"BUT THE SEED SOWN ON RICH SOIL IS THE ONE WHO HEARS THE WORD AND UNDERSTANDS IT, WHO INDEED BEARS FRUIT AND YIELDS A HUNDRED OR SIXTY OR THIRTYFOLD."

~MATTHEW 13:23

PRIEST'S INTENTIONS FOR MASSES

Sun, Jul 12	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY <i>in</i> Ordinary Time
5:30 pm	† Edward Joseph Oliwa
-	† Ray Miller
	† Allan Bowley
5:30 pm	For the People of the Parish
Mon, Jul ¹ 3	Weekday
8:00 am	Mass for Collective Intentions
Tues, Jul 14	Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
	[USA]
8:00 am	† Rachel Retz
Wed, Jul 15	Saint Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor
	of the Church
	† Jose & † Rosa Cruz
Thurs, Jul 16	-
	† Billy Faucher
Fri, Jul 17	
	Sp Int Briana Tengredi
Sat, Jul 18	-
	Sp Int Nick & Sp Int Judith Duhancik
Sun, Jul 19	
	TIME
-	† Edward Joseph Oliwa
	† Mark Steckbauer
	† Jack Cloward
5:30 pm	For the People of the Parish



We love having you as part of our flock! Get updates about Masses and parish life via email or text!

Sign up! Visit <u>olg-church.org</u> and look for the blue and white sheep.

Chapel Schedule

The Blessed Sacrament Adoration Chapel will be closed from 4:30 to 5:00 pm, Mon-Wed-Fri, for a thorough cleaning.

Public Mass Update

Reservations for seats at Sunday Vigil and Sunday Masses can be accessed through the parish webpage at <u>olg-church.org</u>. Look for the NOTICE box.

Masses are being Streamed Online

On the parish website we have listed multiple links to options to participate in Sunday and daily Mass online in the Diocese of San Diego and beyond. Visit <u>olg-church.org</u> and click on the gray "Parish Update..." button and then the yellow "Sustaining Faith in the Time of Pandemic" button. Scroll to listed Mass links.



"Be assured that you are pleasing in the sight of God and that I shall help you when I am with Him."

~Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, "Lily of the Mohawks" Feast Day, July14

Welcome to OUR LADY of GRACE!

We elcome to all who are joining us for the celebration of the Eucharist. There are many ways and parish organizations to participate in our life in Christ. See the directory on page 7.

We invite all who attend OLG to become registered members of our parish. Registration forms are available on the table in the main entry of the church or the parish office. Registration allows us to communicate and effectively provide for your needs. It is necessary for baptism, marriage, and godparent or sponsor certification.

Mindfulness of Others—Please silence all devices and refrain from using them during the liturgy. The parish has a Children's Chapel located in the northwest corner of the church. Parents with restless children are welcome to make use of this chapel at any time during Mass should it be necessary. We ask that this chapel, like the church itself, remain free of food and drink.

Allergies—The first morning Mass of the Sunday or holy day will always be incense-free. The Sunday 11:00 am Mass will often include the use of incense.

Invitation to the R.C.I.A.

ur Lady of Grace Parish welcomes all who seek to enrich their faith life and explore the possibility of



becoming a Catholic Christian. Our community shares and celebrates this journey with them through a process called *"The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults."* If you are curious about what Catholics believe and may be interested in learning more about joining the Catholic faith or perhaps you are an adult Catholic looking to be fully initiated—you are cordially invited to enter the *R.C.I.A.* process and experience a new and enriched

meaning to your life through renewed faith and love. Please contact Deacon John Sawaya at (858) 869-5079 or use the "Contact us" link on the parish webpage.

READINGS FOR JUL 12 - 19

Sun:	Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:8-23; Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9
Mon:	Is 1:10-17; Mt 10:34—11:1
Tue:	Is 7:1-9; Mt 11:20-24
Wed:	Is 10:5-7, 13b-16; Mt 11:25-27
Thu:	Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Mt 11:28-30
Fri:	Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Mt 12:1-8
Sat:	Mi 2:1-5; Mt 12:14-21
Sun:	Wis 12:13, 16-19; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

GUEST COLUMNIST

ALICE CAMILLE

No Idle Words

od's word is effica-Cious, as the prophet Isaiah tells us. When God speaks, things happen. "Let there be light"—and there is light. All of creation was called into being with words so persuasive that matter could not resist the desire to take shape according to their sound and meaning. We might marvel at words that contain such power and a Speaker that has such an effect as to create an audience at will!

