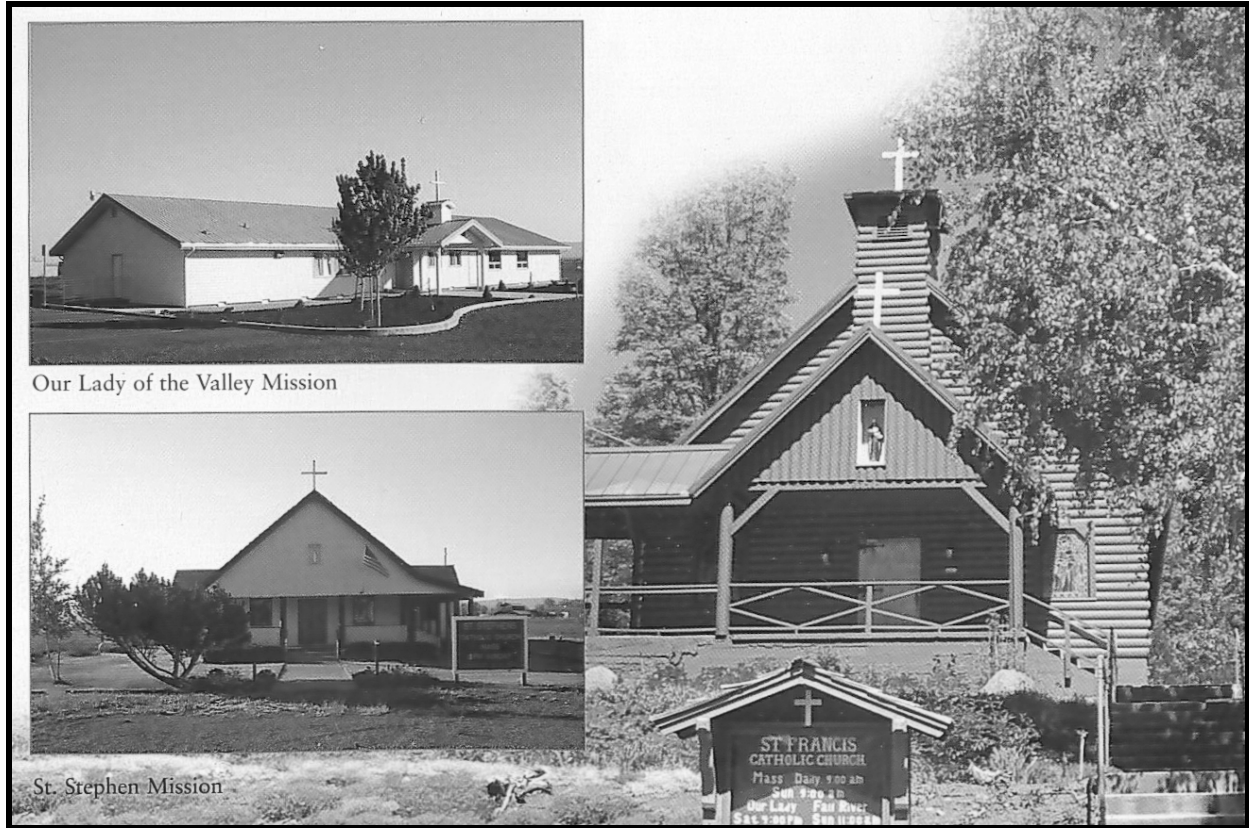


Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2010



Saint Francis of Assisi Parish Missions of Our Lady of the Valley in Fall River Mills and Saint Stephens in Bieber

Mission Statement

We, the Catholic Church of Saint Francis, are a community of faith called by Baptism to center our lives in the sacraments and the Holy Eucharist. We gather together to mutually grow in our love for God and neighbor by studying the Word of God; by believing in the Faith and Traditions from the Apostles; by accepting the teachings of the Magisterium and by receiving and giving support, hope, faith and charity.

Parroquia de San Francisco de Asís

Misiones de Nuestra Señora del Valle en Fall River Mills y San Esteban en Bieber

Nuestra Misión

Nosotros la Iglesia de San Francisco, somos una comunidad de Fe llamados por el Bautismo a centrar nuestra vida en los sacramentos y la Santa Eucarista. Nosotros nos reunimos para crecer mutuamente en nuestro amor a Dios y a nuestro semejante a través de estudiar la Palabra de Dios; a través de creer en la Fe y Tradición de los Apóstoles; a través de aceptar las enseñanzas del Magisterio y a través de recibir y dar Apoyo, Fe, Esperanza y Caridad.

