



The Bells of Saint Mary

March 2012

With My Hand on the Plow:
We are So Close

Without a vision, the people perish.

Proverbs 29:18

Write the vision.

Habbakuk 2:2

I wrote this on February 13, 2010, and shared it with all of you from the pulpit the next day, Valentine's Day of 2010. I also shared it with the Vestry that month, and I have been keeping an eye on it ever since. When I wrote it, it was one of those days when I felt strongly that it was what the Spirit was saying to me; so I wrote it down, shared it with all of you, and have been paying attention to it ever since.



The Vision

I see us welcoming all. I see us reaching out with calloused hands. I see a day when our buildings are in use about 60 hours a week...with AA, and ESL classes,

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and worship, and choirs, and concerts, and team meetings. I see the parish hall with long tables lined up in two rows...with volunteers assembly line style, packing backpacks, and wrapping presents, and sorting food, and loading vehicles. I see children and families. I see a full church. I hear Spanish being spoken. I hear English being spoken. I see more and more of us being involved in ministry to First Nation people...and more and more of us with lives intertwined with those at Red Shirt. I see a mortgage burning party and financial freedom.



*Charlotte Hayes, Glenna Baker, and Henry Culmer
February 21, 2010 Ministry Fair. Photo by John Beeler.*

I await the days of a bustling hub of ministry, humming with the voices of volunteers...alive with people coming and going...resting at the center of so many lives. Pastoral care becoming shared ministry with fifty people. I see confirmation classes and a welcoming of the Bishop whenever she or he comes to visit. I see growth, health, and a sense of being fully alive. I see the parish of St. Mary's resting at the center of many lives...baptized, confirmed, married and buried. I see public health clinics being offered from here. I feel full hearts, loving people, gen-

erous and good who think of the other person before they think of themselves. I see us raising up folks for ministry.

I see all of this and more...and I see it already in process...and I see us working on it today. It will happen because it is God at work and it is how God works. It is so exciting...it is so complete...it is Adelante! Forward together into God's future.

Comments?

Our old rectory is sold. We will have, in twenty-five months, paid down \$ 385,000 of a \$405,000 mortgage by the middle of March. When St. Mary's moved into our current location in 1994, the total mortgage was \$645,000. When I came to St. Mary's in July of 2007, that amount had been reduced, in 13 years by \$240,000. That means in four years, you have paid off almost double the amount that was accomplished in the previous 13 years. I think you know something about sacrificial giving!

I believe we have before us the opportunity to finish what we have started. And I don't believe it will be too hard. It looks like after we have applied the proceeds of the sale of 4245 Rigel, we will have less than \$20,000 to go to be debt free. So...let's finish the job.

If 200 of us give \$100.00 each...we will finish the job. If 100 of us give \$200.00 each, we will finish the job. If 50 of us give \$400.00 each, we will finish the job. If you are reading this and can give a large amount, please do. If you are reading this and can give a small amount please do. If you who are reading this can give any amount, please do.

I cannot think of a more symbolic way to celebrate our accomplishment than to launch our ministry together as a debt-free church with our Easter Services. Let's set as our goal that we will use the mortgage as the fuel for the new fire at The Great Vigil of Easter, April 7th at 8 pm.

If you can join me in doing so, then write "Burn the Mortgage" on your check memo line and bring it to the church on Sunday, or anytime you want. We can do this my friends. We have a month. Please pray if this is something you can do, and let's join together for one last push, and Burn the Mortgage on our church.

With my hand on the plow,

Fr. Michael+

Save The Date

The St. Martha's Guild of St. Mary's will be having their annual Spring Tea on Saturday April 21st 2012 from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in Fitch Hall. The theme this year is "Sing Unto the Lord a New Song." Seats are limited, so we suggest you call to find out the details.

We will be accepting your calls and reservations on and after March 15th at the following phone number: 291-2450. Norma Anderson will only be taking the reservations at this phone number. **Please do not call her home phone.** We would love for you to join us and bring a friend. Hope to hear from you.



Journey with the Magi tea photo by Julie Sherman.



Fellow St. Marians,

It was an unexpected surprised to receive Birth-day cards from all of you.

Thank you for remembering me!