To give one's word still implies that we are bound and beholden to produce what we have pledged. We know that sometimes, however, our word falls to the ground unproductively just the same. The problem could be that we do not have the will to follow through on our commitments. Or the will may be strong, but the ability to harness the forces necessary to achieve the result may be beyond us. Our words may lack the music of persuasion, like the politician who fails to win the popular vote. Our character, too, may be wanting in the show of strength that persuades others we have what it takes to enflesh our words in a tangible reality. We, to put it plainly, are not God. Like the speaker who utters them, our words are mortal: subject to error, weakness, and limitation.

God's Word is alive

C ompare our frail human speech with what a word from God can do. The utterance of the Wordmade-flesh is, if not God's final Word, certainly the pinnacle of divine expression. Jesus is not simply made in the image of God as we are—he shares the divine nature through and through. In Jesus, God's Word remains one that can be trusted to achieve the end for which it is sent. The Incarnation is for the purpose of redemption. Mission accomplished!

God has such a way with words, we might say. Rain and snow are spoken into being and water the earth. Seed brings up the harvest, and the harvest means food on the table. God's Word feeds us in this way and so much more. Our Eucharist is the ultimate sign that God's Word can be trusted to "hold us in life," in songwriter Huub Oosterhuis' poetic phrase. We live, now and forever, because God does not let us go.

Mortal words, by contrast, are so limp and untrustworthy. Political campaigns are full of empty rhetoric, and marketing strategies are about sales, not honesty. In social situations we often say what is expected or what will flatter or impress, not what we really hold in our hearts. And then of course there are the words of betraval that we are all bound to utter when push comes to shove. How many people stand at the altar and say, "I do" and then don't? How many of us stand in the assembly at Easter and pledge to renounce the works of darkness before returning to them with alacrity?



The seed is the word

I God's word is so far superior to ours, full of purpose and power, then why is the world in such a mess? Why doesn't God just speak the world into perfection? As scripture suggests, God's design is not to dominate creation but to imbue it with choice. That's at least part of what it means to be "made in the image of God"—we are free choosers and codesign our destiny.

Jesus explores that destiny in his retelling of the creation story with the parable of the sower and the seed. Here's God, throwing out the seed of the Kingdom to all takers. And here is that seed, containing the possibility of life in abundance. And here we are, the ground that will receive or reject that life. What will happen?

If we unanimously embrace the seed and allow it to root in us, well, then we will have that word spoken into perfection what we say we would prefer. But some of us choose instead the wellworn path of least resistance to evil; and others will find life's rocky obstacles too much to bear faithfully; and still others will seek to be crowned with the thorns of material wealth that seem so majestic at the time but will prove to be quite fruitless. Those who do receive this seed will reap abundance, as promised. But not all of us seem convinced that this promise is trustworthy.

Our Lady of Grace Church Founded 1954

CLERGY

PASTOR Very Rev. Peter McGuine

AUXILIARY PRIEST Rev. Maxime Villeneuve, OSA

PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Jerome Molokie, O Praem. Rev. Curtiss Dwyer, LT, CHC, USN

DEACON Dcn. John Sawaya

SCHEDULE of MASSES

SUNDAY VIGIL (Saturday) 5:30 pm

SUNDAY 8:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:30 pm

> Monday–Saturday 8:00 am

Holy days and holidays listed separately in bulletin.

SACRAMENTS

INFANT BAPTISM Baptisms are celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 12:30 pm. Preparation packet is available in the parish office.

RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION of Adults

Contact Deacon Sawaya (858) 869-5079.

HOLY MATRIMONY

Marriage preparation begins nine months in advance. Please contact Fr. Peter McGuine or Deacon Sawaya.

PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION Monday 6:00 pm Thursday 8:30 am Saturday 4:00 pm

ANOINTING of THE SICK Call the parish office (619) 469-0133.