Rev. Efrén F. García Flores, Pastor

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
PO Box 160, 37464 Juniper Avenue
Burney, CA 96013
Tel. (530) 335-2372 Fax. (530) 335-2306
Website: www.stfrancisburney.org
e-mail: pastor@stfrancisburney.org

Mission Churches

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Our Lady of the Valley 43434 Hwy. 299E Fall River Mills | St. Stephen Hwy. 299E Bieber |
|---|------------------------------------|

Mass Schedule

Weekends

| | | |
|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 5:00 pm | Our Lady of the Valley |
| Sunday | 9:00 am | St. Francis |
| | 11:00 am | Our Lady of the Valley (Spanish) |
| | 1:00 pm | St. Stephen |

Weekdays

Mon-Wed & Fri 9:00 am St. Francis
 (No Mass on Thursday)

Adoration and Benediction

| | | |
|--------------|----------|------------------------|
| 1st Friday | 9:30 am | St. Francis |
| 1st Saturday | 4:00 pm | Our Lady of the Valley |
| 1st Sunday | 11:45 am | St. Stephen |

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

2nd Saturday of the month at St. Francis
 from 12 Noon to 1 pm.
 3rd Saturday of the month at Our Lady of the Valley,
 4 PM to 5 PM.
 4th Sunday of the month at St. Stephen,
 2 PM to 3 PM.

Community Food Pantry

Serving the Fall River Mills Valley, food may be obtained
 by calling Reggie (336-5127),
 Peggy (336-5304), or Elinore (336-5750).

St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank

Food is distributed on the last Friday of the month at St.
 Francis, Burney, 1-2 pm or call the parish for food
 anytime you are in need.

New Parishioners

Please register by completing the form at the church
 entrance. The registration form is also available on our
 website.

Need Prayers?

Our parish has established a prayer chain for those
 times when you need urgent prayers. Please call Virginia
 Schneider (335-2935) to request prayers.

Bulletin Editor

Bob Gartner
 336-7162 | bobgartner@gmail.com

MINISTERS

May 8-9

May 15-16

St. Francis

Lectors: Barney Ward
 Bob Gartner

Eucharistic
 Ministers: Linda Nelson
 Marylou Sears

Altar Servers: Guadalupe Garcia
 Ricardo Garcia
 Eddie Moran

Mary Unterreiner
 Leonard Longacre

Sandy McCullar
 John McCullar
 Alex Medera
 Eddie Medera
 Michael Taylor

Our Lady of the Valley

Lectors: Terese Hayes

Eucharistic
 Ministers: Peggy Hansen
 Bob Chase

Jack Hayes
 Terese Hayes
 Peggy Hansen
 Bob Chase

St. Stephen

Lectors: Fran Hofmann
 Joe Paul

Eucharistic
 Ministers: Elizabeth Paul
 Phillis Martin

Marian Parks
 Trish Graham

Fran Hofmann
 Kevin Mitchell

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|------------------------|----------------|
| Sat 05/08 | 5:00 pm | Our Lady of the Valley | Laura Ribeiro† |
| Sun 05/10 | 9:00 am | St. Francis | Pro Popolo |
| Mon 05/11 | 9:00 am | St. Francis | All Souls† |

PARISH CALENDAR

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| Sun 05/09 | 2:00 pm | Hospitality at St. Stephen's |
| Tue 05/11 | 7:00 pm | St. Francis Women's Guild Meeting |
| Wed 05/12 | Fr. Efrén returns from vacation 10:15 am | Mass for the Sick , Mayers Hospital, Fall River Mills |
| Fri 05/14 | 2:30 pm | Parish Youth Group Meeting |
| Sat 05/15 | 4:00 pm | Confession , Our Lady of the Valley |
| | 5:00 pm | Special Collection for Church in Latin America |
| Sun 05/16 | All Masses | Special Collection for Church in Latin America |
| | 10:00 am | Hospitality , St. Francis |
| | 11:00 am | First Holy Communion , Our Lady of the Valley |
| Wed 05/19 | 2:00 pm | Hospitality at St. Stephen's |
| | 5:30 pm | Pastoral Council Meeting , Our Lady of the Valley |
| Fri 05/21 | 2:30 pm | Parish Youth Group Meeting , St. Francis |
| Sun 05/23 | 2:00 pm | Confession , St. Stephen |
| | 2:30 pm | Donna Cori Gibson Parish Concert |
| Sat 05/29 | 5:00 pm | Fifth Sunday Collection for CCD |
| Sun 05/30 | All Masses | Fifth Sunday Collection for CCD |
| Fri 06/04 | 9:30 am | First Friday Adoration & Benediction , St. Francis |
| Sat 06/05 | 4:00 pm | First Saturday Adoration & Benediction , Our Lady of the Valley |



Come Holy Spirit

REFLECTION

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Rev. 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn. 14:23-29

The Holy Spirit, the human spirit and the Christian spirit.

