

~From the Administrator~

Dear Parish Family,

April 18, 2010

On Tuesday, Bishop Cistone celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with 20 of our second graders, and three older students. The ceremony at Sacred Heart was also attended by their confirmation candidates and families as well as those from St. Henry, Rosebush; and St. Charles, Leaton. Congratulations to all of the newly confirmed in our parish.

In a couple of weeks, we will celebrate First Communion with the 20 second graders at the 10:30 am Mass on May 2nd.

Our School Auction is coming up this week Friday beginning at 6:00 pm. Don't miss this wonderful annual event, which I hear will have a groovy seventies theme.

Also on the first weekend of May, we will have one of the founders of the Foundation for Children in Need for our Mission Co-op Weekend. Dr. Geeta Yeruva will speak 15 minutes before each of the weekend Masses on her mission work in India. Please plan to arrive early for Mass on that day to hear the mission appeal. Following Mass on that weekend, Dr. Yeruva will have a 15 minute video showing the work that she and her husband have accomplished through their missionary efforts.

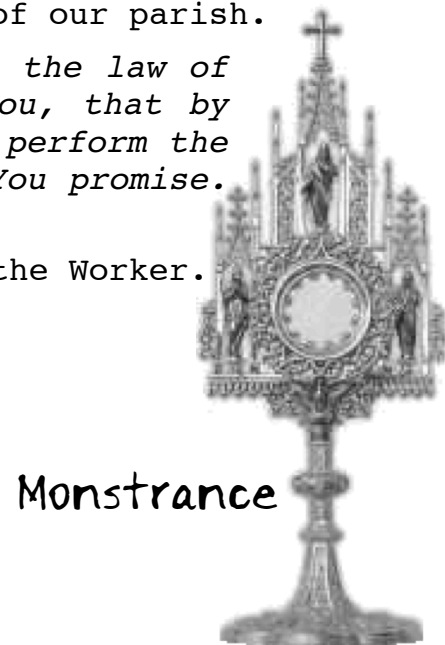
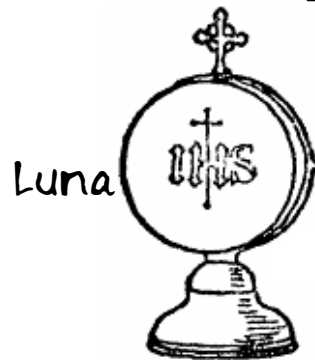
On Thursday I invite you to pray the Novena to our parish patron, St. Joseph the Worker beginning on Thursday for the needs of our parish.

O God, the Creator of all things, You have laid the law of labor upon the human race. Grant, we beseech You, that by the example and protection of St. Joseph we may perform the work You command and attain to the reward that You promise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Novena will end on May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

God bless you!

Fr. David



CATHOLIC WORD OF THE WEEK: MONSTRANCE

The sacred vessel in which the Blessed Sacrament is usually exposed for veneration at Benediction or in which it is carried during a Eucharistic procession. At Benediction, the priest blesses the people with the Eucharist placed in the monstrance. This blessing differs from the priest's blessing, as it is seen to be the blessing of Christ, rather than that of the individual priest. The exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance during Benediction is traditionally preceded by chanting or singing of the hymn "Tantum Ergo."

The consecrated Host is placed in a Lunette, which fits in the center of the monstrance and holds the Blessed Sacrament during exposition. The Lunette is placed in a Luna, which is a small case with a hinged side. The Lunette with the Luna inside is kept in the Tabernacle.

Disposition to Receive Holy Communion

The prerequisites for the reception of Holy Communion by Catholics are:

- 1) being in the state of grace,
- 2) having fasted for one hour
(for the sick 15 minutes if possible,
none if fasting is not possible), and
- 3) devotion and attention.

1. State of Grace.

As St. Paul notes in his letter to the Corinthians, reception after examining oneself is a prerequisite for worthy reception, otherwise Communion has the opposite from the desired effect of union with our Lord. This is why, out of respect for Christ and our own good, the Church obliges us to be in the state of grace when we receive.

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. (1 Cor. 11:27-29)

2. Fasting for One Hour.

By ancient tradition, Christians abstain from profane food prior to receiving the sacred food of the Eucharist. Until the pontificate of Pope Pius XII the Eucharistic fast was from midnight. Pope Pius reduced it to three hours, and after Vatican II, Pope Paul VI reduced it to one hour.

The Eucharistic fast is before Holy Communion, not the Mass. It is a fast from food and drink, water is alright, as is medicine. Tradition teaches that to be food it must be:

- a) edible,
- b) taken by mouth, and
- c) swallowed.

In addition to breakfast, lunch and dinner, candies, breath mints, lozenges and anything that is put into the mouth to be dissolved or chewed meets these conditions once the dissolved contents are swallowed. Chewing gum not only breaks the fast

when the flavor is swallowed, but it is disrespectful at the Sacred Liturgy. The tradition also teaches that the fast is strict — one hour, that is, 60 minutes. Given that until the 1970s, the fast was from midnight, this seems very little to ask of Catholics in the 21st century.

3. Devotion and Attention.

Given the infinite value of the Lord, it should be evident that we should receive Him with great devotion, attending to our reception of Him and not to other matters.

While this certainly applies first and foremost to belief in the Real Presence, it also applies to the practical application of that belief, how we receive Holy Communion. If we had the opportunity to have an intimate meeting with the President or the Pope we would not have our minds, hearts and attention wandering all over the place. How much less ought they to be when receiving Holy Communion. If it is disrespectful to the President or the Pope to ignore them while they are talking to us, how much more serious is it to ignore God when He is giving Himself to us!

Our interior disposition cannot be separated from our exterior disposition. If we go to Communion chatting with our neighbor, or with our hands in our pockets, we are unlikely to have sufficient devotion to receive. A casual posture and behavior bespeaks a casual interior attitude toward something that is holy and deserves our full attention, body and soul.

If we do not satisfy the first two conditions (the state of grace and the fast) we may not go to Communion. If we do not satisfy this third one, we ought not go to Communion, unless we correct it by stirring up our fervor. We would receive Our Lord vainly, if we lacked devotion and attention to Him. We could even receive Him sacrilegiously, if we acted as if Holy Communion were NOT the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. So, as a matter of morality, Catholics must pay attention to their interior and exterior disposition when going to Communion.