



THE BETHLEHEM

Hebrew for "House of Bread"

JUNE 2011

Dearly beloved in Christ,

A friend of mine named Wesley Kawato works for the Center for World Mission in Pasadena. Last August he wrote a column in his monthly newsletter that impressed me. With his permission, I quote part of it here:

"The actions of one person may have ripple effects that may affect his family, his community, and then his nation. Choices you make may affect people you will never meet, months or years in the future. A few months ago a group of Christian leaders met in Tokyo, Japan to make plans for reaching every people group with the message of salvation in one generation. The actions of these people will have ripple effects for years to come. All of us who believe in Jesus Christ must do our part to make this goal a reality.

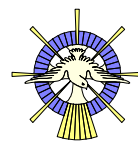
"That means using our talents and spiritual gifts. I'm doing my part, by using my writing skills to write articles... I have had 264 articles published... so far. Right now I don't know what ripple effects those articles might have had. Perhaps someone was led to pray for a people group he'd never heard of before. Maybe someone else was led to give money to a mission agency or perhaps even become a missionary. I may not know the impact until I get to heaven."

Wesley is correct. It is God who gives the increase to our labors, and we do not need to know—in fact, cannot know—all the effects of what we do for God. Last month in this column I wrote about a young man who was baptized more than twenty years ago and who moved away shortly afterwards; then I learned from him after all that time that he had been profoundly affected by his brief sojourn among us and how he has remained a faithful Christian.

Part of the "ripple effect" of Wesley's writing is this very column that you are reading. What will come of it is in God's hands. I hope and pray that many will be inspired to do what the 1928 Prayer Book said is the charge given to all Christians: to "work, and pray, and give for the spread of the Kingdom of God."

Sincerely and lovingly in Christ,

Father David



NEXT BETHLEHEM DEADLINE

Sunday, June 12, 2011

*It is the bounden duty and service
of the people of this parish,
being part of the
one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church,
to worship God
as he has revealed himself in Jesus Christ,
to become saints,
and to make disciples of all people.*



EVENSONG AND BENEDICTION

Solemn Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Sunday, June 5, at 6:00 p.m.

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TITHING SUNDAY

The Church Board invites and encourages everyone in the congregation to TITHE a full 10% of income for one week. That week is designated June 5-11, the last week of the Easter season, with the TITHING SUNDAY to be the feast of Pentecost, June 12. Whatever your income for the seven days of June 5-11, please take a full TEN PERCENT off the top and add it to your usual offering. This practice will 1) help each person with income to learn more about the Biblical standard of “giving the first ten percent” and 2) help the congregation establish a little “cushion” to help us through the customary reduced income of the summer months.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of July 19-23. For more information, please contact the parish office.

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WEAR RED FOR PENTECOST

The Feast of the Holy Spirit, Pentecost, the last day of the Easter season, is June 12. It is the only Sunday in the year when the liturgical color is RED. It has been our custom for many years to encourage everyone to wear BRIGHT RED to church on that day!

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THE QUIET SERVANTS

It's really quite wonderful that there are so many people in the parish who do so many things, that one can never exhaust the list of people to thank. There will always be many who are overlooked, but only because the list is so long. But here are some: Ned and Sandy Bergert cleaning and pruning the rose garden and adjacent plot. Elsie Pope cleaning the thurible every month—a very difficult and dirty job. Dick Reimers doing many odd jobs around the facility. Shauna Bell and Gill Verderber doing much of the sewing and repairing of vestments, Elizabeth Ward organizing and cleaning the parish library and Sunday School closet, and more. Ashley Romero and Elizabeth Ward seeing to it that our homebound and distant parish family members are sent palm crosses with a personal note. There must be others. All are thanked.

CONFESSIONS

The rite of Reconciliation of Penitents, commonly called Confession, is offered on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and by appointment. Father David will be in the church for this purpose at 10:00 a.m. on June 18.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Each issue of the Bethlehem is printed at no cost to the parish, thanks to C&M Church Publications. C&M is owned and managed by Chris and Magdalena McAdams in Riverside, with whom the parish has a long relationship—twenty years in 2011. The McAdamses are wonderful people who support us by printing the Bethlehem, and whom we are glad to support by providing one page in our newsletter for advertisers. The advertisers pay C&M, and C&M not only prints our Bethlehem but also sends us a rebate check each summer. Please do look over our advertisers and, if you need a service one of them provides, please consider patronizing them. And tell them that you saw their ad in our church newsletter. We make an effort to advertise only businesses that are reputable.

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KNOW OUR MISSIONARIES

Any healthy congregation should have a dedication to missionary work. One way in which our linked congregation shows its dedication is through our support of Father John Park, SSC, and his wife Susan, who are missionaries in Lima, Peru through the South American Missionary Society. We contribute significant financial support and we pray for them each Sunday. Father Park was present at Sunday Mass on May 8. Follow his and Susan's lives and labors through their website, www.parkperu.org.

