

Let me begin this column by recounting how many people told me how cold it was here last weekend. It proves that all is relative...

One might think that after almost 11 years as pastor, I'd be better ready to convey the following news to you. I can't say that is the case.

Very recently my provincial, Fr. Gary Sanders, asked me to consider a new assignment. Rather than telling me that I was being sent (under a vow of obedience), Fr. Gary related that this request was coming from the four N. American provincials - and that I was being asked to be a member of an inter-Provincial Augustinian community serving at our international Novitiate (located at our parish) in Racine, Wisconsin. ***Did I mention the cold?***

My particular assignment would be as pastor of St. Rita of Cascia parish in Racine - as well as being part of the formation team. Two other friars, one from the Eastern province and one from the Midwest province will serve (respectively) as the incoming Novice Master and Prior of the community. In fact, this will be an entirely 'new' community as the three friars currently serving in these roles will also begin new ministries themselves.

After much prayer and some trepidation, I have decided to accept the provincials' request and so I will be leaving Our Lady of Grace parish and going to Racine some time this coming summer. Details in regard to when that transfer occurs have not yet been determined. Needless to say, I ask your prayers and your support as I prepare to move into this new Augustinian community and this new parish setting.

One of my first concerns in considering this request was the thought of leaving OLG - for this is my 'home parish.' It was here in 1980 that I met the members of the first Augustinian community, Frs. McGarvey, Ranallo, Clifford, and Sullivan - all of whom played an important part in my choice to consider living life as a vowed religious and to seek ordination. It was from OLG that I left in 1984, at OLG that I made my first profession of vows in 1986, at OLG that I was ordained to the priesthood in 1990, and to OLG that I returned as your pastor in 1999. I cannot put into words the importance and significance of this parish for me over these past 30 years. But I am reminded that I have left before, and that I have always had Our Lady of Grace as a home to return to. That gives me some comfort even as I grieve leaving all that has become so much a part of me.

Serving as your pastor is a unique privilege - one that has brought many challenges and, hopefully, some successes. Pastoring any parish in today's church is a challenge in itself, but I have been tremendously aided by a gifted group of collaborators in this endeavor and I am so very grateful to all of them. Some are members of the staff who have gone well beyond the duties of their particular jobs; many have been able and generous volunteers who have given so much in service of this community; and many who thought they had so little to give - yet in giving of themselves they have greatly richened our lives. I cannot thank all of you enough!

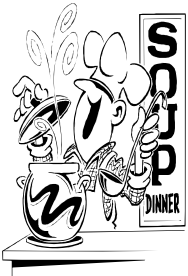
Oftentimes comparisons are made with other parishes - in regard to pastors, principals, personnel, programs, policies, etc. (why do they all start with "p"?). I am so very proud of our parish and all that it is about, and so proud of you for making it so. I am but one piece of the puzzle and that piece will eventually be replaced. Fr. Paul will remain here to assist the new pastor in his transition and I know that you will welcome him with open and supportive arms! As further details emerge I will provide them to you. In the meanwhile, let us continue our Lenten journey confident of God's most gracious and powerful presence in our midst - entrusting ourselves to His wisdom and love in all we are and do.

*Wishing you God's richest and fullest blessings,  
Fr. Kevin, O.S.A.*

### Gospel for The Third Sunday of Lent (March 7th):

### Gospel of Luke 13:1-9

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. He said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them--do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'"



**LENTEN SOUP MEAL**

Please join us for a simple meal of soup and bread each Wednesday during Lent. It will be a time for fellowship and families coming together. Our Soup Meal follows the 6:00pm Mass. This Wednesday’s Soup Meal (**March 3rd**) is sponsored by the Italian Catholic Federation. We thank the volunteers for their ministry of hospitality for this meal. Donations will be accepted to benefit those most in need in our local and global community.

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES  
OPERATION RICE BOWL**

This Lenten season, Catholic Relief Services invites Catholics to pray with their families and faith communities; fast in solidarity with those who hunger; learn about our global community and the challenges of poverty overseas; and give sacrificial contributions to those in need.

As a Parish community donations from our Ash Wednesday services as well as Soup Meal donations are sent to CRS Operation Rice Bowl to address the needs of the poor both locally and globally. Twenty-five percent of contributions received by CRS Operation Rice Bowl remain in the Diocese of Oakland.

**VOICES OF PEACE  
PAX CHRISTI/SOCIAL JUSTICE  
LENTEN REFLECTION SERIES**

For our Lenten reflection series this year we will hear 5 inspiring speakers from several faith traditions—Muslim, Buddhist, Presbyterian, Jewish, and Catholic. Come and listen to these “Voices of Peace”, gain a greater appreciations of what we hold in common .

Our first speaker on **March 3rd** is Samina Sundas, the founder and Executive Director of the American Muslim Voice Foundation. Following the 6:00pm Mass and Soup Meal in Stack Center.

**COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES**

The Communal Penance Service schedule in our Deanery is as follows:

Thursday, **March 11th** at Transfiguration 7:00pm. Wednesday, **March 17th** St. John’s, 7:00pm. Saturday, **March 20th**, Our Lady of Grace 10:00am.

**TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE**

Our Lady of Grace will once again be offering a Prayer Service with reflections on the Stations of the Cross in the spirit of Taize Prayer led by Ruth Picha on Tuesday’s **March 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th** beginning at 7:00pm in the Chapel at Casa Villanova. Making the Stations of the Cross using Taize is a powerful way to contemplate and enter into the mystery of Jesus’ gift of himself to us.



**ALAMEDA COUNTY FOOD BANK  
LENTEN FOOD DRIVE**

Lent is traditionally marked by prayer, almsgiving and fasting. For some of our neighbors, however, fasting is not a choice. Since 2001, the Alameda County Food Bank Lenten Food Drive has helped our neighbors who are impacted by hunger.

We will once again have red barrels at the entrances to the church to support this Lenten Food Drive. The following is a list of the most needed food drive items: *Canned Fruit and Vegetables, Canned Meats and Fish, Peanut Butter, Pasta, Beans, Rice, Canned Soup, Low-sugar Cereal and Oatmeal, Tomato Sauce, Powdered Milk. Thank you for you support.*



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Stations of the Cross are offered at Our Lady of Grace, Friday’s at 2:30pm and Transfiguration Church, Friday’s at 7:30pm during Lent.



**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

Upcoming Youth Group dates: **March 7th and March 21st** from 9:00am - 12:00. Our Youth Group is open to all high school students - so bring a friend and have some fun! Contact the Faith Formation Center for more information (510-582-9266) or by email, olgrec@sbcglobal.net. The complete schedule can be found under Youth Ministry at www.olgcv.org.

**FRESH START WEEKEND**

Next weekend (March 6th-7th) is *Fresh Start Weekend*. The Youth Group will have collection boxes at all the church entrances and in Stack Center for the *Fresh Start Program*. Thank you for your generosity in donating needed supplies for the Fresh Start kits. Because of your kindness, the Youth Group has assembled 100 kits for St. Vincent de Paul!

*The Fresh Start Program* is a year-round service project. If you are able to help, please drop your donations in the boxes provided. For more information, please call the Faith Formation Center (582-9266). Thank you for your generosity!

**HELLO OLG ALUMNI**

The Reunion Committee has opened a Shutterfly account for you to submit your old OLG Student photos. We'll be making scrapbooks for the Reunion Event in May 2010. If you have OLG school photos you would like to submit you will need to go to the Shutterfly account <http://olgalumni.shutterfly.com/> the password is Father Stack



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**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give ten percent of your income to the Church and charity, for example, God will help you live on the rest.

In gratitude for God's gifts of "Treasure" to us, we gratefully returned to God's church in the **Offerings of February 21st :**

Envelopes/Loose Checks (273)	\$ 7,948.00
Loose cash:	761.00
Total Offering:	\$ 8,710.00
Year-to-date (8weeks)	\$ 68,338.00

(Weekly average: \$8,542.00)

*May God bless your continuing generosity.*



**Your Prayers Are Requested**

Please lift up in your prayer those many among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Don Anderson   | D'Riece Gundred |
| Lloyd Bauerly  | Cindy Kathain   |
| Shirley Blake  | Janis Lococo    |
| Lucy Bruni     | Pat Lopez       |
| Carol De Cruz  | Maria Ortega    |
| Doug Foxworthy | Sylvia Pettit   |
| Paul Freres    | Mary Schenone   |
| Rita Freres    | Tula Rough      |

*As we pray for an end to war and violence in our world, let us remember in prayer those family members of our parish community serving on active duty, including:*

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| DAVID BANTA   | KEVIN DIAS     |
| DAVID SANCHEZ | LINDA SAUNDERS |

*Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.*

- Ray Baptista  
Leroy Limbordo  
Lorraine Nohr**

## EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

### WINGS

#### Women in God's Spirit

*WINGS is a faith enhancement group that encourages Spiritual growth through prayer, scripture study, catechesis, life sharing and community.*

Our next meeting:

**March 4th, 9:15 – 11:15am**

*"Sharing and Study on Scripture"*

*Transfiguration Church, Presenter: Mary Fair*

### CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION PARISH MISSION

*Transfiguring Our Community Through Faith:* Monday, **March 8th** to Thursday, **March 11th**, evening sessions Monday through Wednesday at 7:00pm, Thursday, Reconciliation Service at 7:00pm; morning sessions Tuesday through Thursday – Mass at 8:00am followed by coffee and pastries, sessions beginning at 9:00am. Come, meet Father Tom Bonacci, CP -- Let's grow together as a community of faith.