Pat Day

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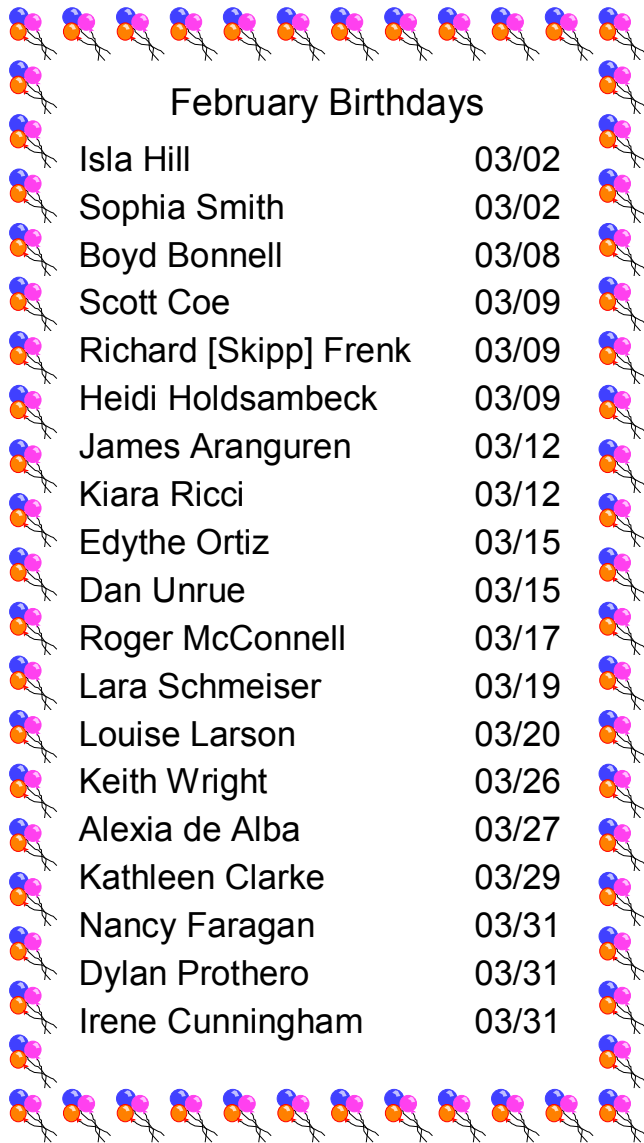
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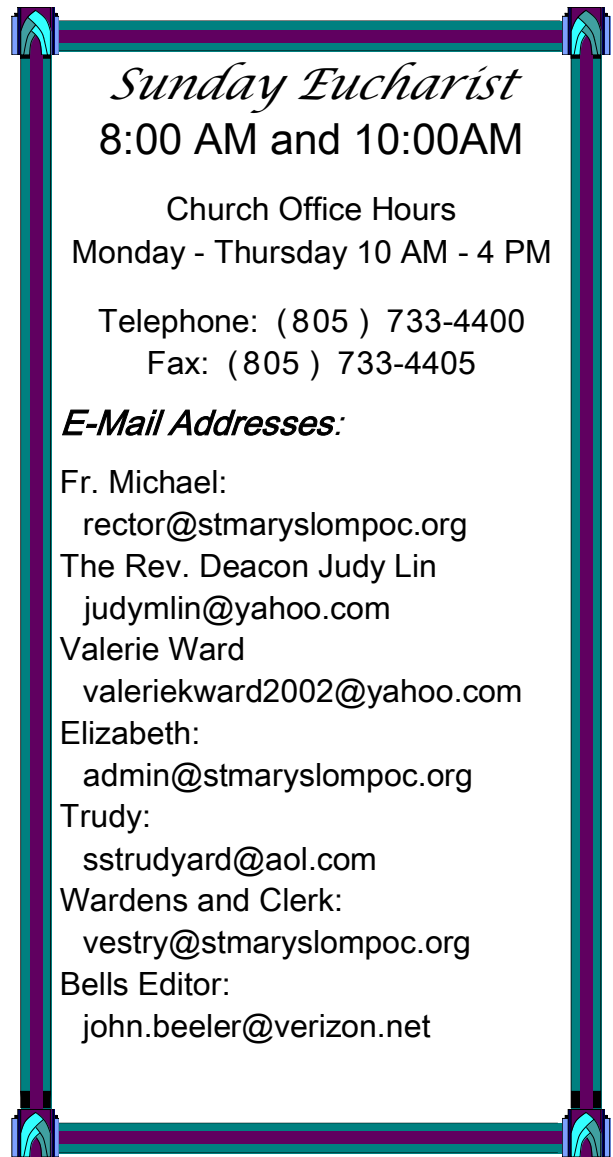
(Mark 1:9-15 NRSV) In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. { 10 } And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. { 11 } And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." { 12 } And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. { 13 } He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. { 14 } Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, { 15 } and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Word List

PROCLAIMING IMMEDIATELY WILDERNESS DESCENDING FULFILLED NAZARETH BAPTIZED
 ARRESTED TEMPTED PLEASED KINGDOM HEAVENS GALILEE BELOVED BELIEVE WAITED
 SPIRIT SAYING REPENT JORDAN COMING BEASTS ANGELS WATER VOICE THOSE SATAN
 JESUS FORTY DROVE APART AFTER WITH WELL TORN TIME NRSV NEWS NEAR MARK LIKE
 JUST JOHN INTO GOOD FROM DOVE DAYS COME CAME YOU WAS THE SON SAW OUT NOW
 HIM HAS GOD AND UP OF MY IS BY



