“Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue.”

Luke 16:24
**PARISH & SCHOOL STAFF**

Fr. Anthony Huong Le, Parochial Administrator  
(925) 228-2230

Deacon Albert Dizon  Ext. 7  dcnadizon@yahoo.com
Deacon David Holland Ext. 7  dcdholland@yahoo.com

Sylvia Lloren  Ext 2  stcathmzt@yahoo.com  
Office Administrator/ Sacramental Coordinator

Troy Killorn  Ext 3  stkillorn@aol.com  
Director of Music Ministry / Maintenance Manager

Karen Glen  Ext 4  stcatherinebk@gmail.com  
Bookkeeper / Safe Environment Coordinator

Andrea Watkins  Ext 5  drestcath@yahoo.com  
Director Religious Education  (K-8)

Paul & Jennifer Holland Ext 8  stcathym@gmail.com  
Co-coordinators, Confirmation Program

**CHURCH LOCATION:**  606 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA

**PARISH OFFICE AND MAILING ADDRESS:**  1125 Ferry Street  
Martinez, CA 94553-1720

**TELEPHONE / FAX:**  925-228-2230 / 925-228-1318

**PARISH WEBSITE:**  www.stcmtz.org

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  1125 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA 94553-1720

**PHONE/FAX:**  925-229-2255 / 925-229-2474

**SCHOOL LOCATION:**  604 Mellus Street, Martinez, CA

**TELEPHONE / FAX:**  925-228-4140 / 925-228-0697

**WEBSITE:**  http://school.stcatherinemartinez.com/

Mea Auld, Pre-School Director  
St. Catherine Pre-School  
mault@csdo.org  
(925) 229-2255

**PRE SCHOOL LOCATION:**  1125 Ferry Street, Martinez, CA

**TELEPHONE / FAX:**  925-229-2255 / 925-229-2474

scpreschool@comcast.net

Before serving or continuing in your ministry, please complete the Diocesan required Safe Environment for Children Project Training @ www.virtusonline.org. Thank you.

**SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION**

**BAPTISMS:**
Registration is mandatory two months prior to the Baptism month. Please call the office to make an appointment once you have your documents ready. Parents & Godparents are required to attend a mandatory Baptism preparation class one month before reception of the Sacrament. All information regarding requirements and schedules, can be found on the website at www.stcmtz.org or contact Sylvia at Ext 2

**FIRST EUCHARIST:**
The Religious Education Program classes begins in September and ends in May. The First Holy Communion program is a two year program. In the 2nd year, nine First Communion “Parent Only Classes” are conducted on Monday’s (Oct — May) See faith formation calendar posted on the website for dates.  drestcath@yahoo.com or contact Andrea at Ext 5

**CONFIRMATION:**
Youth Confirmation Program begins on September 29th. It is a one year program for all incoming Freshmen or above. Please contact: Paul or Jenny Holland at Ext 8 or email them at stcathym@gmail.com for more Information. A parent orientation will be conducted following the 11 AM mass on the 29th in the parish hall.

**MARRIAGES:**
Arrangements and mandatory preparation need to be arranged at least eight months prior to a wedding date. No dates can be set prior to an initial meeting with a priest. No exceptions. www.stcmtz.org or Sylvia at Ext 2

**RECONCILIATION:**
Confession times are weekly on Saturdays from 3:00 - 4:00 PM and/or by appointment.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:**
The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is the continuation of the Lord’s compassion for the sick. The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is one of two sacraments which heals and saves the baptized person from sin. The other sacrament of healing is Penance. For an anointing during working hours, please call the Parish office.

**FUNERALS:**
We recommend using Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services at 925-932-0900. A representative will contact the parish office to coordinate your ar-

**RCIA: “Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults”**

Are you interested in becoming Catholic?  
Do you need Adult Baptism?  
Holy Eucharist (Communion)? Confirmation?

St. Catherine offers a friendly and supportive program. Please call the office or Karen at ext. 4 for more information.

“It’s a great new idea I have to save more money for our Sunday offering,” he gasped. “I ran all the way home from the stewardship committee meeting behind the bus and saved $2.

“That wasn’t very bright,” replied his flustered wife. “Why didn’t you run behind a taxi and save $15?”

