



# *The Bells of Saint Mary*

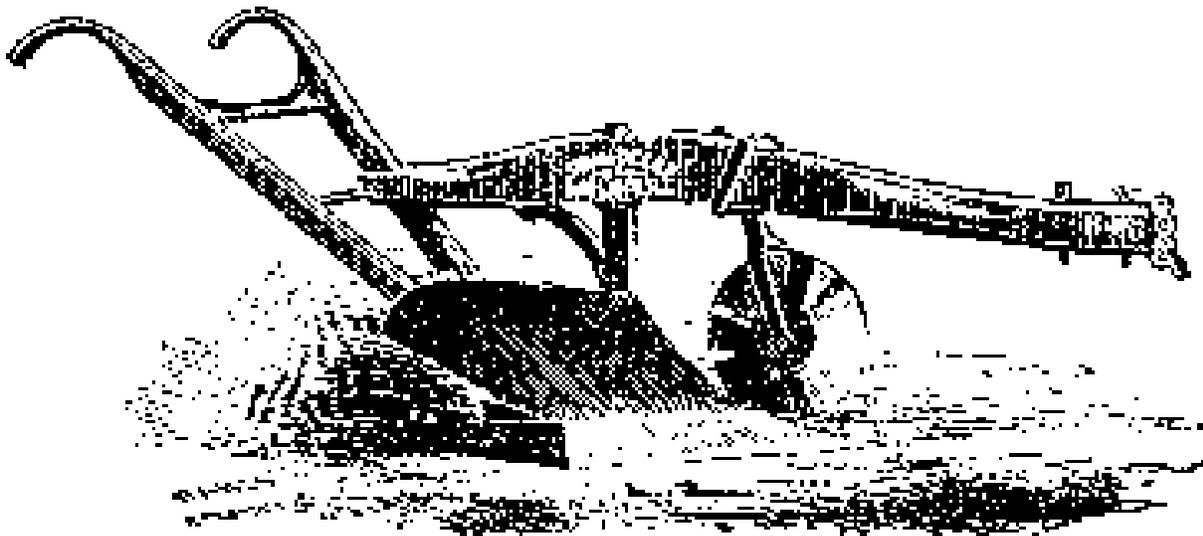
## *September 2013*

### **The Start of the Year---**

#### **With my hand on the plow**

It seems that way...it feels like the start of a new year. Kids back to school, school busses everywhere, me getting upset with people who drive 45 mph in school zones...yep...it must be September.

September 8, Grandparents Day...or as I like to think of it, Elders Day, is our start-up day here at church for the Fall season. Parents: sign up your school-age children for Sunday School that day. Michelle and friends are looking for volunteers to be teachers...for one month at a time only...but we need 10 volunteers...so you can volunteer for that on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Also, that day will be a departure from our regular routine in that we will have a young people's led worship service at 10 o'clock that day.



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The next Sunday, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, we will begin our four week series of talks, offered by members of the congregation, on Stewardship during our worship times at 8 and 10. We will spend a month engaging stewardship talks and witness from various members with an eye on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October...when we will have our ingathering of pledge cards (which we will not read or open!) so that all have the opportunity to pledge to the ongoing work and ministry of our beloved church.



*Backpacks were blessed at the August 11th service. Photo by Roger McConnell.*

Speaking of October, the 6<sup>th</sup> of October is the day that THE BISHOP IS COMING! Bishop Diane Bruce will be here for both services, with the Festival Eucharist scheduled for the 10 o'clock time slot. Those seeking to be Confirmed, Received or Renewing their Vows need to let me know by September 8<sup>th</sup> at the latest. We will have three classes, after the 10 o'clock service, for 45 minutes each, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of September. I have to know by the 8<sup>th</sup> because I have to let the Bishop know by the 10<sup>th</sup> the numbers and names of those attending the classes.



