

“Whatever you do for the least of my People . . .

... so you do unto me.” When we sing these words and we read the Latin words inscribed on the carved wooden canopy that envelops our altar at Sacred Heart Church (they translate to “Jesus meek and humble of heart make our hearts like yours”), we have a sense of the true message of the Good Shepherd. As we carry on with the mundane things in life, our actions often seem ordinary in the context of this message. In fact, in the words of St. Therese of Lisieux, nothing we do “within the awareness of God’s loving presence” is without meaning. In this issue of the newsletter, we profile some of our clergy and parishioners who have embraced the “little way” of St. Therese and through their decisions and actions have committed themselves to works of mercy. No matter how much the burden, or how insignificant their actions may seem, they are examples of a living spirituality that serves God through their love of others.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

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Sacramento, CA
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Pastor
Msgr. Robert Walton

Parochial Vicar
Father Aldrin Basarte

Pastoral Associate
Sr. Mary Martin, RSM

Deacons
Gil Parra
Bill Riehl

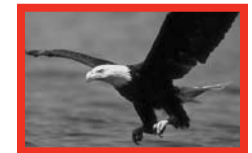
Religious Education
Kristin Hansen

School Principal
Peggy Romero

Administrative Staff
Barbara Valentini
Rosemary Purtill

On Eagle’s Wings

*“But they that hope in the Lord will renew their strength;
they will soar as with eagle’s wings;
They will run, and not grow weary; walk and not grow faint.”*



Isaiah 40:31

When we attend Mass at Sacred Heart, or at any other parish church, we are surrounded by other individuals who share our faith and values. There is a silent understanding between and amongst parishioners that we are all committed to God’s will in our own individual ways. Our burdens and sacrifices are introspective, and as such, we are often not aware of the struggles that individuals and families have with their faith and decision making. *The following three parishioners have agreed to share with us their introspections on how their faith and God’s love have helped them care for their loved ones in difficult and challenging times.*

Tila and Lisa Madrigal



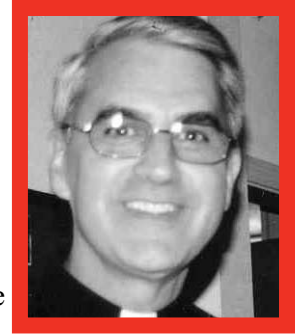
Many parishioners have encountered Lisa Madrigal and her mother Tila at the 9:30 am Mass and at many

other church events. Lisa was seriously injured in an accident several years ago which left her physically disabled. At church activities, Tila is always at her beautiful daughter’s side assisting her in whatever way she can. Lisa’s and Tila’s courage and dedication to each other are an inspiration for all those who know them. Asked to explain how her faith guided her in helping Lisa recover from her accident Tila says “I really do not know other than knowing what would I have done without my faith in God. Faith is trusting that everything would be okay

as long as I prayed and asked God to be with Lisa, Jimmy, and my family. Somehow I always knew God was with us and that Lisa would be fine with whatever disabilities she would be left with after the accident. After the accident I was told not to expect her to live, then three weeks later not to expect that she would come out of her coma. She was not expected to do as well as she has done and while I would rather she not be disabled, she is perfect in the eyes of God, and

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We are Called to Share and Serve



The Gospel message invites us to follow a different path. As a people of faith and members of a parish community, we are called to share our gifts, to serve others, and to be an active part of a worshipping community.

God blesses us with unique gifts. We receive these gifts freely, bestowed on us by an all-loving God. “We, though many, are one body in Christ. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them.” (Romans 12:4).

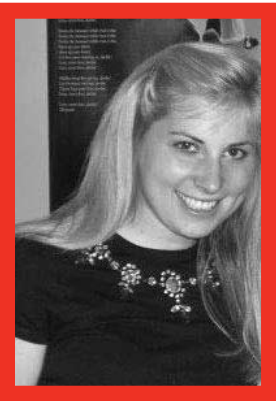
We receive the gifts of time and talent. How do we use these gifts to serve the Church? We serve the Church by serving one another. On Holy Thursday we hear Jesus instructing us to: “Wash one another’s feet.” When we volunteer at school, for CCD, as a lector, a Eucharistic Minister, or bring Communion to the sick, we are responding to the invitation to serve and love one another as Jesus loves us.

