Pastor’s Corner

My brothers and sisters,

As part of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis invited parishes and families across the Catholic world to consider adopting a refugee family. On Christmas Eve this past year, the Bishop of Oakland, our bishop, invited the parishes in our diocese to consider co-sponsoring a family with Catholic Charities of the East Bay. Catholic Charities of the East Bay already sponsors more than 200 refugees a year in the East Bay, in full cooperation with the U.S. Department of State.

Given the desperate situation, over 350,000 people have fled war, violence and unrest in the Middle East and northern Africa. Many have attempted the move to Europe alone in overcrowded boats and vessels not fit for any trip. This has led to innumerable deaths. In addition the reality of drowning and starvation has exponentially increased the number of deaths. These refugees need to find a home.

In that Christmas Eve homily, Bishop Barber invited you and me to provide concrete Gospel assistance:

Let’s do this together in the same spirit in which we would welcome Mary and Joseph as they looked for a place at the inn,’ he said. ‘If we would welcome the Holy Family to our parish and provide a place where Mary could give birth to the Christ child, shouldn’t we do the same in the name of Jesus to those who come to us for help? ‘For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me water’ (Continued on page 2)
me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.' (Matt 25:35).

The Bishop went further...

Whatever your parish is able to provide: whether it’s furnishing a small apartment, providing clothes, cooking a meal, meeting the family at the airport, providing rent, etc. will be welcomed and be considered co-sponsorship.

In that spirit, the Ministry of Christian Living in our parish (One of the Three L’s – liturgy, learning and living) has taken the baton for the Catholic Community of Pleasanton to co-sponsor a family. In response to the Bishop’s request, we can provide. From Afghanistan, the family will arrive this Tuesday May 24th. There is much to be done to be brother and sister to this father and mother and child. And we will need the help of the whole parish – first and foremost to pray for our new family, members of the extended family of the Catholic Community of Pleasanton. We need to pray for all refugees fleeing horrific circumstances. Let’s also pray that each of us will consider a generous response to support our new family. We need to be very concrete about the Gospel – what you did for the least of these, you did for me.

There is contact information to be found in the bulletin if you wish to be of assistance. More information can be found on the parish website. In advance, thank you for your cooperation in this act of charity and justice. Where charity and justice are found, there is an act of Mercy.

We welcome the newest members of our extended family at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton.

Gratefully,

Fr. Paul
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mass Intentions</th>
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<td><strong>SUN</strong></td>
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<td>Michael Warren</td>
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Visitation of Our Lady of Fatima

The statue of the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady of Fatima will visit CCOP on Tuesday, May 24th, and will be available for silent veneration from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM in St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel.

The statue is an image of the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady of Fatima as she appeared in 1929 to Sister Lucia in Tuy, Spain. It was during this apparition that Our Lady asked for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart. The Statue was blessed by Pope Francis at the Vatican on October 23, 2013 and has since been visiting parishes all over the U.S.

Giving Made Easy (GME)

Make your Arise & Build, Sunday and Special offerings via Credit Card or Checking Account.

1. Go to the CCOP website.
2. Click on the “Giving” or “Capital Campaign” tab.
3. On the “Enroll and Update Account” box, select donation type and choose One Time, Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly or Annual frequency.

If your credit card changes, please remember to update your account information, using the same steps above. Thank you!

Cemetery Spring Promotion

Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services is offering a discount on pre-need cemetery and funeral packages now thru June 30.

This promotion applies to the cemeteries at St. Augustine, St. Michael and the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland. For more information, please call Frank Draschner at (925) 784-6666.
CCOP Welcomes Our Refugee Family on May 24th!

This week we learned that CCOP’s refugee family will arrive on May 24! They are a family of three from Afghanistan: a husband and wife and their small child. Catholic Charities of the East Bay (CCEB) will provide temporary housing and certain support. We will assist the family in many ways, including setting-up an apartment, stocking the pantry, raising funds for expenses, orienting them to the area, etc. If you wish to be involved, please contact:

- Mark Kotch at (925) 989-1581 or
- Dan Hughes at (925) 462-0481.