*Photo by John Beeler, taken at the August 18th service.*

Just another mention that our Choir needs you! It is the old adage..."those who sing pray twice". Please consider joining our choir for the Fall. Worship is just so much more wonderful when we have a choir. I don't know about you, but I have missed the choir this long summer without them. Our St.

Mary's day was a great reminder of just how much richer worship is with a choir. Let Chris know if you are feeling called to sing in our choir.

Last...but certainly not least...I hope you are as excited as I am about the kick-off of the Fall season. I know this is a football reference...but hey, I am excited about that too. You know me and my love of the Texas Longhorns.

See you at church!

Fr. Michael+



## First Responders Service and Lunch

This year, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, at 11:30 am, we will continue our tradition of honoring the First Responders in our community of Lompoc, it's surrounding areas, and Vandenberg AFB. We will follow the brief service with a luncheon serving all of those in attendance tri-tip, and all the trimmings as only Nemesio Balcena can do. Please join us...we always need helpers and most importantly, take this opportunity to say thank you o those who serve us so faithfully and well.

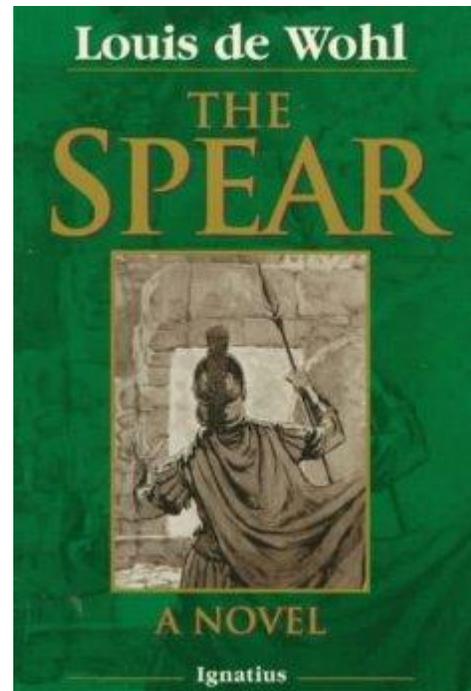
See you on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 at church!

Fr. Michael+

## The Bookworm Recommends...

### *The Spear* by Louis de Wohl

First century historical novels have a particular attraction as the scholarship and imagination of the writer can satisfactorily fill in the gaps, if any, in the New Testament accounts. Especially appealing are those novels that take a tangential group of fictional characters and have them interact with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. A slightly different point of view may shed light and meaning on a familiar story.



Louis de Wohl (1903 – 1961) was a popular Roman Catholic writer whose biographies of saints have been best sellers. But *The Spear* (1955) was considered the highlight of his long career and perhaps his own favorite book. De Wohl's story begins in Rome and takes his main character to Jerusalem and Judea for what has been called the world's most dramatic execution. His role in that ordeal is pivotal to the story-telling.

All the familiar characters are present, but in new and sometimes expanded aspects. The exposure of the plotting and planning of the Sanhedrin and the High Priest are plausible and illuminating. Long-memorized quotations are presented in slightly different forms and/or in varying time sequences. These changes make the reader pay attention in new ways. Whether the author purposefully set out to shake up the reader or was simply utilizing the Vulgate Bible or other biblical translation does not matter. The result is a thoughtful reader re-examining what may have been taken for granted through long conditioning.

"I've always wanted to do something---something really big with my spear. I know I'm good at it. I have always felt I didn't have my skill for nothing and that one day I'll do a very big thing... (p. 382)."

Kati Smith Plummer



*Directory photo taken by Don Lown.*

## An Interview with our Elder Members:

### **Maxine Louise Merrick Smith**

By my figuring, Maxine Smith is the longest regularly attending member of St. Mary's alive today. Arriving in Lompoc in 1962, she has been attending St. Mary's ever since, and has been on the Altar Guild for all Priests since Fr. Jess Taylor.

