Societal Pressures on the Sanctity of Human Life

Reflecting on the value of God's gift in light of recent legislation

The sanctity of human life is an underlying reason we come together each Sunday to celebrate Mass, thanking God for life and the opportunity to share its joy. The core Catholic belief is that each person is unique and specifically loved by God: thus, each life is valuable from beginning to natural end.

Sadly, human life is under societal pressure in many areas. One recent indicator is the State of California’s report that in the first year of doctor-assisted suicide, 111 Californians legally ended their lives. Government legalization of doctor-assisted suicide surfaced a decade ago in the Netherlands and Belgium. In both countries it continues to expand, both in numbers and in situations where it is authorized. Now doctor-assisted suicide is expanding into the U.S. state by state. (California authorized doctors to provide suicide medicine in 2015.)

Ignored in the assisted suicide campaign are several much larger sanctity-of-life challenges in our society today, including the horrific problem that more than 40,000 Americans end their own lives each year and a much larger number try but fail. At the opposite end of the life spectrum is the devastating toll of abortion that ends so many lives before they can grow to experience the fullness of God’s gift of life. In between, we hear of people, young and old, who suffer from the lack of love and charity on the part of their fellow humans.

As we ask God’s assistance at Mass, certainly the loving embrace and ennobling of human life in all situations should be among our most fervent petitions to God, who fully loves every one of us.
**PARISH LIFE**

### Registration Forms for Faith Formation and Confirmation

Forms for K-5 Faith Formation and Youth Ministry/Confirmation are available either on our website www.santamariaorinda.com or in the parish office.

**The registration deadline is Aug 31!**

If you have questions please contact Sr. Theresa at sistertd@smparish.org or Megan Arteaga at megan@smparish.org.

Sr. Theresa is also in need of more catechists and aides for the K-5 grade classes. If you are interested, please contact Sr. Theresa at sistertd@smparish.org. Thank you for helping to teach our youngsters about God.

### Knights of Columbus First Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Join us for an afternoon of fun on Monday, September 25, 2017 at the Moraga Country Club, 1600 Andrews Drive, Moraga. The tournament will benefit the Bay Area Crisis Nursery (www.bacn.org). Tee-off time is 12:00 Noon; check in is at 10:30am. The fee is $200 per player and we ask that you pre-register.

To register, contact Dean Akazawa at dean.akazawa@gmail.com.

### Last chance to save $25 on YM Registration!

Interested in signing someone up for Middle School Youth Group or High School Confirmation? Registration is due THIS THURSDAY, August 31! This is your last chance to **save $25 per youth** – program registration fees are currently $200 for MSYG and $325 for Confirmation. (After August 31, they’ll increase to $225 for MSYG and $350 for Confirmation.)

Why is registration due so “early”? It gives Megan and the YM team time to make sure we recruit enough volunteers, plan an appropriate program, and focus on preparing details for the year during September – instead of trying to do all this AND track down registrations!

**So keep your Youth Ministry team happy, and register by August 31!**

### Pastoral Care to the Sick

Sr. Pauline Hoang, LHC, who has been with us for two years as coordinator of our Pastoral Care Ministry, will be leaving us on September 1st. Sr. Pauline will be going to St. Felicitas for her new assignment. Replacing her as coordinator of pastoral care will be Sr. Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC.

Please join us in welcoming Sr. Mary Magdalene to Santa Maria.

### Weekly Food Collection

1st/2nd Weekends: St. Cornelius School (fruit cups, crackers, granola bars, juice, water, chips, Cup-O-Noodles, macaroni and cheese, sugar, rice, beans, cereal, and cooking oil)

3rd/4th Weekends: St. Peter Martyr Church Pantry (canned meats like Vienna sausage, chicken, and tuna, cereal, canned vegetables, and canned fruit)

All items can be put in the barrel in the Narthex.

### A Friendly Place

Please remember to bring items for *A Friendly Place*, a daytime shelter for homeless women in Oakland. Needed are: socks, antacids, cold remedies, bingo prizes, small bottles of shampoo, conditioner and deodorant. Place them in the outreach closet to the left as you enter the church.

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Are you new to Santa Maria?
We’re glad you’re here!

The Church of Santa Maria is a vibrant community of faith who believes and professes the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the living tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. We provide the Sacraments and Sacramental preparation, pastoral care, opportunities for social outreach, and faith formation for all ages of the Catholic Community of Orinda, CA.

Our mission is that of our Diocese of Oakland: To know Christ better and to make Him better known.

Thank you for joining us this weekend for your worship! If you’re not yet registered in the parish, please cut out and return the portion below to the collection basket or to the Parish Office, and we’ll mail you a registration form!

