

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we are in the Ordinary Time of the Liturgical Year, Year A: on Sundays, we read the Gospel according to Matthew, I would like to take this opportunity to address you about this Gospel.

**Author:** According to the Tradition, since 2<sup>nd</sup> century, Matthew, a tax collector and apostle among the Twelve is the author of this gospel.

**Date:** 80-90 A.D.

**Community:** Antioch in Syria

**Sources:** Q (from German word *Quelle* which means "sayings source" and the gospel of Mark)

**"M" material:** material only found in the gospel of Matthew, not found in other gospels:

Infancy Narrative (1-2) (totally different from the Infancy Narrative of the gospel of Luke): Genealogy of Jesus goes back to Abraham only; the angel appears to Joseph, not Mary; the Magi story; the flight to Egypt and return from Egypt; the massacre of the Infants.

Material about Peter (14,28-31: Peter walks on water; 16,17-19: Jesus builds the Church on Peter, the rock; 17, 24-27: Payment of the Temple tax for Jesus and Peter)

Passion Narrative: Judas hanging himself (27,3-10); Pilate's wife's dream (27,19); earthquake after Jesus' death (27,51-57); the story of the guard at the tomb (27,62-66; 28,2-4.11-15)

**Structure:** 5 books like the Pentateuch (the first 5 Books of the Bible):

Prologue: The Birth Narrative (1,1—2,23)

Book I: Narrative and Sermon (3,1—7,29);

Book II: Narrative and Discourse on Mission (8,1—11,1);

Book III: Narrative and Teaching on the Kingdom (11,2—13,53);

Book IV: Narrative and Discourse on the Church (13,54—19,1);

Book V: Narrative and Discourse on Eschatology (19,2—26,1)

Epilogue: The Passion and Resurrection (26,2—28,20)

**Theological message**

The gospel of Matthew is the gospel of salvation for all peoples: the Magi, representing the gentiles and the command of Jesus at the end, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you". (Mt 28,19-20).

The gospel of Matthew is the gospel of Jesus, the new Moses, the only Messiah of the world. He is

Emmanuel, God-is-with-us, not simply in the Church, but really present in the Blessed Sacrament: "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28,20).

The gospel of Matthew is the gospel of the Church, founded on the rock, Peter, as a sign of unity. This Church is Jesus' Church: one, holy, Catholic and apostolic that we all need to strive to build her up in charity, zeal and dedication so that through her, through us as "*sacramentum mundi*", Jesus continues to save the whole world.

Hopefully, this can help us to understand better when we listen to the gospel of Matthew for this liturgical year: Year A.

May God bless all of you!

Your servant/brother in Christ,

Fr. Martin

***Collection for the Church in Latin America***  
***"Forming Disciples & Missionaries of Jesus Christ"***

There is a **second collection** this weekend, for the *Church in Latin America*. This collection is to support various pastoral projects throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. These projects include the work of evangelization, formation of laity, religious and seminarians, as well as youth ministry and catechesis. There are special envelopes in the pew racks. Please be as generous as possible.

***Candy Sale***

Get ready for St. Valentine's Day! Buy your See's Candy Lollypops to help support St. Mary's by the Sea Little Flowers Girls Club summer program. There will be a stand outside after all the Masses where you can purchase them at a cost of (2) for \$1.00.

***St. Vincent de Paul***

**Donations 1/20/08..... \$300.00**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society will be **packing food boxes** for the needy this **Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**. If you would like to help, please meet in the church parking lot at **9 a.m.**

***Altar Guild***

**Donations 1/20/08..... \$90.00**

The Altar Guild will receive Holy Communion together at the **9 a.m. Mass** next **Sunday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Their meeting will take place **Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>**, at **noon** in the Family Room.

**Finance Council Meeting**


There will be a meeting for members of the Finance Council this **Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>** at **7:00 p.m.** in the Conference Room.

**Come, Let us Adore Him!**

This **Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**, St. Mary's by the Sea will be having **24 hr. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** beginning after the 8 a.m. Mass and continuing until just before the 8 a.m. Mass on Saturday. Thank you to all the volunteers who have committed to attending the same hour each month. Without you, we could not have 24 hr. adoration. If you do not remember your hour, please check the poster in the vestibule. Thank you again.

**Paper Drive**

This **Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, is the monthly paper drive. Please bring your newspapers to the parking lot between **9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**



**SOCIAL CATHOLIC  
TEACHING ADDRESSES:**

- The Moral and human dimensions of Public Issues
- Church teachings on human life, human rights and justice and peace
- Apply Catholic values to legislation and public issues

From USCCB 2008

If you are interested in joining the Peace and Social Justice Ministry, please contact the church office at (714) 536-6913.

*“If we live the Gospel, we will be people of justice and our lives will bring good news to the poor.”*

*St. Katherine Drexel*

**RESPECT LIFE**


Any woman who is pregnant and in need of assistance can turn to the Pro-Life Movement.

**Birth Choice - Irvine**  
(800) 631-6254

**Horizon Pregnancy Center - H.B.**  
(714) 442-9699

**Los Angeles Pregnancy Services**  
(213) 382-5643

**Hội Cứu Mạng Thai Nhi**  
**Viet ProLife (Santa Ana)**  
**Nancy Nhung Phan**  
1-714-721-8557



**Mission Statement**

*Jesus comes “to serve, not to be served”*  
(Mt. 20, 28)

*St. Mary's by the Sea is a Catholic/Christian community of faith, hope, and love, journeying together in the spirit of hospitality, stewardship, respect, unity and charity, welcoming and serving all brothers and sisters in Christ, under the mantle of Our Lady.*

**Prayers for the Unborn**

St. Mary's by the Sea Pro-Life group will meet for prayer for 1 hour in front of **Planned Parenthood** on **Beach Blvd. & Hazard Ave.** on **February 2<sup>nd</sup>** at **9:30 a.m.** Everyone is encouraged to join them and show their support.

**Blessing of the Throats**

Next weekend, in honor of St. Blaise, the priests will do the Blessing of the Throats at the end of every Mass. In addition, pairs of candles for the home will be available to purchase for \$2.00. After your purchase, one of the priests will be happy to bless them for you.

**Jest Kidding**

Coming out of church, Mrs. Peterson asked her husband, *“Do you think that Johnson girl colored her hair darker?”*

*“I didn't even see her,”* Mr. Peterson admitted.

*“And the dress Martha Hansen was wearing,”* Mrs. Peterson continued, *“really, don't tell me you think that's the proper outfit for a mother of two.”*

*“I'm afraid I didn't notice that, either,”* Mr. Peterson said.

*“Oh, for heaven's sake,”* Mrs. Peterson snapped, *“a lot of good it does for you to go to church!”*

**Thank You**  
**January 20, 2008**

<b>Specials .....</b>	<b>\$384.00</b>
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$1,718.00</b>
<b>Regular Collection .....</b>	<b>\$6,719.00</b>