Fr. Kwame’s Corner

My Mother is My Shepherd

Today is Mother’s Day! Today is the 4th Sunday of Easter, also called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” So, I salute all Mothers today, including my Mother, by calling them our “Shepherding Maestros.”

We often pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, so that our community would be guaranteed of constant and continued supply of leaders. Priests and religious however do not just appear; they do not suddenly show up for training in the seminaries and convents, etc. Long before we get them as bishops, priests, deacons, even lay leaders, they are first and foremost human persons born and raised, protected by and provided for, nourished, nurtured and cared for by distinguished persons. Leaders are prepared and given to us first by distinguished leaders – Mothers.

My Mother, Agnes, played the most significant role in my priestly vocation journey. She not only birthed and nurtured me, but she did something at the turning moment of my life that led me to seriously pursue the priesthood. It was in 1980. I had passed with distinction in the entrance examination for admission to one of the prestigious Catholic then-secondary school – Saint Thomas Aquinas School. We faced a deadline for payment and enrollment or dropping-out and staying home. Due to economic hardship in Ghana at the time, my father had moved to oil-booming Nigeria in order to work and provide for us. The night before I would have lost my spot at this high school that was full of diplomats’ kids, my Mother decided to spend all her capital, in her firewood trading, on

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my education: She took me with her and we went literally “begging” her debtors to advance some if not all of their payments, because as she said, “my son too must go to a good school.” We walked hours that night to her baker-clients from one home to another all over our town, and we raised only half of the enrollment fees. Her efforts moved the pastor of my Church parish to intervene to help us and I got admitted to high school. I still marvel at her willingness to exhaust all she had in her little firewood business for her poor child to get into an elite school that is tens of miles from our poor neighborhood.

When I look at the history of how I became a priest in a missionary order that led to my assignment to the United States, I see my Mother as the first promoter, leader, and contributor of her sweat and toil even after she had labored to give birth to me. It is anybody’s guess where my life would have gone if I had not gone to high school or that particular school; surely, I would have pursued something different from the priesthood. My Mother was the shepherd... and, like Jesus, a good one too who led me from day one to consider and to follow this path. She pointed to me a greener pasture; she knows me, I know her and her voice, and I followed where she has shone. I owe my vocation to her, that’s why I say today, Thank You Mother; You are My Shepherd because you are my first leader: You model the Risen Christ to me.

As we celebrate this Mother’s Day and Good Shepherd Sunday, I invite each one of you to acknowledge the role of your Mother, or a Mother to you, and see how that role models the life-giving leadership that the Risen Christ gives to the world. Without Shepherd Mothers, there can be no vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Good shepherds raise good and healthy sheep who themselves become good shepherds later, because they learn from good shepherds. So, our first and foremost prayer intention goes to Mothers and Motherhood in the world.

Happy Mother’s Day!
Fr. Kwame
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<tr>
<th>MASS INTENTIONS</th>
<th>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUNDAY</strong> May 12</td>
<td>8:00 AM For All Mothers 10:00 AM For All Mothers 12:00 PM For All Mothers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAY</strong> May 13</td>
<td>8:30 AM Jane Cook 8:00 AM Rosary 7:00 PM Hispanic Prayer Group</td>
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<td><strong>TUESDAY</strong> May 14</td>
<td>8:30 AM Raymond Garon 8:00 AM Rosary 10:00 AM Infant &amp; Toddler Playgroup 12:00 PM Al-Anon Tuesday PM 7:00 PM Parish Finance Council 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong> May 15</td>
<td>8:30 AM Alex Spotorno 8:00 AM Rosary 7:00 PM Military Peer Support Group</td>
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<td><strong>THURSDAY</strong> May 16</td>
<td>8:30 AM Lorraine Mastro 8:00 AM Rosary 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td><strong>FRIDAY</strong> May 17</td>
<td>8:30 AM Antonio &amp; Palmira Garibaldi 8:00 AM Rosary 11:00 AM Al-Anon - Friday AM 6:00 PM AA—Words of Wisdom 6:00 PM Hispanic Prayer Group 7:00 PM Confirmation Rehearsal</td>
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<td><strong>SATURDAY</strong> May 18</td>
<td>8:30 AM Sandi Thorne 5:00 PM Joe Pavlakovich 8:00 AM Rosary 8:45 AM Al-Anon Saturday AM 10:30 AM Confirmation Mass 3:00 PM Reconciliation</td>
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<td><strong>SUNDAY</strong> May 19</td>
<td>8:00 AM For the People 10:00 AM Mitch &amp; Richard Patton 12:00 PM Teresa Santero 10:00 AM Children’s Liturgy of The Word</td>
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<td><strong>MONDAY</strong> May 13</td>
<td>12:10 PM Minda Rivera (L) 11:30 AM Rosary 12:45 PM Angelus 7:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration 7:30 PM RCIA 7:30 PM Liturgical Committee</td>
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<td><strong>WEDNESDAY</strong> May 15</td>
<td>12:10 AM Dionicia &amp; Maximo Alarcon 11:30 AM Rosary &amp; Angelus 12:45 PM Eucharistic Adoration 5:00 PM Children’s Choir 5:30 PM Legion of Mary 7:00 PM Teen Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Invite 2.0</td>
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<td><strong>THURSDAY</strong> May 16</td>
<td>12:10 AM Mary Janeiro 11:30 AM Rosary &amp; Angelus 7:30 PM Grief Ministry Spring Workshop</td>
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<td><strong>FRIDAY</strong> May 17</td>
<td>12:10 AM Marie Candaux 8:00 PM Rosary &amp; Angelus 6:00 PM Italian Catholic Federation Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>SATURDAY</strong> May 18</td>
<td>9:00 AM Patrick Glendon 11:00 AM Eleanor Doty 4:00 PM Maria Godoy &amp; George Bing 6:30 PM Flavia Vaz (L) 9:00 AM Children’s Liturgy of The Word 10:15 AM RCIA 10:15 AM Children’s Liturgy of The Word 11:00 AM Rite of Baptism 1:00 PM Rite of Baptism</td>
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Scripture Readings
May 19
Acts of the Apostles 14: 21-17
Revelation 21:1-5a
John 13: 31-33a, 34-35

