

June 4, 2013

Greetings in Ordinary Time,

Spring has gone so quickly and summer is nearly here. With Pentecost behind us we now begin the long journey through “ordinary time” in our liturgical life. Before Vatican II, the Sundays in Ordinary Time were referred to as Sundays after Epiphany and Sundays after Pentecost. The word “ordinary” comes from the Latin “ordinalis” which refers to numbers in a series. So “ordinary time” marks the numbered Sundays between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, and again between Pentecost and the beginning of Advent. These Sundays between the seasons of feast (Christmas and Easter) and seasons of penance (Advent and Lent) progress numerically through the calendar year. Ordinary Time always includes the entire months of July, August, September and October, and most or all of June and November.

The “season” of Ordinary Time is an apt mirror for the typical quality of everyday life. Events of any normal day are often unremarkable. Those familiar tasks and regular schedules can even bog us down in mindless detail, perpetuating a busy-ness and preventing awareness of the Holy woven through the fabric of every moment, every heartbeat, every precious breath. It’s within the “ordinary time” of our lives, though, that we most need to practice an awareness of God.

The Holy Spirit persists in trying to wake us up to God’s presence, every minute, every day. So it may be helpful to recognize “Ordinary Time” as a continual call to prayer. We are invited into nature—to sit on the beach, hike in the woods or camp near a river—so as to find the face of God reflected there. Ordinary Time bids us to see God’s hand in the garden as well as to hear God’s voice in the words of friends and strangers. It is in the commonplace, the natural flow of daily life, that we are least likely to notice God’s quiet appearance. This is what makes Ordinary Time so precious. It is a time for strengthening mindfulness and “waiting upon Mystery,” a time for living the compassion, generosity, hospitality, mercy and gratitude we rehearsed during Advent and Lent. In Ordinary Time we continue to pray and serve, watching for signs of God’s presence and guidance within the daily gifts and challenges of normal routine. Our readings for May Liturgies: June 8 & 9 – 1 Kings 17:17-24; Ps 30; Gal 1:11-19; Lk 7:11-17. June 23 – Zec 12:10-11; 13:1; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Gal 3:26-29; Lk 9:18-24.

Mass Schedule This Month

Our Mass in **Portland** will be Saturday, **June 8**, at **Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2823 N. Rosa Parks Way at 5:00pm**. Potluck follows. We will celebrate with entrées, salads, veggies and desserts. Choir rehearsal begins at 4:00 and all interested singers and musicians are invited to come and participate.

Our Mass in **Eugene** will be Sunday, **June 9**, at **First Congregational Church, UCC, 1050 E. 23rd, at 4:00pm**. A potluck will continue our celebration with entrées, salads, veggies and desserts. Please come at 3:00 for rehearsal if you are interested in being part of the choir as a musician or singer.

On Sunday, **June 23**, 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.

Parish Council—Quarterly Meeting

Five members of the Parish Council met Sunday, June 2, for a quarterly meeting. We discussed plans for the newly improved website, which will soon be on-line. Watch for it!

We also discussed the details of our involvement in Portland Pride. We will need help from the Portland Community to walk in the parade on Sunday, June 16th, and to person the booth on both Saturday, June 15th, and Sunday. (Please see the information below.) We also began talking about how Sophia Christi might be involved in the petition drive for Marriage Equality among Catholics, and we want to continue this conversation with the community at-large. **The next quarterly meeting will be September 28, from 2-4pm at Willamette University cafeteria in Salem.** Everyone is welcome at these meetings. If you are interested in participating stay tuned for more information and directions as we get closer to the September meeting time. –Joy Wallace, Chair

Website

Two of our “resident” artists—Judith Manning in Eugene and Dianna Shafer in Portland—are collaborating in designing a logo for Sophia Christi that will grace our developing website. Once the logo has been created our web designer will have what she needs to create the overall “look and feel” of our Sophia Christi online “home.” We are looking for images to include on the site and will need new photos and new content continually to keep things fresh and interesting. If you have image ideas for Judith and Dianna now is the time to let them know! There will be much more to report next month.

Pride Season

The **Portland Pride Festival** is next weekend, **June 15 and 16**. Sophia Christi’s booth will be located at **#M-5**. This area is at the south side of the Festival grounds (Morrison Street entrance) rather than the north side (Pine Street entrance). The Pine street entrance is the most familiar entryway, and the one most people will be using. Just be aware that our booth will then be at the opposite end of the park if you enter through the main gate. The Waterfront Festival area will be open from noon to 6:00pm both days. **The Pride Parade is Sunday, June 9, at 11:00am.** Unfortunately the Parade line-up information won’t be posted until later this week. We will, however, have it available at Mass on Saturday, along with sign-up sheets for staffing the booth and for participation in the Parade. We are part of the **Community of Welcoming Congregations** contingent in the parade, so if you’re planning to look online to see where to line up, look for CWC on the map, not for Sophia Christi.

