

# FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS.

JULY 5, 2009

— 2 Corinthians 12:9

## CHURCH AND COUNTRY

On this Independence Day weekend, we think of the men and women of the military who serve with courage and competence, some far from home. How does the Church accompany them? In 1939, Pope Pius XII created an independent jurisdiction of the Catholic Church called the "Military Vicariate." In 1985 Pope John Paul II created the "Archdiocese for Military Services, USA." Spanning the globe and serving nearly one and a half million Roman Catholics, more than one thousand priests minister in hospitals, on military bases of all the armed forces, on ships at sea, and on the battlefield. The AMS does not ordain priests, but accepts priests on loan from religious orders and dioceses.

In 1824 a Jesuit priest named Adam Marshall enlisted in the Navy and died at sea in 1825. He was assigned as a "schoolmaster," but he sought out and ministered to Catholic sailors. Twenty years later, President Polk was worried that the war with Mexico was seen as anti-Catholic, so he recruited two Jesuit priests to serve in the Army as chaplains. At the time of the Civil War, only about ten percent of Americans were Catholic. Military policies forced Catholic soldiers to attend Protestant services. The Church protested this rule, and many priests volunteered to become chaplains. Their witness and the courage of the "Nuns of the Battlefield" (several orders of sisters who assisted Civil War victims helped temper prejudice against Catholics and pave the way for the life and ministry of this vigorous and unique archdiocese.

—Rev. James Field, © Copyright, J.S. Paluch

## NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

The readings for next Sunday, *The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time* are listed below along with questions for your quiet reflection.

**FIRST READING:** Amos 7:12-15

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 1:3-14 [3-10].

**GOSPEL:** Mark 6:7-13

*As Jesus sent the apostles out, he sends us out today to our neighborhoods and communities. Might I consider going out as a Eucharistic Minister or volunteer at Catholic Charities, or taking someone to the store or doctor? Or might I write to a legislator on behalf of social justice issues?*

## MARKET BASKET COLLECTION TODAY

*Helping the community we live in*

Because our local Catholic Charities Pantry is in desperate need of food, our parish will sponsor a food drive on the first weekend of each month. **Today, a grocery basket is available in patio area for your donations of non-perishable foods.** Items especially needed are dry or canned beans, rice, canned meat, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter and cereal. It is hoped that all parishioners will donate one or more items each month. **If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please place your donation inside an envelope marked *MARKET BASKET COLLECTION* and place it in the Sunday collection basket.** Through the concerted efforts of our Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Comunidad Outreach Group and our Peace and Justice Organization, it is a guarantee that this project will help feed many families in our city! If you do not belong to one of these groups but want to help, please call Linda at 493.9898 or Claire at 597.4030.

## COMUNIDAD NEWS

### AIDS WALK LONG BEACH

On behalf of AIDS Walk Long Beach, Comunidad would like to thank the parishioners of St. Matthew Church for their generous contributions. Over \$1,500 was collected after the Masses and an additional \$700 was raised by those parishioners who completed the walk last Saturday. The money will help the Long Beach AIDS Foundation support people affected by AIDS and HIV.

### COMUNIDAD MEETING

The next meeting will be held this Tuesday, July 7 at 7:00p.m. in the Fr. Gerald Meisel Parish Hall. The meeting will be a traditional Independence Day Celebration. Comunidad will provide the barbeque and all the "fixins." Please bring side dishes and desserts to share. Wear your fabulous patriotic attire in honor of our nation's birthday and invite family members past and present to the celebration. All are welcome.

## THANK YOU THANK YOU

Thanks to all who supported our annual Offering of Letters. We mailed 60 letters to 4 different representatives on behalf of the Foreign Assistance Reform Act. Some folks took letters home to mail from there. We will keep you informed as Bill HR 2139 progresses.