



I once asked a farmer in the West of Ireland, who had sheep on the entire mountainside, how could they possibly know which sheep belonged to him and which to the other farmers. They had different colors.

The farmer explained to me that knowing his sheep was entirely dependent on their knowing him. He could safely presume that those who responded to his call were part of his flock.

Each day we hear many familiar voices – just think of all the phone calls we received this week – some of which require no introduction – just “Hi”. There are other familiar voices too, voices which are external to us that demand to be listened to periodically. They are so familiar to us that sometimes we fail to recognize them. It may be the self-critic perched on our shoulder telling us that we are not good enough and that we could have done better. It may be the inner voice of shame and guilt we picked up along the way of life. Or the inner voice of fear, crippling our every effort, or the pessimistic voice which

tells us all the reasons why our plan could not possibly work.

There are external voices, too. Each day we are bombarded with all kinds of advertising, promising happiness and fulfillment if we only purchase this product or that look.

Meanwhile there is another voice wanting to be heard. It is the most familiar voice of all, because it is the voice of God who loved us into being and who knows us completely. A voice that speaks words of life, love, freedom, challenge and healing. That voice speaks to us in the Scriptures at Eucharist, in silent and communal prayer, but also in the experiences of ordinary life.

Today's Gospel is a reminder to become aware of the familiar voices to which we listen and to discern to what extent we are being led astray. Christ invites us to pull away from the many competing voices and hear again the authentic voice of the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd leads us to freedom and new life.

Fr. Padraig

BINGO

Team 3 – April 12
 Team 4 – April 19
 Voice Mail (925) 806-8106

REFLECTIONS ON THE ROSARY

Join Father Jim Sullivan and Sara Sullivan for Reflections on the Rosary in Scripture Saturday, May 10, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, with gathering and continental breakfast at 9:30 AM at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel. Please RSVP to jsullivan@catholicsofpleasanton.org or (925) 474-3762. Lunch is provided.



LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Team 2 A – Scheduled for April 12 & 13
 Team 3 A – Scheduled for April 19 & 20



HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VBS

We need High School and Middle School students (2007-2008 school year) who are interested in volunteering and ministering to our younger children for Vacation Bible School, June 23-27. Volunteer applications are available online at www.catholicsofpleasanton.org (click CCOP Youth) or at the Faith Formation Office. **Application deadline is May 1st.** Questions? Contact Anne Marie Gallagher at (925) 484-5996.

UNITED WAY DONATIONS

“If you contribute to a company payroll deduction plan that provides the opportunity for you to designate a portion of your contribution to a particular charitable or religious organization, please consider directing part of your donation to The Catholic Community of Pleasanton or the CCOP St. John Paul II Building Fund. Your company will often match your donation, whether or not made via payroll deduction.”



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



We are powering up for this year's VBS "POWER LAB" as we discover the "Miraculous Powers of Jesus" which will take place June 23-27. All children K-5 (2007-2008 school year) are invited to attend this year's most electrifying and explosive VBS ever! Parents if you can help, just check off the volunteer box on the form. Registration forms can be picked up in the Faith Formation Office, in the vestibules of both churches as well as online at www.catholicsofpleasanton.org, just click CCOP Youth and look for Vacation Bible School for details. We are filling up fast so don't wait. If you have any questions, please call Sharon Hanson, VBS Registrar at (925) 846-3531 or Michael Gallagher, VBS Coordinator at (925) 200-5566. We look forward to seeing you at VBS! We are going to have a BLAST!! KAAA BOOM!!

POPE JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION MEETINGS

Parents and parishioners are invited to a series of Information meetings over the next several weeks to learn more about the new Catholic high school being built in Livermore. Please join us at one of the following meetings:

St. Michael & St. Charles at the Hall

April 23rd at 7:00 PM

St. Isidore Church at the Cardeli Center

April 28th at 7:00 PM

St. Elizabeth Seton Church

May 5th at 7:30 PM

St. Joan of Arc at the Gym

May 12th at 7:30 PM

PRIMAVERA DINNER DANCE

Italian Catholic Federation

Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 6:00 PM
\$30 per person - No-host cocktails

St. Michael Parish Hall
372 Maple Street
Livermore, CA

For reservation, please call Helen at (925) 462-3798 or Rose (925) 846-4227 by April 28.

VALLEY PREGNANCY CENTER



The Valley Pregnancy Center (VPC) "Walk for Life" and 20th Anniversary Celebration will take place on **Saturday, May 3, at Amador Community Park in Pleasanton.** Through VPC over 89 babies have been adopted and placed in loving homes. Become a sponsored walker and take part in great prizes for the most money raised in three categories. There will be face painting, a post walk BBQ, crackers the Clown, a raffle drawing, and much more. Won't you join us? ... because life is priceless. For more information, please contact Dee Bell at (925) 828-4458.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Knights of Columbus and parishioners will enjoy a relaxed, family outing including tailgate picnics and at the same time contribute to a worthy cause, **Mary's House**, a home for women in crisis pregnancy.



At AT&T Park: Giants vs. Padres

Saturday, May 31 – 1:05 PM

View infield seats, Section 324

Price: \$24 Sorry NO Picnic

At McAfee Coliseum: A's vs. Angels

Sunday, June 8 – 1:05 PM

Plaza level seats, Section 208 & 209

Tailgate picnic 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

Price \$26 Picnic \$4 (kids under 12 free)

For reservations and questions, please contact Paul Unpingco at (925) 462-2263 as soon as possible.

CCOP WEBSITE

The catholicsofpleasanton.org website includes important announcements and information on parish activities and events. From the HOME PAGE there are website links that will take you a Parish Directory of Ministries, Programs, and Organizations. Whether you are new to the CCOP community, or have been with us for some time, you are an essential member of the life of the parish community. There are many ways to get involved in our parish, limited only by your imagination and willingness to participate. Make our website one of your "favorites" and visit it often to take advantage of its contents.