Born Maxine Louise Merrick on May 23, 1921 to Joseph and Julia Merrick, Maxine was the oldest of their five children. Maxine and her siblings, Doris, Milton, Beverly and Jay were all born in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Maxine graduated from The Mary Bradford School and moved to Joliet, Illinois to attend Silver Cross Hospital College. Silver Cross is the oldest college in the United States for nursing. After earning her nursing degree, Maxine worked in a number of hospitals and moved up in the ranks of leadership.

Your editor had the pleasure of interviewing Maxine for the *Santa Barbara Foundation's* book of interviews with World War II veterans living in Lompoc. She has many delightful stories about being a nurse in the Army. She went into the Army November of 1944 and lived in the first racially integrated barracks for nurses. As an Army nurse, she had many experiences; Ask her about them or see our article in the S.B. Foundation Book in the St. Mary's Library. Possibly most noteworthy was the fact that she was a nurse at the Army base in the Pacific where the Enola Gay (A-Bomb) was being prepared for use in Japan.

Later, during the Korean War, she resigned from the Army and joined the U.S. Air Force. Maxine met a fellow service man, John Smith in Germany. (Both Maxine and John have lots of stories about "Yes, my name really IS John Smith") Their only child, Geoff Smith was born while they were still in the Air Force. When they left the Service, Maxine worked in hospitals and John was with a civilian company as an inspector for Missiles. That is how they happened to come to Lompoc, in 1962. After a short time in Lompoc, John and Maxine decided that they were "home" and did not want to move again. So, John left his company and went into the real estate business.

John had been raised an Episcopalian, but Maxine grew up a Unitarian. She wanted to join John in his church but needed to know a LOT more about it. Maxine says that she knew of Fr. Phillip Schulyer, but never went to church where he was Priest. They were still seeking a church home. The Smiths went to services with Lay leader turned Priest Fr. Arthur Batty at the old Military Disci-

plinary Barracks (now the US Prison)

When Fr. Jess Taylor became the Rector of St. Mary's in 1963, the Smiths began attending regularly. Maxine wanted to know why these Episcopalians did the things they did, so she joined the Altar Guild to learn firsthand from Fr. Taylor. Thus began a career as member and leader of the Altar Guild that has continued until just recently. When you think of it, Maxine has seen a huge change in the place of women in the Church. Priests and historians always admit that the women of the church are the true driving power, but all that was available to her at the time was Altar Guild and Wedding Coordinator.

John, on the other hand held almost every position in the leadership of the church over the years; including being a member of the Bishop's Steering Committee, attending Conventions and the National Church Convention. Remembering a favorite time, Maxine told me about the first wedding in the "New Church"...meaning St. Mary's in the Walnut Grove, of course.

Maxine's fondest memories of St. Mary's over the years center around the people and the friends that she has made. She remembers that we used to have more evening classes (but she commented: "Our lives were simpler then. We spent more time at church") as well as the wonderful Pot Luck Dinners. So many dear friends have been met at St. Mary's. And, after all that's what a church IS, the people, not the building. Her beloved Husband, John awaits Her, as he is buried in the Lompoc Cemetery. We pray that our Maxine will not join him any time soon. Maxine Smith is historically important to our Parish, but her lovely self is a **very important person**.

Glen Newcomb

**Coming up -**

Senior Saints Luncheon

October 16th

Save The Date

Next Month

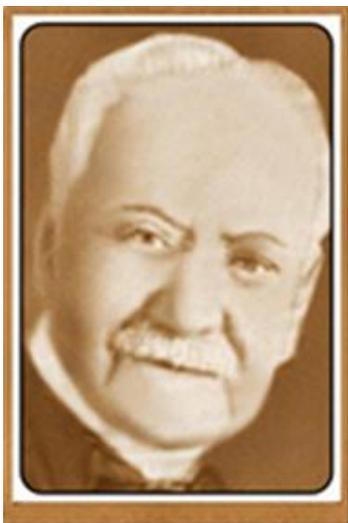


## The Perry Family – A “First Family” of St Mary’s



After much searching of archives and historical documents, another photo of one of our St Mary’s founding mothers has finally been found. **Mary Ann Perry** (nee Carr) was identified as the Secretary of the **Guild of St Mary** in 1891. As previously reported, she was born in 1848 to an old Bostonian family, and married **Thomas Longworth Perry**, a nephew of the famous Commodore Oliver H Perry, in 1865.