AROUND THE PARISH

Religious Education Registration is OPEN

 ur Lady of Grace School of Religion welcomes

 Kindergarten children through High School teens

 to grow in faith through study, prayer

 and worship! Registration is now open for

 sessions starting in the fall. Visit

 olg-church.org, then click the "School of

 Religion" link for more info.

Next OLG Blood Drive Scheduled!

S un, **Aug 9**, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, behind the Parish Center. Visit <u>sandiegobloodbank.org</u> to make an appointment, click on "Donate Blood Today," and search for the blood drive taking place at OLG or call the SD Blood Bank at (619) 296-6393. Be sure to allocate your donation to the OLG Church blood account.



bookkeeper for the parish is needed. Visit the "Employment Opportunities" link at <u>olg-church.org</u> for details.

No Pantry Food Collection During July, But...

onetary donations can be made through the "Online Giving" link at <u>olg-church.org</u>, by mail via USPS or drop off a check at the parish office.

> Now Enrolling! Kindergarten, Elementary & Junior High

100% in person, on campus instruction begins August 19th!



WWW.OLG.ORG 619.466.0055 | INFO@OLG.ORG (Continued from page 3)

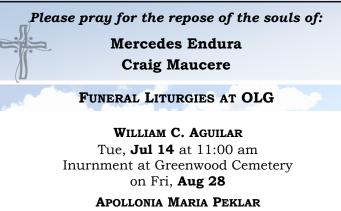
Creation is groaning

f only we had the ability of Francis of Assisi to embrace all the elements of creation as our sisters and brothers! Then we might grow close enough to hear creation groaning in its entrapment in corruption and death, and to appreciate the crisis of this passing world and our own mortality. We seem to be able to brush past the crises of human history itself: our violence, prejudice, and indifference to suffering. But perhaps if the stones themselves called out in anguish and the trees told us of the plight of our air, water, and soil, we might understand how fundamental our human decisions are toward life or death. If the birds, fish, and land creatures gained their voices, we might take their words

to heart as we fail to take those of our fellow humans. Miraculous communion like this might rock our complacency and move us to attend to the Word spoken in our midst. We need more who like Francis listen to the planet.

Yet the word of salvation, the only one we need, is already spoken and lives among us. The seed is ready and the promise of abundant life still stands. All we have to do is be the right kind of soil-and if we are not, then it's time to become it! Time to get off the road most traveled, to rake out the rocks and clear the thorns from our lives. These are decisions that belong to each of us as the codesigners of our destiny. God's word comes into our lives liberally and free of charge. The only thing we need to do is prepare for it, cultivate it, and listen.

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Thu, **Jul 16** at 11:30 am Burial immediately following

May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

A Little Humor

- You don't stop laughing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop laughing.
- There's always a lot to be thankful for if you look for it. For example, I'm sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt!

Our faith community welcomes the following **First Holy Communicants** to the Table of the Lord

Jul 7



Sofia Brister Landon Hays Leila Hays Lucia Palafox Simon Westfall

Jul 9 Juliette Deleon Guerrero Lucas Matrick Katherine Paterson

Jul 11

Cara Lansang Beverly Mansour Ari Muro Evan Nguyen

Jul 12

Ayden Gonzalez John Joyner Noah Mele-Brown 0.110

I ord, Lead us to silent places where Your word can be heard. Give us open hearts in which Your word can be planted. Send our souls nourishment so that Your word can grow. Give us courage to act on Your word. Strengthen us to join You in harvesting Your word. Finally, grant that we may be counted among

those who have borne fruit and have been found worthy of Your kingdom where You live and reign forever and ever.

Amen.

Douglas Sousa, S.T.L. Used with permission from <u>4LPI.com</u>



"Faith makes us walk with Jesus on the roads of this world, in the certainty that the power of His Spirit will bend the forces of evil, subjecting them to the power of God's love."

~ Pope Francis, @Pontifex, , Jul 6, 2020

Humorous Food for Thought

* Sin is like a rubberband. You can only stretch it so far before it comes back and smacks you.



* A teacher's mind wonders while tying a wet shoelace when it hasn't been raining.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Get Junior High Escape and High School New Life event details when you visit <u>olg-church.org</u>, click on Start Here and choose Youth Ministry.

