



### *Pastor's Letter*

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Last month **Mark Ridley-Thomas**, the Supervisor of the Second District of the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County invited a group of religious leaders to a breakfast to discuss "**the troubling rise in preventable Sexually Transmitted Diseases.**" In addition to Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, the speakers included **Dr. Peter Kerndt** and **Dr. Jan King**, both of the **Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**. They provided us with statistics that show that *the infection rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea among the Black population (ages 15 to 24) are over three times the rates for other racial groups.* In addition, the doctors pointed out that the rate of **AIDS** infection among African Americans is significantly higher than for any other identifiable group, and the rate of **unplanned pregnancies** is also much higher. They correlated these statistics to the higher rate of **abortions** and **births to single mothers** among African Americans as well.

A number of questions were then posed to the presenters:

**#1) Why has the rate of infection among our young people increased so dramatically over the past years?** The response: **Because of an increase in high-risk behavior among teens and young adults.**

**#2) How do we turn the tide so that the health of the members of our community is protected and the rate of the spread of these diseases is reduced?** The response: **By encouraging our youth and young adults to refrain from having intimate relations with partners who are infected.** In other words, the elimination of intimate relations with people who are infected with diseases will prevent the spread of these diseases. Sexually Transmitted Diseases are not spread like malaria by mosquitoes; it involves a conscious decision to participate in high risk activities.

**#3) How can the church leaders help reduce the spread of STD's?** The response: **By not being shy about speaking about the dangers that our young people are facing. We must speak of these issues in our homilies and write about them in our bulletins.** We need to encourage our young people to follow the teachings of the Bible in terms of their actions. And we must encourage young people to be tested for these diseases, so that they may seek treatment and be aware of the risk that they pose to other potential partners.

On Tuesday, September 20th, the **Los Angeles Times** ran a story with the headline, "**New Allies in Fight Against STD's.**" The story began with these words: "**Moving to combat rising rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia among young black women in South Los Angeles, county officials launched a new education and testing campaign Monday with some unlikely partners: churches. Pastors and 'first ladies' from churches throughout the region are joining an effort to raise awareness of the sexually transmitted diseases and publicize a home testing program.**" The article goes on to quote **Dr. Kerndt** who stated, "**This is not only STD prevention. It's pregnancy prevention. It's HIV prevention.**"

We recognize that **our sexuality is a gift from God** that God designed to be used between a husband and wife as an expression of their love for each other and to participate in God's plan of bringing new life into the world. The best example of this is the **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**. When we read the Gospels and the teachings of Jesus, we recognize that God's will may be a challenge for us, but we are called to follow in His Light.

During this week, let us join together to protect the health of our young people, and to encourage them to follow the teachings of our Savior - regardless of what they see in the movies, on television, and on the computer!

May the Lord continue to bless us always and in all ways, **Father Paul**



### A Special Honor to Mrs. Jeanne Wiltz

Please join Holy Name of Jesus School in honoring Mrs. Jeanne Wiltz for over twenty two years of service as our Cafeteria Manager at our School Mass on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. All are invited to attend!



***Holy Name of Jesus School News!*****HNOJ Church Bulletin Update – October 2, 2011****New Facebook Page**

Love it or hate it, the social media is becoming one of the fastest ways to communicate. HNOJ School has joined the growing number of organizations that is using Facebook to provide timely information to parents, parishioners, alumni and supporters. Like us on Facebook and get access to our regularly updated photos and news briefs.

**Verna Lipscomb: A Champion for Education**

The Holy Name of Jesus School Community joins the family in mourning the passing of Ms. Verna Lipscomb. She was one of the largest individual providers of scholarships to students at Holy Name of Jesus School. We wish the Lord's continued blessings on her brother Dr. Adams, and the rest of the family.

**Gratitude is Golden!**

Thanks to our following valued supporters. We appreciate your generosity and are truly grateful that you have chosen to impact the life of students here at HNOJ

School: Charles Caston, Patricia Ferrell, Theresa Burrell, Yolanda Smith, Dr. Judith Nash, Jerome Schmit, Thaddeus and Jeanne Wiltz, Lupe Tunai-Haylock, Henry Grayson Jr., Dr. Steven Lopez.