See you next week!

New Choir at the Cathedral
The St. Hildegard Schola is a new ensemble at the Cathedral for women and girls age ten and up. They sing on Saturdays at the 5:30pm Vigil Mass and for several other liturgical celebrations throughout the year. Repertoire ranges from Gregorian chant to other great choral music for treble voices written through the centuries to current day.

To schedule an audition, please contact the Cathedral Director of Music, Dr. Rudy de Vos, at rdevos@oakdiocese.org.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Weekly Adoration will resume on Tuesdays beginning September 5th. Deacon Rey Encarnacion will preside at the Adoration. All are invited to come to the Convent Chapel from 12:00 Noon until 3:00pm for communal as well as private prayer.

RCIA
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
RCIA is a journey of faith for those inquiring about becoming a Catholic and those who were baptized in the Catholic Church but have not celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist. This process recognizes that all who join us have already experienced God in their lives and are now searching for a community in which they can join in worship of God and learn more about their faith.

Maybe you have been searching. Maybe you know someone who is. We have three people already interested who would like to inquire about the Catholic faith. On September 19th at 7:00pm they will begin a journey of discovering who God is, who we are as church, and as a people of faith.

Come and see!
Contact the parish office at 925.254.2426 x303

Adult Choir Needs Members
The Adult Choir here at Santa Maria is also looking for new members. The Choir sings every Sunday morning at the 10:30am Mass. In addition they provide music at Christmas and Easter Masses. All singing parts would be appreciated. We also need cantors for the different Masses on the weekends. Contact Tony Millette, Director of Music, at tmillette@smparish.org.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

We encourage you to register in the parish so that you can receive regular communication via both email and regular mail. Please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket, and we will mail you a Parish Registration Form!

Name

Address

Phone Email
**PASTORAL TEAM**

Reverend George Mockel  
Pastor  
gmockel@smparish.org

Reverend Joseph Duong Nguyen  
Priest in Residence

Reverend Vien Nguyen  
Sacramental Assistance

Deacon Maurice Custodio  
(Retired)  
smoffice@smparish.org x301

Deacon Rey Encarnacion  
dcn.rey@smparish.org x310

Deacon James Pearce  
dcnpearce@smparish.org x301

Linda Zunino  
Administrative Assistant  
lzunino@smparish.org x301

Tony Millette  
Liturgy and Music  
tmillette@smparish.org x303

Sister Theresa Lan Do, LHC  
Faith Formation (Grades K-5)  
sistertd@smparish.org x306

Megan Arteaga  
Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12) and CYO Parish Liaison  
megan@smparish.org x308

Sister Mary Magdalene Nguyen, LHC  
Pastoral Care of the Sick  
sisterpauline@smparish.org x309

Sister Magdalena Duong, LHC  
Bookkeeper  
sistermagdalena@smparish.org x302

**PRAYER INTENTIONS**

For the Sick

For the Deceased

**TREASURE**

August 20, 2017 Actual

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Goal $10,350.00
Deficit ($992.00)

Mission Co-op $5,075.00

**Upcoming Collections:**

09/03/17   Faith Formation
09/10/17   Diocesan Priest Retirement

Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:

8:30a—Barbara & Jim Sweetser
10:30a—The Kuss Family

Thank you for your generosity!

**Week-At-A-Glance**

**Monday, August 28**
Mass—Orinda Senior Village (9:30am)

**Saturday, September 2**
Communion Service (8:00am, Chapel)
Minister of the Word Practice Sacrament of Reconciliation (4:00pm, Church)

**Sunday, November 20**
Children’s Liturgy of the Word (During the 10:30am Mass, Church)

**Reflecting on the Gospel**

Liturgy of the Hours  
Week 1 of the Psalter

Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Nothing short of a revelation by the “heavenly Father” could make this known to Peter. Nothing short of a revelation by the community of believers who acknowledge Jesus as “the Christ” and remain ever faithful to his saving mission could continue to make this known even to our day. The church is a fluidity of persons cemented together by the common bond of faithfully living the mystery of who Christ is.

—Living Liturgy™, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 2017

**This Week’s Readings**

First Reading:  
Isaiah 22:19-23

Psalm:  
Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8

Second Reading:  
Romans 11:33-36

Gospel:  
Matthew 16:13-20
LAST CHANCE!

WE GET IT — YOU’VE BEEN ON VACATION.
Here’s a discount to make up for it.

SAVE

$25/YOUTH
IF YOU REGISTER BEFORE AUGUST 31

VISIT WWW.SANTAMARIAORINDA.COM TO REGISTER.

Details available at www.santamariaorinda.com/youth-ministry-registration. Qs? Ask megan@smparish.org.