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CORPUS CHRISTI

The Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, which we call Corpus Christi (Latin for Body of Christ), is Blessed Sacrament's "feast of title". We celebrate it on the second Sunday after Pentecost, which in 2011 falls on June 26. Justin, a Christian writer in the mid-second century who was later martyred, wrote, "not as common bread and common drink do we receive these... We have been taught that the food which is blessed by the prayer of His word,

and from which our blood and flesh by transmutation our nourished, is the flesh and blood of that Jesus who was made flesh."

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CLC News

Our first annual art festival and family concert was a big hit. If you missed it this year, we hope that you will join us the next time. Our school year is coming to a close but we are open during the summer. June 20 is our first day of the summer program and we will continue until August 26. There will be water play days, special guests to perform for us, a carnival and hopefully a chance to participate in VBS along with the church.

In chapel, we will be singing the Lord's praises with all the wonderful songs we've been learning throughout the year, and listening to some of our favorite Bible stories. Come join us!

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SLOBS UPDATE

The SLOBS (Spiritual Literati of Blessed Sacrament) meet usually on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. to discuss books with something to say about life in Christ. But with schedule conflicts and holidays, we'll move to the second Monday several times this summer.

In June we'll meet on the second Monday. On June 13 we'll discuss Rumer Godden's *FIVE FOR SORROW, TEN FOR JOY*, a haunting tale of shame and redemption that moves back and forth between the main character's life from brothel to prison to convent. We'll meet at the home of Karen Lee-Thorp, 146 Country Club Dr., Brea 92821. The phone is 714.671.6061.

July brings us to *ORIGINAL SIN: A CULTURAL HISTORY* by Alan Jacobs. From Augustine to *Hellboy*, Jacobs traces the cultural debate over whether humans have sin in their bones. A smart and engrossing account that even the Wall Street

Journal admits is "strangely entertaining." This isn't dense theology, but lively storytelling that is full of food for thought nonetheless. The first Monday in July is the 4th, so watch this space for an alternate date.

In August we'll share favorite poetry. Bring one or more poems to share.

The first Monday in September is Labor Day, so we'll probably meet on the second Monday. September's book is *The Betrothed* by Alessandro Manzoni. This is the first great Italian novel, written in the nineteenth century and set in 1628. Manzoni was raised an atheist but converted to Catholicism as an adult. His tale of two young lovers, the nobleman determined to thwart their marriage, and the monk determined to help them is funny and full of action. Creative Commons has a complete audiobook available for free download. However, the Penguin Classics edition is a wonderful newer translation by Bruce Penman.

Coming up: *Telling the Truth* by Frederick Buechner, *Preface to Paradise Lost* by C. S. Lewis, and *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman.

Please join us whenever you see a book that interests you, and feel free to suggest something to discuss. Contact Karen Lee-Thorp ([714.671.6061](tel:714.671.6061), karen@lee-thorp.com) for information or location.

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LOOKING BACK AT THE BLESSING OF GIFTS

We throw the wrapping paper in the trash, the ribbons are thrown away, (unless you are on of the thrifty ones who save the best) and the gifts are put away. We are grateful to those who remember us on birthdays, Christmas and other special days. We often overlook the gifts that fill our life here at Blessed Sacrament. We are very conscious of the spiritual gifts, but I wonder how often we are conscious of the material gifts we have been given.

Driving up to the Church, I see the trees. These trees are memorials from original parishioners in memory of loved ones. The cross on the roof peak

is a gift from two charter members, in memory of their parents. The travertine marble altar was a gift from an anonymous donor. The bronze tabernacle, brass flower vases, candle sticks and hand-made Gospel Book sitting on the altar are all loving gifts. The crucifix over the altar was given anonymously. It was later suggested that a friend of Father Scully, who was not a member of any church, gave the crucifix in memory of his brother. Our stained glass windows, the vestments worn by our priests and deacon and so many more things are all gifts. Our rose garden is a beautiful and fragrant gift. The tiles on the memorial wall in the rose garden are gifts in memory of loved ones.

It would be difficult to look any place in our buildings and not see a gift from someone or group of people. Often, labor is the gift. Parishioners handcrafted the large wrought iron Credence Table, Baptismal Font and Shrines. Often the labor is in the form of painting, repairing, weeding, serving on committees, picking up do-nuts, stocking the kitchen and caring about each other.

In a case to the right of the red double doors is the Remembrance Book. This is again, a gift from the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament. In this book are all the memorials that have been given. In addition to being filled with lists of memorials and names, it is also filled with love and thanksgiving.



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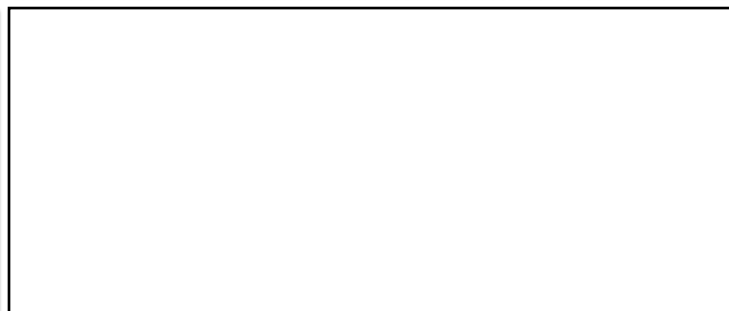
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