We receive the gift of treasure. Sharing our wealth can be our biggest challenge. Are we generous? Do we trust in God’s loving providence? Matthew’s gospel reassures us that “..all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” Popular culture teaches that material possessions are the measure of success. As Christians, we believe otherwise. Do our actions mirror our belief?

I am humbled and inspired by the stories of service in this edition of The Spirit. Our Parish is blessed with loving and generous people. Thank God for the gift of all our Parish volunteers. May we respond fully to his invitation to a life of service for all.



Youths Value their Service Experience ...



Noelle Dyer

Sacred Heart Parish is fortunate to have an active youth community. These aspiring young people are learning at an early age how meaningful it is to serve God through service to others. Among the many who have served the community in various ways Noelle Dyer and Sam Hyde have agreed to share their reflections on how their service experiences have impacted their lives. Both are now in their freshman year in college. They have been trained as Eucharistic Ministers at Sacred Heart and have engaged in service activities during their high school years.

Noelle links her volunteer experiences: serving as a Eucharistic Minister, working in the diocesan office, and assisting with the elderly, to some of the success she has had in the college environment. She says, “When entering college, students need to depend on the skill set and personal assets developed during their young life. The ability to handle uncertain social situations and unfamiliar environment is crucial.” Noelle believes that her volunteer experiences as a youth helped her develop interpersonal skills such as respect, listening to others, and leadership abilities which are enhancing her college experience.

Sam describes the rewards of working for the least privileged of our society: “In my freshman year in high school, I began doing community service at Easter Seals, a school for adults with cerebral palsy and developmental disabilities. At first, I got involved because it was required of me; my high school mandated that I devote a certain number of hours to community service. After my freshman year, that requirement was dropped. Nonetheless, I continued my service at Easter Seals. What had initially been a means to an end suddenly became the end itself; I was doing community service for its own sake, and truly enjoying it. This had nothing to do with the work that I was doing, which tended to be fairly menial in nature. Rather, it was the knowledge that my efforts, for which I received no compensation, were making a difference in the lives of people largely neglected by



Sam Hyde

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my love for her would always be the same. Life is full of struggles and challenges but I have always expected the worse but hoped for the best!" Lisa is now attending Sac City College.

Linda Hamblen & Mike Ostrowski

Those who attend the 11:00 a.m. Mass have probably noticed two people who valiantly trek up the stairs and along the aisle. Twenty five years ago Linda Hamblen was in a tragic accident on Lake Tahoe that killed her fiancé and left her in a coma for

several months. She said "I have been confined to a wheelchair since my injury in 1981. During the years I prayed God that I could walk again." A response came in the form of Michael Ostrowski who had himself been injured in a serious motorcycle accident but had the benefit of a good rehabilitation program. Michael dedicated himself to help make Linda's wish come true and many of us have seen the slow but steady progress Linda has made. Asked to comment, this is what Linda said: "First of all I want to thank you for making the observation of Mike and me. I can say that I would not be walking if it were not for my friend Michael. Thanks again for noticing. It has been a long, hard road, very trying for both Mike and me."

The Iliff family, Nina, Bill and their three wonderful children Katie, Peter, and Christopher have long been part of the Sacred Heart family. Katie was born with a genetic disability which requires that she always be in the care of someone else. When Nina looks at Katie she sees a miracle. Throughout Katie's 22 years, Nina, and Bill, have been amazed at how they feel the presence of God through her life.

Although Nina appreciates when people understand the difficulties inherent to

helping Katie with her physical disabilities, she gets mad when people feel sorry for her. To the question: "how can you do this?" Nina answers, "How could I not do this. As soon as Katie was born, and they laid her in my arms, I knew how deeply I loved her and that I would make a lifetime commitment to her well being." She adds "Katie is the neatest kid in the world. She wakes up every morning with a smile on her face. She is an incredible gift to my family and to others in how she changes their lives for the better."

