



Christmas – A Time for Love and Hope

Submitted by Fr. Tom Tureman SDS

Isn't it amazing that we are once again preparing to celebrate Christmas? You can feel it in the air and see it in the decorations and preparations. Here at the parish we are changing the environment from Advent to the unveiling for Christmas with all the flowers and decorations that remind us of the unique time that Christmas represents. However, underneath all this is an anxiety that we all struggle with. Can I afford the gifts that people want this year? Will my family and friends be disappointed with my gifts? Can I survive the craziness and the guilt that often comes with this holy season? These are lots of good questions that we each can only answer in our own special way.

Perhaps reminding ourselves what Christmas is all about will help us answer these questions. Christmas is not about presents and parties and stressing out of our minds. Christmas is about the calm feelings of love and hope. It is about acceptance and a basic humanity that should guide us in all we do. Most of all it is about a family, a child, and acceptance.

When Jesus was born, he was already marked as an undesirable in a world that was not unlike our own. Upside down and full of uncertainty. Birth in the squalor of a stable, surrounded by strangers and unsure of the

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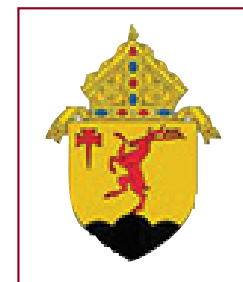
Annual Catholic Appeal Helps Many

Submitted by Deacon Ken Moreland

The Diocese of Tucson Annual Catholic Appeal will soon be starting. This appeal has been around for many years and is extremely important for those in need in our diocese, including Tucson, Yuma, Nogales, Sierra Vista or any of the many small-town parishes around southern Arizona. Our Diocese is considered a Mission Diocese which means that most parishes take in less than they need to operate each year. Funds from this appeal are a great help to all our parishes.

I know many people are reluctant to give to the Church at this time because they are upset with issues in the Church and the way they were handled. If we withhold the funds for charity from the Annual Catholic Appeal or Catholic Relief Services, our parishes or other Catholic organizations, we are not hurting the ones who caused the problems but rather the ones who are most in need of our help.

With this appeal that includes Catholic Community Services, Elizabeth of Hungry Clinic, prison ministries, poor parishes of the



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••• MHT Upcoming Advent Liturgical Events on page 2 •••

If you know of a parishioner and/or family in need of help for Christmas, please let the Parish Office know at 884-9021 and we will put them on our giving list!

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th

- 4:00 pm - Church (Combined Choir)
- 4:00 pm - Guadalupe Hall (Mariachis)
- 6:00 pm - Church (Family Mass, Children's Choir)
- 6:00 pm - Guadalupe Hall (Mariachis)
- 8:00 pm - Church (Worship Group)
- 12:00 Midnight - Church (Combined Choir)



Christmas Day, Tues., Dec. 25th

9:00am in the Church (Combined Choir)

MHT Advent Schedule

- December 12th:** Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration with Mariachi's and reception at 7 pm in the Church. If you would like to help with the reception, please contact the Parish Office.
- December 15th:** (Saturday) Children's Christmas Pageant- 11 am in the Church. All are Welcome!
- December 18th:** Advent Penance Service and TAIZE- 7 pm in the Church.
- December 20th:** (Wednesday) Annual Children's Posada at MHT- 6-9 pm. All are Welcome!
- Christmas Eve:** Annual Religious Education Sandwich Making for the Homeless- 10 am in the Hall. All are Welcome! ▲

Christmas - A Time of Hope

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future, Jesus reminds us that in the face of the most desperate stranger we can find the face of God. Christmas is the story of the triumph of the human spirit and the dignity of a little baby. Jesus reminds us in his vulnerability that love and hope are what the foundations of faith and human dignity are all about. Without these we are nothing.

As we celebrate Christmas we will walk with Jesus, from being an illegal immigrant in a caravan, through his journey as an apprentice to His father, proclaimer of the good news and finally His death and resurrection. During this season we need to focus on the important things in life. We need to be reminded that embracing this child, opening our doors to the stranger, being a sign of hope and love is what Christmas is really all about.

Finally, we need to remind ourselves once again that we are all part of the Holy Family. The Christmas story is our story and we need to embrace it as a part of our journey to salvation. My prayer for you is that you will focus on the reality of the Christmas story. Celebrate the gift of life that you and your family are in our world and in our community. Focus on hope; see in the voiceless, the stranger and the persecuted the face of God, and you will be truly rewarded with calm and a hope that is a lifelong blessing.

