

FROM THE RECTOR...

A YOUNG BOY'S VIA DOLOROSA...



Good Friday...the ultimate test of Jesus' resolve...what he was willing to suffer and endure for us. This is the one day in the Church Year about which there is nothing humorous.

For one young Mexican boy who had his own resolve tested...suffering and endurance were transformed from the abstract into the all too real. He showed how far he was willing to go for Christ...and it cost him his life.

It's February 6, 1928 in the small town of Sahuayo, Michoacan State, Mexico. Christianity was declared illegal four years earlier. The parish church of Saint James the Apostle has been turned into a stable for horses. Soldiers have broken apart its ornate wooden altar into pieces to be used for firewood...the parish priest has gone into hiding for fear of his life.

Outside the desecrated church building, José Luis Sanchez del Rio, Aged 14, has been arrested by the Federal Police. His crime: fighting against the atheist government...and publically professing Jesus Christ as his King. Soldiers order Jose to renounce his faith in Christ...he refuses and is subjected to beatings and name-calling.

His own godfather...a political figure in the town...berates the boy but promises he will be released and able to go home to his parents if he will just say, "Death to Christ the King." Jose responds, "Long live Christ the King!"

The soldiers attempt to break José by forcing him to watch as a classmate is hung from a tree for refusing to renounce his belief in God. José tells his friend to have courage...they will soon see each other again in heaven.

José is taken to a jail cell. Along the way the Federal Police and soldiers push and kick him and call him more terrible names. They curse the Name of Jesus...they are unable to break the boy's resolve. That night he is allowed to write a letter to his mother:

My dear mother:

I was made a prisoner in battle today. I think I will die soon, but I do not care, mother. Resign yourself to the will of God. I will die happy because I die on the side of our

God. Do not worry about my death, which would mortify me. Tell my brothers to follow the example that their youngest brother leaves them, and do the will of God. Have courage and send me your blessing along with my father's.

Send my regards to everyone one last time and finally receive the heart of your son who loves you so much and who wanted to see you before dying.

José Sanchez del Rio

Perhaps José was thinking about the Blessed Mother...Jesus tried to comfort her as she watched the events of that first Good Friday play out. He told her to embrace John as her son...he told John to take care of his mother as if she was his own.

The following morning José is taken back to the desecrated parish church. Once again his godfather tries to get the boy to renounce his faith in God by offering him a place at a prestigious military school... José is offended at the offer and replies, "I'd rather die first. I will not go with those monkeys! Never with those persecutors of the Church!"

It's now February 10, 1928. Frustrated and angry...Jose's godfather orders the boy's execution. He wants it done quietly...but the soldiers want to make a very public example of José. They first tie him to a bench in the church sacristy...there they slowly cut the soles of his feet with a knife. And they continue to beat him. With each cut and blow José cries, "Long live Christ the King!"

José is forced to walk several hours through the town from the church to the cemetery. Jose has begun his own very real *Via Dolorosa...Way of Sorrows*. His feet bloodied...the soldiers continue to make fun of the boy...they shout out how much they hate God.

The boy's parents and some of his friends watch from a distance. His godfather makes one final attempt to get him to renounce his faith. José again shouts, "Long live Christ the King." The captain of the guard has had enough and plunges a knife into his back.

As José lay bleeding and dying on the ground...a Federal Officer sarcastically asks him what he should tell his father. With his remaining strength, José uses his bloodied finger to draw a cross in the dirt. He can now only whisper, "Long live Christ the King." Furious at his reply...the officer fires a bullet into the back of the boy's head...and then unceremoniously tosses his body into the grave.

Later that night some of Jose's friends locate the parish priest. Risking their own lives, they remove his broken body from the grave and after giving it the final rites of the Church...rebury it in a secret location where they know it will be safe.

On November 20, 2005 José Luis Sanchez del Rio was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI. On October 16, 2016 he was canonized by Pope Francis I. Today the body of Saint José Luis Sanchez del Rio rests in a wooden tomb in the Church of Saint James the Apostle in his hometown of Sahuayo, Michoacan State, Mexico.

The story of this courageous Mexican boy named Jose is compelling...because of his young age...and his unwavering resolve and refusal to renounce Christ...and the courage he showed in facing eminent death. Consider the closing words to Hymn #70 with which we began today's Liturgy..."Learn of Jesus Christ to die." José exemplifies what those words mean.

