

Reflections

Time, Treasure, and Talent

Good News!

June 8

It's a good idea to read the Scriptures in their historical contexts. What were "tax collectors" in Jesus' time and place? The answer to that question tells us that today's Gospel is not an invitation to turn a critical eye toward the Internal Revenue Service.

Tax collectors today may make us a bit nervous. We probably don't look at an audit as a fun event. If we're honest and keep records, though, we can probably put our emotions aside, go to the meeting, and accept that we have contributed to the decent operation of a necessary system. On calmer days, days we are not going in for audits, we probably see taxes for what they are: part of the payment we make to state and local governments for providing certain services. Today's tax folks are trying to do a necessary job, working within the law and using generally accepted accounting principles.

Tax collectors in Jesus' day, however, were extortionists. The Jewish homeland was under Roman rule. Roman taxes were demanded of the Jewish people, some of whom were tax collectors themselves; they profited by taking more taxes than necessary and keeping the difference. They were seen as turncoats-Jewish collaborators with a Roman occupation that gouged the people on their own land. Why did the people pay? They had to. The tax collector could turn them in if they did not.

Taxpayers in Jesus' day were not grumbling about giving part of their income to the government. They simply hated giving money to people they saw as local sellouts to foreign invaders. In that context, we now see a bizarre twist of Jesus' actions when he invites one of these folks to join his own inner circle of disciples.

OK, but doesn't that mean he's changed his ways? No doubt. But why does Jesus let all his old friends come to dinner too?

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June 8, 2008 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him." Matthew 9:9



Next Sunday's Readings:
Reading I: Exodus 19:2-6a
Reading II: Romans 4:18-25
Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

Weekly Collection For June 1, 2008

Offertory

- Checks & Envelopes \$ 16,028.00
- Loose Change \$ 3,093.00
- Total Week Offertory \$ 19,121.00

Envelopes Used 513

Building Fund this week \$ 5,163.00

Building Fund Month-to-Date \$ 5,163.00

June '08 Month-to-Date \$19,121.00

May's Budget \$94,904.00

Building Loan Principal \$5,617,762.00

You can now make all of your offertory donations online at: ParishPay.com.

In May'08, 46 families participated with a total donation of \$6,689.00

Save the Date June 28 & 29

St. Francis of Assisi Church will be celebrating our 15th Anniversary with a Ministry Appreciation Dinner and a special Mass with Bishop McGrath. Invitations are being sent to all active parishioners. If you do not receive one, and are an active parishioner, please contact the parish office.

Ecclesial Community Pictures

We will be taking a group picture of each of our Ecclesial Communities after Mass this month. We ask that everyone stay a few minutes after mass for this 15th Anniversary Event. The pictures will be framed and hung in the new Mission Center. Pictures will be taken on: *Villages - Sun June 8, Dove Hill - Sun June 22, All other communities will be taken on SAT/SUN June 14/15, Igbo Community pictures will be taken at a later date to be announced.*