On behalf of our staff and the Salvatorians who have the privilege to serve this community, I wish you the very best of Christmas and I pray that you will have the best of blessings as we enter this sacred time of salvation together. ▲

Merry Christmas,

Fr. Jim SOS

Annual Catholic Appeal

(Continued from Page 1)

of the diocese, formation of priest and deacons, to name just a few of the 40 organizations and ministries supported in the diocese.

Parishes can also receive grants for help with repairs and special projects such as Most Holy Trinity did these last two years with \$10,000 for our roof and \$15,000 to help the new floor in our worship space.

This past year our goal at MHT was \$81,340 of which we pledged 73% or \$59,340 with 173 donors out of 1800 registered families. Both of these are the lowest totals, pledges and participants, for some years.

Since the diocese has been so generous with us the past two years and we hope for some help again this year, I hope as a parish we can meet our goal and show our appreciation. Although some will be able to, and will generously, give much more, the average giving for family for the year is only \$45.00 to help us reach 100%.

Please prayerfully consider what you can do this year to help our diocese realize the goal of helping everyone in need in one of the easy ways to give. When you receive information from the diocese or pick up a giving envelope from the church, you will see that you can give by pledging per month by check or electronic transfer, you can give one time by check or credit card, or you can call the diocese on (520) 838-2500 and ask for the Foundation and give by credit card over the phone. ▲

The hand that gives, gathers.

James Howell

Welcome Home, Winter Residents

Submitted by Rae Jean Schlimgen SDS

Thank you for choosing to worship at Most Holy Trinity. You have much to offer, and MHT has much to offer you. We invite you to stop in Guadalupe Hall after Sunday mass to get acquainted with other parishioners while enjoying a yummy breakfast or just coffee. Make Advent special by attending "Lessons and Carols", and enjoying fellowship and refreshments after the performance.



MHT is enriched by the seasonal influx of people from colder climes. Each winter, the adult choirs swell with new voices and instruments. Besides singing with the choir, Jerry Strizik and wife, Priscilla have volunteered with the Soup Patrol for

many winters. Since 2009, Cindy West spent her Tucson winters volunteering with Children's Liturgy at the 9 am mass. Now that she and husband, Ken, live here year-round, Cindy ministers throughout the school year.

We invite you to become active in your winter parish. In the bulletin, you will find many opportunities to contribute your time and gifts. Your service as an usher, lector or Eucharistic minister is needed. With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, changing church décor from Advent to Christmas will be a challenge. If you would like to help, contact Patti Munsen, our Music Director, through the parish office.

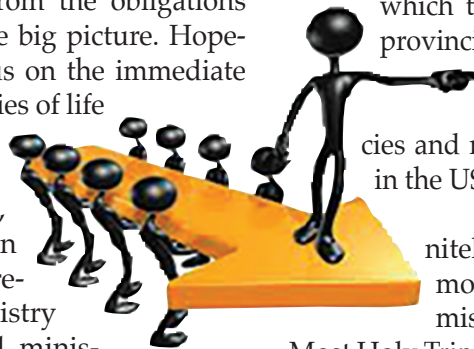
As we work to finance the replacement of the church flooring, you might want to volunteer your help with a fund-raising event. You will make new friends here, and when you return next fall, you will see the results of your contribution. The staff in the parish office will be happy to answer your questions and provide contact information to help you find your niche. We want you to feel a part of MHT, and getting involved in parish ministry or social events can help make that happen. ▲

Change in Perspective

Submitted by Fr. Jeff Wocken SDS Provincial

Imiss the view from Gates Pass. It's a good place to step back from the obligations of daily life to see the big picture. Hopefully, we can then refocus on the immediate demands and opportunities of life with a renewed perspective on things.

In many ways, my move from Tucson to Milwaukee has just replaced one form of ministry (formation and pastoral ministry) with another (province administration), each with its own set of responsibilities. Indeed, the demands of this new position are numerous.



On the other hand, however, it is an opportunity to step back from a single ministry, to focus on the big picture. Salvatorians are called to make known the goodness and kindness of the Savior by all ways and means which the love of Christ inspires. As provincial, I have the privilege of focusing on all of our members and the parishes, chaplaincies and ministries in which they serve, in the US and throughout the world.