The reflection this week is “What can you do to help?” This is the ninth and last in a series on the subject of “Sacred Spaces.” Over the last eight weeks, we have reflected on the identification and significance of our sacred spaces. This week, we will look at what we can do as individuals to preserve them and share them with others.

We in Saint Catherine’s Parish have inherited much from those who came before. Our forebears built a magnificent church. Through exceptional dedication and sacrifice, they built it during the Great Depression. They built a school, a rectory, and a parish center. They built an outstanding reputation in the community. They established organizations like the Knights of Columbus, St Vincent De Paul, Italian Catholic Federation, and SPRSI (Sociedade Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel). They baptized thousands of new Catholics and educated thousands of youngsters. Their magnificent legacy was presented to us on a silver platter. You and I now carry the torch of St Catherine of Siena Parish and, as we all know, “To whom much is given, much will be required.” (Luke 12:48).

One of the most important things we must continue is maintaining our sacred spaces. As described in previous reflections, these are the places where we pray, where we worship, and where we gather as a Christian community. Although God is everywhere at all times, these sacred spaces are where the Lord is present in a special way. As the Gospel says, “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:20.

The second thing we can do is to show reverence. We acknowledge God’s presence in our sacred spaces by acting mindfully. People attending a movie or a play acknowledge by their actions that a theater is a special place. They silence their cell phones, avoid talking, and are careful not to block the view of those behind them.

The same thing applies when we go to a museum or an art gallery. The objects on exhibition are rare and precious. People travel hundreds of miles to see. Special lighting and display cases are employed to best show each object’s details and distinctiveness. People quietly contemplate the art by concentrating to absorb every detail. We know that objects in a museum are valuable and worthy of our attention but the same objects in another setting might be overlooked. Here is a true story that illustrates my point.

Joshua Bell is a world-renowned violin virtuoso and winner of the Avery Fisher Prize for outstanding achievement in classical music. He performs over 200 concerts a year around the world.

On 12 January 2007, Mr. Bell performed six classical pieces, including two compositions by Bach, at the L’Enfant Plaza Station of the Washington, D.C. subway. This was done without publicity or public notice. During his 45 minute free concert, Mr. Bell played a beautiful, handcrafted 1713 Stradivarius violin, which he had purchased for $3.5 million.

Three days earlier, Bell had played that same instrument to a sold-out house at Boston’s Symphony Hall, where tickets sold for at least $100. In the subway station, he received only $32.17 in tips, contributed by just 27 of 1,097 people walking past. Only seven stopped to listen.

The difference was in the setting. On January 9th, Mr. Bell performed in a symphony hall. People knew when they arrived that they were in the presence of greatness. The symphony hall has ushers, golden fixtures, velvet seating, thick carpets, and special lighting. On January 12th, Mr. Bell performed the same music on the same instrument in a subway station. People did not recognize something beautiful and precious in their midst.

Likewise, God is everywhere but we do not always recognize him in our neighborhood or on our street. Sacred spaces are important because, like museums and opera houses, these spaces block out distractions and focus our attention so we can see what is right in front of us.

The third thing we can do is share our sacred spaces with others. When you see a good movie, you want to go back and take your friends to see it. Last February, the de Young Museum in San Francisco had a special exhibit “Monet: The Late Years.” Vivian went and was thoroughly impressed (by the Impressionist). She invited her friends and drove a full van to see the exhibit the next week. A week after that, she went again with me and our niece. The exhibit was just too good not to share.

Our parish is also too good not to share. We can invite family, friends, and acquaintances to come and experience Saint Catherine’s sacred spaces and events for themselves. There are religious services, concerts, bingo, processions, dinners, discussions, school plays, and fundraisers -- something for everyone.

Continued
St. Catherine of Siena Parish follows Jesus by welcoming all, sharing our gifts, and giving glory to God.

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SAT 9/28  8:00  Olga Maria Raujo
4:30  Eleida del Portal†

SUN 9/29  7:00  Vincent Lucido†
8:30  Deceased members of the ICF†
11:00  Erlinda & Agapito Bonifacio†
1:00  Int. People of the Parish

MON 9/30  8:00  Alberto Costa†

TUE 10/1  8:00  Jennie Samuels†

WED 10/2  8:00  Int. St. Catherine School Children and their Families

THU 10/3  8:00  Special Intention

FRI 10/4  8:00  Int. Julia Lloren -Birthday Blessing

SAT 10/5  8:00  Dolores & Joe Cardenas†
4:30  Int. John & Jenny Concepcion - Anniversary

SUN 10/6  7:00  Todd Sintie†
8:30  McLoughlin & Curtin Families†
11:00  Norberto Dimaano†
1:00  Int. People of the Parish

St. Catherine Parish offers deepest sympathy and prayers for the family; and, the repose of the soul of Richard Anthony Esparza who entered eternal life.