### VOCATION RETREAT DAY FOR YOUNG WOMEN

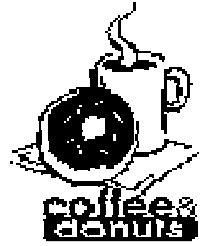
Nazareth House, 245 Nova Alvion Way, San Rafael, CA. Sunday, **March 14th** from 9:00am-2:30pm. For additional information or to make a reservation please call Sr. Fintan (310) 216-8170 or Sr. Linda (415) 479-8282.

### VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT

The Augustinian community invites men between the age of 18 and 40 to take part in a Vocation Discernment Retreat at St. Augustine Monastery, San Diego, **March 19th-21st**. Participants will pray, recreate, and eat with the Augustinian community during the weekend and observe their ministries in the San Diego area. See one of our Augustinians after Mass for more details about registration.

### COME JOIN US

All are invited after the  
7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 AM  
Sunday Masses to  
Gather in Stack Center for  
coffee and donuts.



This is a great opportunity  
to  
visit and to meet **new** friends!  
Plan to stop in - we look forward  
to seeing you there!

### CALLING ALL SCRAPPERS & CRAFTERS

Saturday, **March 13th** from 1:00pm-10:00pm bring your supplies to scrap, crop, stamp, bead, knit, make cards or whatever! Drop in anytime or stay all day! We will provide coffee, hot water for tea and lettuce for a community salad bar along with all the plates, napkins, cups and utensils. Bring 2 of the following for the community salad bar: a salad dressing, salad topping, (cheese, carrots, onion, mushrooms, peppers, croutons, garbanzo beans, bread or rolls.

We will have a Take or Trade table in case you want to go through your stuff and share what you are not using. Your leftover baby sticker may be the perfect embellishment for someone else's page! If you have more expensive items (stamp sets, tools, paper sets, etc) that you would like to try and sell we will have a table set up for that as well.

We will be set-up in Stack Center with plenty of space for you to relax and work on your pictures or whatever craft you bring along. *Please RSVP to Colleen Lindberg at [olgcv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olgcv@sbcglobal.net) (adults only please).*

### THANK THEM WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Please support our advertisers who make our weekly bulletin possible and so generously support our parish. We are grateful to them!

This week we extend our gratitude to:

**ANGELS BREATH DAY CARE**

*Mass Intentions for the Week*

Please note: During the school year, our 8:30am Monday mass will be celebrated in the church. Unless otherwise noted all other weekday masses will be held in the Chapel.

**MONDAY, MARCH 1st (Church)**

8:30am Vera Parenti (D)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 2nd**

7:00am Caroline Bianco (D)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3rd**

*Katherine Drexel, virgin*

7:00am Michael Muir (D)

6:00pm Irene Tenente (D)

**THURSDAY, MARCH 4th**

*Casimir*

7:00am Lou Maravella (D)

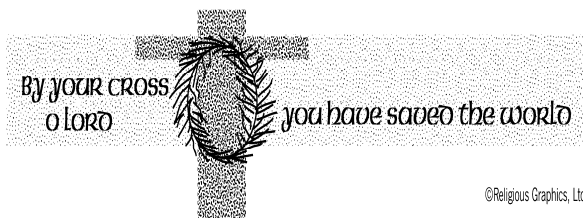
**FRIDAY, MARCH 5th**

2:30pm *Stations of the Cross*

7:00am Joe & Marie Silveria (D)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 6th**

8:30am William & Mericia Gonsalves (D)



**EXECUTION ALERTS**

The following executions are scheduled to take place in **March**:

March 2nd	Michael Sigala	TX
March 9th	Lawrence Reynolds	OH
March 9th	David Johnston	FL

We ask your prayers for these persons, for the victims of their crimes, and for their families.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**March 1st through March 7th**

- Monday: Daniel 9:4-10; Luke 6:36-38
- Tuesday: Isaiah 1:10,16-20; Matthew 23:1-12
- Wednesday: Jeremiah 18:18-20; Matthew 20:17-28
- Thursday: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 16:19-31
- Friday: Genesis 37:3-4,12-13,17-28; Matthew 21:33-43,45-46
- Saturday: Micha 7:14-15,18-20; Luke 15:1-3,11-32
- Sunday: Ex 3:1-8,13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, February 28th:**

REC Classes  
10:30am—Stack Center

**Tuesday, March 2nd:**

Bible Study  
9:15am—Parish Office  
REC Classes  
3:45pm—Stack Center

**Wednesday, March 3rd:**

Nursing Home Mass  
Eden Villa—11:00am  
Lenten Soup Meal  
After 6:00pm Mass

**Thursday, March 4th:**

Serenity Group  
8:15pm—Stack Center

**Saturday, March 6th:**

First Reconciliation  
10:00am

**Sunday, March 7th:**

REC Classes  
10:30am—Stack Center  
Confirmation Mass & Candidate Gathering  
9:00am