Nina continues to be amazed at how God works in Katie's life. Under Katie's influence her two teenage brothers have developed sensitivity to world sufferings and a compassion for the human condition uncommon for their age. Their parents marvel at how attentive and loving they are in caring for their older sister. They think nothing of leaving their peers in the middle of a baseball game (or in any other activity) to run over to help Katie when she is in need. Katie adores them. Many people who get to know Katie recognize her quiet, powerful influence on them and make lifelong decisions that affect their careers and personal lives.

In addition to her family Katie has been fortunate to have wonderful caregivers who have helped her with her transition into young adulthood. When she reached the age of 21, two of her caregivers (who really have become her friends) took her out for her first beer! With the help of one of her caregivers, Katie is currently taking classes at City College.

Sacred Heart Parish is privileged to have the individuals mentioned in this article and other dedicated parishioners to be part of our spiritual community. Their fortitude and presence touches us in ways that opens our minds and hearts to the mysteries of God's will.

The Iliff Family



Ministry to the Homebound

"When I was weary, you helped me find rest....When on a sick-bed you cared for my needs."

Those who have received communion at home, in a medical facility, or in a care home, know how important it is to be able to depend on the volunteers who administer Communion when attending Mass becomes impossible. For almost ten years Judi Tousey coordinated the Sacred Heart's Ministry to the Homebound before she stepped down last year. Her dedicated work during this time positively impacted the lives of countless parishioners and their families.

Judi replaced Helen Mahoney who had successfully served the parish during the 80's and 90's. Now Cynthia Speed has taken over from Judi. These three dedicated parishioners have made it possible for individuals who are "homebound" to receive Communion at least once a week from one of the volunteers in the program.

Judi volunteered for the ministry shortly after she lost her mom in February of 1996. Initially, she was seeking something to fill the void left by the loss of her mother. It did not take her long to realize that this ministry, of all of those offered by Sacred Heart Church, can be one of the most gratifying and at the same time the most humbling.

Judi and the other volunteers feel rewarded knowing that they have provided something of great value to others.



Judi Tousey



Helen Mahoney

The coordinator's job is primarily one of scheduling. According to Judi, "The coordinator's job is not difficult. It sometimes means a lot of phone calls especially during Lent and Advent when arrangements are made for the homebound to receive the Sacrament of the sick, the Sacrament of reconciliation, and Holy Communion from a priest. Most of the time, however, the work is negligible. The gratification comes in the interaction with the homebound."

Judi was initially surprised that many of the homebound have family who live close by but often do not visit their loved ones regularly. Because of the scheduled visits of the ministry program and the spiritual bonding between the volunteers and the homebound, deep friendships are often formed. Judi says, "They are so grateful to have someone come to their home on a regular basis to administer Communion." Judi is pleased that Cynthia Speed is now assuming the role of coordinator.

She feels that Cynthia's wonderful disposition and sensitivity to others make her a perfect coordinator for the program.

Volunteering for this ministry involves around 2 hours of training. Sr. Martin provides a videotape and a booklet that teaches how to administer Communion. The coordinator sets up the schedule and the volunteers go to the home or medical facility once a week. Some volunteers, such as Tom and Shirley Wolfanger, Carol Rice, and Lupe Capedracho regularly visit convalescent homes. For years, Tom has been visiting Saylor Lane, Carol has been visiting McKinley Convalescent, and Lupe is the new volunteer for Sherwood Hill Haven. Volunteers are encouraged to administer the Communion as soon as possible after attending Mass. They are also encouraged to read the scriptures from the daily missal. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please contact Cynthia Speed.



Cynthia Speed

The 60+ Have Fun ... and Reflect

The Sacred Heart seniors meet once a month from September through May. The meetings are on the second Wednesday at 12:30 P.M. and last 2 to 3 hours. They are primarily social events where the participants receive updates of the Parish events and activities, swap tales, and laugh together with food and refreshments.

Activities are varied and include presentations such as Rita Spillane discussing the history of the church windows, Lorelei Olin showing a movie on the March of the Penguins, a video of Father Corpai on the history of the rosary, and a speech by Bishop Quinn.

