Born for renewal and love

Parishioner Al Donner reflects on the central themes of the Life on Fire Parish Mission

Many in our Santa Maria community felt energy and uplift while we were being blessed in our parish retreat by the music, musings, prayers, and insights of Fr. Stan Fortuna, CFR.

“The fundamental mission of people is love,” Fr. Stan repeatedly emphasized, centering on an observation of Pope St. John Paul II.

Throughout, Fr. Stan picked thoughts from a wide range of Catholic thinkers and inspirational Saints, reflecting on God and His good, and juxtaposing the sacred with mundane realities of our daily life—such as our routine traffic conflicts. Insights of Pope Benedict and Pope Francis flowed easily through his reflections and accompanying music, as did insights of some of our remarkable women saints, including Katharine Drexel, Mother Teresa, and Catharine of Siena.

He spotlighted Fr. Benedict Groeschel’s observation that “even when we do not choose evil, we choose good so half-heartedly, with so many qualifications, so unenthusiastically, that mediocrity becomes our canonized status quo.” But, continued Fr. Stan, “fighting with God is the dumbest thing you can do, because you will lose!”

“Striving for holy renewal, never be content with halfway measures—we are

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born to renewal!” Fr. Stan clarified. To emphasize that challenge he picked Msgr. Ronald Knox’s observation that “it would be good if every Christian could dream of being Pope!”

As Fr. Stan returned to his friary in the Bronx, he left us feeling more confident that all in the Santa Maria community can become a little better Christians. Can we? Will we? But in all fairness, he emphasized with it that Jesus “did not come to make it easy; you came to make me great!”

PARISH LIFE

Come shadow a catechist

Do you know what a catechist or classroom aide does? Come shadow one of our amazing volunteer Faith Formation teachers to find out!

If you’re curious about this ministry with K-5th grade Faith formation, please contact Sr. Mary Margaret at srmmphan@smparish.org or 925-254-2426 x306.

Save a life—give blood

The Knights of Columbus and Santa Maria will host a Blood Drive on Good Friday, April 19, 2019 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. To schedule your life-saving appointment, visit www.bloodheroes.com and click “Locate a Blood Drive” and enter Sponsor Code: Santamaria. The Blood Mobile will be parked in the lower church parking lot. Don’t forget to bring your photo ID, and eat and drink plenty of water before donating!

Questions? Contact Bob Semar at thebobs2@comcast.net or at 925-283-1348.

Sign up online for your directory photoshoot

There’s a link on the homepage of our website for you and your family to sign up for a session.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, April 1
8:00 am: Benefactors of Sisters of the Holy Cross Living & Deceased

Tuesday, April 2
8:00am: Intention of the Presider

Wednesday, April 3
8:00am: Intention of the Presider

Thursday, April 4
8:00am: Intention of the Presider

Friday, April 5
8:00am: (I) Emily Wong

Saturday, April 6
5:00pm: Dick Cummins (D)

Sunday, April 7
8:30am: Father J.R. Lucey, SJ (D)
10:30am: Patricia Ekenberg (D)
5:00pm: Parishioners of Santa Maria

I=Intentions of [N.]; D=Deceased

To request a Mass Intention, please contact Mirna in the Parish Office or srmmphan@smparish.org or 925-254-2426 x306.
Fast. Pray. Give up envelopes!

Help the Church of Santa Maria by giving up envelopes this Lent!

Enrolling with Faith Direct will provide the church with consistent support, and will simplify your giving without the wasteful envelopes. Join us in giving up envelopes this Lenten season!

If you’d like to enroll in Faith Direct for regular financial partnership with your parish, 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.

Beware Spam/Phishing emails "from Father George"

No, Father George doesn't need iTunes gift cards for his nephew, and he's probably not in a meeting unable to call you. If you see an email that looks like it's from any of our priests or a member of our staff, but the email address isn't from "smparish.org" or looks fishy, please do not respond. This is a recent scam by people trying to get money out of you by pretending to be your pastor.

Call the Parish Office if you have any questions or want to confirm that it's really Father George sending you the email. We'll be able to help.

Can you help someone get to heaven?