Southern Wisconsin definitely does not provide the same mountaintop vistas as Arizona. I miss Jordan Ministry Team and Most Holy Trinity. I miss all of you. Yet, it is an honor to serve the US Province in this capacity and to be given this bigger picture of Salvatorian mission. It is good to see how MHT fits so wonderfully into that picture. ▲

Nothing makes it easier to resist temptation than a proper bringing-up, a sound set of values, and witnesses.

Franklin P. Jones

Keeping Time with C, M, and B

Submitted by Sr. Jane Eschweiler SDS

Epiphany is a feast of Eastern origin either celebrated on January 6th as a holy day of obligation or on an early January Sunday between the 2nd and 8th. It was originally designated to replace the pagan celebration of winter solstice and may be an earlier celebration of the birth of Jesus than that of December 25th.

We have grown up with the notion that Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar are the names of the magi who visited the newborn King, but the other meaning of the CMB is "Christus mansionem benedicat" or "May Christ bless this house."

There is a fun, family-friendly activity that was earlier practiced in large monasteries and convents but has been adapted for smaller domestic groups. It is called "Chalking the Door" and is an epiphany house blessing. Here's how it works:

On the Feast of Epiphany, the family gathers to ask God's blessing on their home and those who live in it or visit it. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest, part of

our many comings and goings, conversations, work and play, joy and sadness.

A format for the short ritual starts with a sign of the cross. Then the leader says: "Peace to this house and all who live here, in the name of the Lord." All say: "Thanks be to God!" Then someone reads the passage about the visit of the three magi from Mt. 2:1-12. It recalls them entering the house and seeing the child with His mother Mary.

After the story is recalled, various family members print +20 CMB 19+ in chalk over the inside entrance of the house. The ritual concludes with this prayer:

ALL: "Lord of heaven and earth, You revealed Your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of

a star. Bless this house and all who live or visit here. May everyone be blessed with health, a kind heart, a gentle spirit, and cooperation with your dream for us. Fill us with the light of Christ that our love for each other may reach all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN!"

In this day and age when we see houses destroyed by fire and flood, when we watch homeless refugees seek shelter where they can find it, we need to express our gratitude for our homes and families and consecrate them to hospitality as well. Happy 2019! ▲



On Being Blessed

Submitted by Sr. Elizabeth Christensen SDS

It was many years ago when I got on an elevator and greeted a gentleman with, "Good morning, how are you?" I was not prepared for his response: "I am blessed!"

Later I began to ponder his response and tried to define for myself what it meant to be blessed. I thought about the fact that I have shelter. I have a choice of clothing. I have a choice of food at each meal. I have health insurance. Surely these things are blessings. But then I asked myself, "What about the homeless person, the hungry person, those who have only the clothes on their backs, those who have no insurance and have to decide between eating or paying for medicine? Does

their situation mean that they are not blessed?" That didn't seem right.

Further reflection brought me to the conclusion that being blessed had nothing to do with what I had or what I did. There could be only one criteria for being called blessed: God's love for me. I eventually wrote this into a personal hymn that can be sung to the melody of Beethoven's Ode to Joy:

*I am blessed because You love me
and You're with me all the time.*

*You love me because You are love –
not because of deeds of mine.*

*In me, through me, all around me
You are with me night and day.*

*Please use me to share your love
with all creation, every way. ▲*



Transformation

Submitted by Fr. John Pantuso SDS

If you ask the average Catholic to point to the moment during the mass when the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ, they will tell you that it's when the priest says, "This is My Body... This is My Blood..."

The Eastern churches, both the Orthodox and those in union with Rome, have always respectfully disagreed. They maintain that the transformation takes place at the epiclesis (also spelled epiklesis, a word that comes from the Ancient



Greek ἐπίκλησις which means "invocation" or "calling down from on high").

The epiclesis is the part of the Eucharistic Prayer when the priest invokes the Holy Spirit to come upon the bread and wine and make them the Body and Blood of Christ. In

our Western liturgy this takes place immediately before we recall the words and gestures of Jesus at the Last Supper ("On the night before He died, He took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, 'Take this...'). Sim-

ply put, we call the Spirit down upon the gifts and then we tell the story about the first time Jesus did that and then told us to do that in remembrance of Him.

