



The Bells of Saint Mary

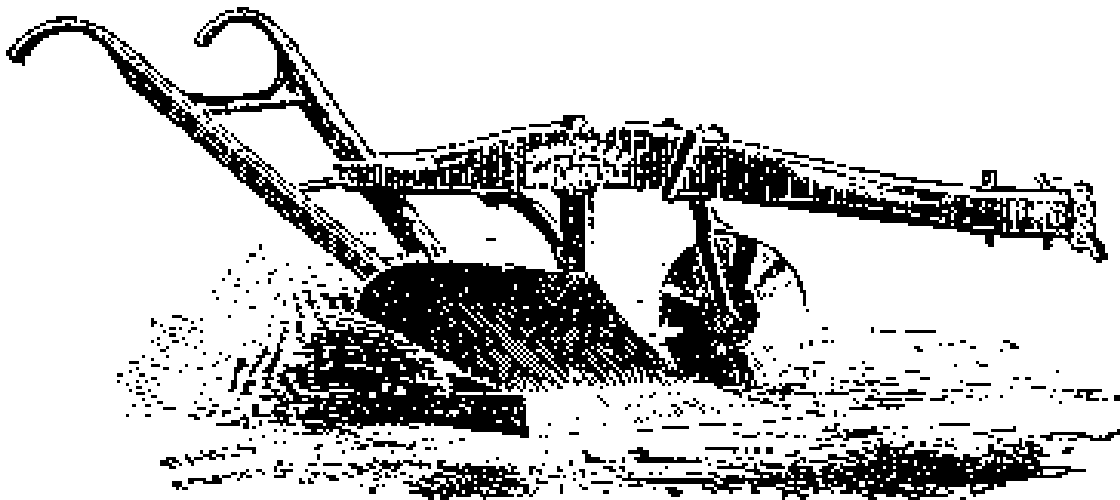
October 2013

With my hand on the plow: Rocktober!

We will be rocking it this October as it is a very busy month for us! Just a quick look at what makes me say that.

October 6 is St. Francis Day...which is a favorite day for many of us here as we gather and bless the animals outside on the patio at the ten o'clock service. We will, as in years past, also scatter the ashes of our beloved pets who have died in the year just past in the St. Francis' Garden after that service.

It is also the last day of our talks on stewardship that various members of the church have offered. This past week, (I am writing this on September 24) Joshua and Kristina Failing were our speakers, and I thought they were inspiring with their "give from the heart" talk they offered.



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This coming week, on the 29th, Emilio Roell our speaker and on October 6, Norma Anderson, Roger McConnell, and Mary Newcomb will offer their own perspectives on giving back to God a portion of what God has given to them. The following Sunday, the 13th of October, will be the ingathering of our pledge forms. Just like last year, no one will ever read your card, but I want all of you to pray and fill out the form, so that you make your covenant with God in your own time and way. We will



Josh and Kristina Failing delivering their stewardship talk at the September 22nd service.

send them back to you at the beginning of the last quarter of 2014, so that you can open them, and you and you alone will know how you are doing with the pledge you made to the work of God in our parish church of St. Mary.

This time frame is worked out in conjunction with the schedule of our Finance Committee, and with Rick Kendall, who is preparing the draft budget for 2014 for us. The Vestry must approve the budget by its meeting in November so that our pledge to the diocese can be offered at Diocesan Convention the first weekend in December.

I experienced a real liberation this year when I asked our treasurer to take my tithe directly from my paycheck each month...so I never had to remember to write a check or worry over it anymore. We do the same thing with Deborah's paycheck, and have adjusted how we live and manage our lives financially based upon what we receive in our pay envelopes each month. It has been joyful, because we know, every month, that we begin each month with our tithe to the church being made before anything else. It is the first check we write...and here is the great part...we don't even have to write it! If you want to consider doing this, (and I hope you do consider it) I am sure that Mary Sharp will be able to explain how it works, and can assist you in setting it up.

Our E-Talks begin on October 2 at 6 pm in the Library. Josh Failing will begin the series with his talk on the Exxon-Valdez oil spill, something he has first-hand

knowledge of since he was there when it happened...living in Alaska. This will be followed by John Sipos on October 16, (always at 6 pm) with his title "Why did Jesus choose fishermen as his disciples?" (or as I am calling it..."Fly Fishing in America"). This will be followed two nights later with "A River Runs Through It" Robert Redford's brilliant film that uses, you guessed it, fly fishing, as a backdrop for this extraordinary and beautiful drama as only Redford can make them. Movie Night begins at 7 pm. Bring food to share and kick back with friends and a good film.