For more information, please see the Co-sponsoring a Refugee Family page (under the Living tab) on the parish website. Click on Donate or Get Involved for instructions on how to donate financially and for a list of the items needed. Complete the Refugee Family Donation / Volunteer Form, to get involved or to donate items. Together we will be the heart and hands of Christ to welcome, support and encourage the family in their new home.

Thank you!
Deacon Joe Gourley

Join St. Raymond Class of 2025!

St. Raymond School in Dublin has openings for Kindergarten for next year. Join the class of 2025!

Please go to our admission information on the school website at straymondschool.org or call 925-828-4064.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Attend one of our upcoming weekends in the Pleasanton/Dublin area on August 5-7 and November 18-20. Early registration is recommended.

For more information, contact Ray & Roberta at (916) 806-4601 or Joe & Sue at (925) 680-7767 now or go to oaklandwwme.org.

Kelly Moore Paint

Parishioners, families, employees and members of the Catholic Diocese of Oakland who purchase paint through the Kelly Moore Paint Company can receive a KM Club Discount and have a portion of the purchase gifted back to the Diocese.

This year Kelly Moore donated back $1,000. Customers should ask to use the Diocese of Oakland Parishioners KM Club Account 605-DI4711.

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- Miguel Moscada
- Camille Chabot
- Ana Silva
- Antone Marty
- Fritz Infant Twins
- Torrie Fritz
- Fe Alejandro Sarcia
- Grayson Blew
- Carol Wortham
- Frances Gallego
- Zoe Teixeira
- Joanne O’Connor
- Sue O’Connor
- Antonette Marquez
- Priscilla Torrez and Baby
- Antonette Marquez

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

- Jennifer Bueno-Paley
- Kathie George
- Louie Ibarra
- Regalado Merza
- Antonio Tanganan
- Lucia Tenmatam-Salazar
- Roseville Ocampo
- Robert Goodman
- Virgie Pagalan
- Edita Pensaro

- Lillian Guesnon
- Ferne Harris
- Alyce Corby
- Selina Reyes
- Tom Statmiller
- John DiPalermo
- Janice Marie Yost
- Roger Biebl
- Marlon Calso
- Eugene Eccher
- John Francis Dolan

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Among the Ten Commandments, one begins with the word “remember”: *Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day*. It reminds us to recall something we already know. There are commandments of mercy written into our very DNA. We already know them, but we need to remember them more explicitly. What are they?

1. **Remember that mercy lies deepest in God’s heart.**
   
   Few things so much approximate the essence of God as does mercy. Mercy is God’s essence. Scripture uses words such as loving-kindness and compassion to try to define what constitutes God’s mercy, but the central biblical concept, captured in the Hebrew concept of *hesed*, connotes a relationship that loves, embraces, and forgives even when, and especially when, we cannot measure up or deserve what’s given us.

2. **Remember that mercy is the essence of all true religion.**
   
   Inside religion and spirituality, within all faiths, three things try to lay claim to what’s central: proper religious practice, outreach to the poor, and compassion. Ultimately they are not in opposition, but complementary pieces of one religious whole. But for religious practice and outreach to the poor to be an extension of God’s love and not of human ego, they need to be predicated upon compassion, mercy. Deepest inside of every religion is the invitation: Be compassionate, merciful, as God is compassionate.

3. **Remember that we all stand forever in need of mercy.**
   
   There is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who converts than over ninety-nine righteous persons. Does God love sinners more than the righteous? There are no righteous persons. It’s rather that we feel God’s love more when we admit that we’re sinners. None of us ever measure up. But, as St. Paul so consolingly teaches, the whole point is that we don’t have to measure up. That’s what mercy means. It’s undeserved, by definition.

4. **Remember that, having received mercy, we must show mercy to others.**
   
   We only receive and appropriate God’s mercy and the mercy of others when we extend that same mercy to others. Mercy has to flow through us. If we don’t extend it to others we become self-indulgent and too harsh on others.

5. **Remember that only the practice of mercy sets us free.**
   
   Receiving and giving mercy is the only thing that frees from our congenital propensity to self-seek, self-justify, and judge others. Nothing frees us more from the tyranny of ego than does the practice of mercy.

   (To be continued)