Good morning my brothers and sisters in Christ. Welcome to today's celebration of the Holy Mass on the Sixth Sunday of Easter. While reviewing today's readings, I realized that they have three common denominators. In the Christian spirit, we are called to do all things in the spirit with the Spirit of Christ.

In other words,

- (1) we are called to walk in the Christian spirit;
- (2) We are called to do all things in the spirit; and
- (3) And we are called to walk with the Spirit of Christ.

What does it mean to walk in the Christian spirit? I am sure that all of you have heard the phrase "to embrace the Christmas spirit." To embrace the Christmas spirit means to be of one mind with the others who are celebrating Christmas. It means to be joyful and to make peace with others. It means to celebrate the arrival of baby Jesus in the world.

To walk in the Christian spirit also involves the embracing of certain characteristics. The first, and the most important, is the attribute of unity, all the members being of one spiritual mind. Through unity, there is harmony. Through harmony, there is strength. Through strength, there is perseverance in the living faith. And in the end, those who are joined in the Christian spirit, they achieve their goal, eternal life and salvation through Jesus Christ.

Some of you may question what the Holy Bible means when it says to have "eternal life." After all, if the soul is immortal, how can one gain eternal life? These two facts

contradict one another. In the Gospel of John, we read, "And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." [Jn. 17:3] In other words, to have "eternal life" is "to know God." And "to know God" is to "have a personal relationship with Him." Therefore, when the Holy Bible speaks of eternal life in the Kingdom of God, it is a reference to having been saved and to enjoying the beatific vision of God for eternity.

Returning to my original topic, as we have heard during today's First Reading, the Christian spirit does not come by itself. One has to strive towards it by seeking the Divine Will of God and then by embracing the final decision of the authority of the Church. In the early days of the Church, certain individuals came down from Judea and taught that unless one was circumcised according to the custom of Moses, he could not be saved. Seeking the Divine Will of God on the matter, Paul, Barnabas and some of the others were sent to Jerusalem to consult the apostles and the elders. Consequently the Church authority made a decision on the matter and sent Barsabbas and Silas to report back to the believers. Through these progressive actions is seen the Christian spirit at work.

During today's Second Reading, we perceived the Christian spirit at work through some of the descriptive words that are given to us. "I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb." [Rev. 21:22-3] Here we are able to perceive the unity of the people under One God, the Lamb. There are no idols. Nor are there any man-made religions whose leaders get the credit for establishing faiths that differ from the Sacred teachings of Jesus. And, we also perceived the people's quality of holiness because they all belonged to the city of Jerusalem which is a holy city.

During the Gospel Reading, you may have perceived the Christian unity in those who obeyed the command of Jesus. The command of Jesus was, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." [Jn. 14:23] Those who love Jesus, they are of one spiritual mind with the others who also obey the command of the Lord.

When considering our presence here today, it is a sign of our Christian spirit. United in one Faith in the Lord Jesus, we are gathered here to adore and worship our Lord, our God. In the Catholic spirit, we are united to receive the blessings that are bestowed upon those who receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist that is the Living Bread.

The second common factor that is found in all of today's three readings is that we are called to do all things in the spirit. Jesus said, "The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." [Jn. 4:23-4]

What does it mean to do all things in the spirit or to worship in spirit? It means that when we received the Sacrament of Baptism, just as Jesus was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, within us, a new creation was raised from death to walk the new life that was received through Christ. [Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12] (628) Without the Sacrament of Baptism through water and Spirit, we could

not enter the Kingdom of God. [Jn. 3:5]

This gift of God, instituted through Jesus Christ in the New Covenant, fulfills the promises of the Old Testament. During the Sacrament of Baptism, we received a new heart and a new human spirit. [Ezek. 11:19-20; 18:31] Through our new heart, we have become children of light. We have been blessed with a spiritual mind that enables us to worship God in spirit and in truth.

During today's First Reading, we can perceive how Paul, Barnabas, Barsabbas, Silas, the apostles and the elders answered their call to do all things in the spirit. Embracing a spiritual mind, these followers of Jesus placed the Divine Will of God first. They faithfully served the Lord for the common good of all. By subjecting themselves to the authority of the Church, they sacrificed their personal opinions on the subject of circumcision.