EAST COUNTY YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

To learn the status of events for San Diego East County Young Adults follow Instagram @sd.ecya or visit <u>sdcatholic.org/office-for/young-adult-ministry</u> to see a complete list of spiritual development and social opportunities for 18-39 year old Catholic Young Adults.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for those who have requested prayer and for the special intentions written in the Book of Intentions in the Baptistery of our church.

Patricia Adams Heberto Albanez Grizelda Albanez Tilly Allison Gabriela Alvarenga Marvin Alvarenga Mari Kay Ames Angie Arrayan Angela Biner Anita Branch Pat Burke Stephanie Butcher Brian Cashman Oliva Clark Tim Clasemen Julian Forcier Lori Franco Mark Habina Brenda Hilgeman Hannah Hilgeman Joanie Hilgeman Susan Hori Richard Jimenez Kellie Jina

Lubos Jurik Nathan Kahan Stephanie Kahan Rebecca Leyden Tim Leyden José A. Lopez Natalie Mascari Nick Maucere Mary Mele Roderick Millican Lou Pennix Ann Renzi Anthony Renzi **Ralph Reveles** Becky Romenesko Carter Santos Clayton Schenkelberg Pattie Sloan-Deacon Hibe Thornton Manuel Blas Garcia Toca Andy Tong Jan Vyzinkar Don Walsh Marilyn Winger

Names remain listed for four weeks and can be renewed by contacting Marie Pospichal at mpospichal@olg-church.org.

WE ARE GIVING YOU FORMED 🕑

LEARN AND ENJOY YOUR FAITH AT HOME OR ON THE GO FROM ANY DEVICE. CREATE YOUR FREE ACCOUNT BY CLICKING ON THE

"FORMED" AD AT olg-church.org.

Watch Award-Winning Programming



Listen on Your Commute



2020 Annual Catholic Appeal supports Catholic Schools, Clergy & Seminarian Support, Faith Formation and Catholic Charities.

Visit <u>olg-church.org</u> to give or pledge!

ILITY

IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY THEY WERE ON THEIR WAY TO HIGH SCHOOL!



The students of OLGS Class of 2016 have graduated high school and are college bound! Where are they going now?

Jenna **Beck**, University of California, Santa Barbara Jonathan **Bonanno**, Point Loma Nazarene University Chase **Eichinger**, Grand Canyon University Emma **Filley**, Grossmont College Jake **Hacker**, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Joe **Hagerty**, University of Notre Dame Connor **Heffler**, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Christopher **Hermiz**, Cuyamaca College Aidan **Johnston**, Cal Lutheran University Nattalia **Kalla**, San Diego State University Aidan **Konja**, University of San Diego (USD)

INDIGIENOUS HELP TO HEAL THE WORLD

Memorial of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Algonquin in 1656, canonized in 2012 is a fitting intercessor for coronavirus,

though she is actually patron saint of ecology. Losing her family to the same smallpox epidemic that left her disfigured and half blind, Kateri knew firsthand the suffering wrought by disease. Perhaps her empathy helps account for so many miraculous healings attributed to her to this day. But Kateri's love of the earth may also inspire our continued care of the environment, which has seen healing of its own during human quarantine. Kateri, pray for us on all fronts!

Reprinted with permission from PrepareTheWord.com

Anthony **Konja**, Loyola University of Chicago Sebastian **Konja**, University of San Diego (USD) Gigi **Lopez**, University of Alabama Joseph **Macias**, San Diego State University Kylie **Malavenda**, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Jordan **Norman**, Vassar College Jake **Northrup**, University of Tennessee Enrique **Oquendo**, Texas Tech University Katie **Phillips**, University of Georgia



Grant **Raby**, Baylor University Elena **Ruta**, University of California, San Diego Noah **Schroeder**, University of Dallas Paul **Shortley**, High Point University Delaney **Sousa**, Gonzaga University Kekoa **Ulufanua**, San Diego State University Jeffrey **Walsh**, Villanova University

LOVE FINDS THE COMMON GROUND

Memorial of Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Saint Bonaventure (1221-74) was born Giovanni di Fidanza to a noble Italian

family and joined the Franciscan order at the age of 22. By then, Francis had been dead for 17 years, and conflict had arisen among his followers as they tried to imitate the poverty Francis embraced. Bonaventure, who brought gifts of intellect and organization, emerged as a leader and teacher who helped the order resolve differences and renew its purpose. He encouraged a Franciscan detachment from wealth and practiced it himself, but not at the expense of generous love. Bring a spirit

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66 Incline thine ear, O Lady, to hear my prayers: and turn not away from me the beauty of thy face. Turn our mourning into rejoicing: and our tribulation into joy."

