

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

I AM THE LIVING BREAD THAT CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN

AUGUST 9, 2009

— John 6:51

STRENGTHENED BY THE BREAD OF LIFE

Today we resume the “Bread of Life” discourse from John’s Gospel that began two weeks ago. He makes reference to the Jews’ ancestors who ate manna in the desert. These days we would think primarily of Israel wandering in the desert, but faithful Jews would also have known the story of Elijah that we hear today. Strengthened by food and drink in the desert, the angel of the Lord sends him on his forty-day and forty-night journey (the biblical number for a preparation time.) Like the food given to Elijah in the desert, Jesus tells his listeners that he is bread for the life of the world. It is very important that we not stop listening to Jesus after his promise of eternal life—a marvelous promise, but this “reward” is not the only reason we feast on the Bread of Life. We also come to the table to be made strong for the journey of mission, that the whole world might have life in the fullness of Christ. We are compelled, if we have eaten of the bread of life, to go forth in service to all.

YOUNG ADULT CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

PICK UP YOUR REGISTRATION FORM THIS WEEKEND

Young men and women between the ages of 13 and 15 who are interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited to pick up a registration form **after any of the Masses this weekend**. The form can be completed at home and then **YOU (not Mom and Dad) must return it on Sunday, August 23 between the hours of 2 & 4:00p.m in classroom #3**. If you have questions about this **two-year program**, you are welcome to talk with the good folks who will be helping at the tables.

CHILDRENS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

(ENROLLMENT FORMS AVAILABLE NEXT WEEKEND)

One of our parish responsibilities is to provide opportunity for students to experience the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to bring Catholic beliefs and values into their lives and the world. We know that through forming a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, children build a strong foundation for lifelong discipleship. **Therefore, we invite you to enroll your children (they must be at least 8 years of age) in our Elementary Religious Education program this year. Registration forms will be available after all the Masses next weekend, August 15/16 and again on August 22/23.** More instructions/requirements will be distributed when you pick up the registration form.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Catholic Charities is deeply appreciative of all the food donated to help us with the overwhelming number of people who come to our doorsteps in need of food. Special thanks to Bill Siegel of St. Vincent de Paul who brought the truckload of food to our doors. Special recognition to the Peace and Justice Committee, Comunidad, and the Confirmation classes who led this food drive. Thank you also to those who donated money.

TODAY...

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING IS AVAILABLE

ALSO TODAY...

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TO DONATE

BLOOD ON AUGUST 30

Blood pressure screening is available today after the 10:30AM and 12:30PM Masses, and...today we are taking appointments for our August 30th blood drive which will benefit patients at St. Mary's Medical Center.

Thank you for any help you can give to us.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

On August 22/23, we will be collecting school supplies to give to the many Long Beach children who cannot afford to go to stores and purchase their own. Some of the items especially needed are backpacks, 3-ring binders, #2 pencils, blue, black, and red pens, erasers, pencil cases and college-ruled paper.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Next Saturday, August 15th, the Feast of the Assumption **IS NOT a holy day of obligation this year** because it falls on a Saturday.

NEW WEBSITE AVAILABLE FOR YOU

In celebration of World Communications Day (celebrated on May 24th) The Pontifical Council for Social Communications launched a new website:

<http://www.pope2you.net>

which includes access to new iPhone, Facebook and Wiki-Cath applications. It includes a link to the Vatican’s channel on YouTube. The Theme for this Year’s World Communications Day was “*New Technologies, New Friendships: Promoting a Culture of Respect, Dialogue and Friendship.*”

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20

GOSPEL: John 6:51-58