TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 14, 2016

Mass Schedule
Sunday 7:30 am - 9:00 am - 10:30 am
12:30 pm (Spanish) 4:30 pm (Vietnamese)
Saturday 8:15 am - 4:30 pm (Vigil)
Daily (Monday to Friday) 7:00 am - 8:15 am
Holy Days 7:00 am 8:15 am 7:00 pm
1st Friday Exposition – St. Joseph’s Chapel
12:30 to 4:45 pm

Sacraments
Reconciliation—Saturday, 3:15 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.
Baptism—4th Sunday of every month at 2:30 p.m.
Contact Parish Office for information
Marriage—Arrangements to be made 6 months prior to the wedding.
Mass of Anointing of the Sick—First Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m.

Parish Staff
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Rev. Eddie Castañas  Parochial Vicar
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Sr. Mary Anh Cong  (LHC)  Liturgical Ministries
Vietnamese Community
Altar Servers
347-1283
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347-1287
Sharon Clancey  Office Secretary
351-5244
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Parish Office Hours
Monday - Tuesday  9:00 am to  4:00 pm
Wednesday - Thursday  9:00 am to  4:30 pm
Friday  9:00 am to 12:30 pm

EMERGENCY NUMBER  (510) 309-8097
(During non-office hours)
Jeremiah loved Jerusalem and its people. He spoke the word of God to them, that they might change their evil ways and return to the Lord with prayer and supplication for deliverance from their foes. The city of Jerusalem was under siege, threatened by famine and in dire straights. The king and the people believed, as false prophets told them, that because they inhabited the holy city and held the Ark of the Covenant, no one could conquer them, and that God would save them. Jeremiah told them the opposite. He said that if they did not turn back from their unfaithfulness, they would be conquered and destroyed, and the people taken into slavery. They did not want to hear this, and plotted against Jeremiah. But God saved him from their hands, and although they were conquered and taken into slavery in Babylon, Jeremiah went with them to their fate, ever the faithful prophet.

THE GREATEST PROPHET

Jesus tells the disciples what they do not expect to hear. He tells them that he has not come to bring peace, but division. He prophesies that people will be divided by the power of his words, families torn by disagreements. We are seeing the same in our own country and in our Church at the present time. Paul teaches that, surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, the saints, we should keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. He endured the cross for the sake of believers, enduring its shame and pain for the sake of the reign of God. He endured opposition so that we might “not grow weary and lose heart.” We have not resisted “to the point of shedding blood.” So we must be brave, trust in Jesus to be telling us what we may be puzzled to hear, and walk in faith toward “the joy that [lies] before [us].”
Jubilee Year of Mercy

August 14, 2016

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Jubilee Year of Mercy bids us share our own experience of Jesus' mercy with those on what Pope Francis calls the "peripheries"--people who feel marginalized, even unwelcome--inviting them to come home. But with all this mercy, why today's mayhem? "Do you think I have come to establish peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division" (Luke 12:51). Jesus "breaks down" those "breakups" in painful detail--parents, children, even in-laws. "Against" appears eight times in five verses. Jeremiah faced death for bearing witness (Jeremiah 38:4). Can't we bear at least a small share of the sometimes merciless cost of sharing mercy? The Letter to the Hebrews warns us, keep your "eyes fixed on Jesus" and "so great a cloud of witnesses," lest we "grow weary and lose heart" as we run "the race that lies before us" (Hebrews 12:1-3). After all, “for the sake of the joy that lay before him,” Jesus "endured the cross" (12:2). Can't we endure our small crosses for the sake of sharing mercy?

--Peter Scagnelli, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
A name posted in dark print was added to the prayer list this week!

Do you have a seriously ill family member or friend? If you have the person’s permission, you may request that their name be printed in the bulletin for prayers. Names will be deleted after one month. Call the parish office at 351-5244 to leave the name of the family member who is in need of prayer.

A name posted in dark print was added to the prayer list this week!

NEW! Faithful Citizenship Information

The California primary elections are right around the corner and “as Catholics we are called to participate in public life in a manner consistent with the mission of our Lord, a mission that he has called us to share” (USCCB, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship). In preparation for both the primary and general elections, the California Catholic Conference has prepared resources to help Catholics learn about the issues often discussed during the election but also form a conscience that will help them vote in a manner consistent with the mission of our Lord.