Cont. (Reflection)

The readings this Sunday make us think about our individual legacies. How will each of us be remembered? Will you be remembered like the rich man described in the Gospel? Will people say that you had big houses, expensive antiques, and fast cars? Will they talk about the lavish parties you threw and famous people you entertained? I hope not.

I hope you will be remembered for carrying the torch of St. Catherine of Siena Parish. People will say that you preserved and improved our sacred spaces for the next generation. People will remember that you showed reverence and always respected sacred spaces. People will say that you invited everyone to share our sacred spaces. That reminds me of one more story.
WORSHIP
To facilitate a transforming encounter with God as we come together in worship.

13 Saint Quotes that Reveal the Mystical Nature of the Mass

The Mass is the greatest worship that Christians can offer to God!

1) “When Mass is being celebrated, the sanctuary is filled with countless angels who adore the Divine Victim immolated on the altar.” – St. John Chrysostom

2) “If we really understood the Mass, we would die of joy.” – St. Jean Vianney

3) “The angels surround and help the priest when he is celebrating Mass.” – St. Augustine

4) “It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass.” – St. Padre Pio

5) “The Holy Mass would be of greater profit if people had it offered in their lifetime, rather than having it celebrated for the relief of their souls after death.” – Pope Benedict XV

6) “Put all the good works in the world against one Holy Mass; they will be as a grain of sand beside a mountain.” – St. John Vianney

7) “Let the entire man be seized with fear; let the whole world tremble; let heaven exult when Christ, the Son of the Living God, is on the altar in the hands of the priest. O admirable height and stupendous condescension! O humble sublimity! O sublime humility! that the Lord of the universe, God and the Son of God, so humbles Himself that for our salvation He hides Himself under a morsel of bread.” – St. Francis of Assisi

8) “No human tongue can enumerate the favors that trace back to the Sacrifice of the Mass. The sinner is reconciled with God; the just man becomes more upright; sins are wiped away; vices are uprooted; virtue and merit increases; and the devil’s schemes are frustrated.” – St. Lawrence Justinian

9) “Know, O Christian, that the Mass is the holiest act of religion. You cannot do anything to glorify God more, nor profit your soul more, than by devoutly assisting at it, and assisting as often as possible.” – St. Peter Julian Eymard

10) “The heavens open and multitudes of angels come to assist in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.” – St. Gregory the Great

11) “How happy is that guardian angel who accompanies a soul to Holy Mass!” – St. John Vianney

12) “When we receive Holy Communion, we experience something extraordinary – a joy, a fragrance, a well being that thrills the whole body and causes it to exalt.” – St. John Vianney

13) “I believe that were it not for the Holy Mass, as of this moment the world would be in the abyss.” St. Leonard of Port Maurice

Thank God for the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist!
October is the month dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.

We pray the Rosary because it is a powerful prayer to God, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Holy Rosary is an enormous source of grace and spiritual protection, and one of the most powerful sacramentals (not Sacrament) of the Catholic Church. In order to spread this devotion to parish community, we will be praying the Holy Rosary at half hour before the beginning of each of the Mass every weekend, starting the first weekend of October and the following months. Hence, starting Oct. 5th before the 4:30pm Mass, we will be praying the Rosary at 4pm, which will end around 4:20pm, to give everyone enough time to get ready for the Mass. Similarly, on all the Sunday Masses, Rosary will start at 6:30am, then at 8am; then at 10:30pm; and then at 12:30pm. This devotional practice starts in October and continues indefinitely.

Also, during the month of October, there will be a “weeknight block rosary”, a devotion in which the image of the Virgin Mary visits the home of a host family and the community gathers and prays the rosary every weeknight. This devotion is open to all parishioners, their family and friends, and therefore all are welcome to join.