Thomas and Mary Ann Perry moved to California in 1868, after Thomas sustained an injury and retired from the US Navy. He then went to work for the Lighthouse Service and was the principal light keeper at Pt Concepcion, near Lompoc, from July 1872 to June 1895. The Fresno Historical Society has an excerpt from one of his lighthouse logs that paints a colorful picture of some of his time there.



Since Thomas and Mary Ann were among the first congregants of St Mary’s some details of Thomas’s colorful early life are intriguing and worth mentioning. He ran away from home as a lad, joining the US Navy and serving in the Civil War. Although there are many veterans in St Mary’s congregational history, it’s hard to imagine a Civil War veteran among them! He is said to have told many stories of his early Navy years as a crewman of the gunboat Mohigan, the first propeller vessel built for the Navy. During his service in 1861, the Mohigan overtook and captured Nathaniel Gordon’s infamous slave ship, the Erie, with its human cargo of 897 souls. He recalled with satisfaction that Gordon was convicted of his “sins of the sea” in November 1861 and hanged in New York. Although the US had passed a law as early as 1820 declaring the slave trade to be piracy, Gordon’s conviction was the

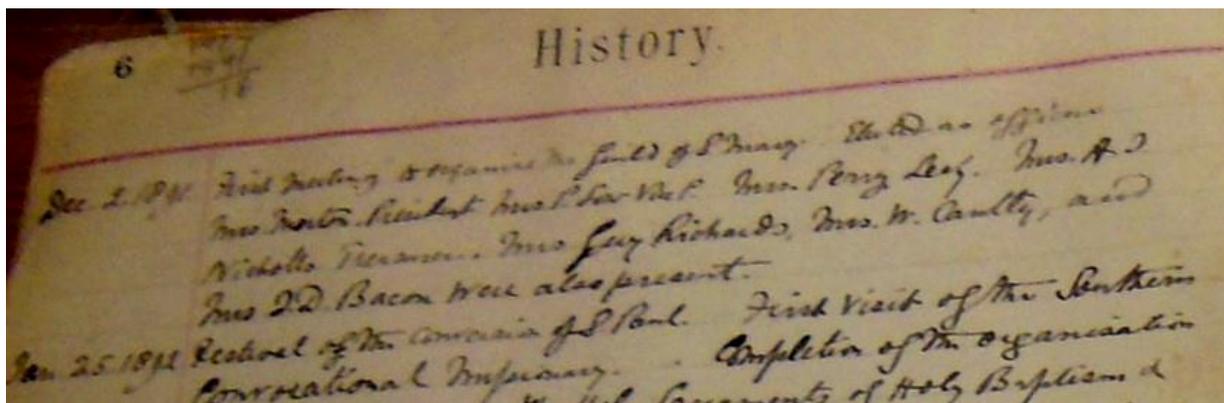


Photo by John Beeler.

first obtained under that statute and he became the only slave trader ever hanged in this country. Thomas Perry had previously made a trip to the African coast in the gunboat Mohigan, so was quite familiar with the evils of the slave trade.



Thomas and Mary Ann had one daughter, Ethel Harwood Perry, born in Lompoc in 1883. After living in Lompoc for many years, the couple then moved to San Francisco where Thomas operated a mercantile business. But, that sort of business was just not appealing to him and he disposed of his store and went across the bay to Vallejo, taking a position in the Navy yard before finally retiring. The couple remained very active in civic affairs of the community and had many friends and associations throughout California. Their daughter, Ethel, married Albert W. Potts of San Francisco.