These resources, such as Frequently Asked Questions, can be found at:

CACatholic.org/faithful-citizenship: http://www.cacatholic.org/faithful-citizenship

A link to these resources will also be available on our homepage until the general elections in November

our homepage: http://www.oakdiocese.org/
“RCIA” (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is the process for individuals to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. It is designed to fully incorporate a person into the Church and includes:

- Unbaptized adult who wish to learn more about the Catholic Faith.
- Baptized Christians from other denominations who are interested in learning more about the Catholic Tradition.
- Baptized Catholics who were not raised in the faith and/or who have not received Confirmation or Eucharist.

At St. Felicitas, the new RCIA session will begin in September. If you are interested, please call the parish office at 510-351-5244 for more information.

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Today's responsorial psalm, Psalm 40, is more familiar to us with the refrain "Here am I, Lord." This "Here am I" is Jeremiah's great prophetic response to God's call. But today's story of Jeremiah and the refrain "Lord, come to my aid!" remind us that there are always two sides to following the call of God. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews knew this, too. He reminded his readers that even weighted down with burdens and sins, we can still persevere by keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, who himself knew the shame and pain of the cross, but saw beyond it to the joy of sitting at the right of the throne of God.

Jesus himself gave the disciples a "sneak preview" of a baptism that would not be as wondrous as the one in the Jordan that inaugurated his ministry, but would be one of fire and anguish. Today's words from scripture may not be terribly soothing, but in their honesty and strength we can acknowledge the difficulties of daily discipleship, and take comfort in the assurance of our own salvation in Christ.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Long ago, a signet ring was an essential part of the wardrobe of influential people. A letter or document would be sealed with hot wax, and a signet ring pressed into the wax would affirm the origin of the document. In the case of the pope, at least from the thirteenth century, the ring was used to seal public documents with hot lead, saving the red wax for private letters. The public documents were called bullae after the Latin name for the lead stamp, and we still call them “papal bulls.”

It is not surprising, therefore, that a signet ring has long been bestowed as part of the inauguration of a pope. The ring is called the Pescatorio, or "Ring of the Fisherman." It reminds the wearer of his link with Peter, and his responsibility to continue the apostolic ministry of "fishing for human beings." Until 1842 it actually functioned as a signet ring. Now, each pope receives a new gold ring at the beginning of his ministry. It goes on the fourth finger of his right hand and bears some fisherman design, usually St. Peter casting nets from a boat, as well as the pope's name in Latin. A custom that endures for the pope, but not so much for bishops, is for people being introduced to him to kiss the Pescatorio as a sign of respect for his teaching authority. Another enduring custom is for the ring to be smashed and defaced at the pope’s death, originally a way of preventing counterfeit deathbed documents.
Para estas alturas casi todo el verano ha pasado. A medida que esta estación va desapareciendo y los días se van acortando nos vamos dando cuenta que los quehaceres de la vida pronto van a tenerse que tomar en serio otra vez. Una vez más la vida vuelve a llamarnos seriamente a las particularidades del otoño con sus propios quehaceres. Cada uno de nosotros debe seguir esa voz interior, no importa cuán temerosa o desafiadora, o sentiremos que la vida se nos escapa.

Así fue la historia de Jeremías, que se vio convertido en profeta entre el pueblo hebreo. Él sintió una llamada interior para pronunciar la palabra de Dios contra las alianzas políticas de la nación y contra la tendencia del rey a confiar en todo el mecanismo militar. Como resultado Jeremías fue echado en un pozo; no obstante, se mantuvo fiel a su compromiso.

También fue así la historia de Jesús, que trajo la verdad como un bastón y el reino como semillas de vida, que se riegan y se siembran. Él también supo muy bien que muy pocos caminarían por donde él caminaba o se alimentarían de lo que él sembraba; no obstante, nunca dejó de ser quien era.

Esa clase de fuerza de voluntad, que nos hace extendernos hacia lo desconocido, es parte de esa lista misteriosa de cosas que nos hace humanos. En esos momentos caminamos a la sombra de Jesús, que nos dirige hacia nuevas maneras de ser humanos. Raramente o nunca esto se da sin luchas y sin sufrimientos; no obstante, es entonces que comenzamos a entender de verdad quiénes somos y es también entonces que a través de nosotros Dios le ofrece al mundo algo nuevo.

—Padre Joseph J. Jaksialis

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