On Tuesday, the 15th of October, St. Mary's will host a visit by the monks of



Parishioners gather in front of the altar to celebrate their blessings and milestones during the Feast of Saint Mary on August 18th.

Drepung Gomang Monastery as part of their Sacred Arts Tour of North America. They will be having supper first, and the event will be from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in Fitch Hall. A donation of \$20.00 is asked for, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Please do join us for this major event in the life of our city and our church.

The monks will be sharing their spiritual approach to art in the making of a sand mandala at Hancock College October 15-19 during school hours and visit churches in the area as part of an interfaith outreach: St. Mary's, Lompoc—October 15 at 7 p.m. and St. Peter's, Santa Maria—October 16 at 7 p.m. On Thursday the 17th, they will conclude the work on the sand mandala and be part of a cultural celebration at the Temple of the People in Halcyon, just outside of Arroyo Grande.

The annual Senior Saints Luncheon will be on October 16. Our Senior Saints' start arriving at 1030...so we will need volunteers to be there, to welcome them and to sit with them at tables as they gather for the lunch. Our Outreach Ministry Development Team has also asked for volunteers to help with serving and clean-up on that day. Please mark your calendars to come and join in this outreach to our community, then come back at 6 pm for John Sipos' E-Talk. (see

above)

The 26th of October will be a Dia de Muertos celebration...(Day of the Dead) here at church. Michelle Pittenger announced it this past Sunday during church, and I think it will be great fun for all of us. Our children will be creating altars that day to remember those loved ones who have gone before us. Come join us, and learn something new about this wonderful tradition and how it is observed. The altars will stay up for the Sunday Youth Led Worship service the next morning.

As you can tell, our church is not just a small little Sunday worship only community. This is a big, thriving and active parish church! There are so many things going on here, and we need your help! As we continue to grow, there is more and more to be done, and many days it feels like, less and less folks to help get it done. Our library is being re-designed and categorized and Courtney Tan and friends need help with that. The tree pits on the patio are being cleaned out and replanted and Jan Cooksey and friends need help. Our work



parties on Saturdays are in desperate need of workers...at our last one in September a whopping four people showed up. Please, as you contemplate your gift of time, talent and treasure to our church for the coming year, consider all three aspects of your stewardship, and give what you can to all three.

With my hand on this incredibly busy plow,
Fr. Michael+

THE SACRED ART OF THE GOMANG DREPUNG

A group of Tibetan Monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery Art Tour of 2013 is arriving in the Santa Maria area for the week of October 15th -18th. They will be exhibiting Tibetan Crafts, creating large a beautiful sand painting and presenting cultural pageant performances that include: dance, song, chant and a fascinating example of the debate monks use to train their thinking. All donations at any event will go toward their monastic work with the poor, hungry and infirmed.



The four day Sacred Art of the Sand Mandala will take place at Alan Hancock College Art Gallery Tuesday through Friday with the following times: 10AM - 5PM October 15th. Wednesday and Thursday 9AM-5PM and the closing ceremony on Friday, October 18th 10AM - 3PM. It is best to come daily to see the beautiful designs emerge. Call (805) 922-6966 or 466-4653 for more information.

Sand paintings are an ancient art form of Tibetan Buddhism. Mandala is a Sanskrit word meaning cosmogram or "world in harmony." Drawn in three-dimensional forms of sand, this art is called *dul-tson-kyil-khor* signifying "mandala of colored powders" in Tibetan. The mandala is an imaginary palace contemplated during meditation. Each object in the palace has significance, representing some aspect of wisdom or guiding principle. Various scriptural texts dictate the shapes, forms, and colors of the mandala. There are many different mandalas, each with different lessons to teach and blessings to confer. Most contain a host of deities, symbolic archetypes of the landscape of the mind.

In general, all mandalas have outer, inner, and secret meaning. On the outer level they represent the world in its divine form; on the inner level, they represent a map by which the ordinary human mind is transformed into the enlightened mind; and on the secret level, they predict the primordially perfect balance of the subtle energies of the body and the clear light dimension of the mind. The creation of a sand painting is said to affect purification and healing on these three levels.

There will be two presentations at two Episcopal Churches in the Santa Maria area. Tuesday Evening October 15, 7PM- 8:30PM A Cultural Pageant/Buddhist Teaching will be presented at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Lompoc at 2800 Harris Grade Rd. Lompoc. Please call. (805) 733-4400 for more information. \$20 suggested donation

Wednesday, October 16th at 7PM A Cultural Pageant/Buddhist Teaching will be presented at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Santa Maria. 402 South Lincoln Street, Santa Maria please call (805) 922-3575 for information. \$20 Suggested Donation.



