



The Bells of Saint Mary's

February 2015

I'm not done yet...how could it be Lent?

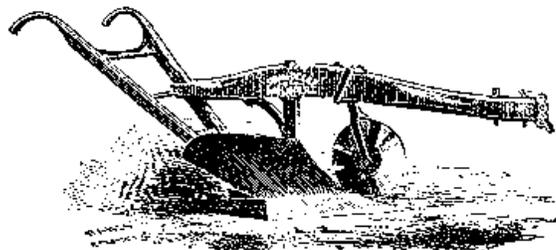
It is that time again. Lent is almost here. Really. Wednesday the 18th is Ash Wednesday. Which means that we will offer services for the Imposition of Ashes at 0700, 1200, & 1800 hours. Ok...7 am, noon, and 6 pm. I like 24 hour time because it makes me use my brain. Maybe that will be the virtue I take on for Lent...using my brain more and my mouth less. Mmmm, now that is a good idea.

The idea of giving something up for Lent goes back a long way...but I always heard both sides...you give up something for Lent...(you know chocolate, fatty foods, drinking, smoking, vices) and one takes on something for Lent...(a virtue. Be less critical of others, listen more, talk less; no judging others, patience) they are much harder I think than giving something up.

Deborah's grandfather, a life-long Episcopalian, always gave up watermelon for Lent. It was an easy thing to do, since watermelon were never in season during February, March, & April. I think we are supposed to actually give something up... if you are going to go that route.

Tuesday the 17th will be our annual Pancake Supper in Fitch Hall. 1800 hours again. Come hungry...they are just the best dang pancakes ever. Then the next morning...we move into a time of reflection and self-examination that marks Lent as a season...both in the church and in our daily lives.

Here at St. Mary's there won't be any flowers on the altar and the silver and brass will dis-



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appear for the season, along with using the A-Word. The Alleluia! Word. But fear not, it will return at the Great Vigil of Easter. We don't do weddings during Lent...or baptisms, unless circumstances demand it of us. I am thinking of leaving the crosses uncovered so that we might experience this statement: "Lent is the time when we need the cross the most." What do you think about that? I welcome your comments.

I try to get everything in my life that takes me away from church done before Lent. I like to spend Lent in church. As much as possible, I like to do that. I hope you will join me. GBD...Gospel Based Discipleship Bible Study will continue at 6 in the evening in Fitch Hall. The Eucharist on Wednesday morning at 9 will continue. Is there another time, other than Monday, when you would like to gather for worship during Lent? Please let me know. I welcome your ideas.

I think Lent provides us an opportunity to slow down, reflect, and be still. The church will be open and you are free to come and spend some quiet time whenever you want. The church office is open Monday thru Thursday at 0900. Somebody is here until at least 1630. It is your church, feel free to come in...but please know that you need to come in via the office door. The main doors of the church are not open...it is so windy most days that the narthex would be full of dust and leaves!

This year's Episcopal Relief and Development Lenten Reflection booklets will be available to you on the 15th of February. Please pick one up and consider using it for your daily prayers during Lent. There is no charge for these booklets that ERD provides for us. Also, Lent Madness will be beginning again. So watch for the brackets as we learn about the Saints, and have a fun time doing it.

Lastly, remember that we observe Lent one day at a time. If we will take the time to do that, then we will remember that we cannot get to Easter without going through Good Friday. What Jesus did for us is so much greater than anything we can do...so we observe Lent so that we may be mindful of what living with a heart full of gratitude means to others who need our help, our love, and our prayers.

With my hand on the plow,
Fr. Michael+

Reflections

"I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out- plans to take care of you, not to abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for." Jeremiah 29:11 (Message Bible)

4 or 5 years ago, I taught Beginning/Intermediate English to adults twice a week for almost 4 years. I remember that experience as a special time in my life and one that gave me much joy. I shared my skills in English, and many of my students shared their dreams. As the students began communicating in English, many shared their passions for wanting a better life, not just for themselves, but for their children and grandchildren. Their stories gave the words resilience and perseverance new meaning for me.