The 60 + committee members are Lorelei Olin, Anneliese and Bill Renard, Don and Betty Baumgartner, and Margarete and David Schwartz. Clare Vittori heads the Good Will committee sending cards to members who are ill. The phone committee includes: Teresa Harris, Sister St. John, Pauline Manning, Dorothy Sechrist, and June Peters. Prior to meetings, all members are called on the phone and a notice is usually placed in the church bulletin two weeks before the meetings.

Please come to the meetings and join in the fun!



A Long Way from the Philippines . . .

... Father Aldrin Reflects on His Past Year



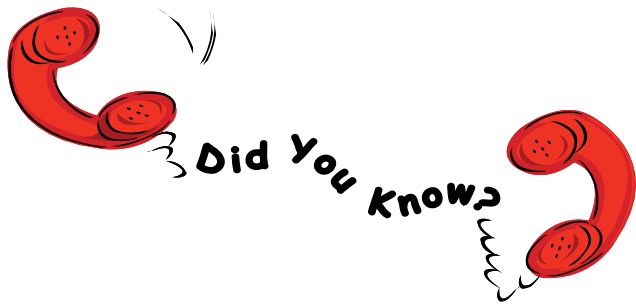
Father Aldrin

A little over a year and a half ago Father Aldrin arrived at Sacred Heart Church from his native Philippines. Before arriving, he was wondering how he would fit into the structure of a well established American Catholic parish and how the community would accept a priest from a “third world” country where English is not the first language and where often, in many places, poverty defines day to day living. Now Father knows that his initial fears were unwarranted and he feels he has become part of the Sacred Heart Family and that he is accepted for who he is. He is humbled by his reception into the community and by the openness and friendliness of the parishioners.

Father Aldrin attributes his ability to adjust to the American culture in part to Father Walton and in part to the parishioners at Sacred Heart. Father Walton has been very influential with helping Father Aldrin fit into the bigger structure of the Catholic community. The parishioners have helped give him the confidence and reassurance that he needs to know he can work successfully and effectively as a priest in America.

Father Aldrin continues to be impressed with the quality of the parish ministry programs. Although he would like to see more parish participation, he is touched by the genuine giving and spirituality of those who serve in, and of those who are served by the various ministries. He is particularly gratified to be part of the Ministry to the Homebound, stating: “I really love this ministry. I feel happy to listen to the stories of so many of our parishioners who are confined to their home. They are also interested in my own background and the stories of my life. They have been instrumental in helping me build my confidence.”

Father Aldrin is particularly pleased that so many of our parishioners are dedicated to their Catholic faith and actualize that faith in their love of God and in loving their neighbor as themselves. He is genuinely moved by the compassionate caring ways of so many who attend Sacred Heart Church.



■ . . . that the Soup Suppers for the poor were well attended this year. We collected over \$2,000.00 for four areas of need: Loaves and Fishes, Mustard Seed School, HIV/AIDS, and Teens in Need. Special thanks goes to Martin Bailey for organizing the program.

■ . . . that when the members of the R.C.I.A. program are dismissed from Mass before the Offertory, they meet with a team member to discuss the word of God which they have just heard at Mass.

■ . . . that the flowers in front of our church were planted and are cared for by Claire and Steve Hyde.

■ . . . that the new Ten Great Dates program has ten couples who started on Friday, April 13th in St. Mary's Church.

■ . . . that the Catholics Returning Home program is reorganizing. They met at St. Mary's Church on April 19th. They will meet every Thursday evening for six weeks at St. Mary's.

■ . . . that Deacon Matt Blank will be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Sacramento with five other deacons on Friday, June 29th at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. His First Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart on Saturday, June 30 at the 5:30 p.m. Mass. You are invited to attend.

■ . . . that the Disciples in Mission Program was again successful with sessions held in homes of parishioners from the first week in Lent through Holy Week.

■ . . . that Fr. Bonny has gone to St. Basil's Church in Vallejo as Parochial Vicar.

■ . . . that the disappearance of the 75th Anniversary banner was a mystery to some people? Mystery solved — it is stored in the basement of the Church.

■ . . . that the Seniors met for the last time before summer vacation on May 9 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fr. O'Hara Hall. Fr. John Healy will be the speaker on stem cell reproduction. Monthly meetings will resume in September.