Thursday, October 17th at 7PM A Full Cultural Pageant featuring dance, music, beautiful Tibetan costumes will be held at Hiawatha Lodge, Halcyon Ca. please call 466-4653 for information. There will be limited seating reservations advised \$20 donation suggested.

The monks can be scheduled for special personal/ event/program blessings (pujas). Please call Anet Carlin 804-466-4653 for information and scheduling. See www.charley.net for links to information about the Monks as well.

St. Mary's Parish: An Interview with our Elder Members

Mary Ella (Lott) (Wiggins) Wynns-Smith, As told to Glen Newcomb

Born Mary Ella Lott on February 12, 1919, Mary proudly told me that she was born just three months after the ending of World War I. But that is about the only connection with the military which Mary has had. Music has been her life. A cradle Episcopalian, Mary was the middle child of three children born to an up-state New York milkman and dairy man. Her sister Esther was older and brother David was younger. Raised in the Fingerlakes area of New York, Mary began to play piano at age five, because her sister began to take lessons and Mary always just copied Esther's lessons.



Directory photo taken by Don Lown.

After graduation from High School in Endicott, New York, Mary attended the St. Luis Institute of Music for a degree in Piano Pedagogy. In fact, the first recital of her young students was held on Mary's Eighteenth birthday! She has been playing for 89 years and teaching piano and organ for over 70 years.

An interesting fact about Mary Wynns is that she is a three time widow. Her daughter Jan Hirschler who was with us at the interview, proudly commented: "And she took wonderful care of all three of them". After returning to New York to teach piano, Mary met and married Don Wiggins at the young age of 19. They were married for 25 years and had 4 children before he passed away at age 49. Don Wiggins was a kind man to Mary and their children and worked for the IBM Corporation. While living in Vestal, New York, Mary is credited with starting a new Episcopal church. She was the first woman to serve on the Vestry and was a key figure in establishing the church.

After seven years of being a single mother, Mary met George Wynns. She had moved to Florida to be closer to family and met George while at the church. He was doing some accounting work and made a comment about not understanding people who did not know how to keep accounts properly. Well...Mary knew how, and told him so. They dated and both worked at the church, where Mary was the organist and secretary. When the two were married, George was twelve years older than Mary, they had 7 children & step children. However, many of them were away from home at that point. Things got a little complicated when Jan and Mary tried to figure out numbers of children, step-children, grand children, and one little great-great grand child. (with another on the way).

George was a CPA and they had a wonderful life together for 25 years. They developed property, and traveled a lot. When the United States withdrew from the 1980 Olympics in Russia, George and Mary decided to go ahead with their already made plans to attend.

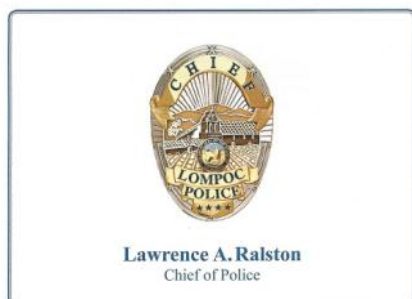
Mary fondly remembered that George “played a last hand of bridge one morning, and passed away”.

After losing her second husband, Mary was a little leery, at first, of a relationship with Ed Smith. Ed, she told me, was not expected to live for more than a year. He was on Oxygen 24/7 and could hardly breathe in Florida where they were living. But, after a trip to Lompoc to visit daughter Jan Hirschler, Ed was able to breath so much better. Ed lived for 11 years with Mary and they had a wonderful relationship. As Jan had said earlier: “Mom loved three men, and took really good care of them”.

When asked what thing in her life she was most proud of, Mary responded (as so many of our people have) : “Well, my children, of course!” Daughter Jan added: “Yes that, AND she bought a computer (and uses it) at age 90!” In addition she renewed her passport at that same age.

Mary and Ed were so delighted with the manner in which they were received at St. Mary’s Lompoc. Only shortly after arriving, they were both working in the church office, and being a part of the group who held a church service every Wednesday noon for the patients at the Comprehensive Care Center. This writer thinks that has a lot to do with the love and charity that both Mary and Ed had within them.

Mary’s only disappointment is that she is not able to participate more in the church activities, not like she used to. What a delightful woman she is, and a wonderful addition to our church family.



