless pregnant women 18 years and older. **Throughout October** you may donate items such as receiving blankets, diapers, baby wipes, night-gowns, sleepers, booties, etc. by placing them in the bassinet located in front of the Sacred Heart Altar. **Monetary donations may be placed in an envelope marked "Precious Life Shelter" and dropped in the collection basket.**

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE...

We will have a meeting on **Monday, October 20th in classroom #2 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be planning our fall and winter calendar, full of worthwhile events that will help our local and world wide community. If you would like to know more about our ministry, please join us!

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S 2nd ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

NEXT SUNDAY, OCT. 19TH 12 NOON—3:00P.M.

Would you like to enter your favorite chili in the contest? If so, call Lucy Friend at 562.279.6748. Everyone in the parish is welcome to come taste and judge the chilies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Soda, water, hot dogs and the legendary *Mama Bear's Brownies* will be available! Your monetary donations will assist the Society in their mission to serve the poor in our community.

ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS

You are asked to please send in your non-availability dates for November, December and the weekend of January 3rd and 4th. These dates should be sent before October 20th to: csaiza@stmatthewlb.org or 562.491.1217.