~ Saint Bonaventure, The Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary by Saint Bonaventure

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT							
June 30 - July 7, 2020		\$15,683.00	Secure Parish Online Giving				
Plate	\$	433.00	•				
Envelopes	\$	9,374.00	Give a one-time gift				
Online Giving	\$	5,876.00	or set up recurring gifts.				
Breakdown of Gifts Received							
\$0.01 - \$5.00		15	Visit old shunch and slight on				
\$5.01 - \$10.00		27	Visit <u>olg-church.org</u> and click on				
\$10.01 - \$25.00		73	the "Online Giving" link in the				
\$25.01 - \$50.00		65	upper right corner of the webpage				
\$50.01 - \$100.00		47	(or use the QR code with				
\$100.01 - \$150.00		11	your smart phone app!).				
\$150.01 - \$500.00		17					
\$500.01 - Over		1					
Total Contributing Households		256	amazonsmile				
Additional Gifts							
Building Fund		\$1,590.00					
Food Pantry		\$823.50	Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3860489 and Amazon				
School Support - Greatest Need		\$717.50	will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Our Lady of Grace!				

Fax:

WFB:

OUR LADY of GRACE PARISH AND SCHOOL DIRECTORY

2766 NAVAJO ROAD, EL CAJON, CA 92020



PARISH OFFICE

PHONE: (619) 469-0133 (619) 469 - 0575OLG-CHURCH.ORG Hours: WEEKDAYS 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

MATTHEW HILGEMAN

Pastor	FR. PETER MCGUINE Ext. 17		
Deacon	DCN. JOHN SAWAYA		
Business Manager	PATRICIA KANE Ext. 12		
Special Projects Coordinator	KEN DISCENZA Ext. 24		
Bookkeeper	VACANT Ext. 16		
Office Manager	MARIE POSPICHAL Ext. 10		
Publicity & Communications	Georgene Kruzel Ext. 33		
HousekeepingMaria AriasMaintenance & FacilitiesDan Breslin &			

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Liturgy Coordinator	Rosa Hilgeman Ext. 14		
Director of Liturgical Music Cantate Kids and Gaudete Ch	PAUL MAY Ext. 26 noir (11:00 am Sun)		
Director ROBERT FILLEY			

Laudate Ensemble (5:30 pm Sun)

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY PHONE: (619) 466-5656

Director of Catechetical Ministry			LISSA HUTCHESON		
Program Coordinator		GI	CORGENE KRUZEL		
Youth Ministry Coord. Jr. High, High School	Doris Hertzig	I	(619) 466-5451		



For answers to almost every question about Our Lady of Grace liturgies, ministries and parish activities please visit our website at: olg-church.org And Like Us on Facebook!



Reporting Sexual Abuse

Complaints about sexual abuse by a member of the clergy or by a parish or Catholic school employee or volunteer can be made by calling Mary Acosta at (858) 490-8353 or writing misconduct@sdcatholic.org.

f any of your personal information has changed please be so kind as to update us in the Parish Office. It is important that we update our family records.



Fax:

WEB:

Hours:

PARISH SCHOOL

PHONE: (619) 466-0055 (619) 466-8994 OLG.ORG WEEKDAYS 7:15 AM-3:30 PM (DURING SCHOOL YEAR)

Principal

Vice-Principal

emares@olg.org **RACHEL SATO** | Ext. 27 rsato@olg.org

ERIN MARES | Ext. 11

Development & Admissions Kelli Balistreri | Ext. 16 kbalistreri@olg.org LINDA PETERS | Ext. 10 Secretary lpeters@olg.org

PARISH MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

To email members of the parish staff or the ministry leaders listed below please visit our website at:

olg-church.org - click on the "Contact Us" link in the upper right corner of the browser window.

For a ministry leader phone number please call the Parish Office at (619) 469-0133.