Somewhere during this time, one of my colleagues gave me a book to read: *Enrique's Journey*. It's the story of a boy, living in Honduras, who wanted to reunite with his mother in the U.S. The book is very credible because the author, Sonia Nazario, in researching her facts actually took the incredibly dangerous journey Enrique had taken, writing down all that she observed and experienced. She later went on to receive a Pulitzer Prize for her writing.

I learned from reading her story that the southern-most Mexican state, Chiapas, is considered a "hell on earth." It was heartening to read about the work people do there to help others in need. She also wrote about a priest of a church in a small Mexican village, whose parishioners, upon hearing the whistle of an approaching train, rush to meet the train and throw what little food and drink they have to the people riding on top.

Not long after I read that book, I had a young man from El Salvador in his twenties, with twinkling eyes and a keen sense of humor, enroll in my class. His conversational English skills were quite good, and we could communicate fairly well right from the beginning. One night, I mentioned to him how Jesus must have been with him in a very special way as he crossed from Central America into Chiapas. I'll never forget how his eyes opened wide as he realized I had some idea of how difficult his journey had been to get to the U.S. From that point on, we always spent a small amount of time, before or after class, talking about Jesus/God, his life in El Salvador and why he left his country, his mother and other family members and friends. He said he was escaping the gangs. He worked in construction here in the U.S., when he could, and as he actively sought to become legal. He eventually stopped coming to class. However, I reconnected with him a couple of years later. It was in that meeting that he presented his new wife, adopted 5 year old daughter and brand-new baby daughter. He had been able to secure a "green card"! He still had his faith in Jesus/God and those twinkling eyes!

I had wanted to write this article last summer during the crisis of thousands of children fleeing gangs and severe poverty in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. I

feel that I must share my experiences at this moment, because now we have a new DMV right down the street from St. Mary's. Jesus/God knows the stories and hearts of everyone...He is so loving...so kind...maybe He will use St. Mary's in some way to help His children who have had to flee poverty or violence. As I think/pray for refugees, I like to use part of Psalm 73: Verses 23-24 (aprox. & changing the pronouns): "You've taken their hands. You wisely and tenderly lead them and then you bless them." (Message Bible)

*In Christ Jesus and for His Glory,
Patricia LoCicero*



Priests at Mission San Luis Rey (near what is now Oceanside, CA) wore vestments like these during the different church seasons.

Overview of the Journey to Adulthood (J2A)

A transformational way to do youth ministry

So, you want to know about Journey to Adulthood? What is it & what makes it different from traditional youth curriculum? Well, first of all – the program structure is different. There are three sections of the Journey to Adulthood program: Rite 13, J2A and YAC. Each section of the program lasts for two years and that two-year grouping of teens will stay together until they graduate from high school, with no other class being added in (although there will almost certainly be individuals who join the group as new families move in.) This stability of group dynamics creates a safe, sacred space where the group members can learn to trust themselves and each other as they grow in faith.

R13 The first two years of the program is called **RITE 13**, a name that comes from a liturgical rite of passage we celebrate with young people around their 13th birthday. This rite is loosely based on the Jewish bar/bat mitzvah tradition and is a way for the entire congregation to celebrate the unique gifts and abilities of its young teens. The two years of Rite 13 focus on recognizing the gifts God has given us, celebrating our creative potential, and learning to interact as a community of faith.

J2A The second segment is J2A, an acronym for **JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD**. It is a little confusing since the name of this group has the same name as the entire program, but the reason for this is that the bulk of the work gets done in these two years, building on the foundation of the Rite 13 experience. During these years, teens learn and practice six basic skills of adulthood: active listening, negotiation, assertion, research & information management, partnership, and leadership. At the end of the second year of J2A, the group designs and goes on a Holy Pilgrimage.