February Birthdays	
Isla Hill	03/02
Sophia Smith	03/02
Boyd Bonnell	03/08
Scott Coe	03/09
Richard [Skipp] Frenk	03/09
Heidi Holdsambeck	03/09
James Aranguren	03/12
Kiara Ricci	03/12
Edythe Ortiz	03/15
Dan Unrue	03/15
Roger McConnell	03/17
Lara Schmeiser	03/19
Louise Larson	03/20
Keith Wright	03/26
Alexia de Alba	03/27
Kathleen Clarke	03/29
Nancy Faragan	03/31
Dylan Prothero	03/31
Irene Cunningham	03/31



Sunday Eucharist
8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

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Many Hands Make Light Work

Work Party Saturday, March 10th, join us.

Financial Statement

	<u>As of 01/31/2012</u>
Undesignated Checking & Savings	\$61,773
Designated Checking *	\$13,553
Parish Mortgage	\$241,002

	Actual January 2012	Budget January 2012
Income	\$27,618	\$28,259
Expenses	\$29,687	\$28,904
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$2,069)	(\$645)

Our former rectory is sold-it's official. We should close early in March. Stay tuned for a complete accounting in next month's issue.



Bede the Bat

Hello to all my friends at St. Mary's! It's me again, Bede the Bat in the Belfry!

I'm back from one of the most exciting trips ever! The National Figure Skating Championships in San Jose were amazing! My seat was high atop the skating venue at the HP Pavilion, and I was able to see some old friends, meet some new ones, and even make friends with some



birds who were roosted up there. It was also fun to fly above the pond where we all went to feed some ducks that lived at the hotel where we stayed. I must say that I never dreamed I would make such a trip, and I will always remember what fun we had. Just the idea of being in the company of six cats, two mice, and two humans was wonderful enough, but there was more.

Isn't it always the way, that when you are learning one lesson, another one or two turn up? Between competitions at the skating venue, they showed some advertisements for a documentary called "Rise". (The sound was so loud and the bass so strong that it almost shook us out of our seats!) What the documentary is about is the United States figure skating team, all of whom were killed in a plane crash. They were on their way to compete at the World Championships. It was a very sad time for the sport and for all who love it. Would the sport recover? Would the fans stay with the new skaters coming along? All you had to do was watch the wonderful skaters competing in San Jose to know that the stepping stones of all who went before would allow the sport to carry on and grow even stronger. And this really got me thinking about why this happens.

There's a song in a musical called "Fiddler On the Roof" and it talks about tradition. My Grandmother used to say that the only thing wrong with tradition was that it lasted too long. I think I don't agree. I think that traditions might change a bit to include more people and it might change in order to address the world as it has changed, but tradition is the glue that holds things together -- families, churches, schools, sports, so many things. It's what made what we were seeing in San Jose so special. Each of those skaters carried on a tradition of excellence that the skaters who died in the plane crash had made for them. They were stepping stones. They were the strong shoulders on which the love of the sport is built. Each of those skaters owed a huge debt to those who went before.

As we enter Lent again, we carry on a tradition of many, many years. Those who went before said the prayers, sang the songs and saved the traditions we follow and that we love and honor. Whether you are a figure skater, the product of a loving home, a member of a loving church or any other wonderful tradition, remember those who went before -- the stepping stones, the strong shoulders on which we stand, those who carefully preserved these rites and ceremonies and prayers and songs for us. Just as the skaters in San Jose paused to remember those whose courage and talent was lost, so we should pause this Lent to give thanks for those souls whose belief in the future gave us the traditions we still enjoy and love. It's all about tradition and being grateful.

A blessed Lent from me, Bede.

Prayers of the People

We ask that you hold these persons in your Daily Prayers.

Lord, open our hearts to Your perfect will, that we may faithfully intercede on behalf of those we bring to You now in prayer:

**Lee Bowles, Pat Day, Ray Down, Sr., Isla Hill, Lou Hodges,
Sheila Holley, Almedia Hutchinson, Shelie Jackson, Stan Sheldon,
Linda Smith, Kitty Wenk, Rachel Williams, Keith Wright,
MaryJo Wright, and Jeanne Yeiser.**

And those serving in the armed forces remembered by our parishioners:
Matt, Robert, Ed, Tom, David Barrett, Jason D, Kevin and Patrick.

AMEN.

Please Note:

Prayers of the People will be updated monthly. If you would like to add or continue a name to the POP, please fill out a Prayer Request slip or Pew card, submit via our website www.stmaryslompoc.org call any of our Prayer Ring members, or email Stephanie Bastian at jeffnsteph95@msn.com. Thank you!

*“Whenever two of you on earth agree in prayer,
it will be done by My Father in Heaven.”*
Matthew 18:19