■ . . . that the 75th Anniversary Committee is still at work — hoping to publish a booklet detailing the history of the church and the parish. If you have any information, stories or anecdotes, etc., please call Niall Meagher at 457-0133 or e-mail: ballinamuc@aol.com.

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society. This gave me a real sense of pleasure and joy, and I believe that volunteering one's efforts can replicate this feeling in almost anyone.

As I sit writing this on the night of Holy Thursday, I can think of no better Biblical analogy for service than the washing of feet. Jesus' humbling of himself rightfully serves as a model for the responsibility each one of us has to the world. Yet maybe even the idea of responsibility is incorrect; perhaps it is an opportunity. We should all be so fortunate to get the chance to imitate Jesus in our daily lives. This, I believe, is the essence of service: willingly giving of ourselves to the world."

Sacred Heart Parish

Welcomes You. . .



The RCIA Class of 2007

On Saturday
April 7 a
new group of
converts joined
the Catholic
Church.

THE SPIRIT

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The newsletter staff welcomes your suggestions and submissions. Please contact Sr. Martin at 452-4830.



The Sacred Heart Family

In Memoriam . . . July - December 2006

*"May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace."*

Lois Boemer
Grace Bowman
Jane Butterfield
Pia Cecchettini
Agnes Chiarella
James Dallosta
Martha DeLaMater
Jennie Gabrielli

Franklyn Gieseke
John T. Gill
John Scott Glerum
Anita Louise Guidera
Patrick J. Guthrie, Jr.
Virginia Hannan
Guerdon Paul Herberger
Lenah Heying

Sharon Ann Kottal
Alejandro A. Leon
Mary Claire Leonard
Ann McAllister
Dr. Ugo Pucci
John Rakela
Bertha T. Rogaski
Joseph Stomp
Anna Pauline Stomsvik

Baptisms . . . July-December 2006

"You have put on Christ, you have been baptized." (Rite of Baptism)



Maya Juliet Barnovitz
Michael Charles Bartholomew
Wyatt Christopher Berry
Noah John Bliss
Nathan Paul Carrero
Jack Walter Cazneaux
Olivia Christina Del Nero
Katherine Mary Donlan
Aidan James Donlon
Madison Kelly Donnor
William Dowd
Sean Thomas Dunn
Ashley Rose Ellis
Emely Julissa Escobar
Tatiana Espinoza
Allyn Paoletti Fry
Olivia Grace Gill

Andrew Gully
Joseph Lawrence Hales
Declan Joseph Higgins
Rico Prieto Hupfauf
Nathan Charles Johannsmeyer
Sydney Anne Laird
Lorenz Andrei Leonidas
Makenna Margaret Manning
Adeline Mary McKrell
Marco Montelongo
Megan Renee Murray
Christina Elizabeth Ortega
Melina Lilliana Quaranta
Paige E. Quigley
James Peter Race

Aleksandra Lizet Ramirez
Savannah Marie Ramirez
Alec Martin Ruiz
Nicholas Paul Shelley
Gabriel Matthew Shelley
Chiara Antonella Stanziano
Ethan Stofleth
Sienna Suznovich
Kevin Conrad Matundan Torres
Dominik Taskan Tran
Isabel Sarah Valencia
Evan Charles Weightman
Kendall Jacklin Wilson



Marriages . . . July-December 2006

*"I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you
all the days of my life." (Rite of Marriage)*

Daniel Amarillas & Nichole Bowers
Adam Barrett & Anna Paling
Brent Allen Bayley & Katherine Macleod
Luis Calderon & Jacqueline Baez
Edward Davey & Mary Eva Carrillo
Anthony Gedatus & Veronica Kneeland
Alexander Gray & Kelly Szydelko
Christopher Ives & Amy Schellenger

Christopher Morato & Veronica Matematico
Jeffrey Navarro & Kirsten Porup
Sean Patrick O'Connor & Jenifer Giudice
Christopher Parilo & Denise Wall
Jose Gabriel Romero & Myra Perez
Carl Smith & Shauna Collins
Norman Wilson & Anissa Sonnenburg