It is unlikely any of us will face the kind of torture José Luis Sanchez del Rio endured because he proclaimed Jesus as his King. And that's precisely the point. We can come and go as we please...government officials didn't check our identification cards as we came into the church today...they didn't threaten us with arrest or execution. I didn't have to get approval from anyone to deliver this homily.

When the Church is openly persecuted and believers subjected to intimidation...the faith of those believers is strong and resilient. Persecution for Christ has never stopped the growth of the Church. The question we must ask ourselves is how are we supposed to respond when we find our faith ridiculed and mocked in more subtle ways. How do we respond when people shout, "Death to Jesus the King?"

We take our religious freedom in this country for granted and in many ways we have it too easy. Following Christ isn't supposed to be easy...it requires commitment and determination on our part. It means we are to love others unconditionally and show compassion...while at the same time not back down when we find ourselves at odds with the normatives of the secular world. Saint John Paul II consistently said, "Be courageous. Do not be afraid."

Good Friday isn't supposed to be easy for us either. Our own *Via Dolorosa...Way of Sorrows...* has brought us to this very place as it does every year. And our parish church is dedicated to another José...our Patron Saint Joseph. He didn't hesitate to take action or risk his personal safety. He spent his life taking care of Mary and Jesus.

We're here today because this is the way we try to share in Jesus' Passion...although none of us can truly understand now during this lifetime what Jesus went through for us. But as we continue our journey to the foot of the

cross...Good Friday must become for us more than an abstraction...it must become real...it must become the point that changes our lives forever.

Holy Week and the Church's Liturgies help explain why we are here...but for Good Friday to have a real impact on our lives it has to become for us more than a liturgical reenactment of the crucifixion. We have to experience Good Friday on a visceral level. We have to try to understand what it really meant on Palm Sunday when we proclaimed Jesus as our King...and what it means for us today as we watch our God and King die.

We confess our belief Jesus suffered, died and was buried in the Creed. How can God die? It is the *Divine Reversal* we often talk about on Good Friday. It is on the cross the suffering and endurance of all humanity and God's forgiveness come together. Jesus suffered and endured the humiliating execution of a common criminal...knowing it would ultimately lead to his resurrection...and our own. Our salvation is something only God himself could accomplish.

What do our hearts tell us? That's where we begin to get the real message of Good Friday. That's where we begin to understand...as Jose Luis Sanchez del Rio understood...the true message of the Gospel is hope for everlasting life...the hope Jesus bought for us on the cross. Jose knew as Jesus showed us the *Via Dolorosa...the Way of Sorrows...* is ultimately the Way to Eternal Life.

It is that kind of intense visceral hope emanating from his heart that gave Jesus the courage and resolve to complete his mission. It is the same intense visceral hope emanating from our hearts that gives us courage and helps us understand Good Friday is about LIFE...not death...Jesus made certain of that when he died so we wouldn't have to stay dead. And hope defines our lives as followers of Christ.

Our Lenten Journey began on Ash Wednesday with ashes in the shape of the cross being placed on our foreheads. We remind ourselves that we are made from dust and we will return to dust...but through the cross we won't remain dust...we will be resurrected to eternal life. That's why in spite of the anguish and pain Jesus went through for us...we can continue to call Good Friday...GOOD!

Our spiritual *Via Dolorosa...Way of Sorrows...* is not yet complete. Jesus gave up his life for us but before he did that he gave us his Body and Blood in the Sacrament of the Altar...the giving of which we commemorated last night.

On the night before José Luis Sanchez del Rio was executed, the parish priest gave a consecrated host to the boy's aunt, who secretly passed it on to him in his prison cell. The boy died knowing he had one last opportunity during this lifetime to be united with Jesus in the Sacrament.

We will soon receive Holy Communion in one kind only...a reminder Jesus has given up the last drop of his blood for us...he has no more to give...he doesn't have to...his sacrifice is complete...once and for all time and for everyone.

If we find our faith and resolve tested we need to remind ourselves everything Jesus went through was for us. We must ask ourselves what more are we willing to do for him? We should be willing to do much more...and we must never be afraid of saying..."Long live Christ our King!"

(Saint Joseph Parish 2019 Good Friday Meditation)



26 FEBRUARY 2020

12:15 PM – BLESSING AND IMPOSITION
OF ASHES, LOW MASS & HOMILY

6:00 PM – PENITENTIAL OFFICE
IMPOSITION OF ASHES
HOLY COMMUNION
FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT

LENTEN STUDY....



