Moving air and getting things moving - or not

Why the wind is a great metaphor for the Holy Spirit

Pictured: The "secret" sandbar of bulletin article lore

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 12, 2020

I'm not sure who else was around to witness it, but two Sundays ago it was so windy that between Masses the popup tent over the altar was lifted up (despite the sandbags anchoring the legs), crashed into the other popup tent where the lectors sit, and knocked over one of our beautiful new speakers. Thanks be to God nobody was sitting or standing underneath!

It got me to thinking about the wind and how noticeable both its presence and its complete absence are, and so, by contrast, reminded me of a time one of my college friends took us sailing off O'ahu to the sandbar pictured above. We had a great picnic (poke and POG!) while camped out on beach chairs in the middle of the bay, and after some postprandial swimming and shenanigans, we lifted anchor and headed back to the dock.

The only problem was, halfway back we realized... nothing was happening. Like actually nothing. No moving clouds, no annoying wisps of hair floating in my face, no crisp happy sail noises, no movement - no wind. (And of course, we'd forgotten our paddle on the dock. Paddling a 20' boat using a bilge pump and our feet sounds as ridiculous as we must have looked, and I'm not ashamed to say we gave up pretty quickly and just waited for the wind to pick back up.)

So these stories have established that crazy wind is, uh, crazy, and no wind is a pain - but then there's that middle ground, where you get the cool waft when you're mowing the lawn, or the air movement that rustles the pine trees in Tahoe, or the Delta breezes that make our evenings...
degrees cooler than the days. These are the subtler forms of wind that
we often take for granted because they’re not so drastic or obvious in
their expression (or lack thereof).

I think it’s in these subtler ways that the Holy Spirit (for which wind is a
common metaphor and symbol) does the bulk of its work. We all dream
about experiencing a crazy wind moment like when the apostles were in
the upper room at Pentecost, and we despair of the times it feels like
we’re stuck in a doldrum with no direction or inspiration at all, but do we
keep an eye out for the Holy Spirit’s middle ground moments?

These are the everyday moments when a statement from a friend
suddenly clears up a muddy situation, when the readings of the day
speak directly to your heart, when you’re puttering along and all of a
sudden the world makes sense. Ask the Lord to help you keep your eyes
open to see the breezy moments of the Holy Spirit in your life this week.
Who knows, they might even startle a tent off you.

Megan Arteaga
Youth Minister

Weekend Worship Opportunities
July 12, 2020

8:30am | Mass in the Parking Lot; also Livestreamed (available all day)
10:30am | Mass in the Parking Lot

Download and print the Worship Aid here

Join us this Sunday in the Parking Lot at 8:30am or
10:30am for Mass! We are blessed to be able to
celebrate Masses publicly with you again. If you are
unable to physically join us, we will continue to
livestream the 8:30am Mass for you to participate
from home.

Click on the image to open or print this Sunday’s new
printer-friendly worship aid for your convenience.

Montessori lease updates from Father George
I am pleased to announce that we have signed a new three-year lease
with the Montessori School.

It was not an easy negotiation due to a number of factors, including
negotiating in the midst of the Coronavirus and the consequent future
"unknowns." My appreciation is extended to Steve Catton, chair of the
Finance Council, the broker who managed the negotiation with
Montessori, and the Diocesan CFO for their assistance and advice.

While our lease income will increase over the longer term, as part of the
negotiations we agreed to a three-month "rent forgiveness" in recognition
of the steep decline in enrollment and income for Montessori due to
COVID-19. This will result in a $72,142.00 decrease in income for the months of June, July, and August. This, in addition to the broker fees of $27,874.00, will result in our running a deficit for several months.

However, between savings, your regular financial generosity, and the continued careful stewardship of our expenses, the Finance Council and I believe we will remain financially stable.

Many thanks,
Father George

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**Social**

**Justice is HAPPENING!**
Despite the quarantine, all kinds of socially-distant projects have been taking place, from brown bag lunch deliveries to parish clean-ups.

[Click here](#) to see what's new in offerings and announcements!

