

# FEAST OF SAINT MATTHEW

I DID NOT COME TO CALL THE RIGHTEOUS BUT SINNERS.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

— Matthew 9:13

~ Parish Life and Activities... ~

<p><b>ABOUT OUR PATRON SAINT, MATTHEW</b></p>	<p>St. Matthew, was one of the twelve Apostles, is the author of the first Gospel. This has been the constant tradition of the Church and is confirmed by the Gospel itself. He was the son of Alpheus and was called to be an Apostle while sitting in the tax collectors place at Capernaum. Before his conversion he was a publican, i.e., a tax collector by profession. He is to be identified with the "Levi" of Mark and Luke. His apostolic activity was at first restricted to the communities of Palestine. Nothing definite is known about his later life. There is a tradition that points to Ethiopia as his field of labor; other traditions mention of Parthia and Persia. It is uncertain whether he died a natural death or received the crown of martyrdom.</p> <p>St. Matthew's Gospel was written to fill a sorely-felt want for his fellow countrymen, both believers and unbelievers. For the former, it served as a token of his regard and as an encouragement in the trial to come, especially the danger of falling back to Judaism; for the latter, it was designed to convince them that the Messiah had come in the person of Jesus, our Lord, in Whom all the promises of the Messianic Kingdom embracing all people had been fulfilled in a spiritual rather than in a carnal way: "My Kingdom is not of this world." His Gospel, then, answered the question put by the disciples of St. John the Baptist, "Are You He Who is to come, or shall we look for another?"</p> <p>Writing for his countrymen of Palestine, St. Matthew composed his Gospel in his native Aramaic, the "Hebrew tongue" mentioned in the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. Soon afterward, about the time of the persecution of Herod Agrippa I in 42 AD, he took his departure for other lands. Another tradition places the composition of his Gospel either between the time of this departure and the Council of Jerusalem, i.e., between 42 AD and 50 AD or even later. Definitely, however, the Gospel, depicting the Holy City with its altar and temple as still existing, and without any reference to the fulfillment of our Lord's prophecy, shows that it was written before the destruction of the city by the Romans in 70 AD, and this internal evidence confirms the early traditions. St. Matthew is the Patron of bankers.</p>
<p><b>WELCOME FATHER</b></p>	<p>Next weekend we will have the pleasure of hearing Fr. Donald Richardson speak to us regarding missionary work in the Diocese of Gallup, an area in northwest New Mexico and northeast Arizona whose population is 50% native American. The diocese includes many missions of the early Spanish Franciscans from 1540. There are thousands of miles of unpaved, dirt roads that are impassible in wet weather. Today the missionaries travel in 4wd vehicles to the far-flung "hogans" (homes) on the Navajo reservation.</p>
<p><b>GOLDEN JUBILEE</b></p>	<p>This year is a very special year for Sr. Sharon and Sr. Dolores. It is the Golden Jubilee of their Religious Professions as Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary Community. Sr. Dolores ministered to our parish for eight years in Liturgy, RCIA, Faith Formation and Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick. Sr. Sharon came to our parish last year to share her time and know-how instructing our RCIA folks and planning informative Adult Faith Formation programs.</p> <p>Our parish will celebrate this beautiful occasion with Sr. Sharon and Sr. Dolores on October 4th at our 10:30 a.m. Mass where we shall give thanks to God for their presence in our lives.</p>
<p><b>COMUNIDAD RETREAT</b></p>	<p>Comunidad / St. Matthew is holding its annual retreat for Gay and Lesbian Catholics October 16, 17, 18 at the Center for Spiritual Development in Orange CA. For more information contact Comunidad@ComunidadLB.org or see our application at www.ComunidadLB.org.</p>
<p><b>NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS</b></p>	<p><b>TWENTY– SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1st READING:</b> Numbers 11: 25-29; <b>2nd READING:</b> James 5:1-6 <b>GOSPEL:</b> Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48</p> <p><b>REFLECTION...</b> <i>Who are the "little ones" Jesus is referring to in the gospel? Who would this refer to in modern society? What in my life needs to be "cut off or plucked out?"</i></p>
<p><b>PRAY...</b></p>	<p><i>For our deceased ~ Shirley Gray</i></p>