YAC The last two years of the Journey to Adulthood program are referred to as YAC, which stands for **YOUNG ADULTS IN CHURCH**. YAC students are encouraged to accept more adult responsibilities and to contribute their time, talent and treasure in support of the ongoing work of the church. Teens write a personal credo of beliefs and rely on their trusted peers as they explore their faith more deeply and struggle with the details of transitioning from teenager to young adult in today's world.

The Journey to Adulthood experience incorporates much learning and laughter, but it takes our young people seriously and gives them real work to do. The program is based on the key concept that “Manhood and Womanhood are gifts from God, but Adulthood must be earned.” It encourages teens to explore the four areas of Self, Spirituality, Sexuality and Society, and learn to connect their faith to all areas of life. It is our hope that this program fosters an environment of

wholeness and authenticity and helps teens develop a life-changing relationship with the God who created them.

This journey has the potential to transform not just your youth group, but your entire church. The program uses the collective wisdom of adults in your church to beckon young people into responsible, faithful adulthood. It calls the entire congregation into a deeper relationship with their young people and it calls each one of us – whatever our age – to think about the gifts we have been given. When we find ways to use our gifts to be God’s presence in the world, we can ALL be changed in very powerful ways.

Come join us on this journey – you’ll be glad you did!

***Draft Annual Meeting of the Parish Of St. Mary’s
Sunday, January 25, 2015***

The 123nd Annual Meeting of St. Mary’s Parish was led by Fr. Michael Cunningham, Rector, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the context of Holy Eucharist. Approximately 125 persons attended.

Vestry Members Present

Rob Glasgow, Senior Warden
Glen Newcomb, Junior Warden
Nancy Straight
John Sipos
Louise Larson
Courtney Tan
Linda Everly
Leah Olsson
Patrick Roell
Sheryl Murray

Vestry Members Absent

Julie Sherman
Steve Aranguren

Agenda and Reports

The agenda and ministry reports were distributed, pre-meeting, through the parish website.

Minutes and Clerk

It was moved and seconded and adopted by unanimous voice vote to waive the reading of minutes of prior annual meeting and of vestry meetings.

Fr. Michael introduced Acting Clerk of the Vestry, Jeanne Johnston, substituting for Stewart Johnston. Mr. Johnston has agreed to continue in office.

Fr. Michael

Announced that he is beginning his plans for his Sabbatical in 2015 and would like to make a visit to New Zealand. It would be conjunction with an invitation made by the Archbishop of the Anglican Church in New Zealand to build a companion relationship between the church there and St. Mary's. All of this through mutual ministry opportunities offered by the Red Shirt Project.

By contract and custom, the rector has earned a 12 week sabbatical but Michael is only taking six weeks.

Michael noted that we have many more young families compared to last year. 57 persons have been added to the membership lists of the church. WE have 27 young people under 16 and 21 of them are enrolled in Sunday School. We also have a youth group now meeting. David Heinbaugh and Sarah Cunningham are the mentors currently, and Fr. Michael asked for two more volunteers, male and female to help them. Paying off the mortgage has allowed us to step forward in ministry. And has added to the success of new membership numbers. He cited numbers that appear on the Parochial Report to the congregation, reinforcing the good news of our growth.

Michael asked Patrick Roell to head up a Ministry Development Team whose focus will be on New Ministry opportunities. That MDT would help explore new connections with the Anglican Province of New Zealand, among other things.

Michael has asked Sheryl Murray to serve as Senior Warden in 2015

Both Mr. Roell and Ms. Murray have accepted.

Selection Of New Vestry Members

The St. Mary's Vestry is composed of twelve members, each member usually serving a three year term. Each year four terms expire and new members are elected. These members are stepping down:

Rob Glasgow
Louise Larson

John Sipos
Julie Sherman

This year we have three candidates who have agreed to serve. They are:

Bill Brennan	Jan Cooksey
Jeanne Johnston	

Fr. Michael asked for volunteers or nominations from the floor for the fourth open Vestry. Dave Heinbaugh volunteered to serve.