Our booth will likely be the only Catholic presence at the Festival itself though a handful of other parishes will hopefully be represented in the Parade. Our presence is important, especially given the fact that the Roman Catholic hierarchy is perhaps the most powerful negative “religious” voice in all issues related to the LGBT community. As Basic Rights Oregon moves forward in its effort to place an Oregon referendum for Marriage Equality on the 2014 ballot, we can expect a large media push-back from the Portland Archdiocese as has happened in every State so far (e.g., Washington, Maine, Delaware, Minnesota, Illinois). We can do our part to counteract that voice by witnessing to the majority Catholic position (54%) of support for same-sex marriage. But more importantly we can oppose the religious bigotry being touted as “doctrine” by being a visible Catholic presence of love and acceptance. **Please plan to walk in the Parade on Sunday, June 9 (we need you!) and sign up after Mass Saturday to staff the booth.**

Also mark your calendars for **Vancouver’s Saturday in the Park Pride** which is scheduled for **July 13**, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. **Eugene Pride** will take place **August 10** from noon to 7:00 pm. Both events occur on second Saturdays of the month. If you are

interested in spearheading a Sophia Christi presence at either location please let me or one of the Council members know soon since booth arrangements need to be made well in advance.

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.

Upcoming Events

Call To Action Northwest will be sponsoring two events that I encourage you to place on your calendars—one this summer and one in the Fall.

August 4, Fr. Helmut Schuller, founder of the Austrian Priest's initiative, a movement organized in 2006 to address the global priest shortage. In 2011 the group issued a "Call to Disobedience" supporting the ordination of women and married men, permitting divorced and remarried Catholics to receive the Eucharist, and calling for lay leadership of priestless parishes. His U.S. Tour is titled "The Catholic Tipping Point". He will be speaking at Central Lutheran Church, 1820 NE 21st, Portland from 2-4pm.

October 12, Aimee Upjohn Light, Assistant professor at Duquesne University. She is a young theologian specializing in Feminist Theology and Religious Pluralism. She will be speaking at Central Lutheran Church from 12 noon to 3:00pm.

Also coming to Portland in the Fall:

November 16, Sr. Simone Campbell, Executive Director of Network, the national Catholic Social Justice lobby in Washington, D.C. and leader of the Nuns on the Bus tour. Time and location will be announced at a future date.

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.**

In a recent homily (as reported by Kevin Clarke in *America*, May 25, 2013) Pope Francis said " 'Jesus is indignant when he sees' efforts to block people from sacramental life because those who suffer are 'his faithful people, the people that he loves so much.' 'We ask the Lord that all those who come to the church find the doors open.' 'The people of God are always asking for something closer to Jesus, they are sometimes a bit insistent in this. But it is the insistence of those who believe.' It is an insistence ...which ought to be welcomed, not stilled at the parish door.' "

These words seem especially important as we enter the traditional month of Gay pride and add our small voice to the growing chorus of voices calling for justice within society and acceptance of LGBT experience and LGBT families within the Church. The push for marriage equality focuses its efforts on protecting those vulnerable families throughout the nation. Our readings this weekend underscore the vulnerability of any family stigmatized by social customs that devalue the worth of its members. Both Elijah and Jesus recognized and responded to this vulnerability. Both showed compassion by restoring life to dead sons for the sake of their mothers, widows who had no rights or protection under the laws of the land.

Ordinary, faithful Catholics, whatever their politics, marital status, or sexual orientation, deserve to find a welcome mat at the door of the church, no matter how “imperfect” others may judge them to be. This is how I interpret Pope Francis’ remarks. No one deserves to be told, as a Phoenix, AZ audience was told by Bishop Paprocki of Illinois recently, (<http://ncronline.org/news/faith-parish/illinois-bishop-faces-challenging-audience-talk-same-sex-marriage>) that Catholics who oppose the church on the issue of same-sex marriage should become Protestants. “They do a lot of good things too,” he told them, as though being a baptized Catholic is irrelevant to this good shepherd of the Catholic flock.

Ordinary Time reminds us that the ordinary movement of days, weeks, months and years carry opportunities for living the Gospel, witnessing to its values, standing with the vulnerable, working for justice, and recognizing in all moments God’s silent, active presence in the life of the Church and in the life of the world.

May Holy Sophia guide our journey throughout Ordinary Time,
Toni