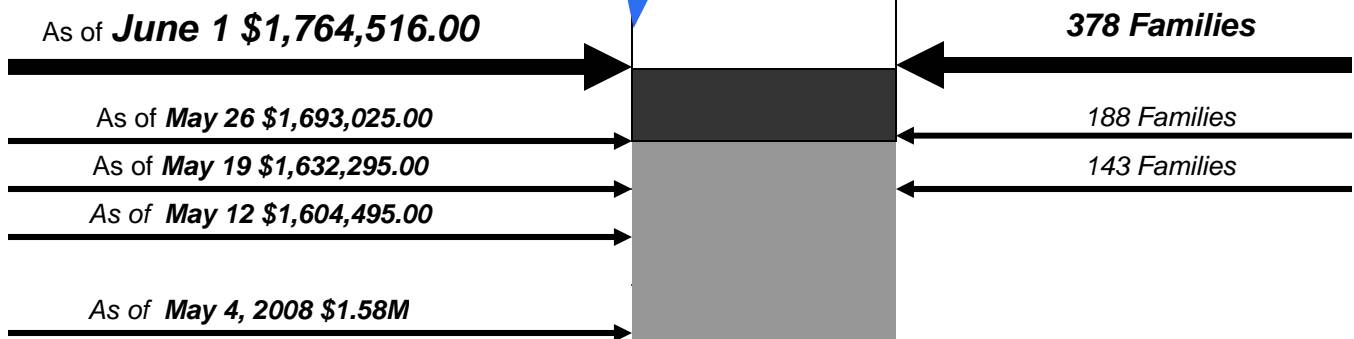


Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, Jun 7	5:00 PM Lucia Phan Khay +
Sunday, Jun 8	8:30 AM Charles Goodell +
	9:00 AM Cody Dugrenier
	9:30 AM Margarita Acosta +
	10:00 AM Lucy Ann Mazur+
	10:30 AM Jose Guadalupe & Anna Maria Arenas +
	11:00 AM Joseph Greco +
	12:30 PM Edward Shando +
	6:00 PM Graduating Classes of 2008
Monday, Jun. 9	8:30 AM Leticia Mijares +
Tuesday, Jun. 10	8:30 AM Anthony Magsuci +
Wednesday, Jun. 11	8:30 AM Agnes Santa Lucia +
Thursday, Jun. 12	8:30 AM Gary Machado +
Friday, Jun 13	8:30 AM Antonia Vasquez +

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Mission Center Fund



Thank you to all who have generously responded to the Appeal for the Mission Center Fund!

From the Pastor's Desk...

I have asked the Bishop to retire in June 2009. He has granted his permission, He has appointed a transition committee to gather data and your input about the future of St. Francis of Assisi.

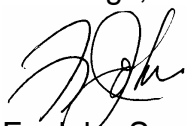
It is a time to move on in the parish. A time to transition to new Pastoral Leadership, a new pastor, a time to revision-a time to be more inclusive. It is an appropriate time. I have consulted the Parish Council and "elders" of the community and have decided to hand over the role to others. It is a time in the growth as a community to test whether we have heard and seen all that God is asking of you as His disciples. Activities and programs need to serve the will of God and we need to measure these activities against the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and neighboring Communities on the Eastside to ensure that all of God's disciples have a community that nourishes.

The transition team, once approved by the parish council will begin to call on you for your ideas, prayerful sense of what God's spirit calls the community to be and do. They will begin as we began the parish in '92-'93 then again in '98 , to listen and gather your input. They will then ask you to affirm their report to the Diocese and Priest Personnel board and submit the report in January.

A new Pastor or Priest team will be appointed by April 15 and then they will accompany the new Pastor and pastoral team for six months. The team will need your help to do a good job. They will be chosen because of their independence and ability to listen. Please be cooperative and pray that we all listen to one another throughout the process in order to form a consensus for the future and can welcome a new Pastor/Pastoral team.

It was hard for me to acknowledge my own need to move on. I just can't do it at the pace required. I have some energy and I need to focus on some things that I need to do for myself and for the Lord. I need to especially take time for my relationship with God. I hear God's call in this. I'm not sure of the specifics.

Blessings,



Fr. John Sandersfeld

June 28-29 Mass Information

You are all invited to the 10:30am Mass with Bishop McGrath under the tent on Sunday.

Please carpool if possible.

CANCELLED Masses on Sunday, will be at the Grange Hall, Dove Hill, and the Gathering Space (9am & 11am).

We will still celebrate the 5pm (Saturday), 8:15 (Villages), 8:30am (Chapel), 12:30pm (Chapel), and 6pm (Chapel).