A motion was entertained to elect by acclimation, and it passed unanimously.

Delegates for Convention

The following persons have expressed interest in being delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

Balloting was conducted to select five to serve as delegates and one to serve as an alternate delegate.

Howard Gould	Louise Larson
Patricia LoCicero	Leah Olsson
Courtney Tan	Sarah Cunningham
Mike Munson	Donato Ricci

Voting Results

After the meeting results of the balloting were announced:
The Delegates for Convention are:

Patricia LoCicero	Sarah Cunningham
Courtney Tan	Donato Ricci
Louise Larson	Leah Olsson (alternate)

Wardens, Rob Glasgow and Glen Newcomb spoke about the previous year and the state of the parish.

Roger McConnell: Financial Committee

Committee members: Rick Kendall, Mary Sharp, Treasurer, Rob Glasgow, Vestry Liaison; Donato Ricci, Kati Smith, Marno Goetsch and Jeanne Johnston

The Parish finished the year 'in the black' with \$11,416 to carry over. Mr. McConnell explained that this would not have been possible without the autumn campaign to fill the gap in a predicted shortfall. The 2015 Budget has been pared as much as seems prudent, both income and expense are lower than 2014 Budget or Actual. Mission Share contribution is higher than before and represents 9% of our income. We still have work to meet our goal of a 12% minimum contribution.

Howard Gould moved, from the floor, that spending in Buildings and Grounds be increased in order to re-establish twice a month yard care by contractor. Jeanne Kendall seconded the motion. This measure would represent an increase of \$1,250 for the year. The measure passed on a show of hands basis: 48 Yes and 34 No.

Roger McConnell moved, Anita McManigal seconded to receive the 2015 Budget with the increase of the previous motion. Passed on a voice vote.

Departing Vestry members were honored by the Rector and their contributions noted.

Rob Glasgow
Louise Larson

John Sipos
Julie Sherman (not present)

The meeting and service concluded at 12:15 p.m.

By Jeanne Johnston, Acting Clerk of the Vestry

As Approved At The Vestry Meeting of _____

Approved Budget

	2014 Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Budget
INCOME	\$ 324,743	\$ 315,800	\$ 309,908
EXPENSES			
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 237,106	\$ 240,043	\$ 241,287
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 205,491	\$ 204,169	\$ 205,384
Administration (other)	\$ 31,615	\$ 35,874	\$ 35,903
MISSION SHARE FUND	\$ 24,358	\$ 24,000	\$ 26,009
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	\$ 41,368	\$ 45,550	\$ 30,132
CHRISTIAN FORMATION	\$ 1,049	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,800
COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 326	\$ 980	\$ 230
OUTREACH	\$ 4,803	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
PASTORAL CARE	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ -
RADICAL HOSPITALITY	\$ 696	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100
STEWARDSHIP & RENEWAL	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
WORSHIP	\$ 3,625	\$ 4,850	\$ 3,850
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 313,331	\$ 324,273	\$ 309,908

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Sunday Eucharist
8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

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www.stmaryslompoc.org



Marie Pope	02/01
Sarah Cunningham	02/02
Julie Sherman	02/02
James Cooksey	02/07
Paul Hamilton	02/09
Linda Everly	02/10
Mary Wynns-Smith	02/12
Barbara Manchester	02/16
Cynthia LeRoy	02/18
Richard Kendall	02/19
Lisa Johnson	02/20
John Sipos	02/21
Howard Gould	02/23
Gloria Griffith-Montague	02/23
Ryder Johnson	02/23
Patricia LoCicero	02/27

**Many Hands Make
Light Work**

**Please join us for a Work
Party on Saturday, February
14th, at 8:30 AM.** You can
help with the gardening, vacu-
uming the sanctuary, chang-
ing light bulbs, or many other
things that help keep the
church going!



