

May 6, 2012

Blessings to all of you amid the glorious blossoms of May,

As we near the end of the Easter Season and prepare for Pentecost it is a good time for us to consider the subtle presence and activity of the Holy Spirit within our lives, our communities and our Church. We remember that the living Christ moves and breathes within us all, leading us toward the reign of God, and that cooperating with this energizing Spirit leads to utter and complete transformation of who we are as individuals and as a people. But the process inevitably creates tremendous disruption because transformation involves death. The road to transformation is the road to Calvary. At the end of that road we encounter the amazing story of new life: Jesus back from the dead speaking with his disciples, telling them to love one another, that this is what matters, that this is God's fundamental directive. Then, into these frightened women and men, disciples who can't imagine living in this world without HIM, he sends his life-giving Spirit—and they are transformed into courageous speakers, healers and carriers of this Spirit into the world. They know him inside themselves, inside each other and inside their world. He is with them and within them. Though they are still learning and are never perfect, they are God's presence in the world. As modern-day disciples, this is our calling as well. If you would like to meditate on the readings for next weekend they are: Acts 10:25-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; and Jn 15:9-17

### Mass Schedule This Month

Our Mass in **Portland** will be Saturday, **May 12**, at **Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2823 N. Rosa Parks Way at 5:00pm**. We will celebrate the "vigil" of Mother's Day with our favorite entrees, vegetable dishes, salads and desserts! Remember also that choir rehearsal begins at 4:00 and all interested singers and musicians are invited to come and participate.

Our Mass in **Eugene** will be **May 13**, at **First Congregational Church, UCC, 1050 E. 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 4:00pm**. This is Mother's Day, so bring your favorite dish to share: entrees, veggies, salads, desserts. If interested in being part of the choir as a singer or musician, please come at 3:00 and join the rehearsal.

Closing liturgy of the West Coast CTA Conference, **May 20, Double Tree Hotel, Lloyd Center (Cascade Ballroom) at 10:45**. For more information about registration for the Conference please see the information below.

On **Pentecost, May 27** we will celebrate Mass at **1:00pm** near **Battleground** at the studio of Marlise Stroebe & David Zine. A **Labyrinth walk** honoring motherhood and the nurturing Spirit in us all will precede our Liturgy beginning at **11:00am** and ending at 12:30pm. The address is **17814 NE Gabriel Rd., Yacolt, WA 98675**. Call Marlise and Dave for directions: 360-686-3342 or email [dzine@pacifier.com](mailto:dzine@pacifier.com). Light refreshments will follow the Liturgy.

## Pastoral Update

Please remember to fill out a **registration/ministry form** when you come to Mass this weekend. If you prefer to receive and return this form via email just let me know and I'll be happy to send it to you. We are updating contact information for all our members and are asking you to identify where you would like to use your gifts for the benefit of the community. If you have interests and concerns not currently being addressed these, too, can be entered on the form so we begin having a clearer sense of your hopes and dreams for Sophia Christi. The forms are available at all Masses.

**Pledge cards** are coming in steadily as are your faithful monthly contributions. As a result of your financial commitment and ongoing fulfillment of pledges we are extending our outreach in both the Portland and Eugene areas. We were able to place an ad, for instance, in the Register-Guard's "Easter Services" section last month that ran in both the Thursday and Saturday editions of the paper during Holy Week. This ad brought eight new people through the door to celebrate Eucharist with us Easter Sunday. It was both a delight and a surprise to see how fruitful a well-placed advertisement can be! Our Mission Statement places a high priority on outreach to disenfranchised, disaffected and marginalized Catholics and these outreach efforts comprise a major portion of the budget. If you haven't yet filled out your pledge card you will find them near the liturgy aids and song books at each Mass. If you would like a pledge card sent to you via email please let me know.

Last month I mentioned that Sophia Christi will have a booth and banner at **Portland Pride this year, June 15-17!!** This, too, is the result of your pledges and increased contributions. Several of you have already signed up to help staff the booth through the weekend, but more volunteers are needed. If you are interested in being part of this important outreach effort, look for the sign-up sheet after Mass next weekend or, if you want to be involved but can't be at Mass, please let me know and I'll add your name to the staffing list. We will march in the **Pride Parade** under our new banner on Sunday, **June 17**.

**Eugene Pride is Saturday, August 11.** If you are interested in helping with planning, designing and/or staffing a booth, or participating in some other way please let me know. There will be an announcement about this at Mass next Sunday as well.

**The Eugene Celebration is August 24-26.** We are hoping to have a booth and a presence there through the weekend at this annual Eugene festival. If you are interested in working on this project with Cecile, Judith, Carol and Jennifer, please let one of them know after Mass next Sunday. If you aren't able to come on Sunday and wish to be involved let me know and I'll forward your name and contact info to them.