*On Oct. 7, there will be a special Mass at 7pm to commemorate the Memorial of our Lady of the Rosary. Please contact Fr. Anthony or the deacons for more information.*

We are living in very exciting times! We can feel depressed when we look around at the lack of faith and the callous disregard for life! BUT, God has selected each one of us to be right here, right now, to make a difference in His world! There is HOPE! There is LOVE! There is TRUTH! .......AND THERE IS YOU!

The Lord is calling each one of us to PRAY like we've never prayed before! To FAST because that intensifies our prayer! To STAND because we need to be a visible sign of hope! To SPEAK TRUTH to a world that wants to remove reason from the discussion! To FORGIVE so our hearts can reach out freely! To SHINE a light in the darkness of despair!

Please answer the call!
Join us in the upcoming 40 DAYS FOR LIFE -
September 25 - November 3

We will hold vigil each day, except Sundays, from 7AM - 7PM. Please sign up for an hour! Or more!
You will not be alone...There will be at least two people standing on the sidewalk at all times. This is a very powerful experience that can change your life!

**KICK-OFF EVENING** : Featuring BRIAN JOHNSTON
Western Director of National Right to Life Committee
Chairman on California Pro-Life Council
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019 at 7PM**
St. Mary's Parish Gymnasium
1198 Bont Lane, Walnut Creek

THE VIGIL BEGINS...
Below, you will find the hours we still need to fill for next week. Please login to 40DAYSFORLIFE.COM/WALNUTCREEK to sign up for your vigil hours!
Remember, what you do during these 40 days, will echo in eternity! Go to info@40daysforlife.com for information.
God bless you!
SEPTEMBER 22, 2019
WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

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<tr>
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<th>Weekly Offering</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Collection</td>
<td>$ 7,418.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organ</td>
<td>$ 500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
<td>$ 400.00</td>
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Gluten-Free Hosts now available
Please inform Fr. Anthony or one of the Deacons of your request before the mass so they can prepare for the communion.

The Hospitality Team will be having a meeting Monday, September 30th at 6PM in the Parish Center. Members will be directed to the appropriate room upon arrival. The purpose of the meeting is to get feedback on how our Team is doing and if we need to make any adjustments/changes as we go forward into October. Anyone interested in knowing what our Team is all about is welcome to attend. There is always room for more members!

Once again, we thank all the clubs/ministries/families that are making sacrificial offerings when they participate in our joyful Sunday hospitality. God bless you all!

St Catherine of Siena Cemetery Volunteer Cleanup Day

Saturday Oct 12, 2019
8:30am -12pm
10 Carquinez Scenic Drive Martinez

Join in making our cemetery a better place.
Opportunities to sweep, prune, weed and paint.

Please bring gloves, drinking water, hat, garden tools, rake, broom

For more information, please contact:
Steve Gallo 510 725-2193

Hospitality Calendar

OCTOBER
06 Respect Life
13 Stewardship
20 Pancake Bfast-K of C
27 Choir

NOVEMBER
03 Young Ladies Institute
10 Parent Teacher Group
17 Pancake Bfast-K of C
24 Confirmation

DECEMBER
01 Faith Formation
08 Latino Community
15 Pancake Bfast-K of C
22 Webb Family & Friends
29 Guadalupe Society

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOR COOKING AND SERVING THE BBQ LUNCH FOR OUR MEET AND GREET LAST SUNDAY FOR THE FAMILY FAITH FORMATION AND CELEBRATION OF OUR INTERIOR
St. Catherine of Siena School Mission Statement

Saint Catherine of Siena School answers the call to nurture each child – spirit, mind and body – in a safe, caring environment by providing Christ-centered, challenging curriculum preparing each child for a future as people of faith, service, respect, and responsibility.

Dedicated in 1949, St. Catherine of Siena School has been the home to many of our Martinez residents and families. We are a small school rooted in the Martinez community for 70 years. We are proud of our intimate family community and our wonderful students. Our students make St. Catherine’s a special place to be because they serve others, they are involved in the community and in our school, they are shining academic stars, and they love one another. We invite you to celebrate 70 years of Catholic Education on October 5th after 4:30 Mass. Please join us for dinner, school tours provided by our Student Leadership Team, dancing, and birthday cake! Happy Birthday St. Catherine School! Thank you for being a beacon of light to others in our community for 70 years.