All the churches, both Eastern and Western, have both the epiclesis and the retelling with one exception, the Chaldean Rite, which only has the epiclesis. So, is the Chaldean Rite mass a valid mass because it doesn't repeat the words that Jesus spoke at the Last Supper? About twenty years ago, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, then headed by Cardinal Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict) was asked to rule on that question. After studying the history and tradition of the liturgy, it was decided that the Chaldean Rite liturgy was indeed valid and that the epiclesis is essential, but not the so-called words of institution.

This is quite in keeping with all the other sacraments. The person conferring the sacrament, bishop, priest, deacon, etc., always acts in the name of Christ. We don't say, "Jesus baptizes you..." We say, "I baptize you..." We don't say, "God forgives your sins..." We say, "I absolve you..." So why would we make one odd exception and say, "He took bread, blessed it and broke it..."? There are several versions of the Eucharistic prayer, but in every one of them we have that very special moment we call the epiclesis. ▲

How is God Calling Me?

Submitted by Linda Moreland

A Lenten retreat for Women is being planned, by "Catholics and Loving It", for Saturday, February 2, 2019. In this day-long retreat, prayer, quiet time, and a sense of direction will be provided for the women of our parish to seek God's calling in their lives.



Julie Onderko

Presenter will be Julie Onderko author of "Discover Your Next Mission from God" and founder of the apostolate "Catholic Finish Strong". Julie and Tom, her husband of 35 years, are members of Christ the King Parish in Milwaukie, OR. She holds a Graduate De-

gree in Theology from the Augustine Institute. She had provided a variety of presentations and retreats around the country.

Ladies, please join us before the start of Lent for a much-needed personal time of quiet and prayer. ▲

Moderation is the silken string running through the pearl chain of all virtues.

Bishop Joseph Hall

Silence

Submitted by Edna Greene SDS

Silence is a roar.
Your internal self rejects
this silent sound.
The world is full of distraction.
Full of the need to talk,
To share our story with others.

In silence you are able
To listen to your own story.
And within your silence

Miracles can happen.
Soft voices call you
To love all people
To heal the earth.
To feel above all
The abundant love of
our creator.



If you persevere the roar of silence quiets
And can become sacred.
You are coming to a place
of peace, of healing, of contentment,
A rich solitude where you can find
yourself and God. ▲

Advent Reflections

Submitted by Jeanette Arnquist for Br. David Buer, ofm

As we enter the Season of Advent, the season of anticipation of Christ's birth, I find myself taking stock of the spiritual foundation of our work. When we began in 2008, one of our supporters was storming heaven for our volunteers, supporters and guests. When I visited her parish, I heard "For the Poverello House" many times in the spoken intercessory prayers. As with any new project, we didn't know what the future would hold, but we moved forward one day at a time. The next thing you know, 10 years have passed, and thousands of days of hospitality have been offered to our homeless brothers.



I am especially grateful for all of our board members and volunteers who assumed new responsibilities when I was given a sabbatical in 2015 to spend 7 months with my mom and dad in St. Louis. Then in 2016-2017, I was sent by my provincial (and novitiate class mate in '91-'92) for a year at our mission in Guaymas, Sonora. While I was gone, two new live-in staff persons took over responsibilities for Poverello House. We are all grateful for Bill and Darren's presence and commitment to make sure the house is ready to open each day at 8 AM, with the hot breakfast, a clean house and yard, and the TVs and washing machines at the ready.

Many acts of kindness happen at Poverello House and only God knows all of them.

Sometimes we have an impromptu birthday celebration, or a special donation of clothes that allows a "Christmas in July" give away. There have been times when a lunch maker brings steaks to be grilled outside, or a volunteer takes time to pray with someone who requests it. Day by day, five days a week, 10 to 12 guests daily pass through the house for their assigned day.

I remember, for our 5th anniversary, about 50 of our supporters gathered in our courtyard. Bishop Kicanas celebrated the Mass and Carl Zawatski made him a vegan

version of a Lebanese dish. The bishop was amazed. Finally, I reflect on our recent 10th anniversary on the Feast Day of St. Francis (Oct. 4th) with 160 folks in attendance, where Fr. Bill Rimmel, SDS, honored Bishop Kicanas as he prepares for his new assignment in Las Cruces, NM. It was well organized, it was a joyful evening and the food was great.