From the Pastoral Center

FAITH beyond 2000, part 2

A twelve-session catechist formation series, is being offered again this year. Sessions in English will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:45 – 9:00 p.m. at Most Holy Trinity beginning Tuesday, June 17- July 24. Topics include Liturgy, Sacraments, Morality, Social Justice, The Learner and Family, Culture and Church. Catechists, youth ministers, people who may be thinking about becoming catechists or and adults interested in a basic understanding of their faith are encouraged to register by calling (408) 983-0127 or by visiting the Diocese of San Jose website at www.dsj.org. Registration available online at http://www.dsj.org/dsj/buildform

Yellow Envelope

Next Sunday, June 15, there will be a "Yellow Envelope" for the collection basket. This is our quarterly envelope for important needs mandated by the Diocese. The three needs supported in this "Yellow Envelope" will be 1) our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, 2) Communications, including our Diocesan newspaper, The Valley Catholic, and 3) the Francis Fund which supports the parish's social justice initiatives for the poor and needy. Your gift will be divided equally unless you designate otherwise. We thank you for your generosity.



Generations of Faith (GOF)
GOF for the 2007-2008 year is over! Thank you to all the families and volunteers who participated this year. Registration packets for the 2008-2009 year were given out last week. If you did not receive one, and are interested in having your child and family participate, we will have registration after Masses on June 8, 15, and 22 and again on August 3, 10, 17, and 24.

St. Francis of Assisi Preschool
The preschool's last day is June 20; then we will be in the dog days of summer. This summer we will be planning for the fall school year, in addition to finding new staff members. This year we lost Ms. Cecille and Mr. Jeremy; they both have been a pleasure to work with; we wish them both God's blessing in their new adventures. As we close this year we would like to thank St. Francis of Assisi's staff for their love and support towards the preschool. During the year Glenn and Julius have been a tremendous help with are Christmas and graduation programs. The office support, Rosie, Nickell and their volunteers have blessed us in so many ways. We would also like to thank the pastor and Willy for staying by our side. Thanks for the wonderful year.



Feast Day Planning Meeting

Summer has begun and vacations are being planned. Just around the corner it will be October and time for our Parish Feast Day! The first planning meeting will be held Wednesday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Room Everyone is invited and we would like each Ecclesiastical community to send a representative. Question, please contact Patricia Cuadros 674-7823.

Stephens Ministry

DIVORCE, A DEATH IN THE FAMILY, LOSING A JOB
A crisis in your life can be overwhelming. A Stephen minister is ready and willing to listen and care about you and your problems at difficult times like these. To find out more about the Stephen Ministry, call us at 408-223-1562 ext 345 or email at stephenministry@sfoasj.org. All conversations are strictly confidential.

Rooted in Faith—Embracing the Future

Endowment and Capital Campaign Update for St. Francis of Assisi Parish. The Catholic Foundation of Santa Clara County has recently released quarterly information on the results of our "Rooted in Faith-Embracing the Future" Endowment campaign. The goal for the campaign was \$100,000,000. The total amount of pledges was \$115,175,280. More than \$23,000,000 of this was pledged toward parish case statements.

As you may remember, the campaign has a five-year redemption period. To date, nearly \$34,000,000 has been given in down payments and additional payments on 22,000 pledges. Of this money, \$2,6000,000 has been distributed to parishes, \$658,000 has been distributed to Catholic Charities, \$396,000 toward Diocesan debt reduction, and \$47,000 to St. Joseph Cathedral Basilica Parish for maintenance and improvements.

Already, your generosity is making a difference, for the monies that are beginning to pay down our mortgage at a faster rate.

In our parish, \$4,299,873 has been pledged by 888 parishioners. To date, \$928,509. has been paid toward those pledges. Of these funds, \$2,355,873 is the amount we expect to receive in the parish. To date, we have received \$508,724.

There has been some delinquency in the redemption of the pledges. The Foundation office sent letters about this in mid April, and many donors have responded.

The Catholic Foundation of Santa Clara County was established in 2004. It's mission is the oversight and investment of the endowment funds generated by the Endowment and Capital Campaign and to provide support to the educational, parish, religious and charitable works of the Diocese of San Jose.