Our St. Catherine of Siena parents and students volunteered their time to make this beautiful float for the Alhambra High School Homecoming Parade. Our "Tiny But Mighty" float represented "A Bugs Life" to connect to the Pixar theme of the high school. We are small and intimate, but our students and families sure have hearts of gold! We're proud of everyone in our school and CYO community for coming together!
Sunday, Sep 29, 2019  TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Try a little tenderness**

We hear folks wish out loud for more patience. In church circles, many voice the ambition to be more devout, loving, or kind. Cultivating a spirit of gentleness, however, is rare on the wish list. Why the oversight? Gentleness makes it onto a lot of Saint Paul’s checklists, including his nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. Paul was sensitive to this virtue, perhaps because he could be pretty rough on fellow Christians who disappointed him! What would happen if you spent one day choosing the softer look, the more careful word, the gentler touch? Try it and find out. TODAY’S READINGS: Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31 (138). “Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.”

Monday, Sep 30, 2019  MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

**Consider the source**

When you make a photocopy of a photocopy, the original becomes harder to see, read, and understand. Saint Jerome, the great linguist, experienced this with the Septuagint, a Greek version of the Hebrew Old Testament. As the use of Latin spread with the Holy Roman Empire—edging out the Greek used by early Christians—the church began to rely on Latin translations of the Septuagint. Jerome thought we could do better. He went back to the original Hebrew, mining the texts as Jesus and other Jews knew them. Not everyone agreed with Jerome. Saint Augustine preferred the Greek. Arguments ensued; a compromise evolved. A strength of church teaching that benefits us today: Differences of opinion can birth a better outcome. TODAY’S READINGS: Zechariah 8:1-8; Luke 9:46-50 (455). “An argument arose among the disciples.”

Tuesday, Oct 01, 2019  MEMORIAL OF THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS, VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

**Sailing toward the eternal shore**

How would you describe your life’s journey? Thérèse of Lisieux—Carmelite nun, saint, and doctor of the church—imagined her life journey as sailing the sea. Reflecting one evening on the sun setting across the sea at Trouville, she wrote of how “luminous trail.” “It was to me the image of God’s grace shedding its light across the path the little white-sailed vessel had to travel.” She committed herself to following Jesus “in order to travel peacefully towards the eternal shore.” What image would you use? And how do you experience God with you along the way? TODAY’S READINGS: Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56 (456). “I too will go to seek the Lord.”

Wednesday, Oct 02, 2019  MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

**Stand by me**

Today the church gives a shout-out to guardian angels. “Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him [or her] to life,” is how the Catholic catechism puts it. Whether you picture a comforting winged angel at your shoulder, or see your guardian angel as more of a metaphor for God’s loving care, great comfort can be found by relaxing into this protection.

TODAY’S READINGS: Nehemiah 2:1-8 (457); Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (650). “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.”

Thursday, Oct 03, 2019  MEMORIAL OF THEODORE GUERIN, RELIGIOUS (SAINT THEODORA)

**Discipleship with backbone**

“Sisters, let’s pack our bags,” Mother Guerin’s community responded when a clueless bishop locked her up and tried to excommunicate her for challenging his need to control. Guerin inspired loyalty; the first sisters bonded after landing on the raw Indiana frontier, speaking only French. As if hunger, overturned stagecoaches, financial hardships, and terrible health weren’t trials enough, the bishop believed he owned them. After epic battles, Guerin finally triumphed. A simple frame shed eventually became Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, the country’s oldest Catholic liberal arts college for women. Learn how Guerin’s college empowers students at the website: smwc.edu. TODAY’S READINGS: Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12 (458). “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.”

Friday, Oct 04, 2019  MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI, RELIGIOUS

**Faithful to the end**

Saint Francis of Assisi gave us two kinds of crosses. One is the San Damiano Cross, depicting the Crucifixion and its witnesses. It replicates the cross Francis prayed to when God said, “Rebuild my church.” The other is the simple T-shaped tau cross, made of wood—reminding us to be flexible and humble—which is the final letter of the old Hebrew alphabet (as omega is in Greek, when we say Christ is “Alpha and Omega”). Francis loved the tau and used it as his seal. The prophet Ezekiel said that those faithful to God at the end would be marked with a tau. Remember this Beatitude: Those who are last will be first with God. TODAY’S READINGS: Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16 (459). “Will you be excited to heaven?”

