



R – Mail Nov 2007

To Religious of the Monterey Diocese from Sheila Novak SDS, Vicar for Religious – published bi-monthly

Despite the shorter daylight of this season, November is a special month because it holds two wonderful celebrations, All Saints Day and Thanksgiving. St. Paul addressed the living faithful of the early Church by calling them “saints”. All of us know good people who are not in our official litany, but are “saints” who have gifted our lives. We celebrate all those “saints” with a small “s”. Thanksgiving hopefully comes easily as we realize the goodness of our God. May it be a time of seeing anew the abundance of our lives.

This November/ December, we look forward to our gathering as religious with Bishop Garcia. One note with an RSVP said, “We need more contact with our diocese...to meet other religious and to become known to them.” That is a hope for these conversations and one way we can build up the “saints” of the diocese of Monterey.

Comings and Goings:

We are grateful for the service of these religious who recently moved from the diocese:

Annamarie Marcalus OSF to Iowa
Maureen Driscoll OP to Seattle, WA
Rose Franci SND to Oakland, CA

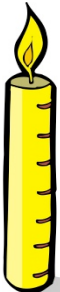
A red carpet welcome to these newcomers to our diocese. We are glad that you are serving with us!

Sandra Ann Silva SHF to Watsonville / Pajaro
Suzanne Brault SNJM to Santa Cruz

Prayer Requests:

For Fr. Harry Rasmussen SDB who is regaining strength following a recent hospitalization.
For Sr. Rose Franci SND who continues therapy after recent hip surgery.
For Fr. Ubaldo Chuaca SDB who is undergoing diagnostic tests.

Good News: *Bushel baskets and lamp stands...Let your light shine (Mt. 5:15-16)*



Our diocesan paper, The Observer, has featured the Jubilee celebrations of religious serving in our diocese in recent issues. This is a wonderful way to give visibility to religious and put our light on the lamp stand. It may even make a connection with someone considering a call to religious life. If you have a community event or ministry that is good news, contact Kevin Drabinski, editor of The Observer, at 805-541-5963 / email observer@dioceseofmonterey.org or myself at domvicrel@aol.com about possible coverage.

I would also like to feature our ministries in upcoming issues of R-Mail. Just write a brief paragraph about what you do and send it to me. It gives encouragement to all of us to know what our co-workers in the “vineyard” are doing along side us – to complement our own service. It is good news so different from the grim news on national TV every night and gives balance to what is happening in our world.

Survey Results:

Some have expressed interest in knowing the results of the survey sent out last summer, which was intended to assist the planning committee with knowing what events were of interest to you. One result was already included in the July issue of **R-Mail**. Other results will be included in bits and pieces - FYI. The statistics for our diocese include about 215 religious.

In the "North" - there are 172 religious, 120 = women, 52 = men.

In the "South" - there are 43 religious, 8 = woman, 35 = men.

Diocesan Directory:

Our diocese is working on a new diocesan directory with a target date of January, 2008. One person will be asked from each community to be a point person for getting an updated list of your community members serving in the diocese. Names, addresses and other contact information will be needed. Your help with this project will be most appreciated and the end product will be a helpful resource.

Opportunities:

The Gospel of Matthew and Lectio Divina

November 8 from 7:00 - 9:00 PM

San Carlos Cathedral Parish Hall / 500 Church St. / Monterey, CA 93940

From 7:00 to 7:50 PM, Bishop Sylvester Ryan will give a presentation on the Gospel of Matthew, the gospel for the new upcoming liturgical year, Cycle A. Following a short break, Ziggy Rendler-Bregman from Holy Cross Church in Santa Cruz will give a presentation on and lead a prayer experience of Lectio Divina. All are welcome.

A free will offering will help defray the cost of this event. Please contact Sr. Maria at srmaria@sancarloscathedral.org or at 373-2628 ext. 18 for more information.

Calendar Dates:

- Friday, November 9th, RSVP due for Northern Conversation with Bishop Garcia
- Saturday, November 17th – Conversation with Bishop Garcia 1:00 – 3:30 PM
- Friday, November 23rd, RSVP due for Southern Conversation with Bishop Garcia
- Saturday, December 1st – Conversation with Bishop Garcia 1:00 – 3:30 PM
- Saturday, April 26, 2008 – Jubilee liturgy and dinner in Salinas

Request:

This is the third issue of **R-Mail**. Some people said they did not receive the September issue. If you receive this issue by email, send an email to me with a "yes – received". This response will help me check out the accuracy of the mailing list. Thank you for your help!

Chuckle Footnote: Look Before You Reap



A farmer whose corn crop hadn't done well decided to "borrow" from his prosperous neighbor's field. With a large sack tucked under his arm, and his small son dogging his footsteps, he hurried to a distant corner of the field.

On arrival, he peered cautiously to the left, to the right, ahead and behind, to make sure he was not observed. Just as he reached out a hand to pluck the first ear of corn, the lad spoke: "Daddy," he reminded him, "you didn't look up!"