

Pastor's Letter

Each year on **New Year's Day** I reflect on *the many blessings that God has bestowed on me, my family, and our parish community*. And there is no way that I can count the many blessings that God has given us! I am so blessed to be a Catholic, to be a priest, and to be the Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Church. Each time I celebrate the Mass or one of the other Sacraments, and each time I am in our school teaching our children, and each time I am sharing the Eucharist with the sick and the elderly, I realize how blessed I am!

But, as we all know, life is not always easy, and things do not always go according to our plans. There is tension in our world, there is conflict, and there is hatred and violence. And none of these are in accord with the will of God. And then there are **natural disasters** - occurrences for which we simply have no explanation. During my first two months here at Holy Name of Jesus, **Hurricane Katrina** hit the Gulf Coast area of our country, killing hundreds of people and leaving many others homeless. Since then we have had numerous earthquakes, tornadoes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters. When I ask God why these events occur, I feel like **Job** in the **Bible**, simply asking God, "**Why?**" And God responds by reminding Job that he (Job) was not there when God created the world, and that there are *some things that are simply beyond human understanding*.

In addition to natural disasters, we also have birth defects, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, AIDS, and cancer. Why is humanity affected by so many illnesses? Again, these are beyond our human understanding. *Last week my brother, Mike, was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the plasma in the bone marrow.* He has been undergoing numerous tests to see how far the cancer has progressed, and what the best course of treatment will be. We hope to know more about his prognosis in the next few days.

Again, like Job, I ask the question, "Why?" and I get the same response from God. And that answer is that the workings of God's Hands are far beyond our human understanding. While most of the suffering in the world is caused by selfishness and hatred in the hearts of human beings (which ultimately leads to starvation, violence, war, and death) we recognize that there is other suffering that is simply incomprehensible to us. But I take comfort in the words of God in the **Book of Revelation**, chapter **21**, verses **3 to 5** in which we read: *I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be His people and God Himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away." The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."*

Many of the members of our parish community have been affected by natural disasters and diseases that are beyond our comprehension. And many of you have family members who are suffering in ways that are similar to what my brother is going through. But we know that we are the Church - **we are the people of God** - and we know that, as we begin this New Year in prayer and worship, **the Lord will not abandon us!** While we may not understand everything that happens in our world, we do know that *God is always at our side, walking with us the way Jesus walked with His disciples.*

I want to wish each of you a blessed New Year. And remember: no matter what suffering or tragedy affects our lives, we know that **God is with us!**

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

Holy Name of Jesus School News!

300 Students by 2012!

We want to thank you, the parishioners and parents of HNOJ School, for your assistance in spreading the word about Holy Name School! Your efforts have helped us reach and exceed our first target of 200 students with the goal of 300 students by the start of the 2012/2013 school year. Please continue to help recruit new students. Remember to contact Fr. Paul (323) 734-8888, Ms. Belisle (323) 731-2255 or Mervin Lambey (323) 984-2766 with your referrals.

School Student Non-Discrimination Policy

The school, mindful of its mission to be a witness to the love of Christ for all, admits students regardless of race, color, or national and/or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.

The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, sex, or national and/or ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies and practices, scholarship programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs, although certain athletic leagues and other programs may limit participation and some archdiocesan schools operate as single sex schools.

While the school does not discriminate against students with special needs, a full range of services may not always be available to them. Decisions concerning the admission and continued enrollment of a student in the school are based upon the student's emotional, academic and physical abilities and the resources available to the school in the meeting the student's needs.

Baptism Orientation Class

Fr. Paul's Baptism Orientation Class will be on Friday, January 6th at 7:00pm in the Acacia Center. If you plan on baptizing your child this coming month, please attend this class before starting your preparation classes with the Deacons. For more information, call the church office 323.734.8888 ext1.

San Manuel Indian Bingo & Casino

Holy Name of Jesus 50+ Club is hosting a trip to San Manuel Casino on Friday Night February 24, 2012. Pick up time is 6:00pm. Slots/Bingo/Blackjack/Fine Dining/ Great Entertainment. For more information, call Clyde Sparrow 213) 392-1916.

For Rent

Two Bedroom Duplex for rent - 2244 West 29th Street, Los Angeles. It's close to schools, churches and transportation. \$1,100 a month. First and last required to move in. For a showing call Clyde Sparrow 213) 392-1916.

