

The Parish Window

St. Michael Church, Livermore, California

March 2011

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An Enduring Ministry

By Suzanne & John Gutierrez



After 30 years of serving St. Michael Parish, Sr. Emmanuel, our parish school principal, has announced that she will leave after the current school year ends. She will take up residence at the motherhouse in San Rafael to begin pursuing her ministry in a way other than as

a school principal. Sister first came to our parish in 1972 as a teacher and then served as principal from 1973 to 1979. She left to serve for 9 years as principal at St. Isabella's in Marin County. Returning to our parish in 1988, she taught for a year before Msgr. Adams asked her to take the recently vacated principal's job. True to her calling of service in God's name, she agreed and has continued in that position to this day. Her 30-year tenure at St. Michael's is a significant part of the 98-year history of our parish school and of the parish's relationship with the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael.

The Dominican Sisters of San Rafael began in California in 1850 when two sisters from a Dominican convent in Paris, France, answered Bishop Alemany's request for help in the newly formed Monterey diocese. As the Catholic church in California grew, so did the Sisters' numbers and work in support of the Catholic faith. Wherever they were invited in Northern

California and Nevada, the Sisters founded thriving schools and hospitals, many of which still exist. In 1887, this congregation, formally known as the Congregation of the Most Holy Name, established its current motherhouse in San Rafael.

When Father Patrick Power realized his goal of opening a parish school at St. Michael in 1913, he asked the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael to staff the school. And ever since then the parish has been blessed by the Sisters' faithful and far-reaching service to the parish. Three members of the original 1913 student body at St. Michael School became Dominican Sisters of San Rafael and returned to serve their home parish: twins Sr. Francis Raphael and Sr. Ursula, and Sr. Antoninus.

Initially the Sisters' service venue was the school, but when Vatican II called for a more inclusive parish organization, the Sisters undertook ministries beyond the school families. Specifically they led ministries to provide religious education for the children who did not attend the parish school as well as programs for continuing adult religious education. They also were instrumental in beginning outreach programs and activities for senior parishioners as well as members of the Hispanic community. Wherever they have served in our parish, their hallmark has been devoted service in the name of and for God, faithfully following the motto of their Order "Laudare, Beneficere, Praedicare," which means "to praise, to bless, to preach."

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Left: Sr. Emmanuel (center back) and some of the many other Dominican Sisters of San Rafael who have served our parish, Msgr. Adams (center front), and Fr. Poon (back right).

Right: Sr. Emmanuel with Bishop John Cummins and St. Michael School staff at the time of groundbreaking for the new Education Center.





This year we continue to prepare ourselves for the language changes which are coming to the English speaking church on the First Sunday of Advent 2011. Why now? We might say during a time of crisis for the Church—why rush to this change now. The simple answer is as follows: We began using our current translation in 1974. That was the first edition of the Missal or the Sacramentary. By 1985 a new edition of the Missal was promulgated by Rome.

We are using that second edition. For all intents and purposes there was no separate translation done at that time. In 1992 the Third Edition of the Roman Missal was approved by the Vatican. Church authorities responded to the third edition with a translation which was rejected by the Holy See. The translators had to start from scratch.

“What was wrong with the former translation?” The method used to translate the current liturgical books is called dynamic equivalence. The object is to render the text comprehensibly in contemporary English. Church authorities decided that clear expression in English was a secondary factor. The primary one was the preservation of the original meaning of the Latin—even in the few instances in which unfamiliar English or archaic English is used. Hence, the controversy.

For months we have been praying that “we may be open to the work of the Holy Spirit” as we prepare for the Third Edition of the Roman Missal. These changes have little or no effect on the Spanish texts for the Mass. Because Spanish is a romance language, its sentence structure and vocabulary are much like Latin the translations for the Latino versions of the Missal/Sacramentary were already close to the Latin. For the English-speaking laity, there are a few changes which perhaps will be awkward at first. For the priests and the ears of the faithful there are numerous changes which we will discuss in the coming months.

First, we have the response to “The Lord be with you:” And also with you. Beginning in late November 2011 our response will be restored to **“And with your Spirit.”** The significance of this greeting acknowledges the Spirit conferred upon priests and deacons in the sacrament of Holy Orders.

A second example of the modifications coming to the Holy Mass in a few month’s time regards the Penitential Rite: “I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have **greatly** sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, **through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore** I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God. (The boldface type indicates word changes.)

I will give one more example, The Sanctus or the “Holy, Holy, Holy.” Its single change is this: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.**

These changes may seem picky and arbitrary, but taken as a whole they reflect to a great and ancient tradition. During the rest of this year we will work together to understand the various changes and their theological, historical and linguistic significance.

As we race toward 2012, may “the Lord Bless you and keep you; may he make his face to shine upon; may he lift up his countenance upon you and give you his Peace.” ♦

Father Bob, Pastor

WALK FOR

On Saturday, January 22nd, a large California and the West to converge on J after hearing inspiring speakers at the op began the 2.5 mile walk along the Embar

The Knights of Columbus organiza group of LIFETEENS occupied one whole marched and stayed for a youth rally aft

Karen Klem and her family are lo observed, “It is heartening to see so man future of the prolife movement, and by th of life.”