Grief Ministry
The death of a loved one is a shattering experience. It leaves us in a state of shock, confusion, pain and sadness. You do not have to suffer alone. We invite you to participate in our grief support meetings. We will be meeting at St. Elizabeth Seton, on May 23, June 13 and 27, July 11 and 25 and August 8. Contact Eleanor at (925) 846-8708. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

Rosary
St. Augustine Church
Monday through Saturday at 8:00 AM
St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel
Monday through Friday at 11:30 AM

Angelus
St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel
Monday through Friday at Noon

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

RCIA: Come and See
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process that adults complete to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Please contact Matt Gray, (925) 202-5425 or mgray@catholicofpleasanton.org.

Infant & Toddler Playgroup
Tuesdays at 10:00 AM
St. Augustine Hall, Room 13
Giving Pre-K children in our community a casual setting to play, learn and socialize in a Christ-centered environment while providing a forum of support, friendship and fellowship for parents/caregivers.

Flores de Mayo
The CCOP Diversity Team invites you to celebrate Flores de Mayo on May 19, following the Noon Mass at St. Augustine Church. As a tradition, there will be a procession to the Grotto, offering flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Refreshment will be provided by the Filipino Community at the Parish Hall.

Rebuilding Notre Dame
The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, has set up a fund to help the Cathedral resurrect and rebuild. The Shrine, whose Board of Members consists of the Administrative Committee of the USCCB, has the infrastructure to manage donated funds and established relationships to provide the necessary and appropriate due diligence on the distribution of funds. All proceeds received will be used solely for the assistance of Notre Dame Cathedral and those affected by this tragedy. You can donate online now by visiting our website or checks can also be dropped off at either parish office, payable to "CCOP" and indicate "Cathedral of Notre Dame Fund" in the memo portion.

Memorial Day Mass
Monday May 27, 10:00 AM
St. Augustine Cemetery
Please join us for this special Mass to honor, remember and celebrate the many men and women who have served our country in the armed forces.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK
Carmen Peterson
David Haro Araiza
Veronica Layer-Keefe
Peggy Carlson
Helen Principe
Irene McDeavitt
Rene Sanchez
Rob Gibbs
Willie Salgado

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED
Mark Tierney
Lucia Carag
Robert Kyle, Jr.
James Lee Cheranich
Jerry Gail Zavattero
Jim Muck
Dorothy Le Brane
William Glover
Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held Monday, June 17 through Friday, June 21 at St. Augustine Parish Hall from 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM. VBS is a ministry for children age 4 (by June 1st) through children who are currently in 5th grade.

VBS uses different and engaging ways for kids to learn about Jesus, experience God's love and have a blast with friends.

To register, please complete the registration form on the website.

There is a lot of fun in store, so what are you waiting for? If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Hanson at shanson@catholicsofpleasanton.org.
FAITH FORMATION
REGISTRATION

Monday May 20: 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

St. Augustine Parish Hall
3999 Bernal Avenue
Pleasanton, CA

Please visit the website for more information, guidelines, registration forms and more. If you have questions, please contact the Faith Formation Office at 925.846.3531.