Saturday, Oct 05, 2019  MEMORIAL OF BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, PRIEST

**Good medicine**

Born in Bavaria, Francis Xavier Seelos joined the Redemptorists to serve as a missionary to German immigrants in the United States. By all accounts he flourished in ministry—and did so with a kind and cheerful attitude. After being stationed in New Orleans, however, he contracted yellow fever caring for the ill and died at the age of 48 in 1867. Imagine the suffering that could have been avoided if the yellow fever vaccine had been available then. So it is disconcerting today to see the anti-vaccine movement grow so strong. The World Health Organization identifies this movement as one of the top 10 global health threats of 2019, all the more troubling given the overwhelming scientific consensus about the safety and efficacy of vaccines. God gave us intelligence so that we might use it to alleviate suffering in the world. Get the facts and talk to those who have been swayed by baseless claims. TODAY’S READINGS: Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Luke 10:17-24 (460). “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.”
LIVE CHRIST, SHARE CHRIST

Looking Forward to Our Five Hundredth

Go and make disciples... (Mt. 28:19)

WHAT WILL THIS ERA OF NEW EVANGELIZATION FOR THE PHILIPPINES CONSIST OF?

The task stands on four pillars:

First, fostering and fulfilling the "missio ad gentes", as a special vocation of the Church in our country, effectively involving our laypeople, our "Christifideles" brothers and sisters; our priests and seminarians; men and women in consecrated life.

Secondly, "bringing Good News to the poor." Again and again, Filipino Catholics coming together to discern priorities, have seen that the Church here must become genuinely "a Church for and with the poor."

Thirdly, reaching out to those among us whose faith-life has been largely eroded and even lost due to the surrounding confusion, moral relativism, doubt, agnosticism; reaching out to those who have drifted from the Faith and the Church, and have joined other religious sects.

Lastly, awakening or reawakening in faith, forming and animating in Christian life our young people and youth sector groups, in both urban and rural settings;

A nine-year journey for the New Evangelization has already been charted climaxing with the Jubilee Year 2021: Integral Faith Formation (2013); the Laity (2014); the Poor (2015); the Eucharist and of the Family (2016); the Parish as a Communion of Communities (2017); the Clergy and Religious (2018); the Youth (2019); Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Dialogue (2020); Missio ad gentes (2021). These are the nine pastoral priorities of the Church in the Philippines.

In the time before us, we will focus on these dimensions of faith, evangelization and discipleship, one by one. And it is most propitious that as we received the faith 500 years ago, so with the Year 2021 we envision to become a truly sending Church.

In the face of a secularism which in some parts of our present world has itself become a kind of a "dominant religion", in the face of the reality of billions who live in our time and who have not truly encountered Jesus Christ nor heard of His Gospel, how challenged we are, how challenged we must be, to enter into the endeavor of the "New Evangelization"! We for whom Jesus has been and is truly the Way, the Truth and the Life, - how can we not want and long and share Him with brothers and sisters around us who are yet to know and love Him, who are yet to receive the fullness of Life for which we have all been created, and without which their hearts will be ever restless - until they find Jesus and His heart which awaits them?

May our Lady, Mary Mother of Our Lord, lead us all in our longing and labors to bring her son Jesus Christ into our time and our world, our Emmanuel - our God who remains with us now and yet whose coming again in glory we await.

Maranatha, AMEN.
On our behalf and on behalf of the Catholic families in the area of Bethlehem, who operate the Olive wood workshops, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for the warm welcome and great assistance that you and your parish staff offered us during our visit to your parish. We would like also to thank Fr. Anthony and Mrs. Sylvia and the entire parish staff for their support and assistance.

We send our deepest gratitude to all parishioners at your parish for their generosity and support. This giving support will positively impact our people in the Holy Land and will help them remain strong in the land of Christ.

By visiting your Parish, we were able to spread our message to the parish community about the plight of the Christian community in the Holy Land. Moreover we are also able to bring attention to the hardships that our people are now enduring in the land of our Savior.

Thank you and God Bless You!

Shepherds Field Olive Wood Handcrafts

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS DEADLINES:
All requests must be submitted no later than October 4th by noon for the October 13th bulletin. Please direct your inquiries to: stcathmtz@yahoo.com
All submissions must be submitted via email and copy/camera/paste ready. Please reference Bulletin Submission in the

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