



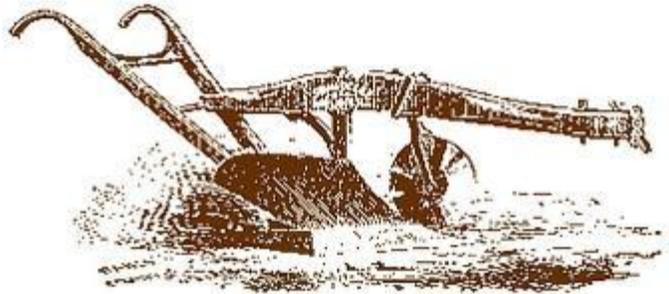
The Bells of Saint Mary

September 2012

Vacation

It has been a good time off for me. One of the things I struggle with when I am on vacation is not working! So...here I am working...but the Bells needs to go out and that means I need to get my article done. So...here are some postcards from the edge...or to quote the book's real title..."It's not the end of the world, but you can see it from here."

Bishop Diane Bruce is coming to St. Mary's on September 22nd from 10-2. This is a Saturday and I am counting on you coming to here our Bishop speak to us about Stewardship. I know Bishop Diane very well, having spent a lot of time with her over the years as she was a parish priest in San Clemente, and frequently was at the Cathedral Center when I worked there. She and I were also delegates/alternates to the last General Convention. She is passionate on the subject of Stewardship...and will be very entertaining. She has a natural charm about her that makes it easy to listen to, engage with and (frequently) laugh along with. Please mark your calendars and be there.



The re-design of our front patio is almost done. Quietly, but with great dedication and hard work, a small group of folks, led by Jan and Jim Cooksey and +Gethin and Lenore Hughes, with helpers way too numerous to name for fear of not remembering all of them and therefore making somebody feel left out, our front entrance and the patio have been re-planted, improved and work has been on-going to make the first thing people see when they come to St. Mary's be beautiful, inviting and

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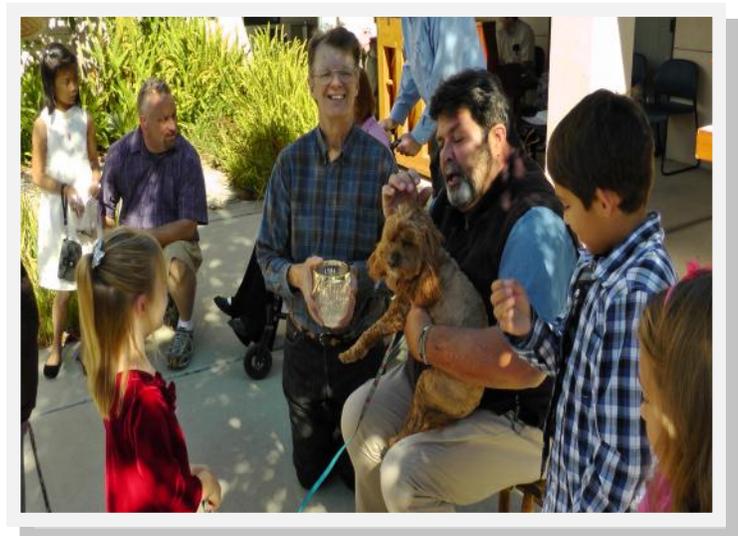
welcoming. They have done spectacular work and the long-awaited statue of Mary will be installed early in the first week of September. I am so grateful to those who have given so much and worked so hard to beautify our church. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

While I am at it, a big thank you to +Gethin Hughes for watching over the church and all of you while I had some time off. He is such a wonderful pastor and friend to us...and most particularly, to me. Thank you +Gethin.

September 9th, the Big Sunday Back to Church day...is fast approaching. Trudy and friends have worked so hard through August cleaning, throwing out, putting away and organizing for our coming Church Sunday School year. The Annex will now be our primary location for our Sunday School. It is clean, free of years of built up materials and costumes and flower arranging materials and who knows what else...and is ready for our primary work as a church...life-long formation in Jesus Christ. Thank you, thank you, for all the hard work getting the Annex ready for school.

What have I done? Well, I watched as much of the Olympics as I possibly could. I LOVE the Olympics...always have. I particularly love the “old-style” events. The decathlon, the heptathlon, the track and field events and the lesser known events are things that we just don’t get to see anymore...since they have not made the list of “popular” world sports. I have no interest in the events that feature professional athletes posing as amateurs...and thus found myself and my “record” button being used a lot at odd times, so I could watch them at times when I was awake! I was not disappointed. I thought the London Olympic torch was probably the coolest torch ever...and loved that part of the closing ceremony when the flame was extinguished. Did you know that each country that participated was given the copper cauldron that represented them in the torch as a “take-away”? I think that is way cool.

We had Christopher James staying with us until almost the end



The Blessing of the Animals is coming up on October 7th. Photo (from 2010) by Glenna Baker

of August before we sent him off to USC to complete his last year there. We miss him, but were blessed to have him with us for a couple of months.

Sarah is loving her job at Pier One and is very happy going to work. She recently had Bishop Hughes and Kelly Owen stop by the store, and was quick to tell us that folks from St. Mary's had been by that day.

It has been a nice and relaxing holiday, but I have missed you all and will be glad to see you all on Sunday the 2nd. I will also be glad to have Robin Smith as our guest organist that day. Like Bishop Hughes, she occupies that place of real gratitude in my heart for her continuing to be part of what makes this church of ours so wonderful.