**300 Students by 2012**

Remember to refer your family members or friends for the same great education, you, your children or your grandchildren received at HNOJ School. We are now at 201 students, closer than ever to our target of 300 students by 2012. We still have a few Pastors' Scholarships remaining. Kindly get in touch with Fr. Paul (323) 734-8888, Ms. Belisle (323) 731-2255 or Mervin Lambey (323) 984-7766

*We would like to thank all our fantastic bakers who submitted their yummy entries in our*

***2011 Family Celebration Baker's Challenge Bake off Contest***

*Mr. Pear Cobbler, Hortencia Merchan-Harper, Pat Hemphill, Denise Johnson, Deacon Doug and Sheree Johnson, Monica Lewis, Laura Mason, Eleanor Spence and Pat Swinson.*

***Congratulation to our winners******1<sup>st</sup> Place Jovana Wright's Apple Pie Cake******2<sup>nd</sup> Place Tiffany Swinson's Peach Carmel Cupcakes******3<sup>rd</sup> Place Cheryl Blount's Apple Pie******Popular Vote Carmen El-Khouri's Bread Pudding Flan***

***We would like to also acknowledge our youngest baker-Brittany Blount and a special thanks to our judges for their tasting talents.***

**"YOUNG but not FORGOTTEN"**

ALL are invited to join the  
F.A.I.T.H. Young Adult Ministry  
and Shining Faith Young Adult Choir for our Monthly  
Young Adult 1st Sunday Mass.  
SUNDAY, October 2, 2011 at 5:00pm

This will be a spiritual uplifting like no other.  
Come Get Fulfilled, Anointed, Inspired, Through Him.  
Holy Name of Jesus Church  
1955 West Jefferson Blvd., L.A., CA 90018  
323-734-8888  
WWW.HOLYNAMEOFJESUS-LA.ORG  
FAITH.YA.MINISTRY@GMAIL.COM

***Healthy Living***

Theology Thoughts by Dan Lacić

(www.provocativechristian.wordpress.com)

**"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18)**

Does God really mean that in every circumstance that we are to be thankful? How can we possibly be thankful when things go horribly wrong? It's easy to understand that we are to give thanks for all the blessings that come our way. But what do you do when it is hard to see the blessing in the midst of the tragedy? Often, in the midst of tragedy there is some ray of hope that allows us to be thankful, like when you totally destroy your car in an accident but no one is seriously hurt. Certainly we can be thankful for that. But it still qualifies as an easily recognizable blessing that has come your way. There is a great deal that is right and good in this approach. In fact there is something that is very provocative about a faith that allows you to see the blessing in the midst of tragedy. It means that your focus is more on what God is doing for you than it is on what has gone wrong. But what do you do if the tragedy outweighs the blessing. It's easy to give thanks when the car is wrecked but you are not. You and your passengers are worth far more than the car. What if two people died and you lived, then what? How do you give thanks then? How does a parent give thanks when a child dies? How does a young man give thanks when after just over a year of marriage his wife dies, having battled cancer the entire eighteen months? How does a city give thanks when airplanes crash into buildings and leave more than 2,000 dead? Does God really expect us to give thanks in situations like that? The short answer is yes. Such situations may be the ultimate test of our ability to trust God no matter what. They bring us to the same place as Job when after the most unbelievable series of tragedies said, "Even though the Lord slay me, still I will trust Him". There can come a point in our lives when we can't find that bit of blessing in the hardship, when the pain far outweighs the good we can see. It is at that point that we must trust a sovereign God. We worship God for His character just as much as for the amazing things He does. Giving thanks in hard situations must follow that same wisdom. Even if we find it hard or impossible to thank God for some specific thing in our lives we can still give thanks for whom He is. Paul did not say to thank God "for" every circumstance, but "in" every circumstance. The distinction is crucial. It means that even when you can't find anything about the circumstance to be thankful for, you can and must still thank God that He is sovereign. You can still thank God for His love and mercy, even in a time when it feels so distant. You can still trust him as Job did. That trust will be evident in thanking God for who He is even when what He is doing makes no sense, is painful, and leaves you bewildered. Today is a good day to begin to give thanks, not just for the good things in your life, but to give thanks to God for who He is. Ultimately that should be what we are most thankful for, that God is the kind of God we can trust no matter what our circumstances and no matter how limited our understanding of what He is doing in those circumstances.

**Save The Date!**

The Junior Daughters of the Ladies Auxiliary Court 121 are sponsoring a bus trip to Chumash Casino and Solvang on Saturday, October 8th. Contact Sheila Thomas for more information and check the bulletin for further details!