If you have skills and/or interest in helping develop Sophia Christi's **website**, I would love to hear from you! We need a willing and skilled (or willing to learn!) shepherd for this very important outreach tool. Check out our website at [www.sophiachristi.org](http://www.sophiachristi.org).

when you have an opportunity as well. Your feedback, suggestions, requests, ideas and photos are always welcome.

**A pastoral reminder**--if you or someone you know has a pastoral need that isn't being met, please don't hesitate to give me a call. You have my email address in this mailing, and my office phone number is 503-286-3584. Feel free to use either one. You can contact me anytime for conversation, home visitation, sacraments of reconciliation or anointing, home Masses or other pastoral care needs.

### **CTA Conference May 19-20**

The theme of this year's annual West Coast CTA Conference is **The Hope and the Dream Live On: Vatican II at Fifty**. The CTA-NW website states "this inspirational and educational weekend is meant to strengthen and ignite your FAITH. Join with others who share your hopes for the future of the Catholic Church." The Conference will be held at the Double Tree Hotel at the Lloyd Center. You can still register for the conference by going to the website at [www.cta-nw-oregon.com/register-for-regional-2012-conference.html](http://www.cta-nw-oregon.com/register-for-regional-2012-conference.html). You will also find the schedule of events there as well as great information about Call to Action and its mission for the renewal of the Church. I hope to see you there.

### **Community Meetings Scheduled for June**

Looking ahead, the Parish Council is scheduling our next Community meetings after Masses in **Portland, June 9**, and **Eugene, June 10**. We were very successful in combining dinner and meeting in Eugene in February and decided to try this approach in Portland as well. We will focus on increasing our outreach and further implementing our mission to attend to the needs, frustrations, hopes and dreams of those who feel marginalized or abandoned by the institutional church. So please mark your calendars for those dates in June and come with your ideas, and your wonderful energy for the vision and promise of Sophia Christi.

### **Food for the St. Andrew Episcopal Food Pantry**

We received the following message from Kathleen Greene, Director of the Food Pantry:

*I can't thank you enough for all your donations. We received so many thoughtful hygiene items. We are blessed to have you in our lives. You sent toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, baby diapers, toilet paper, bar soap and laundry soap too. You always give us the best items to make the meals larger. We also received cereal and cake mixes, icing, flour, oil, sugar, marshmallows, hearty soups, rice, beans, mushroom soup, mixes for spaghetti, stew, peanut butter and jelly. When you feed us, you feed Him. Blessings on you all for your thoughtfulness. God bless you all. Kathleen*

Please remember to bring food and personal hygiene donations for the Food Pantry when you come to Mass these next weekend.

**Look for the basket at the entrance to the sanctuary when you come for Liturgy on Saturday or Sunday, and please be as generous as possible.**

I often find myself wondering where the Holy Spirit is leading this Church of ours. It is so easy to be angry at the antics of hierarchs who seem intent on hurling stones at women, at LGBT individuals and issues, at progressive theologians as well as progressive ordinary Catholics, while hiding behind structures aimed at protecting themselves from accountability at nearly every juncture. Within the ranks of institutional authority figures, however, there are those who raise their candles in the darkness and provide us with reminders that hope may seem thin at times, but all is not lost! Some of those candles are shining brilliantly in Ireland and Austria, where hundreds of priests have joined together in a vision of solidarity that mirrors the spirit and teachings of Vatican II. There are bishops raising candles as well, and countless women religious across the world carrying the gospel mandate of preferential option for the poor and marginalized into some of the darkest corners of culture and church. They hold a lens of justice, compassion, and honest self-reflection before the eyes of a church structure aimed at preserving itself at the expense of the people who are its life-blood. We are poised to receive, again, the ever-present tongues of Spirit fire. So let's keep the faith, you and I. Let's keep faith with the Spirit and pray for the strength to see and hear the painful details of this Calvary walk we all are on. Let's pray for the ability to quiet our minds enough to notice what God is calling us to do in love and service of this huge transformative process She is undertaking through us and with us at this time in history. We're in this together with our brothers, whether they see it or not, and with our sisters who stand on the front lines, hearts open, inviting us to follow the Gospel mandate to repent of self-absorption so as to truly love and serve those in need. Let's join with the women religious, our mothers in the faith, and enter that deep process of discernment they have now begun. Standing with them, attuned to their authentic prayerful and heart-filled leadership, we allow the Pentecost Spirit to inspire and lead the way.

May the Holy Spirit enlighten your days, open your hearts and give you strength,

Toni