Planting for a greener future

“Faith in Action” Summer Series #2, by Brendan McFeely

For my Eagle Project, I planted nine oak trees on the hillside directly below the baseball diamond, above the upper parking lot used for the Parish Office and school building.

As the only trees previously on the hill were old Monterey pines and Eucalyptus, once the trees either died or had been removed, the soil would have become loose without additional support. Trees with strong root systems both anchor the soil and help absorb extra water, preventing floods and further erosion. So, we worked in December to dig holes, amend the soil, and plant these new oak saplings (above left and center photos) so they would take hold. We then worked on the irrigation system so they would be watered automatically (above right photo).

While there were a few problems with gophers burying the irrigation pipe around the trees to begin with, most of the kinks in the system have been sorted out. The trees will require the irrigation system for about an additional year and a half. After that, they should be self-sustainable and require no additional input to help keep the hillside in place and provide shade and a little bit of beauty.

Editor’s Note: Planting these new trees was an investment in the health of our environment and community, maybe even beyond Brendan’s own lifetime – so this project was a great way of caring for God’s creation.

This summer, we will be running a series of articles spotlighting our young Catholics putting their “Faith In Action” in their local community. Know anyone doing good work who might want to contribute? Contact megan@smparish.org!
Father Daniel is coming back!

Our summer visitor Father Daniel Perreira will be staying with us during the month of September. On September 13 and 20 he will be giving a two-week series on Pope Francis’ letter: “Gaudete et Exultate.” This should mesh well with a couple of our Faith Sharing Groups who are planning on discussing this letter. Mark your calendars and plan on attending!

Do you know anyone traveling over the summer?

Sundays are still Sunday on vacation! If you’ll be traveling and won’t be around Santa Maria for Mass, visit www.MassTimes.org—it’s a great resource that gives you the names, locations, and Catholic Mass times of parishes where you’ll be traveling. Honolulu? No problem! Genoa? Of course! Macau? Why not?

You’ll get to experience Mass in a different parish and maybe even language, and at the same time, take a break from the bustle of travel to relax into something familiar: worshipping the Lord in his House.

Baptismal Process for Infants

If you have a child that you would like to be baptized over the next two months the preparation process begins on Wednesday, July 25th. Please contact the parish office for more information about the baptismal process or if you would like to register at 925-254-2426.

R.C.I.A.: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Have you been worshiping with us, but never officially took the step to become Catholic?

Have you been a Catholic all your life, but never celebrated all of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)?

Have you joined us from a different faith background and would now like to find out more about the Catholic Church?

If any of the above questions apply to you, we would love to walk with you on your journey!

Or, if you know of anyone who could answer YES to any of the above questions, perhaps you should extend an invitation to them.

For further information or to inquire, please contact Tony Millette at 925-254-2426 x303 or by email at tmillette@smparish.org.

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.

CCIH’s needs volunteers for Drama Camp

Teens, do you need volunteer hours?

CC Interfaith Housing needs help with their Drama camp August 6-10, 11am to 1 pm.

If interested please see link on www.santamariaorinda.com.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

San Damiano Retreat Center

710 Highland Dr., Danville, 925-837-9141, SanDamiano.org

July 22-27: The World Will be Saved by Beauty (5-Day Silent Contemplative Retreat) with Fr. Dan Riley, OFM

 MASS INTENTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, July 23</td>
<td>8am</td>
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<td>Friday, July 27</td>
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<td>Saturday, July 28</td>
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<td>Sunday, July 29</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>Stan Faro(d)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>Mary Ann Cashman(d)</td>
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L = Living; D = Deceased
To request a Mass Intention, please contact Mirna in the Parish Office at
Support Santa Maria during these restful summer months!

As we enjoy the summer and its restful times with family and friends, Santa Maria continues to be open for Mass, events and activities, and the Sacraments.

During these summer months your generosity through Faith Direct can help provide the consistent resources we need to operate our parish and ministries.

Visit www.faithdirect.net and securely enroll using our parish code CA891—or find a paper enrollment form in the Parish Office if you’d prefer.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

If you have any questions, please contact Megan in the Parish Office by phone at 925-254-2426 x308 or by email at megan@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! Or register online at www.santamariaorinda.com/registration!

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**TREASURE**

**July 22, 2018**

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**Upcoming Collections:**

07/29/18 Maintenance

**Please note**— Faith Direct is our new Electronic Funds Transfer, or EFT, program. The amount listed here each week is the estimated average of that month’s projected giving. For more information or to enroll, see page 3.

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**This Week’s Readings**

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:13-18
Gospel: Mark 6:30-34
STEUBENVILLE NORCAL

SAN MATEO EVENT CENTER
SAN MATEO, CA
JULY 27-29, 2018

CHRIS MUELLER
HOST

IKE NDLOLO
WORSHIP

FR. JOSH BURNS
TEAM PRIEST

SPEAKERS
NOELLE GARCIA
JOEL STEPANEK
PAUL KIM

WWW.STEUBENVILLENORCAL.COM

LIFETEEN

STEUBENVILLE CONFERENCES