

**Pastor's Corner**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

According to the result of the votes received from approximately 100 families taken in our parish over the past two weeks:

A- Second Collection for the Building Fund:

- 1) Monthly: **58**
- 2) Weekly: **42**

B- The priority of the next projects:

- 1) Interior painting of the Church: **55**
- 2) Replacing the Pews/Kneelers & Carpet: **38**

This being the case, the Financial Council has decided, with my approval, that:

1) **The Second Collection for the Building Fund** will be taken **once a month** (normally the First Sunday of the month, unless it conflicts with any other Second Collections designated by the Diocese such as The Church in Africa, Home Mission, etc.). On other Sundays, you can still contribute at any time: just put your donation in one of the "Building Fund" blue envelopes (which are already in the pews) and place them in the collection basket or, in case you miss the opportunity, you can give them to the priests after Mass, or send them directly from your homes with your weekly offering. Please remember that your contribution to the Building Fund of our parish will not be tithed the usual 10% by the Diocese as in the case of the regular collections (although, we still need these for running the parish).

2) **After Easter, we will proceed with the cleaning of the Church ceiling and the painting of the interior of the Church:** so far, we have enough money to do this from the Building Fund collection. Afterward, we will proceed with replacing the Pews/Kneelers & Carpet when enough money has been raised (around \$50,000; so far we need about \$25,000-\$30,000 more). The decision for this is based on the expertise advice about the condition and age of the pews (about 85 years old) that I received after consulting with the Financial Council expert members and other experts: it is time to replace the pews and kneelers for many reasons in which liability and safety are the important issues.

Brothers and sisters, we should always try our best for the House of God, our worship temple. It's supposed to always be the first priority of our life with God and with one another. For **from this House of God we receive all God's blessings and graces: can we respond to God's bountiful and endless love with our**

*generous love for God and for one another?* We absolutely can!

May God bless you all! Have a Blessed & Holy Lent!

Your servant/brother in Christ,

Fr. Martin

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for the Church in Africa:**

A special collection will be held this weekend for the Church in Africa. One of the fastest growing Catholic populations in the world with 144 million members, 488 dioceses, 10,000 parishes and 75,000 missions has many pastoral needs. Grants will be given to address specific infrastructure needs. This collection does not duplicate the humanitarian or development work of Catholic Relief Service (CRS) or Propagation of Faith and no new personnel will be added to coordinate this effort. Thank you for your generosity in aiding the needs and promise of the Church in Africa.

**Altar Servers Meeting**

There is a mandatory meeting for all current Altar Boys **Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.**, followed by Benediction in the Church. If there are any boys who are interested in serving Mass here at St. Mary's, please feel free to attend this meeting.

**Come, Let us Adore Him!**

This **Friday, March 7<sup>th</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.

**St. Vincent de Paul**

**Donations 2/24.....\$175.00**

**Altar Guild**

**Donations 2/24.....\$105.00**

The Altar Guild will have their monthly meeting on **Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**, at noon in the Family Room.

**Friday Abstinence**

**REMINDER:** Everyone 14 years or older is seriously bound to abstain from meat on all Fridays of Lent.

**Baby Blankets**

If you are interested in helping to make baby blankets for a **pro-life donation**, please meet in the Family Room on **Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**, after the morning Mass. It does not matter if you know how to sew, just come and help and have fun. We will need portable sewing machines and material that is appropriate for baby blankets. It takes 2½ yards, if you can bring it. A light breakfast will be served. Men, women and children are invited. If you have any questions, please call Mary (after 5 p.m.) at (562) 665-0795.

**Food Drive for Easter Baskets**

St. Vincent de Paul will be having their Food Drive for Easter **March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a member available after all the Masses to accept your donations. A contribution of **\$15.00** will provide a needy family a basket of food for Easter. Any coupons for turkeys or hams are welcome, too. You may also use the special envelopes in the pews for monetary donations.

**PSA UPDATE**

We would like to thank all the families who have already responded to the 2008 Pastoral Services Appeal Pledge Drive. The pledges received so far equal almost \$14,000 (**\$13,925**) ---- almost half of our \$30,500 goal. Any monies collected over that goal will come back to St. Mary's by the Sea to help with projects in the parish.

As has been announced, any families who pledge (and pay) **\$200 or more** will receive a FREE copy of the beautiful Diocesan book about the early history of the Diocese of Orange and featuring a page of history for each parish in the Diocese. So far nine families have qualified for a free book! Be sure to check next week's bulletin for a list of those who have received a free book and information on how you can receive it.

When you have decided on your pledge amount and the method of payment (one-time, monthly, credit card or EFT), please use one of the special envelopes in the pew racks. It may then be put in the collection basket, mailed or brought to the parish office.

**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.*

**Daylight Savings Time**

**REMINDER:** Don't forget that we "spring" forward one hour at 2:00 a.m. next **Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**. Remember to set your clocks!

**"Little Flowers Girls Club" Summer Program**

St. Therese Little Flowers Girls Club is a summer program beginning **June 2008** here at St. Mary's by the Sea. They will meet every **Monday and Tuesday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** for **five weeks**. It is open to all Catholic girls age 6 to 16 years. The summer program is based on learning Catholic virtues through the lives of Catholic saints, Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The ministry strives to bring the Catholic faith alive and inspire the girls to become authentic Catholic women.

Any girls who are interested in joining should have their parents call our office at (714) 536-6913, x-112. Space is limited.

**Jest Kidding**

"How'd you come out in that fight last night with your wife?"

"Oh... she came crawling to me on her hands and knees!"

"Yeah?!? What did she say?"

"Come out from under that bed right now, you coward!"

**Thank You**  
**February 24, 2008**

<b>Specials .....</b>	<b>\$366.00</b>
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$794.00</b>
<b>Regular Collection .....</b>	<b>\$5,439.00</b>