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:

**Beverly Anderson, Gisele Boyd-Snee,
Irene Cunningham, Ruth Hicks, Isla Hill, Sheila Holley,
Shelie Jackson, Stan Sheldon, Richard Newcomb, Gerry Pittenger,**

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

**Alana, Allan, Bill, Carl, Carlos, Ericka, Gustavo, James, Jason,
John. Josh, Kevin, Kimberly, Matthew, Michael, Nicholas, Paige,
Patrick, Robert, Ryan, Virginia, and Whitney.**

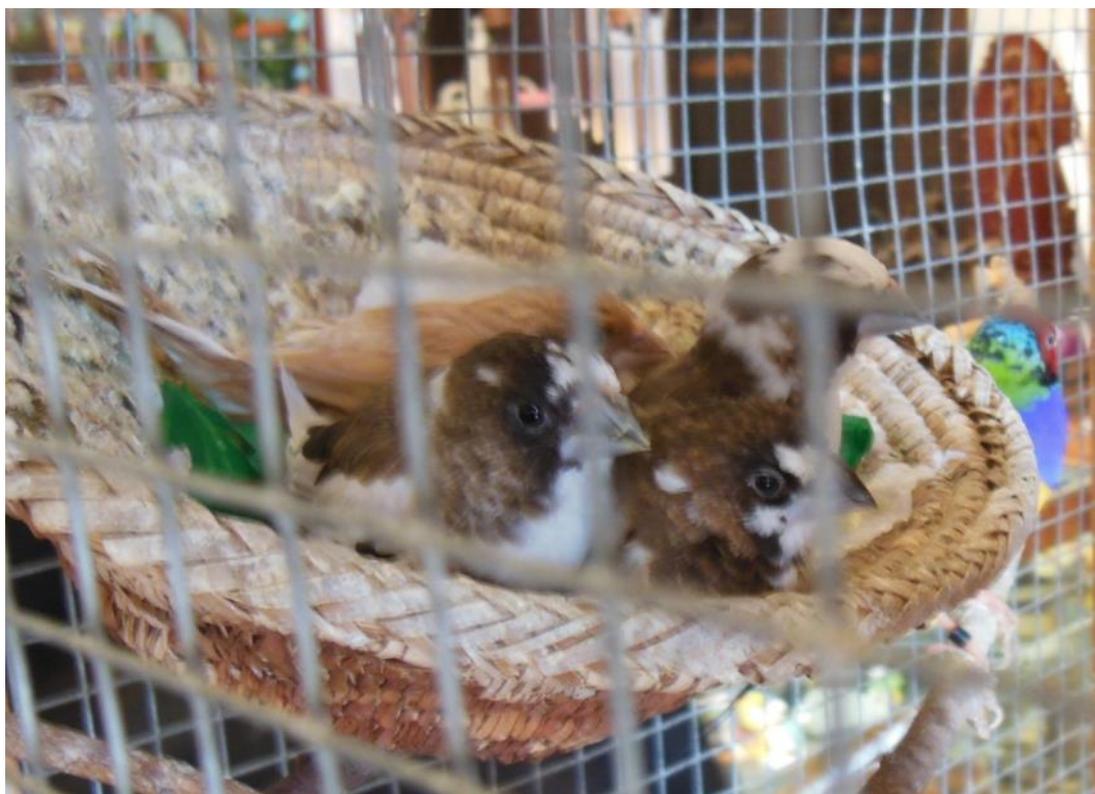
AMEN.

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 Courtney Tan at urquhart_tan@hotmail.com. Thank you!

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

Matthew 18:19



The Franciscan friars at Mission San Luis Rey keep these finches in their gift shop. Your editor got to watch them building a nest in this basket one Sunday afternoon while he was on vacation.