***November is Black Catholic History Month!***

Planning is underway to celebrate the history of Black Catholics from biblical times to present day throughout the month of November. All are invited to be a part of the planning! Contact Monica Lewis or Cathy Brown for further information.

**Stewardship Report - A Spirit of Giving**

"Give and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure -- pressed down, shaken together and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

(Luke 6:38)

**Current Year:**

September 25, 2011 = \$8,149.00

**Two Previous Years:**

September 26, 2010 = \$ 5,742.00

September 27, 2009 = \$ 7,118.00

***Thank you for your generosity!*****Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)**

The First meeting will be held Tuesday, October 4th. The topic is Journey of Faith presented by Cathy Brown and Elsie Dixon.

Are you over 18 and interested in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith? If so please come to our inquiry classes on Tuesdays, 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Acacia Center.

**Welcome Visitors!**

Holy Name of Jesus Church would like to welcome all visitors to the Hall after the Masses on Sunday for fellowship and complimentary refreshments.

**DID YOU KNOW?****What to do if you suspect elder abuse**

Each one of us has a responsibility to keep vulnerable elders safe from harm. If the danger is immediate, call the police or 911 if someone you know is in immediate, life-threatening danger. If the danger is not immediate, but you suspect that abuse has occurred or is occurring, please tell someone. Relay your concerns to the local adult protective services, long-term care ombudsman, or police. The U.S. Administration on Aging can refer you to a local agency that can help: 1-800-677-1116.

**SHARMAINE HAYLOCK, CHAIRPERSON  
HOLY NAME OF JESUS CHURCH  
SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN COMMITTEE**

**Office of Religious Education**

Religious Formation classes (CCD) registration for 2011-2012 new and returning students have started call the office for information.

Parents, please remember that religious education is ongoing. Children who have received the Sacraments should return to class each year. For more information, please contact **Cathy Brown at (323) 734-8888 ext. 2.**

**Confirmation instruction for First Year will be on Thursday, October 6, 2011 at 7:00pm in the Acacia Center.**

**Youth Ministry**

Holy Name of Jesus Church Youth Ministry invites all Youth between the ages of 14 and 18 to come and join the Youth Ministry.

Starting in September the Youth Group will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the Month in the Hall from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. For more information, please see Norma Mitchell or any Youth Ministry member.

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***Holy Name Youth Ministry is participating in Los Angeles Aids Walk on October 16, 2011. We invite you to participate with us by donating cash, walking 5 miles and the most important is your prays to find a cure for the disease.***

***More information call Norma Mitchell (323) 356-9922cell or see any Youth Group member.***

**Casino Bus Trip to Viejas**

The Youth Group Leaders are hosting a bus trip to Viejas Casino on Saturday, October 15, 2011. The bus will leave Holy Name at 8:00am and return by 6:00pm. Cost is \$25.00 per person. Please come and support our youth. Call Norma Mitchell for reservation (323) 356-9922

**"Maximizing the Educational Experience of Young Men"**

Brothers and Sisters, Choose Well First Ministry along with Church members and Organizations are working to provide youth and young adults the best support services possible. We have received a donation from an anonymous donor to sponsor a new funding program "Baby Steps". This program will maximize the HNOJ student learning experience through membership in the Knights of Peter Claver Junior Knights. The first twenty (20) young men, who have made their First Communion, have parent approval, are between the ages of eight (8) and eighteen (18), and complete an Initiation Application between October 1st and October 30th will not have to pay the initiation fees of \$20.00. Rather, applicants/parents will pay \$18.00, which covers the Junior Knight's first year of dues in advance. Junior Knight's dues are currently \$2.00 per month. This is a savings of \$26.00! This special offer will help newly enrolled Junior Knights maintain their financial status for the first year without having to remember to pay dues each month as well as not having to pay the initiation fees.

Pick up a Baby Steps Program application in the vestibule of the Church or see Junior Grand Knight William King for further information.

May God bless and keep you, and in all things choose well first.

**Celebrating Young Adults in Ministry**

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 marks the 16<sup>th</sup> annual "Celebrating Young Adults in Ministry"; an event which recognizes the contributions that young adults make to the life of our faith communities. This year our parish has chosen to honor Mary Jane Opoku, Malik Rigard, Kristen Simms, and LaNecia Vicknair. The "Celebrating Young Adults in Ministry" Recognition Mass is on Sunday, October 16, 2011 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles. The celebration begins promptly at 7:00pm. Archbishop Jose H. Gomez will preside at the Eucharistic Celebration. All are welcome to attend.