This is an exemplary model for those who cling on to mixed feelings regarding abortion, birth control, cloning, euthanasia, female priesthood, etc... By accepting the final decision of the Holy Catholic Church, one finds peace of mind. Through peace of mind, one can answer his calling to do all things in the spirit as a new creation of God.

During today's Gospel Reading, we heard Jesus say, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." [Jn. 14:27] When we do not do all things in the spirit, our hearts are troubled. We are afraid because deep inside we know that we are in disobedience and the Wrath of God is pending. We are afraid because the Spirit of Christ talks to us in our hearts and reminds us that we are not walking in the spirit. The peace of Christ comes to us when we obediently submit ourselves to God's Divine Will through the authority of the Church. Then, we are blessed with Divine peace; we are no longer troubled or afraid. The mixed feelings that we once had, they have faded away.

The third common factor that is found in all three of today's readings is that we are called to walk with the Spirit of Christ. When we walk with the Spirit of Christ, we shine in the fruit of the Spirit. These are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." [Gal. 5:22-3]

Those who walk with the Spirit of Christ, they are led by the Spirit. When the apostles and the elders reviewed the issue of circumcision that Paul and Barnabas had brought before them, such was done under the guidance and leadership of the Holy Spirit. This truth is affirmed in the content of the response that the Church authority sent to Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. The reply from Jerusalem began with the words, "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." In other words, they were walking in the Spirit of Christ, proclaiming spiritual wisdom that had been made known to them through the Holy Spirit.

During the reading from the Gospel of John, Jesus made reference to the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father would send in His Name. Such was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost [Acts 2:1] when the Lord Jesus breath the Holy Spirit upon His disciples. [Jn. 20:22; Acts 2:2-4] At that moment, the official ministry of the Holy Spirit had its beginning on earth.

In making known to us the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, the ministry of the Holy Spirit is twofold. The first goal is to build up the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic

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Church. Visible in nature with its seat in Rome, its invisible reflection is the holy city with its seat in Jerusalem where the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church had its beginning. The unity of the two form the mystical Body of Christ, the Church also being known as the Bride of Christ. The second goal is to sanctify us in Christ so we may be purified and transformed in the likeness of Jesus.

Today's Second Reading from the Book of Revelation spoke of the holy city that is being built by the Holy Spirit for the "glory of God." [Rev. 21:11] Year after year, as the saints are added to it membership by the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, the holy city progressively experiences growth. This growth shall continue until such time as God determines in His infinite Wisdom that the fullness of the spiritual Jerusalem has been achieved.

In consideration of all what has been said until now, in the Christian spirit, we are called to do all things in the spirit with the Spirit of Christ. The three applications of the word "spirit" cannot be separated. It is by the power of the Spirit of Christ that we received our new creation, that we are being transformed into holy beings and that we are being moved to imitate the love of Christ towards our Christian brothers and sisters. Without the Spirit of Christ, we would be spiritually dead.

Through the same Holy Spirit, we are drawn towards Jesus in the unity of the Christian spirit. Through the same Holy Spirit, we are sanctified in the likeness of Christ. Through the same Holy Spirit, the works of God are manifested through our humble persons who are subjected to Christ in obedience and humility.

My brothers and sisters, this week, let us reflect upon these three things. When we do, let us remember the words, "He, me and us."

"He" is the "Holy Spirit" through Who all spiritual things

become viable.

"Me" is my newly created "human spirit" that is moved by the Holy Spirit for the good of the whole Church.

"Us," by the power of the Holy Spirit, is the blooming "Christian spirit" that embraces the unity of the many human spirits who have answered their calling.

CATHOLIC DOORS MINISTRY

SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

Next weekend is the **Collection for the Church in Latin America**. Your gift helps fellow Catholics in Latin America and the Caribbean who are rich in spirit, but lacking in material resources, to participate more fully in the life of the Church. Collection proceeds support training for seminarians and religious men and women; pastoral care of the sick; formation for lay leaders; family and youth ministries; and religious education for all age groups. For more information, please visit www.usccb.org/latinamerica. Please contribute generously.