See you on Sunday!
With my hand on the plow,
Fr. Michael+

Stewardship

**Bishop Diane Bruce will visit on Saturday,
September 22nd from 10:00 am to 2 pm.
All parishioners are urged to attend.**



Bishop Diane Bruce

Bishop Diane is visiting St. Mary's Parish. This is a great opportunity to meet her; we are not in her geographic area of responsibility, so we don't see her very often.

She would like to share some stories on Stewardship. She professes "Stewardship is everything that we do and are after we say 'I believe...'" And has some stories to prove it! When she was rector at St Clement's, she worked with her parish to grow the church in parishioner base and in contributions. She wants to hear our stories, too. I have heard her lead a workshop on new member incorporation. She is full of joy and wisdom.

<http://www.ladiocese.org/bishop/suffraganbruce.html>

Our parish has completed three years of the stewardship program “New Consecration Sunday.” The Stewardship Team will want to develop/adopt another program. If Stewardship is to be mindful and prayerful, we all need to re-visit how we see ourselves in this process.

Please sign-up for this All-Parish event at the Communications Table. The Team will provide lunch and babysitters if needed.

*Jeanne Johnston for the Stewardship Team:
Kati Smith, Bob and Regina Lingl, Howard Gould, Nemesio Balcena, Rob Glasgow*

Financial Statement

As of July 31st, 2012

Undesignated checking & savings	\$56,903
Designated checking *	\$20,173

	Actual Jul '12	Actual Jan - Jul '12	Budget Jan - Jul '12
Income*	\$25,690	\$191,947	\$197,807
Expenses*	\$26,483	\$194,088	\$195,695
Net income/(loss)	(\$793)	(\$2,140)	\$2,112

* YTD Includes BTM income, and expenses over and above the sale of the Rigel property, to pay off the Mortgage Balance and Interest.



TOP TEN REASONS I SING IN ST. MARY'S CHOIR:

By Glenna Baker

10. I can wear anything under the choir robe.
9. No one stops you from singing in church.
8. I can't read music, so getting to practice songs before Sunday helps.
7. I have an excellent view from the choir seats.
6. The other choir members are fun(ny).
5. Chris Bowman, choir director, is awesome. (Not Awesome like God, awesome like musically talented and patient ...even with singers, like me who can't read music or sing very well.)
4. I love to sing.
3. I like feeling needed.
2. St. Mary's choir needs singers.

Number One reason I sing in St. Mary's Choir:

September Birthdays

Steven Hicks	09/01
Dan Vordale	09/01
Regina Lingl	09/03
Jessie Sheldon	09/04
Alice Drus	09/08
Gary Larson	09/08
Eleanor [Bits] Bowles	09/10
Molly Gerald	09/11
Beverly Anderson	09/13
Anita Dwyer	09/14
Ken Murray	09/14
Rachel Williams	09/16
Charlotte Compton	09/17
David Anderson	09/19
Lee Bowles	09/19
Norma Anderson	09/22
Kelly Owen	09/23
Peggie Gould	09/24
Helen Free	09/26
Ruth Hicks	09/27
Matt MacPherson	09/29

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

**Please join us for a Work Party
on Saturday, September 8th at
8:30 AM.** You can help with the
gardening, vacuuming the sanctu-
ary, changing lightbulbs, or many
other things that help keep the
church going!

Bede the Bat

Hi to all my friends at St. Mary's!

Well, what a time we had! Pine Ridge was wonderful and just the way I remembered it from last year when I went. Of course, this time I had my friend, Barney, with me and it didn't turn out as badly as I thought it would. Now, the first week was kind of rocky because he wanted to sleep in and do all those annoying things that he likes to do at my belfry at St. Mary's, but somehow he began to shape up and do pretty well.



The really amazing thing that has happened with Barney is that he now wants to stay with me (I don't know if I'm really up with that) and be a part of St. Mary's in the same way that I am. The real problem is that he wants to sing in the choir. Now I know that the choir always welcomes new members, but I've heard Barney sing. He tries. He really does try, but Bats are not known for their musical talents, and Barney has no talent whatever. I'm not really certain how to tell him. I thought maybe I'd have Fr. Michael have a talk with him. Is that cowardly of me? I don't really like confrontation and somehow Barney had convinced himself that he is the next Caruso. What to do?

And then there's the matter of Christian education. He learned a lot of spiritual things on our trip for the Red Shirt Project and so he thinks he'd be really great at teaching young people what he learned at Pine Ridge. Maybe that's not such a bad idea, but I don't know how Miss Trudy would like that. I mean Bats are not always acceptable to some people and I'm afraid he might frighten the children. Maybe I'll get Fr. Michael to speak to him about that, too. Okay. I AM a coward.

Anyway, it's a new year for us all and I've learned a lot this summer. Is everybody ready for lots of new things to do and lots of great things to learn? I know that I am and I maybe things will work out with Barney. I could use a Prayer or two or three.

More next time.

Blessings from me, Bede, and Barney says 'hey'!

From your Editor

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplish-

ments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. 'I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.' The old woman smiled, 'Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?' 'That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them.' For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.'

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them. SO, to all of my cracked pot friends, have a great day and remember to smell the flowers on your side of the path! And send this to any or all of your Cracked Pot friends!

Anonymous



*Bicycle path along Riverview Terrace, Lompoc.
Photo by John Beeler.*



Have you noticed a new addition to our procession?
A new St. Mary's banner. Thank you Mary Newcomb.

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, Rachel Williams, Keith Wright, and MaryJo Wright,**

And those serving in the armed forces remembered by our parishioners:

Stefan, Robert, Mike, Jason D, Simon, 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