Walk for Life West Coast showed 38 years ago is growing. Last year’s walk represent a 42% increase. ♦



The St. Michael walkers assemble after
Photo courtesy of Michele B

An

Although Sister Emanuel’s dedication is most recent example of the difference the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael have m Livermore, she is not singular with resp her community.

So what is the difference these se women make and why are we so gratef their presence? We recognize and apprec the complete devotion of the religious li which creates for us parishioners a sens deep trust, not to mention appreciation their availability, which is so great. In r we make the Sisters a part of our familie broader sense by teaching and example, Sisters contribute to our families and p helping us to build foundations of Chri virtue in our children and in our perso lives.

Sister’s chosen name, Emmanue means God is with us, and she would n want her ministry to be known as any other than a gift from and pointing to o Savior. A favorite scripture passage of h

LIFE 2011 A HUGE SUCCESS

by Barbara Mitchell

A group of St. Michael parishioners joined people from all over at Justin Herman Plaza in San Francisco. It was a beautiful day, and an evening rally, prolife marchers estimated by KTVU at 50,000 people headed to the Marina Green.

Loaded three buses from the parish. Laura Spaugh and an enthusiastic driver on the bus. Our teens joined a veritable army of young people who were on the walk.

Longtime St. Michael participants in the Walk for Life. Karen and her children, teenagers and young adults there each year—this is the reason for their very presence, they speak to San Francisco about the goodness of life.

How much opposition to the Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion was estimated at 35,000 people. This year's estimated participants



morning Mass. Buckett



Photo courtesy of Pam Hamilton

Enduring Ministry

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Romans 8:28 **For those who love God, all things work to their good.** She personally lives this and thus imparts it to others. It explains her humility, her willingness to serve, and her tireless devotion to her ministry. As she moves to her new ministry, she will continue to spread the message of her chosen religious name with the same dedication that we at St. Michael's have witnessed.

A celebration of Sr. Emmanuel's years with us in our parish is planned for June 25. Details will follow in the Bulletin. ♦



Sr. Emmanuel in some of her many roles as principal (clockwise from bottom left):
 - Wielding a shovel for the groundbreaking of the new Education Center;
 - conferring with school secretary Mrs. Tyler;
 - sharing a happy First Communicant's day;
 - interacting with students during recess.

SEASON OF EASTER

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY - April 17

Distribution of Palms at each Mass
 Blessing of Palms/Procession: April 16th
 Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Mass

THERE WILL BE NO MORNING MASSES ON HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY OR HOLY SATURDAY

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK:

7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Mass (English)

HOLY THURSDAY - April 21

8:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer (English)
 7:30 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper (Bilingual)
(Este servicio sera bilingue)

Mass is followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Hall until 11:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY - April 22

8:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer (English)
 11:30 a.m.- Stations of the Cross (English)
 1:00 p.m.- Liturgy of the Lord's Passion (English)
 7:00 p.m.- Liturgia de la Pasion del Senor (Spanish)

HOLY SATURDAY - April 23

8:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer (English)
 10:00 a.m. - Blessing of Easter Foods/Chapel
 8:00 p.m. - Solemn Vigil of Easter (Bilingual)
(Este servicio sera bilingue)

Please gather in Church courtyard for the service of light

EASTER SUNDAY - April 24

Masses in Church: 6:45 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

Masses in Parish Hall: 8:15 a.m., 9:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

NO EVENING MASSES ON EASTER SUNDAY



Our Annual Parish Fundraiser

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the auction by making donations, buying tickets, attending the dinner, or participating in the casino activities. A very special thank you to all those volunteers without whom we could never have put on this event.

There were about 150 attendees at the dinner and all seemed to enjoy the evening. Unfortunately, neither the auction nor the casino activities were as successful as last year. We netted about \$21,000 this year compared to some \$35,000 last year. Nonetheless we are very grateful for the continued support to St. Michael Parish.

Lastly, a very special thank you to Liz and Gary Garcia, the co-chairs, who contributed significant time and talent to make this event successful. Liz and Gary have decided to retire from organizing the fundraiser, so we are in need not only of a new chairperson(s) but also additional committee members. We are looking for new ideas to improve this event and to expand the interest and support for it, thus increasing the income to the parish.

Anyone that is interested, please call me at 447-1585, ext. 12. ♦

Deacon Bill Archer

Calendar of Events

APR	15	Golden Friends Mass & Luncheon
	24	HAPPY EASTER SUNDAY!
MAY	7	St. Michael School First Holy Communion
	14	Faith Formation First Holy Communion
	24	Welcome Committee Potluck Dinner
	27	Golden Friends Mass & Luncheon
JUN	4	Hispanic First Holy Communion
	5	St. Michael School Graduation
	11	Hispanic First Holy Communion
	12	Pentecost
	17	Golden Friends Mass & Luncheon
	23	Bilingual Mass - 40 Hours of Eucharistic Devotion Begins
	25	Bilingual Mass - 40 Hours of Eucharistic Devotion Ends
JULY	18	Mass of Remembrance
	26	Welcome Committee Potluck Dinner

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