For those of you who follow us by the newsletter, we hope you too feel a part of our work, even though you may not have ever visited the house. We count on your prayers and donations. That is especially so in this Advent Season as we prepare for the overflowing joyful celebration of the birth of Christ that is Christmas. And it will be celebrated at Poverello House all Christmas week, each day with individually wrapped gifts, for each of our regular guests. Your generous gift at this special time of year will assure that that unique hospitality at Poverello House continues well into its second decade. That's the spirit! ▲

New Leadership at the Jordan Ministry Team

When Fr. Jeff Wocken was elected Provincial of the Salvatorians, his position as Director of the Jordan Ministry Team went vacant. His replacement is now on board, and this new leader comes with an impressive resumé.



Br. Silas

Brother Silas Henderson is a member of the Society of the Divine Savior (the “Salvatorians”). A catechist, retreat leader, and author, Brother Silas holds a Masters in Theological Studies from St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and is a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry degree at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

He is the author of four books and his articles and reflections have

appeared in a variety of prominent Catholic publications, including *America*, *Give Us This Day*, *Liguorian*, *The Priest*, *Pastoral Review*, and *Loose-Leaf Lectionary*, and he provides weekly reflections on the Sunday Gospels and daily profiles of the saints for *Aleteia.org*, as well as midweek reflections for *Liturgical Publications*.

Br. Silas has agreed to assist the Most Holy Trinity RCIA Process this year; he’s extremely well-experienced in this area as well. If you would like to contact him, you can use the following information.

Bro. Silas Henderson SDS
Jordan Ministry Team
48 N. Tucson Blvd, #104
Tucson, AZ 85716
Phone: 520-623-2563

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/JordanMinistryTeam

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/JordanMinTeam ▲

The Heart of the RCIA Candidate

Submitted by Susan Taylor

The heart of an RCIA Candidate is eager, enthusiastic, and expectant. This year we have two men and two women in the group.

Their search for a Church, and a Community to engage in has taken a personal Encounter, individual reflection in prayer and action personally and with others. They examine weekly their growth, in discussion and discernment.

They listen and discuss their viewpoints and examine others’ discoveries of Faith as well. Guidance is shared for them with the Leaders of RCIA, Brother Jeff St. George SDS and Pete Adamcin. Other lay persons share in their development.

The Candidates bring to the Group their work and prior Faith experiences as well as Family and Friends interactions with them. They have questions and observations about themselves and former Faith opinions and personal knowledge.

What can we do to help them in their Journey? Be responsible with hospitality when they ask a question, pray for them and aid in keeping their hearts beating with the life of an active Catholic. ▲

RCIA Candidates, Class of 2019



Laura Spradlin



Sharon Tice



Roger Varela



R.J. Varela

Get to Know Us!

Submitted by Sara Lisa SDS

On November 3rd, the Salvatorians of Tucson and Phoenix held a Get to Know Us! event at Most Holy Trinity. MHT is served by priests of the Society of the Divine Savior, commonly called Salvatorians. The Society was founded in 1881 by Fr. Francis Jordan.

Fr. Jordan's original vision was to create an Apostolic Society which included priests, vowed religious, professionals, writers and lay people who would make the Savior known by all ways and means according to their station in life.

Today, the three branches of the society include the priests and brothers, the Sisters of the Congregation of the Divine Savior, and Lay Salvatorians. The uniqueness of this order lies in its collaborative nature. A sense of equality is among the branches as we all work toward making the Savior known in our world. Here in Tucson, we gather monthly for prayer, discussion, and a meal at various members' homes.

Tucson is also home to the collaborative ministries known as Southwest Medical Aid and Jordan Ministry. Individual Salvatorians are involved in various other ministries such as Poverello House, the Soup Patrol, Sr. Jose Women's Shelter, ministry to the homebound, music ministry or other parish ministries.

Four years ago the MHT Religious Ed. classes raised \$5,000 to support a well in Tanzania, Africa. This was part of their Social Justice project.

The last issue of The Trinity Times had an article about Jackie White, an active MHT member who was installed as the National Director of Lay Salvatorians in the USA. You may contact her personally at (520) 260-4612 for info on getting to know us or at nationaldirector@salvatorians.org.

Check out these other websites:

www.salvatorians.com

www.sistersofthedivinesavior.org

www.laysalvatorians.com

www.salvatorianfamilyusa.org

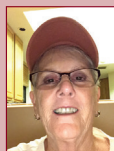
Here is where you will find why the SDS are so excited about being missionaries and spreading the good news of Christ! ▲



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This Issue's Guest Journalists



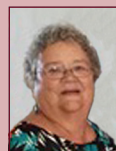
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Arnquist



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