The theme of our Lenten Study this year is "All About Prayer". Through a series of thought-provoking questions...we will explore the where, when, how and what of our corporate and personal prayer lives. Saint Paul tells us we should pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5.17). Is that even possible...given our busy daily lives? We will learn what Paul means by praying without ceasing.

Lenten Study will take place at 10:30 AM Sunday in the Library commencing 1 March and continuing through 29 March.

Please join us!



MAUNDY THURSDAY – 9 APRIL 2020

6:00 PM – LITURGY FOLLOWED BY
VIGIL AT ALTAR OF REPOSE



GOOD FRIDAY – 10 APRIL 2020

10:00 AM – CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER
12:00 PM – LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY



ANNUAL PARISH CORPORATION MEETING REPORTS...

RECTOR'S PASTORAL REPORT:

During the past year...our Parish has faced a number of challenges. Budget constraints forced us to dramatically scale back our music program...we said good-bye to our two singers...Elliot and Isabelle. We hope to have them return during Holy Week and special occasions throughout the year.

We were also deeply saddened by the deaths of long-time parishioners Marie Adams and Al Schick. Their legacies of love and service to the Parish live on in our hearts and minds...and in the spirit of volunteerism that has defined our parish from its inception...and continues to define the parish today. We have a dedicated Altar Guild...comprised of three women who serve with quiet dignity. Any women of the parish would be welcome to join them.

We have a capable Vestry whose members have met the challenges faced by the Parish. On a personal note...they have made my work as Rector much easier. We owe all the Vestry members profound thanks for the work they do: Senior Warden Jerry Mc Donnell for addressing

maintenance matters...Candyce Francis for taking on the enormous task of Treasurer...Junior Warden Rebekah Shapiro for being the liaison to our Insurance Provider and now our Parish Counsel...Marcia Rayher for her excellent work as Clerk of the Vestry...and to Lindsay Pettit as we work through various matters.

Special thanks go out to Ginger Dahlberg...who has taken over the task of "Kitchen Cabinet" chair. Coffee always gets made and there are always treats. And Ginger's famous sandwiches...what more can be said! We have...the best coffee hours in town!

Attendance continues to be the overriding concern on our minds. We see the occasional visitor. Overall attendance in 2019 was slightly higher than 2018...primarily due to phenomenal attendance at Marie's and Al's Requiem Masses. Total number of communions in 2019 was about the same as in 2018. While our numbers may be small on most Sundays...attendance is consistent...that's a good thing!

We continue to enjoy a now 21-year relationship with our tenant, Gazelle/Creative Learning School. Robin Hansen, gives singing lessons in the church...and through her hard work and that of guest organist Angela Kraft-Cross...Advent Lessons and Carols reappeared after a four-year absence...once again filling the church with beautiful music. We provided 19 Thanksgiving food boxes to CALL Primrose again this year.

Perhaps the most significant event during the past year was the realignment of the Parish with the Diocese of the Holy Trinity. For over 20 years we existed as a Partrimonial Parish under the oversight of Archbishop Mark Haverland...with Bishop William McClean serving as Episcopal Visitor to the Parish. The circumstances that kept us from being part of the Diocese of the Holy Trinity no longer exist...it was time to go home. Rebekah Shapiro and I attended Diocesan Synod last June...and Rebekah was a delegate to Provincial Synod earlier this month and will have a few words to say about the Synod in her Junior Warden's Report.

We must ask ourselves the same question we asked ourselves last year...where do we go from here? It's time to reorient our thinking and focus on what we have...a great treasure. Simply put...we are a community under the patronage of Saint Joseph...who love each other...and cherish the time we spend together at Mass...in learning...and in fellowship.

We hope and pray others will be inspired to join us in Word and Sacrament...so they too can experience our parish life. Where we go from here is up to God...he will guide us to do what is right for the Parish and show us the path we must take...as he always has.

