



R – Mail Mar 2008

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

Leap year just gifted us with an extra day. We are in the midst of this early Lent, a sacred “time out” in our liturgical year. In just a few weeks, both spring and Easter will fill us with images of new life. As we take note of these “marker moments,” we know that each day, in all its ordinariness, gives us so many reasons to be grateful. Cherish today.

Congratulations

Stephen Coffey OSB, from the Monastery of the Risen Savior in San Luis Obispo, has just been appointed the Superior / Administrator of the Benedictine Monastery in Pecos, New Mexico. Our heartiest congratulations to him on this new and challenging ministry. We are sorry that Pecos is not located in the diocese of Monterey!

Condolences

Our sympathy to the Christian Brothers of Palma High School on the death of Brother Anthony Celsus O’Grady CFC. He passed away peacefully on January 18th after being a Christian Brother for 72 years. He came to Salinas in 1974 - 1983 and 1990 - 2008 and ministered as a teacher at Palma most of those years. He retired on his 90th birthday and spent his last days at The Ridge Rehabilitation Center in Salinas. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

Comings and Goings

Our gratitude to the following religious for their service to the diocese:

Sr. Elvira Mansoor FMA transferred to San Francisco

Sr. Marceline Fouchette OP moved to Adrian, Michigan

A warm welcome to Sr. Claudette Germaine FMA who joined the Salesian community in Corralitos.

Bushel Baskets and Lamp Stands . . . Let your light shine (Mt. 5:15-16)

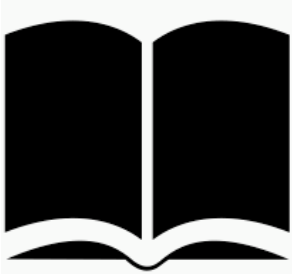


Last July, Fr. John Farao OFM Conv. was assigned to prison ministry at the California Men Colony State Prison. The Conventual Franciscans have served as chaplains at CMC, sometimes called the forgotten Catholic Communities of San Luis Obispo, for over 38 years. Originally designed to hold 3,800 men, it currently has 6,600 prisoners in different facilities. There are two chapels, St. Joseph the Worker on the East Facility and St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe on the West Facility. Both chapels provide Catholic Masses in English and Spanish. Currently about 200 men attend the English Masses and another 200 attend the Spanish Masses. The chapels provide preparation for men who are in need of completing their sacraments. In addition, self-help programs are offered to help the men overcome character defects that may have led them to prison. With the help of needed volunteers, the Catholic Community at CMC continues to meet the spiritual needs of the men so that the prisoners are indeed not the forgotten Catholic Community of San Luis Obispo.

Follow-Up to Conversations with Bishop Garcia

- *Gatherings with Clergy and Religious* – In a meeting with Rev. Paul Murphy, vicar for clergy, this idea was discussed. He is open to pursuing this with the clergy at the May Study Days. He also suggested the possibility of a reflection day together next fall. This is a work in progress.
- *Role Description for Pastoral Ministers* – In going through the new diocesan directory, four persons were listed with this title. It would be helpful to know if there are other pastoral ministers in the diocese. Please notify me if you are a pastoral minister and once we have identified who you are, I will make contact so we can address this concern.

- *Grievance / Conciliation Process* – After receiving information from several diocese on how grievance / conciliation processes are handled, this is an area still being explored. We will keep you posted.
- *Preparing Catholics for the Upcoming Presidential Elections* – Sheilah Lynch, director of the Family Life/Respect Life and Social Justice office was contacted about this concern. She is planning to send information to parishes to give preparation for the upcoming presidential elections.



Book Review

Consecrated Religious Life: *The Changing Paradigms* by Diarmuid O’Murchu

Religious life has been the focus of two other books by O’Murchu. In this newest book, he suggests a new vision of religious life and views the present moment as an historical turning point. His goal is to give religious a look “outside the box” by evaluating afresh the time-honored traditions of the vowed life. The major sections are Paradigms in Decline, Paradigms in Transition and Paradigms Coming to Birth. He offers insight to make sense of the challenging times in which we live.

New Diocesan Directory

The revised diocesan directory is now on line and can be located with the following link:

<http://www.dioceseofmonterey.org/ministries/docs.asp?ID=1010019>.

There are three documents listed there. The first is the **Monterey Diocese** with information on the diocesan offices and the parishes of the diocese. The second is **Institutions** and the third is **Religious Communities** where the names and addresses of religious are listed.

Jubilees and Invitation

To date four communities have sent in names of jubilarians for 2008: Adrian Dominicans, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Carmelite Sisters, and the Christian Brothers. If there are persons from your community ministering in the diocese who are celebrating a jubilee in 2008, please notify me so they can be included in our April celebration.

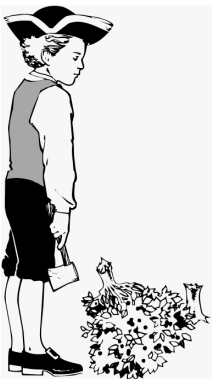
Calendar Date

Saturday, April 26th – Jubilee Celebration – liturgy and dinner with Bishop Garcia – Palma High School, Salinas.
Invitations will be out in mid-March.

Ongoing Request

Please remember to keep me posted of developments and news from your community. Email domvicrel@aol.com.
Many thanks!

Chuckle Footnote: A late President’s Day story . . .



One day, after a spring rain, the creek was so swollen that a little boy decided today was the day to push the outhouse into the creek. So he got a large stick and started pushing. Finally, the outhouse toppled into the creek and floated away.

That night, the dad told him they were going to the woodshed after supper. Knowing that meant a spanking, the little boy asked why. The dad replied, “Someone pushed the outhouse into the creek today. It was you, wasn’t it son?” The boy answered, “yes.”

Then he thought a moment and said, “Dad, I read in school this month that George Washington chopped down the cherry tree and didn’t get into trouble because he told the truth.” The dad replied, “Well, son. George Washington’s father wasn’t in the cherry tree.”