Offering a Mass for the dead is an ancient Catholic tradition to assist the souls of the faithful departed on their way to heaven. Saint Ambrose wrote, “We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them in death, until we have conducted them by our prayers into the House of the Lord.”

Contact the Parish Office to make arrangements to have Masses said.

Food Collection

1st/2nd Weekends: St. Cornelius School
3rd/4th Weekends: St. Peter Martyr Church Pantry

Stations of the Cross Fridays 3/29-4/19

Join us to commemorate Jesus’ last steps before death at this traditional Lenten practice. Walk through the 14 Stations in the Church with guided reflections and sung refrains.

Lenten Reconciliation Service

Wednesday, April 10; 7:30pm

The best way to prepare for Easter Sunday and the Resurrection of the Lord is to turn away from sin and turn toward Christ. Acknowledge and be forgiven for what’s holding you back from living a life in Christ in Confession. You may also join us any Saturday from 4:00-4:30pm in the church for Confession.

Abstaining on Fridays

Catholics aged 14 and up are to abstain from meat (beef, veal, pork, and poultry) on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday.
**Pastoral Team**

- **Reverend George Mockel**
  Pastor
  gmockel@smparish.org

- **Reverend Joseph Duong Nguyen**
  Priest in Residence

- **Reverend Michael Amabisco, OP**
  Sacramental Assistance

- **Reverend Christopher Fadok, OP**
  Sacramental Assistance

- **Deacon Rey Encarnacion**
  dcn.rey@smparish.org x310

- **Deacon James Pearce**
  dcnpearce@smparish.org x301

- **Mirna Wong**
  Administrative Assistant
  mirnawong@smparish.org x301

- **Tony Millette**
  Liturgy and Music
  tmillette@smparish.org x303

- **Sister Mary Margaret Phan, LHC**
  Faith Formation (Grades K-5)
  srmmphan@smparish.org; x306

- **Megan Arteaga**
  Youth Ministry (Grades 6-12), Communications, and CYO
  megan@smparish.org x308

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

- **Sister Magdalena Duong, LHC**
  Bookkeeper
  sistermagdalena@smparish.org x305

**Prayer Intentions**

- **For the Sick**
  Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Edith Black, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Cara Bradbury, Maria Carmen, Rosemary Catton, Delores Codde, Lorna Elliott, Nora Enriquez, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Carol Hardy, Doris Hale, Brian Kelly, Mason Kelly, Aileen Kelly, Jerry Kirk, Lawrence Knapp, Carol Kouups, Rose Mary McPhee, Edward Millpointer, Arsi Orihuella, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Jim Ryan, Patrick Sheehy, Hector Santiago, Peter Sumner

- **For the Deceased**
  Patricia Newman

Would you like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list? Please contact Mirna in the Parish Office at 925-254-2426 or mirnawong@smparish.org.

**Treasure**

**March 24, 2019**

- **Plate:** $5,060.00
- **Faith Direct:** $3,448.98*
- **Total:** $8,508.98
- **Goal:** $10,350.00
- **Negative:** -$1,841.02

*Estimate, not actual amount

**Week-at-a-Glance**

- **Monday, April 1**
  Office Closed - Cesar Chavez Day
  No Faith Formation

- **Tuesday, April 2**
  Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel 12-3pm
  R.I.C.A - 7:00 pm

- **Wednesday, April 3**
  Bible Reading/Communion - OCC - 11:00 am
  MSYG - 7:00 pm
  FSG - 7:00 pm

- **Thursday, April 4**
  Adult Choir - 7:00 pm

- **Friday, April 5**
  Lenten Supper - 6:45 pm
  Stations of the Cross - 7:30 pm

- **Saturday, April 6**
  Minister of the Word - 9:00 am
  Sacrament of Reconciliation- 4:00pm

- **Sunday, April 7**
  The next C1/C2 classes are April 14.

**This Week’s Readings**

- **First Reading:**
  Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

- **Psalm:**
  34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

- **Second Reading:**
  2 Corinthians 5:17-21

- **Gospel:**

Donuts and Coffee this weekend are hosted by:

- Gabriela Family after the 8:30am Mass
- Bobbie & Bob after the 10:30am Mass
For more photos and quotes taken from the Life on Fire sessions, visit our parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/santamariaorinda