Dear Father Mike,

I want to say thank you from all the members of the Lompoc Police Department for hosting the First Responders Luncheon last week. As usual the food was outstanding and the message from your Mother-in-Law was dynamic. She is a gifted speaker and told her story as if she was reading it from a book of her life. I think all of us that had the privilege to hear her message appreciated her sincerity. Please pass on to her how I felt about her message.

Your congregation has always been so inviting and accommodating to the public safety community. If there is anything I can do for your congregation please feel contact me.

Sincerely,

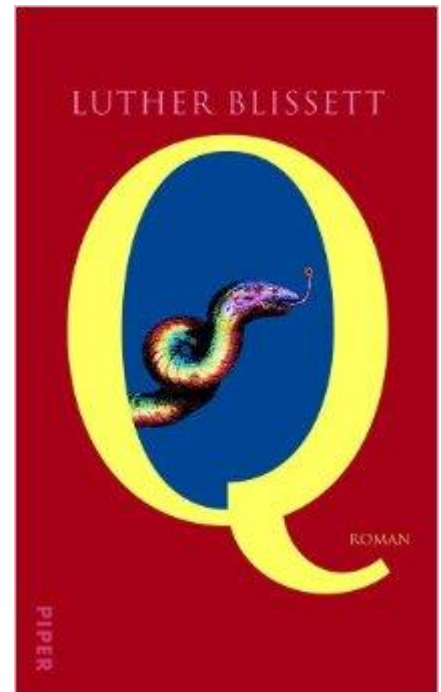


LARRY A. RALSTON
Chief of Police

The Bookworm Recommends: **Q**

The enthralling novel, *Q*, is part of a contemporary literary movement in Europe called the New Italian Epic. Translated from the Italian by Shaun Whiteside, it is co-written by four men ("Luther Bissett") who chose anonymity for political and social reasons. The group feels adulation (and publicity) have gone too far and that the practice of making authors instant celebrities does not represent writers or literature well. For more on their views, see www.wumingfoundation.com/.

Q explores the years 1517 to 1648, an era of intense upheaval and wars, including the Anabaptist Munster Rebellion, the rise of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, and the power politics of so-called Renaissance Europe. Many of the facts and incidents that this novel (adult themes, adult language) revolve around are fairly unknown to an American reading public. Most courses of world history mention the domination of the Antwerp mercantile success, the invention of the printing press, European fledgling banking efforts and the death of Henry VIII, but the vast majority of this time period was centered on religious struggles and the efforts of the Roman Catholic Church to retain the wealth, power and influence of the preceding centuries. "This is the place (Wittenburg) where they're baking the bread that will keep the Pope's teeth busy for years to come. A new generation of teachers and theologians who will free the world from the corrupt claws of Rome." (p. 37) Public education in the U.S. has largely veered away from any religious education, even historical (The *Mayflower* set sail for new lands to settle and harvest for profits....).



The strength of the Anabaptist (adult baptism only) and the growing Lutheran/Protestant ("how dangerous a weapon the printing press can be: without it, Luther would still be teaching in an unknown university in a muddy little Saxon town.") (p.446) movements are shown through the thoughts and actions of the narrator, a young theological student who ages into a literate mercenary captured by faith and ideals. His principal antagonist is a spy and exposed through letters to report to an increasingly powerful Catholic priest.

Q is a fascinating inside look at the brutality and culture, tumult and war we now know as the Reformation. Chaotic and violent, the storyline leaps off the pages. Amid the plot developments, there are gems like this description of Venice in the 1600s: "the immense power of Venice, a bridge between east and west, is not based on the water upon which mad and brilliant fugitives designed it, any more than it emerges from the crucible of the artists and men of letters who throng the city. For centuries now the rulers of this lagoon have been weaving an intricate web of power and spies, guards and magistrates that no one can escape." (p.538) As unfamiliar as the historical specifics may be, the reader is ensnared by the writers' accomplishment.

Kati Smith

Senior Saints Luncheon

October 16th, 10:30am – 1pm, Fitch Hall

The Outreach Committee provides opportunities throughout the year for our parish to live the words we pray at the close of Sunday services:

Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our next outreach occasion is the annual fall Senior Saints Luncheon, scheduled Wednesday, October 16th, in Fitch Hall. Seniors living in care facilities, senior housing, and in homes are invited to enjoy entertainment by Junior Garcia's band and a hearty, delicious lunch. But the most important part of the luncheon may be getting personal attention from members of our parish who set aside time to visit with our honored guests.

