

June 3, 2012

Blessings to all on the cusp of summer,

We are clearly in a time of great flux in the Church, not unlike tumultuous times in the past when people we now call “saints” battled with religious authorities. These saints were often deemed “heretics” during their lives, prevented from teaching or preaching, excommunicated, imprisoned, sometimes burned at the stake, only to be vindicated hundreds of years later when popes saw fit to claim their contributions, their holiness and courage for the reputation of the Church. It is the way hierarchies and governments and structures of power operate. Against the backdrop of authoritarian denunciations and pronouncements, however, stand those who humbly continue speaking the truth of their consciences, standing with the disenfranchised, the poor, the marginalized, standing in integrity, working for justice. As we watch Vatican authorities unfold their scandalous crusade against the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in the coming months and, through them, against the congregations of nuns represented by LCWR, let’s hold our U.S. Sisters in prayer. Over the last 50 years they have worked hard to maintain the principles of Vatican II, to faithfully live the Gospel, and to advance the cry for justice in all areas of society. They mirror the heart and soul of the Church. Their struggle with the “Temple authorities” is our struggle as we, the people of God, stand firm in our conviction that “Church” means all of us, and only together can we truly hear the voice of Spirit speaking in our time. We celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi this weekend, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Might I suggest a meditation on Church as the Body of Christ this week, using the readings for our next liturgy. They are: Exod 24:3-8, Heb 9:11-15 and Mk 14:12-16, 22-26.

### Mass Schedule This Month

Our Mass in **Portland** will be Saturday, **June 9**, at **Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2823 N. Rosa Parks Way at 5:00pm**. Potluck meal follows, so please bring your favorite entreés, 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 **June 10**, at **First Congregational Church, UCC, 1050 E. 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at **4:00pm**. Please bring your favorite dish to share at the potluck meal afterwards: entreés, veggies, salads, and desserts. If interested in being part of the choir as a singer or musician, please come at 3:00 and join the rehearsal.

On Sunday, **June 24**, at **10:30am** we will celebrate Mass in **Battleground**. The address is 26605 NE 96th Ct., Battle Ground, WA. For further information or directions call Helen at 360-687-7475 or email her at [umphrey@ipns.com](mailto:umphrey@ipns.com).

### Community Meetings Scheduled for June

The Parish Council will facilitate Community meetings after Masses next weekend--**June 9 in Portland**, and **June 10 in Eugene**. Our focus this year is outreach and publicity as we seek ways of implementing our mission to attend to the needs, frustrations, hopes and dreams of those who feel marginalized or abandoned by the institutional church. As you can see from

reading this newsletter, we are moving forward in a number of ways to let people in Eugene and Portland know who we are, what we are about and how to become involved in Sophia Christi. Please come to the meetings this weekend with your ideas so this outreach can be a full community effort.

### Portland Pride June 15-17

We will have a booth and banner at **Portland Pride this year, June 15-17!!** Our booth at the festival can be found at space F-3. Several of you have already signed up to help staff the booth through the weekend, but we can always use more volunteers. 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**. We will be marching with the Community of Welcoming Congregations whose location in the line-up is position **#10** in the staging area between Burnside and NW Glisan, and between NW 9<sup>th</sup> and NW Broadway. Step-off will be at 11:30am at Burnside and NW Park Ave. You can find the parade route and more information at <http://pridenw.org>.

### Pastoral Update

Please remember to fill out a **registration/ministry form** when you come to Mass this weekend. You may also receive and return this form, as well as **pledge cards**, via email. Let me know if you prefer this method and I'll be happy to send one or both to you. They are also available at all Masses.

**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.

**The Eugene Celebration is August 24-26.** I'm excited to report that we will have a booth at the Eugene celebration this year! If you are interested in working on this project with Cecile, Judith and Carol, please let one of them know after Mass on Sunday. If you aren't able to come Sunday and wish to be involved let me know and I'll forward your name and contact information to them.

### CTA Conference a wonderful success!

The Western Regional CTA Conference held May 18-20 was a wonderful success! There were approximately 260 people signed up for the conference that weekend and the energy of participants was joyous and hopeful. Sophia Christi's table was well-placed just outside the doors of the main conference room. Many people took our brochures and colorful bookmarks, signed up to receive the newsletter, and asked about our services. This was our first outreach/publicity effort as a community, and we had volunteers staffing the table throughout the conference. It was an exciting first step in our effort to gain exposure in the region, and to make our presence known to those looking for an inclusive, alternative and progressive Vatican II community.

If you have skills and/or interest in helping develop Sophia Christi's **website**, I would love to hear from you! In the meantime, check out our website at [www.sophiachristi.org](http://www.sophiachristi.org). 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, weddings, funerals, memorial services or other pastoral care needs.

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

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

We Vatican II Catholics must always remember that when we use the phrase "the Church" we are talking about ourselves, all of us together. I've often heard the phrase used to designate the Vatican or the hierarchy alone. I've used the phrase that way myself at times. But the Church is not the hierarchy. The "Magisterium," in fact, is fully and officially the entire episcopal body when meeting in Council, and not one bishop or even a national conference of bishops, speaking on an issue. This is why the documents of the Second Vatican Council are so important. They are the authoritative teachings of the Church in modern times, and everything that has come out of the Vatican in the last 50 years that contradicts the spirit and letter of those teachings is, in fact, out-of-step with the true "Magisterium" of Vatican II, and could actually be classified as heresy. Keeping that in mind as we talk about what is happening in "the Church" allows us to broaden our vision and listen more intently to the quiet urgings of Spirit and the "silenced" voices of our day where Spirit continues to reveal herself. She will always call us into a fuller expression of who we are as the Body of Christ. Church is messy, as messy as any genuine human process, as messy as birth and death and all of life in between. But the Spirit of Pentecost lives and breathes in this Body of Christ that we are, and Spirit is at the tiller, guiding the ship according to her own wisdom and in her own way.

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us on this journey,

Toni