Next weekend we will have a Second Collection for World Mission Sunday

Healthy Living

New Year's Resolutions

Patricia Farrell, PhD / www.webmd.com

The new year brings with it the promise of things to come and things to be left behind. The problem is that while many people enjoy making New Year's resolutions, they often fail to keep them after just a few weeks. Why is that? Let's take a look at some of the more popular resolutions. People plan to lose weight, stop smoking, cut back on their drinking, be more conscious about their purchases, be kinder to others, involve themselves in exercise programs and just be better people. All of them are laudable and worth consideration. It's how you go about them that is, as they say, "the devil is in the details." Want to make New Year's resolutions that work? How about making them more realistic considering what you can and can't do over the long haul? If you want to lose weight, plan to lose a reasonable amount in a week without going on one of the latest fad diets that will fatigue your taste buds and put visions of goodies in your head. A taste of "forbidden foods" can solve that taste bud fatigue for many and help keep them on the straight and narrow. Exercise, too, is a wonderful resolution because it provides you with so many benefits. For one, it improves your mood, it decreases stress, it helps with cholesterol and glucose management, increases your stamina, muscle tone and decreases weight. But, wait a minute, let me just say a word about weight and exercise. Women who exercise for weight loss may find that while their clothes are fitting better, they haven't lost as much weight as they thought. It's a function of muscle being heavier than fat tissue, so you will look better and be in better health, but you may not notice your scale plummeting as you would like. After you've set your New Year's resolutions, how will you make them come to be? It's fine to say I want to learn to be more comfortable in the company of people, but how will you accomplish this? Just like swimming, getting into this particular pool takes small steps toward your goal. Practice on people in stores by asking for directions to where food items are, say "hello" to people waiting for the bus with you or on the train or to the toll collector. Small steps lead to big gains in this area. So, don't set yourself up for failure with your resolutions. Keep them simple and make an easy plan and then go do it and, please, don't forget to give yourself time to de-stress on a daily basis.



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:

December 25, 2011 = \$14,025.00

Two Previous Years:

December 25, 2010 = \$5,319.00

December 25, 2009 = \$7,478.00

Thank you for your generosity!

DID YOU KNOW?**Helping victims of abuse**

The first obligation of the Church with regard to victims is for healing and reconciliation. The Archdiocese continues to reach out to every person who has been a victim of sexual abuse as a minor by anyone in church service, whether that abuse is recent or occurred in the past. The Archdiocese's Victims Assistance Ministry helps victims/survivors who have been victims of sexual abuse by a priests, deacons, or individuals representing the Catholic Church. The Victim Assistance Coordinator, Suzanne Healy, is available to help victims/survivors make a formal complaint of abuse to the archdiocese and to obtain support for the needs of the individual and families. Ms. Healy can be reached by calling, (213) 637-7650.

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

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Your love as husband and wife is a gift to one another as well as a gift from God. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend to receive the tools needed to make the most of this precious gift. Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending the next WWME weekend February 17-19, 2012 (Norwalk) or April 20-22, 2012 (Woodland Hills). For more information or to apply, go online at www.ilovemypouse.net or call Winston & Pansy Green at (661) 297-8271.

Holy Name of Jesus Church

Invites all our brother and sisters to celebrate our tenth annual celebration of

The Miraculous Black Christ of Esquipulas

Saturday, January 14, 2012

6:30p.m. - Solemn procession (from the church parking lot to the church's main altar)

7:00p.m. - Solemn Mass

8:00p.m. - Small reception in the church's parish hall

For more information call (323) 732-6757

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

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. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 3rd. The topic is "History of the Catholic Church" presented by Fr. Robert Cesar.

Welcome Visitors!

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

Office of Religious Education

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.**

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. The Youth Group meets the 2nd and 4th 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.

Thank You!

St. Vincent de Paul Society wishes everyone a Happy New Year and extends to all who participated in the Bundle Sunday collection and throughout the year a sincere thank you for your generosity.

REVIVAL AT TRANSFIGURATION***"Retain Hope and Fulfill the Dream"***

Fr. Charles "Chuck" Andrus, SSJ, a dynamic spirit-filled preacher will preside over the "**Martin Luther King, Jr. Revival**" at Transfiguration Parish, 2515 W. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 13th, 14th and 15th at 7:00pm. Everyone is invited... Youth and Young adults will also enjoy every night. For more information, you may call Transfiguration's Rectory Office at 323-291-1136.

New Bulletin Policy

There are two ways to get information to our parishioners. One is by flyer and the second is by asking for your event to be published in the bulletin. You may choose one option or the other, **not both**. Since space is limited, the parish office will let you know which option is available. If fliers are the option available to you, you will have to provide your own copies and bring them to the office by Wednesday of that week. Fliers should not be placed in the bulletins without office approval. Thank you in advance for cooperation.