The above photos of Mary Ann and Thomas are from a newspaper article in 1930 announcing their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Thomas died in Vallejo in 1934 at the age of 104. Mary Ann shared in most of his adventures during their 69+ years of marriage and died in Vallejo in 1940.

Louise Larson



Welcome to a new year! We will be exploring stories of the Saints. Saints and Heroes of the Faith will give our youth the opportunity to look in depth at twelve fascinating and sometimes unlikely heroes chosen by God to carry out God ' s mission. Sunday, September 1, 2013, will be the last time you can offer feedback on which saints our youth will focus. Our final roster will be announced September 8th during Sunday School kick-off. You will have the opportunity to volunteer to teach a saint ' s story at that time. This allows the youth to get to know and form relationships with a variety of adults at church. We will begin by celebrating the grace-filled ministry of Mr. Fred Rogers: " It ' s a beautiful day in the neighbor, a beautiful day for a neighbor, won ' t you be mine? "

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 Bells Editor:  
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*Sunday Eucharist*  
 8:00 AM and 10:00AM

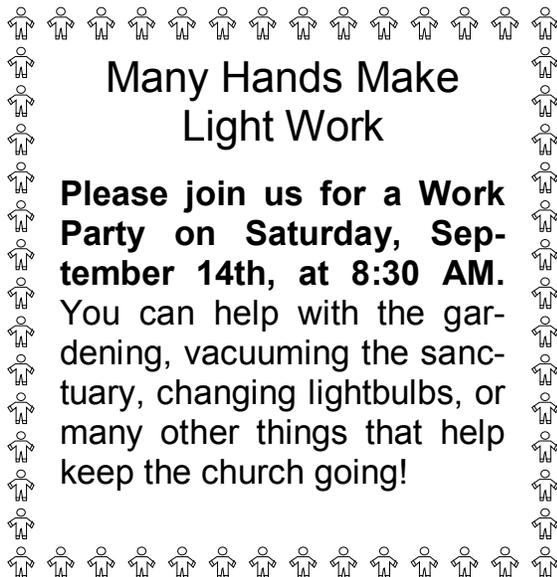
Church Office Hours  
 Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

Telephone: (805) 733-4400  
 Fax: (805) 733-4405

www.stmaryslompoc.org



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
Norma Anderson	09/22
Peggie Gould	09/24
Helen Free	09/26
Ruth Hicks	09/27
Matt MacPherson	09/29



**Many Hands Make Light Work**

**Please join us for a Work Party on Saturday, September 14th, at 8:30 AM.** You can help with the gardening, vacuuming the sanctuary, changing lightbulbs, or many other things that help keep the church going!

# Financial Statement

As of 7/30/2013

Undesignated checking & savings                 \$75,905  
Designated Checking                                 \$35,122  
**\$111,027**

	<b>Actual Jul '13</b>	<b>Actual Jan - Jul '13</b>	<b>Budget Jan - Jul '13</b>
Income	\$17,507	\$180,972	\$183,415
Expenses	\$24,307	\$167,190	\$183,851
Net income/(loss)	(\$6,800)	\$13,783	(\$436)

## 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:*

**George Bowman, Gisele Boyd-Snee, Ray Down, Sr., Isla Hill, Sheila Holley, Shelie Jackson, Stan Sheldon, Rachel Williams, and Keith Wright,**

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

**Alana, Allan, Bill, Carl, Carlos, Gustavo, Jason, Josh, Kevin, Kimberly, Paige, Patrick, Robert, Simon, Ryan, Virginia, and Whitney.**

*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](http://www.stmaryslompoc.org) call any of our Prayer Ring members, or email Stephanie Bastian at [jeffnsteph95@msn.com](mailto: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