

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.

MAY 17, 2009

— John 15:16

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

In the Gospel for the Sixth Sunday of Easter we are met with an extraordinary challenge: Jesus commands us to “love one another as I love you” (John 15:12). The letter from John echoes this command. Of course, we are to love those in our family, those we work with, those we like. But the scriptures make clear that we are also to love those we never notice, those we purposely avoid, and even those we are tempted to despise.

In this Sunday’s selection from the Acts of the Apostles Peter shows us how far God’s love extends, and how far our love should extend in response. Peter realizes that God no longer “shows partiality” to the Jews, sharing divine love exclusively with them. Christ has revealed that God’s love extends to all people, and so should ours. Copyright, J.S. Paluch Co.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD WILL BE CELEBRATED NEXT SUNDAY

This coming Thursday, May 21st is not a holy day of obligation. Per direction of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Calendar, the Ascension of the Lord celebration has been transferred to the 7th Sunday of Easter, May 24th.

REMINDER TO LITURGICAL MINISTERS...

Please send in your non-availability dates for June, July & August by Mon. May 25th. — csaiza@stmatthewlb.org or 562.491.1217.

RCIA

(RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS)

Calling all non-Catholic adults who are interested in learning more about the Catholic church and calling all baptized Catholics who have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation! You are invited to join our Sunday classes held immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. Please call Sister Sharon for more information 562.439.0931 x 5.

TODAY’S READINGS

The readings for today, the Sixth Sunday of Easter, are listed below along with questions for your quiet reflection.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-10

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

Recall an experience that you have had with a close friend. What elements of the experience have enriched your faith life? What role do your friendships play in transforming society and the world.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR ARCHDIOCESAN PRIESTS COLLECTION TODAY

TODAY all parishioners throughout our Archdiocese are asked to give generously to support the Retirement Fund for Archdiocesan Priests via a special collection.

Currently, the fund provides for 149 priests who are retired. Over the next ten years, the number of priests who will reach retirement age will number 349. All of these individuals have committed their lives to serve the spiritual needs of our parish communities. We, in turn, owe it to them to assure that they do not have to worry about their retirement years.

Beginning in 2000, and in each year since, the Archdiocese of L.A. has asked for financial support for the Retirement Fund. The faithful of the Archdiocese have responded generously and tremendously in support of this important special collection. We express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who have been so generous to this Special Collection.

Please reflect upon how the priests in your life have guided you, called forth your gifts and provided spiritual guidance in your life and give in support of them, not out of a sense of obligation but, out of true gratitude for their dedication and service for so many years to the People of God in our Archdiocese.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ADVISORY BOARD

Catholic Charities is seeking to invigorate and expand its existing Advisory Board. They need people who understand the needs of the area, particularly the needs of the poor and most vulnerable. The Advisory Board assist in the annual fundraising event and they oversee Program Development. They also seek out partnerships with businesses and neighborhood communities, developing resources, relationships and collaborations for Catholic Charities. The Board meets quarterly and works with Program Staff and the Regional Director.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Catholic Charities at 562.591.1641 or atotta@ccharities.org.

HELP SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR MEETING TODAY.

Our parish St. Vincent de Paul ministry is in great need of new people who can take part in this ministry which reaches out to many poor families in our community. Meetings are easy to attend; taking place on the first and third Sunday of each month after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. You will find out how **you** can help make difficult times turn into manageable times for families in need.