Pastor’s Corner

My brothers and sisters,

Over the past week, I have had a variety of conversations with members of our community who look at everything happening in the world and our nation. Others have come by to discuss personal issues that are affecting them. There is a great deal going on in our lives! In both cases, some of them exhaled in total exasperation, shaking their heads.

I began to ask myself about the role of Christian hope in the midst of the darkness that weighs us down. So here is a nugget that I wish to share.

*What does hope mean to the Christian? How does the Bible define hope? Hope is essential to the believer for joy; so it’s critical to have.*

Hope is not “I hope my team wins the Super Bowl” or “I hope I get a raise”. Biblical hope is not a hope-so but it is a know-so. It isn’t wishing for the best. It isn’t waiting to see what happens and hope that it turns out well. Hope is not a feeling or an emotion. Hope is the knowledge of facts. If someone says to you that “I hope you have a good day”, there is no guarantee that the day will go well. To have a biblical hope is to have a sure anchor of the soul, not hoping for rain because the forecast says that there is a 60% chance of rain and you hope that you get your garden watered. That is not hope...that is wishful

*(Continued on page 2)*
thinking and it is utterly undependable and has no power to bring anything to pass. Human hope pales in comparison to biblical hope, as we shall read.

A Christian’s definition of hope is far superior to that of the world. Instead of wishing or hoping for something to happen, believers know that their hope is solid, concrete evidence because it is grounded in the Word of God. The Christian has a hope that is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). It is a hope that is like faith - - a faith that cannot be moved by circumstances or what the eyes see because an unseen God is seen in His faithfulness.

St. Paul may give us the best example of hope in the Letter to the Romans. Whenever I encounter hopelessness, I usually direct them where St. Paul tells the believer, “For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience” because “If God is for us, who can be against us” (Romans 8:31)? If God is on your side, how sure is that hope! I believe that everyone will go through a dark night of the soul where deep doubts and fears flare up but extinguishing those fears is as simple as staying rooted in the Scripture.

Something for us to consider during these times.

Fr. Paul
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Intentions</th>
<th>Calendar of Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUN</strong> Aug 21</td>
<td>8:00 AM For the People Pacienza, Dante &amp; Julita Llapitan Rufino Aduviso</td>
<td>2:00 PM Baptism Ceremony Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MON</strong> Aug 22</td>
<td>8:30 AM Shirley Hale</td>
<td>7:00 PM High School Leadership Training Rms 16 &amp; 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUE</strong> Aug 23</td>
<td>8:30 AM Rick Delucchi</td>
<td>12:00 PM Al-Anon Meeting Room 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WED</strong> Aug 24</td>
<td>8:30 AM Jack Turner</td>
<td>7:00 PM Confirmation Yr. 1 Parent / Teen Orientation Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THU</strong> Aug 25</td>
<td>8:30 AM Eric Martin (L)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRI</strong> Aug 26</td>
<td>8:30 AM Dick McMullen</td>
<td>11:00 AM Al-Anon Meeting Room 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAT</strong> Aug 27</td>
<td>8:30 AM William &amp; Mary Harmon Gertrude Dietz</td>
<td>8:45 AM Al-Anon Meeting Room 8 Private Reconciliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUN</strong> Aug 28</td>
<td>8:00 AM Wesley Caldwell, Jr. Agueda Enriquez Donald Sievers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass Intentions</th>
<th>Calendar of Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUN</strong> Aug 21</td>
<td>9:00 AM Arturo Ilagan Jose Cardoso The Souls in Purgatory Rosalinda Ilagan</td>
<td>10:15 AM RCIA Inquiry Room A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MON</strong> Aug 22</td>
<td>12:10 PM Luiza D'Silva</td>
<td>12:45 PM Eucharistic Adoration RCIA Room A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TUE</strong> Aug 23</td>
<td>12:10 PM Nilda Vitalicia</td>
<td>7:30 PM Art &amp; Environment Meeting Cryroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WED</strong> Aug 24</td>
<td>12:10 PM V. T. Antony</td>
<td>12:45 PM Eucharistic Adoration Legion of Mary Chapel Room B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THU</strong> Aug 25</td>
<td>12:10 PM Tony Costello</td>
<td>7:30 PM Cantor Rehearsal Grief Support Church Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRI</strong> Aug 26</td>
<td>12:10 PM Joaquim &amp; Alexandrina Serpa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAT</strong> Aug 27</td>
<td>9:00 AM Catherine Monzo Edward S. Rouquette Sr. Columbina For the People</td>
<td>10:15 AM RCIA Inquiry Room A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WWW.CATHOLICSOFPLEASANTON.ORG PAGE 3**
Scripture Readings
August 28
Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Grief Support Ministry
Please join us and let us accompany you on your healing journey. Fr. Padraig Greene will be the speaker on Thursday, August 25. No pre-registration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, please contact Eleanor Flatley at (925) 846-8708.

Save the Date - Parish Picnic
The Annual Family Picnic will be here before we know it! Save Sunday, September 25, for a fun-filled family day. The festivities will be held at the St. Augustine Hall grounds from 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM.
Stay tuned here for more details in the coming weeks! If you have questions or would like to help on the day of the picnic with set-up, tear-down and/or activities, please contact Roxanne at (925) 462-0750.