55 PLUS CLUB—Mary Cloward

BLOOD DRIVE—Debbie Ipsen

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB-CWC

CWC-Mary Cloward Book Club—Julie Hazelton Craft Fair-Kathy Porterfield

CENTERING PRAYER—Irma Eichinger or Beatrice Doblado

CUB SCOUTS—Pack 951—Crystal Carr

CURSILLO-Dcn. John Sawaya

EVENTS COMMITTEE—Nettie Aguinaldo

FOOD PANTRY—Since 1981 (619) 469-0061 M-F, 9:30-10:30 am Bob Cosgrove

HOLIDAY ANGELS—Since 1988—Lesley Bradley

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC FAMILIES-ICF Carla Pedroncelli

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—Frances Cabrini Council 8879 Lou Crow, Grand Knight

LADIES OF GRACE-Rosemarie McLain

LEGION OF MARY—Since 1987—Dee Draper

MEN FOR CHRIST—Steve Faucher

MINISTRY TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND Rosa Hilgeman

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY—Since 2006 Nettie Aguinaldo

PRO-LIFE

Mary Dixon Vicki Whitmire (40 Days for Life)

WALKING WITH PURPOSE—Women's Bible Study Danica Hertzig

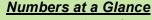


Our Hands



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO 2020 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL BULLETIN UPDATE FOR OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH

July 12, 2020 — Report Number 7



Overall Diocesan Goal: \$3.5 million Our Lady of Grace Church Goal: \$89,000.00 Number of Active, Registered Households at OLG: 1,507 Pledges & Gifts as of July 10: \$146,497.50 from 316 households!

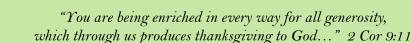
100% OF ANY OVERAGE RECEIVED WILL BE RETURNED TO OLG FOR DEFERRED MAINTENANCE & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Thank you to the following donors!

Anonymous (2) **Roderick & Catherine Acosido** James & Victoria Adams David Adams & Karla Spence Ron & Natividad Aguinaldo Heriberto & Griselda Albanez **Carol Anderson Elizabeth Anderson** Mary Andrews Thomas & Jeanette Applegate Angie Arrayan Andrew & Cheryl Asaro Mildred Asbury Tarik & Colleen Attar Judi Attig Michael Barletta & Dagmar Bridenstine Melva Baroz John & Elizabeth Bello **Dolly Bernal** Sam & Gail Bigknife Daniel & Angela Biner Eileen Black **Robert Blake** James & Elizabeth Blust John & Mary Boeddeker Michael & Melinda Bojorquez Leah Bolwerk Philip & Letrice Bona Michael & Barbara Bonin **Bronwen Borunda** Nick & Margaret Botte Stephen & Donna Botzer Damion & Eva Boyd Shirley Bracey Catalina Branch Daniel & Amy Brault Megan Bresee **Daniel & Peggy Breslin** Quang & Nhien Bui Alan & Diane Burye

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Donor list continues on the other side...



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, G od is the author of

every blessing that we know in this world, every grace that brings joy to our heart, every strength and hope that

carry us through the difficult times that come to all of us.

For this reason, the fundamental stance we as Catholics have toward our God is one of gratitude, and the fundamental disposition of the Christian moral life is to root every dimension of our journey of life on this earth in an abiding sense of thanksgiving.

Such a stance of gratitude orients our life of prayer and union with the Lord, understanding that God always stands with us. Gratitude enriches our life of family and friendship, of work and citizenship in this blessed land, and of encounter with those in need.

Christian gratitude also embraces our life of faith and membership in the Church, leading us to contribute our time, talent and financial resources to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in San Diego and Imperial Counties through our parishes and the work of the diocese that goes beyond the capabilities of any one parish. The diocese supports a vital array of ministries, vocations and charities in the name of Our Lord — through Catholic Schools, Religious Education Programs, Clergy and Seminarian Support and Catholic Charities.

Our Annual Appeal provides the foundation for enabling us to carry out these vital works of faith and service in your name, and for that reason I ask you to prayerfully consider participating generously in this year's appeal, with the knowledge that in doing so, you enter more fully into the work of Christ and the mission of discipleship at this crucial moment in human history.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Koh W Mige

+Robert W. McElroy Bishop of San Diego

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