In Christ,
Father Craig Looney +

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:

While our Rector Fr. Looney has covered much of the important items and Junior Warden Shapiro will soon cover some others, I wish to personally add the following:

A very special and heartfelt thanks to Fr. Looney for his continued dedication, availability, guidance and spiritual leadership to all of us. Thanks to the Altar Guild for their tireless devotion to duties and time they donate to perform such a sacred duty. The kitchen cabinet who make the after mass gatherings such a pleasure and keep supplies stocked. The numerous providers of munchies for the wonderful snacks and food we enjoy. To Rebekah Shapiro as our General Counsel for legal matters. Her knowledge and guidance in assisting both The Rector and the Vestry is appreciated and extremely helpful. To Candyce Emory, Fr. Looney & Rebekah for sorting out & putting finances in order to include computerizing all income, expenses, taxes and other financial matters. To Phil Mancini for his inspiration & guidance from "behind the scenes" to both Fr. Looney and myself. To my loving wife Dawn for her understanding, patience and wisdom when I am away from home on church business and repairs. Most importantly thanks to all of you who support St. Joseph Parish. Your love, unwavering devotion and support is what moves us forward during these challenging times.

We continue to deal with ongoing issues with an aging building and its contents. Building maintenance continues to mount but due to shortage of funds only absolute necessities can be addressed, the remaining issues are one again being deferred. The elevator is again being addressed after a period of inactivity. I am encouraged by a new company brought to our attention by Marcia Rayher that has been very responsive. Heating problems continue to be an issue. You notice I'm sure the church is not as warm as we would like but thankfully the school does receive sufficient heat. Unfortunately the very old, undersized system seems to have one failure occur as soon as a previous one is addressed.

Well, we are here for another year. Did you think we would be here today? I believe we will be back next year and for years to come after that. As Fr. Looney stated earlier, "we are in God's hands and he wants us here".

Jerry Mc Donnell
Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:

Our struggle to maintain and grow our Parish is shared throughout the Anglican Catholic Church in the developed world (United States, Canada, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia). Bishop Scarlett, who spoke twice on the topic of missions to the full assembly of the January

2019 Synod of the Anglican Catholic Church, has proposed Wednesdays as a day of fasting for domestic missions.

The Diocese of the Holy Trinity had by far the youngest delegation to the Synod. This was not due to my presence, but rather due to the young adults Bishop Scarlett brought from St. Matthew's Parish in Newport Beach, California. This was my first time since law school getting to spend significant time with Christians my own age, and I thank them, the Parish, and Bishop Scarlett for the opportunity.

Rebekah Shapiro
Junior Warden

ALL SMILES AND SHADES...



Father Looney spent the first week of January with his family in Thousand Oaks CA. He and niece Michelle, nephew David and David's wife Clarissa, enjoyed a three-mile hike in Wildwood Park to the top of Lizard Rock. At an elevation of 915 feet...Lizard Rock affords spectacular views of the Conejo Valley. Pictured above (L-R) are Michelle, Father Looney, Clarissa and David.

Wildwood Park is located in Thousand Oaks about one mile from the *El Camino Real...the King's Highway*. Perhaps Father Junipero Serra and his Franciscan companions saw Lizard Rock as they travelled the *King's Highway* founding the California missions.

The iconic 1870 Carpenter Gothic building that houses Saint Joseph Parish once stood in Fremont and replaced the earlier mission-style building that was destroyed in an earthquake in 1868.



IN MEMORIAM...



Kathie Wanger Dietz
(1 May 1943 – 6 February 2020)

One of the few remaining founding members of Saint Joseph Parish, Kathie Dietz, died on 6 February after a courageous battle with cancer. She is pictured above in a Christmas 2018 photo with her beloved husband Peter.

Kathie will always be remembered for her smile and bubbly personality...and especially for her intense faith which often manifested itself in thought-provoking questions at Sunday Discussion Group. It is that same faith that sustained her throughout her illness.

Kathie was present during the reconstruction of our historic church building in 1984-1985...often providing food and tasty treats. She served at various times as Clerk-of-the Vestry and Parish Treasurer.

The Requiem Mass for Kathie will be celebrated at 10:00 AM on Saturday 22 February at Saint Joseph Parish. There will also be a Celebration of Life and Memorial event that afternoon at The Kings Academy, 562 N. Britton Ave, Sunnyvale. .

In addition to her husband Peter, Kathie is survived by sisters Julie Rovins and Mollie McMurray, daughters Brenda Rosé and Gretchen Wanger and by 3 stepchildren and 6 step-grandchildren.

Daughter Gretchen wrote, "Mom's chains are gone, she's been set free. She finished her race, she kept the faith. She is home."

