

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HUMBLY WELCOME THE WORD THAT HAS BEEN PLANTED IN YOU AND IS ABLE TO SAVE YOUR SOULS.

AUGUST 30, 2009

— James 1:21b

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

When an altar is dedicated, the Rite of Dedication directs that, if possible, the relics of a martyr be mortared into the church floor under the *mensa*, or “altar table.” Up until this revised rite, the general practice was to include small relics of saints in an altar stone, a slab of marble that was normally set in the altar itself. Today’s rite states a clear preference for “martyr,” and for a substantial part of the body, in accord with our tradition’s desire for substantial symbols. Martyr, of course, means “*witness*” in Greek, and was the title given early on to the people who by their death imaged the death of Christ.

From the beginning, there has never been a shortage of such people, although it took a while for the Church to develop a process to declare someone a martyr. Saint Augustine tells how it was done in the fifth century. By then, popular opinion didn’t count as much as an official tribunal set up by the bishop of the place where the martyr suffered. After the inquiry established that the person did indeed die for the faith, a metropolitan bishop had to ratify the decision before a shrine could be built or an altar set up over the martyr’s tomb. For the most part, the honor paid to a martyr (called a “cult”) was restricted to that diocese, although the fame of some heroes spread so much that they were celebrated elsewhere. The age of the martyrs is now, and more people died for the faith in the twentieth century than ever before, witnessing to Christ to the end. Their sacrifice remains “The see of the Church.” —Rev. James Field, ©J.S. Paluch Co.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY CARDINAL ROGER M. MAHONY

Over the years the Archdiocese of Los Angeles has been extremely well served through its various Auxiliary Bishops. Each one of these Bishops has been key to the continuous vigorous growth of the Archdiocese in all its spiritual and pastoral aspects. In 1987 we created the five Pastoral Regions, each under the direction of an Auxiliary Bishop. This Regional system has proven very effective over the years, especially given the large number of Catholics living in our Archdiocese. Bishop Oscar Solis has served as Auxiliary Bishop for 5 1/2 years and has given leadership to various Archdiocesan-wide activities. Bishop Alexander Salazar has served as Auxiliary Bishop for almost 5 years and is currently the Bishop for the San Pedro Pastoral Region. In order to give Bishop Solis the opportunity of the pastoral ministry as a Regional Bishop, and to have Bishop Salazar assist me with important pastoral initiatives, I have decided to make a lateral transfer of the two Bishops. Effective September 30, Bishop Solis will become the Regional Bishop for the San Pedro Region and Bishop Salazar will join me in the Archdiocesan Catholic Center to assist me with important tasks.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

It is time for us as Catholics to let our voices be heard regarding the health care plans being proposed by our Congress. Please let your elected representatives in Washington know that you will not accept any option, private or public, which allows our tax dollars to be used to pay for abortions, euthanasia, or embryonic stem cell research. You can reach Sen. Boxer at 213.894.5000 or 202.224.3553 and Sen. Feinstein at 310.913.7300 or 202.224.3841.

RCIA

(RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS)

Non-catholic adults and baptized Catholics who have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation 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.

COMUNIDAD MEETING

We will meet on Tuesday, September 8th at 7p.m. in the Fr. Gerald Meisel Parish Hall. Come to learn how to prepare for and assist others in a disaster. Our own Jackie Clark will be the presenter. Jackie is trained as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member through the L.A. Sheriff’s office. She will show us what supplies and necessities one should have before a disaster hits.

MARKET BASKET COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Our Catholic Charities Market Basket Collection will take place next weekend. Your contribution of non-perishable foods (beans, rice, canned meat, canned fruits & vegetables, cereal, peanut butter) next weekend may be placed inside the grocery basket located outside the church. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please place your donation inside an envelope marked *MARKET BASKET COLLECTION* and drop it in the Sunday collection basket.

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

SECOND READING: James 2:1-5

GOSPEL: Mark 7:31-37

REFLECTION: *When Jesus opened the man’s ears he heard for the first time. How can I listen and hear anew the words of Jesus in the gospels? Who in my life do I need to listen to a little better?*