COLECTA ESPECIAL PARA LA IGLESIA EN AMERICA LATINA

El próximo fin de semana es la **Colecta para la Iglesia en América Latina**. Su donación ayuda a los católicos de América Latina y el Caribe, que son ricos de espíritu pero carentes de recursos materiales, a participar más plenamente en la vida de la Iglesia. Los fondos de la Colecta se usarán para apoyar la formación de seminaristas y vocaciones a la vida religiosa; cuidado pastoral de los enfermos, formación de líderes laicos; ministerios para la familia y los jóvenes; y educación religiosa para grupos de todas las edades. Para mayor información, visiten el siguiente sitio www.usccb.org/latinamerica. Por favor, contribuyan generosamente.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL RUMMAGE SALE
JUNE 12TH**

Our Rummage Sale to support the Food Bank will be held on Saturday, June 12th. Please drop off any goods you wish to donate at the Parish Hall. We can pickup your donations if you will call Sandy McCullar (335-4219).

**SPANISH SPEAKING
HEALING AFTER ABORTION RETREAT
JUNE 25 - 27**

Struggling after an abortion? Still seeking peace years after the choice? Experience the healing love of Jesus at Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, June 25-27 in Auburn, sponsored by the Diocese of Sacramento. The weekend retreat for Spanish speakers will combine discussions, scripture-based spiritual exercises, sacrament of reconciliation, memorial service and Mass. Open to women, men, couples and family members touched by abortion.

The cost is \$175 for meals, private room and all retreat materials. Financial assistance is available. For a registration packet or more information, call Nikki @ (916)733-0161 or send email to projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org. Inquiries and participation are strictly confidential.

**RETIRO DE SANACIÓN DESPUÉS DE UN ABORTO,
25-27 DE JUNIO**

Tiene usted problemas después de un aborto? Todavía anda buscando paz, años después de haber escogido esa alternativa? Experimente la sanación amorosa de Jesús

en el Retiro de Rachel's Vineyard (en español), del 25 – 27 de junio en Auburn, patrocinado por la Diócesis de Sacramento. El retiro de fin de semana combinará discusiones, ejercicios espirituales basados en las Escrituras, el sacramento de reconciliación, servicio de recordación y la misa. Abierto para mujeres, hombres, parejas y miembros de familia que hayan sido afectados por un aborto.

El costo es de \$175 por persona e incluye comidas, cuarto privado y los materiales del retiro. Hay asistencia financiera disponible. Para obtener un paquete de registro o para más información, llame a Nikki al (916) 733-0161 o envíe un email al projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org. Sus preguntas y participación son estrictamente confidenciales.

**THE CATHOLIC VIEW
Happy Mother's Day**

This Sunday we once again have the joy of celebrating Mother's Day. It is certainly fitting enough that this falls in the month of May, the month the Church dedicates to the Mother of Jesus and our Spiritual Mother. It's a beautiful month dedicated to what is perhaps the most beautiful reality I can imagine - mothers.

In the often misguided and morally confused society we live in, the vocation and blessing of being a mother isn't esteemed highly enough by many individuals that are so preoccupied with making a living and accumulating material things. Sometimes motherhood isn't respected enough by men. Even more baffling - sometimes women don't themselves value this calling and honor as they ought. As far as I'm concerned, it would be hard to imagine a more noble, more necessary, and more beautiful calling in life.

Moms, only in Heaven will you realize just how pleasing you are to God. You have collaborated with God our Father in bringing new life into the world. You have given our heavenly Father children, and these children He treasures more than you could ever imagine.

"Mother" - Perhaps the most beautiful word in all of language. It expresses life. It expresses love. It expresses cooperation with God. It speaks of something that will never end.

One day, Moms, you'll be honored by God himself for your many sacrifices. For now, accept our thanks, our love, and our tribute. We salute you, Moms, this day and for all eternity.

God bless you for all you've done for us.

In Jesus' Love through Mary our Mother,

Fr. John Corapi

| Stewardship Report | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 44 Weeks of the Fiscal Year Through May 2nd | | | | |
| | | | Over(Under) | |
| | Collections | Budget | Budget | Percent |
| St. Francis | 46,349 | 46,590 | (241) | (0.5) |
| OLV Saturday | 14,201 | 12,293 | 1,908 | 15.5 |
| OLV Sunday | 9,173 | 10,015 | (842) | (8.4) |
| St. Stephen | <u>14,252</u> | <u>16,197</u> | <u>(1,945)</u> | <u>(12.0)</u> |
| Total | 83,975 | 85,095 | (1,120) | (1.3) |

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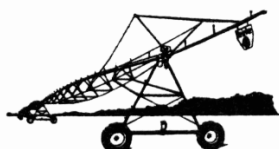
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DISH Chico-Redding - Chico - Satellite: Local
Eternal Word Television Network Channel 261
Sky Angel - USA - Satellite: United States
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