Superpowers, divine love, and the real presence of God inspire

97 retreatants and leaders returned home changed

“Retreat is life,” began the first keynote of the weekend at Redwood Camp, addressed to over 60 teens and almost 30 adult and teen leaders who sacrificed their weekend for this retreat.

Over the course of the weekend, that sentiment was expounded upon by more keynotes, witness talks, small group discussions, games, activities, good food, and community building. The theme of the retreat was “Empowered by the Holy Spirit,” a fitting riff for the Confirmation community.

Teens and leaders alike learned about superpowers gifted by the Holy Spirit (both the 7 traditional Gifts and Fruits, and those “superpowers” listed in 1 Cor 12). They heard stories of God’s unconditional, overwhelming love and singularly focused care for us. They lived in the presence of Christ through their community, during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and while celebrating Mass. They experienced the beauty of Creation in the beautiful trees, creeks, and weather at Mount Hermon. They reflected on the sacrifices they’d made to be there, the experiences they’d had, and the gifts God had given them. And they left ready to bring the retreat out to the real world, to live knowing “retreat is life” and God will be with you always.
7th Oktoberfest a fun parish get-together

Our Santa Maria parish Oktoberfest was a fun time for all who attended—even though it was held on Nov. 2, a week delayed because of the October fire conditions. The authentic German food and the easy-flowing beverage spigots contributed to the enjoyable evening. The now-annual Oktoberfest began when our fledgling Knights of Columbus Council 16453 first organized, and decided to introduce itself to Santa Marians with an easy, low-cost event.

The Knights now are a well-established part of the parish and carry out many good works. Two more annual events, the Crab Feed and the Charity Golf Tournament, have become the major fund-raisers for the council, which supports several vital charities, particularly life-supporting groups.

To get involved with the Orinda Knights, contact Dean Akazawa at dean.akazawa@wellsfargo.com.

A beautiful Sacrament was celebrated

The Anointing of the Sick at Santa Maria was celebrated a few weeks ago. When attending, while praying for others as well as for myself, I felt a closeness with God and a joining with those present in their suffering. We are no longer alone and...
isolated in our pain and angst. Rather, our prayers for healing are linked together within the Church, and are sent to God. Peace, calm, and a sense of belonging with all those present and those unable to be at the Church, as well as those who are ill around the world, were all enveloped into this feeling of oneness in the loving warmth of our God’s tender embrace.

Afterwards, stillness still resonates within me. Days later we continue to hold the reflections and feelings of the Sacrament to carry us through tough moments, hours, and days.

To be a part of this ministry, please contact author Sr. Magdalene at 254-2426 or by email at sistermn@smparish.org.

Orinda’s history remembered

The Guild Membership Luncheon was held on October 30 with our guest speaker, Kay Norman, of the Orinda Historical Society. She talked about and showed slides of Orinda from earliest history to the settlement of the town. The de la Veaga and the Wagner families had large properties but the dirt roads kept them isolated in the winter. The de la Veaga family built a small chapel on Miner so that they and other early residents could attend Mass.

The town really began after the Caldecott Tunnel opened. Hilma Johnsen talked about our plans for the year. Coming events include a spiritual morning on December 11 and a talk about the restoration of Notre Dame and a talk about raising Guide Dogs in the spring. All enjoyed the Salad Bar Luncheon prepared by the Guild Board.

Visit the Women’s Guild page of our Parish Website for more information on the Guild.

The 12 Days of Christmas

The annual Parish Christmas Party is set for Friday, December 6th. The party begins at 6:30pm and includes appetizers, dinner, dancing and Christmas Fun! Tickets are $50 and are on sale after all Masses or you can choose to buy them through our Faith Direct program. Visit membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/3739

Do you love to decorate?

Then your “love” needs to be shared on Friday, November 29th at 11am, as the Art and Environment Team decorates the church for the season of Advent.

If you are able to help, contact Lynne Lloyd at 254-6287.

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Our Parish Mass on Thanksgiving will be celebrated at 9am in the church. What better way is there to start the day of thanks by giving God thanks and praise with your faith community?

Capella San Francisco Performing Saturday, Nov. 23 at 8:00 pm in the Church

You are invited to attend Cappella SF’s concert “Voyage, exploring the essence of France” on Saturday, November 23rd at 8p in our Church. Cappella SF is a professional chamber choir with a broad, all-encompassing repertoire. Joining them for this concert will be Womensing. You can purchase your ticket at the door

Weekly Food Collection

Feed the Hungry
Give Drink to the Thirsty
Give Alms to the Poor

1st and 2nd weekends: St. Cornelius School, Richmond

- Fruit cups, crackers, granola bars, cereal, Cup-o-Noodles, mac-and-cheese, pantry staples

3rd and 4th weekends: St. Peter Martyr Food Pantry

- Canned meats and fish, cereal, canned vegetables,
We encourage you to register in the parish so that you can receive regular communication via both email and regular mail. Registration information is essential for responding to request to be sponsors/godparents and other ministries.

Please register at www.santamariaorinda.com/registration

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**TREASURE**

**November 10, 2019**

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**WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!**

We encourage you to register in the parish so that you can receive regular communication via both email and regular mail. Registration information is essential for responding to request to be sponsors/godparents and other ministries.

Please register at www.santamariaorinda.com/registration
Leader and chaperone Joe Field joins the teens in playing “I Love My Neighbor” on the meadow.

Retreatants enjoy entertainment and s’mores by the campfire.

One of our small group “families” tries to get untangled from the Human Knot.

Chris Pareja of St. Charles Borromeo helps the teens see evidence of the Holy Spirit already present in their lives.

97 gather in Zayante Lodge for a witness talk.

Our guys led the charge every time music was involved.

Spikeball jump shot!

EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.