Last year, Adrian Gusland, a newly graduated engineering major from UCSB, who had not yet found the right job placement, hosted a table of shut-ins. The smiles and conversation at this lively table were truly a joy to see.

Facilities begin delivering their residents at 10:30AM, and as they are settling in at tables, entertainment starts and lasts until lunch is served at noon.

A sign-up sheet for parish attendees is posted on the kiosk in Fitch Hall. If you can spare time to attend the Senior Saints event, even for a little while, please sign your name on the list and join us in welcoming and hosting our guests. For more information, please call Ron Pace, Outreach Chair, 733-1150 or Molly Gerald, 737-1809.

Thank you, the Outreach Committee

African Team Ministries

Just around the corner. . . we will once again host African Team Ministries annual sale of craft and gift items. After the first service, before and after the second service the return of items will be available for sale.

Gem stones, animal print scarves, soap stone carvings, the African Team Ministries' jewelry and crafts sale will be held on two consecutive Sundays, November 3th and 10th. Once again your purchases enable:

Make your checks payable to African Team Ministries for gifts and novelties for others and for yourself.

*Presents our 26th Annual
Domestic Violence Awareness*

Candlelight Vigil



THURSDAY OCTOBER 17, 2013

Please Join us for an evening to honor survivors and victims of domestic violence and to recognize those in the community who are committed to ending the cycle of violence.

Our Match will begin at 5:30pm at Centennial Park (South H St. and Cypress Ave.) Lompoc, CA and will end back at Centennial Park where the Ceremony will begin at 6:00pm.

For more information about the Candlelight Vigil Please call (805) 735-1834 or visit our website at www.dvsolutions.org



UPDATE

Pejuta Sapa (Black Medicine),
The Red Shirt Coffee House
Is up. More work to be done.

e-Mail Addresses:

Fr. Michael:
 rector@stmaryslompoc.org
 sensei1633@aol.com
 The Rev. Deacon Dr. Judy Lin
 revdrjlin@gmail.com
 The Rev. Deacon Paul Eustace
deaconpaul@stmaryslompoc.org

Elizabeth: Parish Administrator
 admin@stmaryslompoc.org
 Michele Pittenger:: Christian Formation
 formation@stmaryslompoc.org
 Wardens and Clerk:
 vestry@stmaryslompoc.org
 Bells Editor:
 john.beeler@verizon.net

Sunday Eucharist
 8:00 AM and 10:00AM

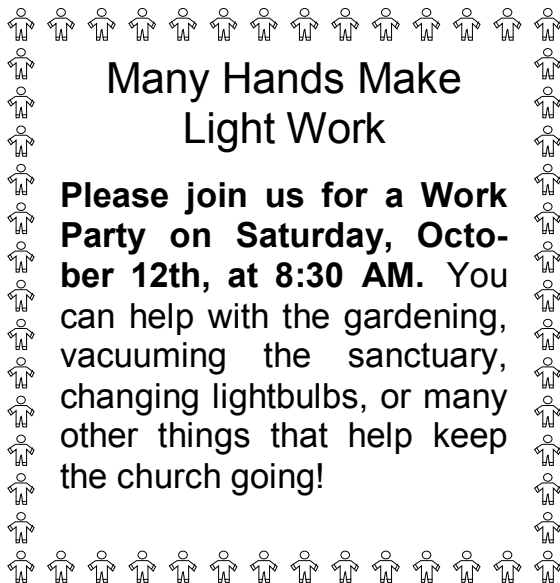
Church Office Hours
 Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

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

www.stmaryslompoc.org



Gethin Hughes	10/01
Francheska Hapil	10/02
Dee Lonnon	10/08
Ronald Davis	10/13
Joe Gonzales	10/14
Peggy Fields	10/15
Sonia Culmer	10/16
Leah Olsson	10/18
Stephen Straight	10/18
Stuart Twells	10/18
Heather Quinn	10/21
Robin Smith	10/22
Frank Longley	10/29
Kristina Failing	10/30



Many Hands Make Light Work

Please join us for a Work Party on Saturday, October 12th, 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 8/31/2013

Undesignated checking & savings	\$77,194
Designated Checking	\$28,585
	\$105,778

	Actual Aug '13	Actual Jan - Aug '13	Budget Jan - Aug '13
Income	\$21,806	\$203,899	\$208,732
Expenses	\$27,401	\$194,501	\$208,427
Net income/(loss)	(\$5,595)	\$9,398	\$305

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, Eddie, Gustavo, James, Jason, Josh, Kevin, Kimberly, Matthew, 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 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