*To get involved, contact* [Gail Gabriel](mailto:GailGabriel@stvincentophoenix.org) or [Janet Riley](mailto:JanetRiley@stvincentophoenix.org)*

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**Tuesday Clean-ups are now a regular event**
Each Tuesday from now likely through August, you're welcome to join in beautifying our parish grounds between 8am and 11am.

Bring your own gloves, mask, and tools to pull weeds, trim shrubs, and do general garden work!

*To get involved, contact* [Janet Riley](mailto:JanetRiley@stvincentophoenix.org)*

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**Let's pack up some backpacks!**
St. Vincent de Paul is collecting backpacks, so they're ready whenever school starts this fall. Santa Maria Confirmation kids are running our parish's collection!

Please [click here for the backpack supplies](#) that are needed. Also, consider including a $25 grocery gift card.

Deliver your backpack donations to the church:
**July 21 between 10am-noon**
**July 26 after the 10:30am Mass**
Follow signage to the drop point!

Questions? [Contact teen coordinator Ethan Berndt](mailto:ethanberndt@stvincentophoenix.org).

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**Volunteer from home**
Become a remote tutor to children in foster care and help support foster and adoptive families! We're gearing up for fall classes now - click here for details on how you can help!

Interested? Contact Maggie Reeves by email or by phone at 925-212-8848.

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**June 2020 Collection Total**

**Sunday Plate: $41,203.40**

After discussion among the Finance Council members, the monthly regular plate collection goal has been determined to be $42,000.00. This does not include Second Collections - only the First Collection which supports the general parish fund.

We are grateful to those of you who have continued to support our parish during these trying times. We are greatly appreciative of any help you can provide so we can continue to provide the services you request and need.

To make a donation to Santa Maria, please click here!

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**How can I keep supporting Santa Maria?**

Thank you so much for thinking about us and continuing to support our parish during these trying times! We are greatly appreciative of any help you can provide.

You may drop your collection in the offertory baskets at Parking Lot Masses, mail a check to the Parish Office (40 Santa Maria Way, Orinda CA 94563), or make a one-time donation using Faith Direct, our eGiving service, to make your offering.

If you would like, you can also sign up for recurring giving through Faith Direct to continue to give to the Sunday plate even though you can't come to the church to drop it in the basket as usual. Again, we thank you for your planning and your generosity!

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**Pastoral Team**

Reverend George Mockel  
Pastor  
gmockel@smparish.org

Deacon Rey Encarnacion  
dcn.rey@smparish.org x310

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**Prayer Intentions**

*For the Sick:*  
Liduina Acosta, Sonny Acosta, Mary Beth Alban, Joan Artmann, Shoaib Aryan, Kristy Blackey-Taylor, Kathie Brady, Cara Bradbury, Miguel Briseno, Maria Carmen, Fred Chavarria, Jan Coe,
Deacon James Pearce
dcnpearce@smparish.org x301

Mirna Wong
Administrative Assistant
mirnawong@smparish.org x301

Tony Millette
Liturgy and Music
tmillette@smparish.org

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

Grace Parent DeBoot, Rich Delany, Mary Dodge, Lorna Elliott, Anne Emery, Nora Enriquez, Emidio Fonseca, Liam Foley, Patricia Fox, Bridget Gallagher, Noreen Gillham, Doris Hale, Florentino Ibabao, Brian Kelly, Mason Kelly, Aileen Kelly, Michael Kelly, Jim Kennedy, Jerry Kirk, Lawrence Knapp, Carol Koupus, Judy Lazarus, Rose Mary McPhee, Robert Nick, Arsi Orihuela, Deacon Jim Pearce, Kathleen Pelz, Ann Powell, Mark Ricci, Ben Richey, Brian Riley, Patrick Sheehy, Jean Wells, Faye Young

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 at mirnawong@smparish.org.

Mass Intentions
All Mass Intentions during Shelter in Place orders are either postponed or celebrated privately. Mirna is contacting all those who requested the currently scheduled intentions.

To request a Mass Intention, please contact Mirna in the Parish Office.