May Kathie rest in peace and rise in glory!

For all the saints who from
their labors rest, Who, to
the world their steadfast
faith confessed, your name,
O Jesus, be forever blessed
Alleluia!

A Litany for the Church and Evangelism

O GOD the Father, Creator of heaven and earth;
Have mercy upon us.
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world;
Have mercy upon us.
O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful;
Have mercy upon us.
O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God;
Have mercy upon us.

WE sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church universal in the right way;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of this State, and all in authority that they may above all things seek thy honor and glory;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to illuminate all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and living they may set it forth, and show it accordingly;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to send forth labourers into thy harvest;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all thy people increase of grace to hear meekly thy Word, and to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to comfort and relieve all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body or estate (esp....) giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy on the faithful departed (esp....) granting them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

WE sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God, and that it may please thee to fill us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the work of ministry and the building up of the body of Christ;
We beseech thee to hear us good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us power through the Holy Spirit to be thy witnesses, in word and deed, in our homes, work and leisure;
We beseech thee to hear us good Lord.

That it may please thee to convert hearts through our ministry and add continually to our number those who are being saved;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bless our ministry of Word and Sacrament, opening minds to understand the Scriptures and making thyself known in the breaking of the bread.
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to make us ready always to give an answer to any one who asks the reason for the hope that is within us;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to put it into our hearts to seek out and find thy lost sheep, and bring them back into thy fold;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to fill us with such love for one another that all may perceive in our midst the presence of Christ and be drawn into his holy fellowship and service;
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who didst endue thy church with power from on high on the Day of Pentecost; pour out thy Holy Spirit upon this parish and grant unto us all things that are needful for our spiritual welfare; enlighten and guide our clergy and lay workers; strengthen and increase the faithful; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; rouse the negligent and careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth; bring all to be of one heart and mind within the fold of thy holy church; to the honor and glory of thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HELP NEEDED...



The Altar Guild needs additional women to help prepare the Altar for Sunday Mass and take care of vestments and hangings. No experience is necessary...just a willing heart and reverent approach to the task. Please see a member of the Altar Guild for more information.

SAINT JOSEPH OUR PATRON...

On the Second Sunday in Advent 1985 the first Mass was held in our historic church building. At that time the parish was placed under the patronage of Saint Joseph. In 2014 the parish formally restored its identity with Saint Joseph.



19 March is the Feast of Saint Joseph and our Patronal Festival. Also since the 19th Century the entire Month of March has been dedicated to Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. He is also the Patron Saint of fathers.

Joseph went about doing his work quietly...Holy Scripture shows he is a man of action...it doesn't record a single word he might have said.

Joseph, inspiration for workers, man of faith and charity, make us honest, humble, faithful, strong with Christ's true liberty, make our labor and our leisure fruitful to eternity! Amen.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST...



Because of a potential conflict with Father Looney's extra-parochial seasonal secular work...our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is being moved to Sunday 23 February immediately following the 9:00 AM Parish Mass. There will be plenty of savory sausage, exquisite scrambled eggs and fluffy pancakes...everyone at the Mass is encouraged to come and enjoy the food, fun and fellowship. Invite a friend or two.

CALL PRIMROSE...



During February and March we are collecting items from CALL's "Most Needed List". Please bring any of the following items to church on Sunday and we will deliver them to CALL:

CANNED/DRY GOODS...Macaroni and Cheese, Pasta, Canned Vegetables, Hearty Soups/Stews (low-sodium varieties), Chili with or without Meat, Canned Fruit.

TOILETRIES...Tooth Brushes, Tooth Paste, Shampoo, Conditioner, Diapers (Sizes 5 & 6), Pull-ups.

CALL Primrose is our primary parochial outreach. Our monthly non-perishable food contributions help CALL provide for the needs of individuals and families.

The number of people who are struggling to put food on the table in the Bay Area...increases every year.

Sharing our many blessings is a fundamental tenant of our Christian faith. We gladly take on the task of helping others.

*To whom much is given...much will be required.
(Saint Luke 12.48)*

SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS – 9:00 AM PARISH MASS & SERMON
COFFEE HOUR & DISCUSSION GROUP
WEEKDAYS/HOLY DAYS AS ANNOUNCED
SACRAMENT OF PENANCE BY APPOINTMENT

THE REVEREND FATHER CRAIG LOONEY, RECTOR



THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM: We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church.



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