Toddler Playgroup
A group of pre-kindergarten mothers is exploring the formation of a Toddler Playgroup and possibly a Catholic Story Time/Catholic Craft Activity here at CCOP. An interest list is forming. Call or text Rachelle Harmon at (408) 420-4090 or email at harmon.rachelle@gmail.com.

Adult Confirmation
Adults interested in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation please contact Matt Gray at (925) 202-5425.

Eucharistic Adoration
Seeking quiet time for prayer and meditation? Come join us for Eucharistic Adoration at St. Augustine and St. Elizabeth Seton. This is a great opportunity during these hectic times to sit quietly, clear your mind of all busyness and be present to Our Lord – let Him minister to you.

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH
1st Friday Every Month
9:00 AM–11:30 AM
Coordinator: Ernie (925) 846-7831

Last Friday of Each Month (Spanish)
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Coordinator: Ernesto (925) 640-1595

ST. ELIZABETH SETON CHAPEL
Mondays and Wednesdays
12:45 PM – 6:30 PM
Coordinators: Linda (925) 462-0974
Sharon (925) 462-8625

Ministry Of Mothers Sharing
Tuesdays September 27 – November 8
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
St. Elizabeth Seton Church – Room A
The Ministry Of Mothers Sharing (M.O.M.S.) invites you to join other Christian mothers for a six-week spiritual workshop. Connect with other moms, share your faith journey, and just take an evening once a week for yourself. Moms of all ages and stages are welcome!
Childcare will be provided. For more information or to sign up visit www.catholicsofpleasanton.org/moms
**Faith Formation Registration**

The Last Day to Register is **Thursday, September 8**.

If you miss registration on **August 29** and would still like to register your school-aged children for faith formation, please stop by the Faith Formation Offices, 3999 Bernal Avenue, between 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Do you need evening registration? Please contact the Faith Formation Office at (925) 846-3531.

**CYO Basketball**

Registration for CYO Youth Basketball, boys and girls grades 3-8 from Pleasanton and Sunol, is now available online at [www.ccopcyo.org](http://www.ccopcyo.org). Evaluations are **September 11, 12 and 13**. The schedule is posted on the website. There is a registration late fee starting August 22. Registration closes September 5 or earlier, based on capacity. See website for further details and register ASAP.

**Stewardship of Treasure**

**July 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July Budget (Mo.)*</td>
<td>$134,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Plate Actual</td>
<td>$124,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% via On-line Giving</td>
<td>26.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year to Date Budget</td>
<td>$974,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year to Date Actual</td>
<td>$914,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July JPII Receipts</td>
<td>$1,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July A&amp;B Receipts</td>
<td>$75,567</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Thank you for your Stewardship!*

*Plate budget based on $33,587 per week*

**Update on Our Refugee Family**

Thank you for your prayers and generosity in support of the refugee family that CCOP is co-sponsoring. Life is now moving forward for them. Hamed has started a job, his wife Benazir is registered for ESL classes, and their six-month old son Haseb is doing well. They moved to a Dublin apartment last week. They are truly grateful to all who donated furniture, household items and baby items, and for all that we have done to help them start their new life here.

A few basics are still needed, so we will keep the Signup Genius site open for a while to accept these items. To donate items, please sign-up at [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084aaba2aa02-refugee](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084aaba2aa02-refugee). A link to this site is also shown on the Refugee Sponsorship page on the CCOP website.

If you wish to donate items that are not on Signup Genius, please see the Refugee Sponsorship page, click **Get Involved**, and list the items you have available. A member of the committee will contact you. If you have questions, please contact Dan Hughes at (925) 462-0481 or Mark Kotch at (925) 989-1581.

Thank you and God bless you!

*Deacon Joe Gourley*
The Catholic Community of Pleasanton

Fair Housing Panel
Discussing

Monday, September 19th
7 PM - 9 PM
Free to all

Pope John Paul II Activity Center
St. Elizabeth Seton Church
4001 Stoneridge Drive

Congressman Eric Swalwell
In 2012 he was elected to represent California’s Fifteenth Congressional District, which includes a large part of the East Bay. Now in his second term, he’s working hard to bring new energy, ideas, and a problem-solving spirit to Congress, with a focus on advancing policies that support equality, opportunity, and security.

Don Faught
Vice President and Managing Broker for Alain Pinel Realtors and a licensed broker for more than 28 years. He was the 2013 President of the California Association of Realtors® (C.A.R.), one of the largest trade organizations in the U.S. As C.A.R. President he addressed industry issues such as the code of ethics, professionalism and questionable business practices.

Assemblywoman Catherine Baker
Elected in 2014, Baker in her first term of office was selected to serve as Vice-Chair of the Higher Education Committee. She also serves on the Assembly Committees on Transportation, Business and Professions, Privacy and Consumer Protection, and the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

David Stark
20+ years of housing policy experience in public and private sectors, of which a dozen years he managed housing and community development programs for cities throughout California. In 2005 he joined Bay East Association of Realtors® to help build awareness of real estate issues and to include the Realtor® perspective in the development of public policy.