

July 3, 2012

Summer greetings everyone,

We begin “Ordinary Time” in earnest as we transit through these next few months of summer. An “ordinary” season focuses our attention on the “daily” aspects of our lives. We look at routine and at balancing that routine with variety, spontaneity, creativity, appreciation for the moment-to-moment experience of life itself as it unfolds in awesomely ordinary ways. Whether it’s the peas that are blooming and fruiting on their trellised vines or the raspberries ripening in bunches within their tangled thicket of leaves, the ordinary miracle of life-force rising, greening, fluttering, surging, and blooming in our gardens and across the landscape is both breath-taking and, well, normal. We often take for granted things that are extraordinary because we’ve somehow learned to ignore that which brings forth, nourishes and sustains life just as we’ve learned to trivialize ordinary reality. The renowned theologian, Dorothee Soelle, wrote: “The trivialization of life is perhaps the strongest antimystical force among us.” She goes on to say, “The relevance of any expression of life now depends on what it can yield in the exchange of the currency of power and money. Everything else is trivialized away. Perhaps there is no weapon that has been used as perversely and effectively against the otherness of children and women’s conscientization than this creeping trivialization of experiences and feelings that are considered pointless for the struggle for survival.” Paying attention to the ordinary day-to-day experiences of our lives, and to the emotional and sensual textures of those experiences which constitute our feelings, provides a window into inner realms where God lives, where Spirit is alive, where Wisdom is available and where Divine guidance weaves itself through warp and weft of earth reality and human existence. The path of the mystic is the path of attending to the ordinary, knowing God is there reaching toward us, beckoning our inquisitive curiosity, waiting to be playfully and joyously found. Our readings for July liturgies are: July 8—Eugene—Ezek 2:2-5; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Mk 6:1-6a. July 14—Portland—Amos 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14; Mk 6:7-13. July 29—Battleground—2 Kings 4:42-44; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15.

### Mass Schedule This Month

Our Mass in **Eugene** will be **July 8, 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: entrées, 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.

Our Mass in **Portland** will be Saturday, **July 14, at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2823 N. Rosa Parks Way at 5:00pm**. Potluck meal follows, so please bring your favorite entrées, 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.

On Sunday, **July 29**, 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).

### Parish Council Update and Community Meetings Follow-up

The Parish Council met, Sunday, July 1, in Salem. All members of the Council were present for the meeting. Salem was chosen as the meeting site months ago in order to equalize travel time for Eugene and Portland members as much as possible, and this has worked quite well. The Council reviewed the many creative brainstorming ideas generated at post-Liturgy Community meetings June 9 and 10, as well as those put forward by the Outreach/Publicity Committee in Eugene last month. A few individuals in both cities have indicated interest in working on various outreach, communication and publicity projects. Some of these, such as website development, are beginning to move forward in exciting ways. If you are interested in being involved, or have ideas you'd like to pursue, please let me know and I'll connect you with the people in your location who are beginning the outreach effort. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Saturday, September 15, from 3:00 to 5:00 at Almost Home in Salem. All Sophia Christi members are welcome to attend these meetings. We can work out carpool arrangements for those interested in participating.

### Portland Pride a wonderful success

Five Sophia Christi members marched in the Pride parade this year behind our new and vibrant banner made by Dianna Shafer. Many people made their way to our booth at the Festival, picking up our bookmarks and brochures, asking questions and sharing some of their angst and frustration as LGBTQ members of the Church. We handed out CD's of last year's "Coming Out Day Mass" and homily, while 30 people signed the mailing list wishing to receive the newsletter. Next year we hope to have a larger contingent in the parade which generally occurs on Father's Day. Interesting timing.

### 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. Both 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.** Our new Sophia Christi banner will mark our booth space at the Eugene celebration this year! Volunteers are needed at the booth to hand out bookmarks and brochures, collect email addresses from people

interested in receiving our newsletter and to answer questions about our community Please let Cecile, Judith or Carol know if you would like to staff the booth during the Celebration. If you aren't able to be at Mass and wish to be involved let me know and I'll forward your name and contact information to one of them and they will contact you.

## **Website**

Check out our website at [www.sophiachristi.org](http://www.sophiachristi.org). We have a small team working on furthering the design of our web pages and helping it become a useful community tool as well as an important outreach vehicle. As always, your ideas and feedback are essential to creating an accurate reflection of who we are and why we're here.

**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.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this August**

Sophia Christi will celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Masses this August! If you are interested in helping to plan the liturgy or organize the celebration following our Liturgies please let me know.

## **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.**

If you look at your life this summer through the lens of "Ordinary Time" how do you see the events you have planned? the travelling you might do? the friends and family you may visit or who may visit you? The moments of our lives reveal the Spirit to us in so many different ways. Within the within of experience, time and space God calls us to pay attention, to be present to the unfolding blossom of each day, petal by petal. This is the path of the mystic and it is Christ's holy invitation during this liturgical season of the ordinary.

Have a wonderful summer,

Toni