A Note from Fr. Mark

As you might expect, after my note last week that mentioned I had no responses to the questions “Why have you chosen the Catholic Community of Pleasanton as your faith home?” and “Why are you Catholic?”, my email lit up this week! Thank you to all of you who took the time and made an effort to respond.

The responses I received were very interesting to read. Unlike the responses to my earlier question about where we as a church have challenges, the responses as to why people are here at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton and why they are Catholic are not easily categorized. For the most part people told stories; stories about being raised Catholic and then how somehow the faith came alive for them. Many have been parishioners for decades, others are relatively new to the community. Some recognized they were Catholic because they have always been Catholic, were raised Catholic and Catholicism is what they know. To explain why they are Catholic (beyond habit) was a question that caused reflection on something they had never really thought about before. Some mentioned they appreciate the rituals or traditions of the Church, the deep history, the fact that we are universal and can attend Mass anywhere in the world and know what is happening. Others mentioned the Saints, Novenas, cultural celebrations or the sense of connectedness and community.

If there was any category that I could put several responses in, it would be: The Sacraments. Eucharist and Reconciliation were specifically mentioned. Those who mentioned the Sacraments recognized how they had been given to us by Christ, and genuinely value the grace made available to them in our Sacramental.

(Continued on page 2)
celebrations. For one individual, with all the challenges and issues in the Church, the Sacraments are the only reason they remain. Another mentioned that Christ clearly founded the Catholic Church, so even with the challenges we face, he would not bail on us.

Many of the responses I received also continued the conversation about what we might do to increase attendance at Mass. Among the ideas sent: some felt we should preach more about specific issues like abortion or women’s ordination. There was a suggestion that Mass be shorter, or that we should have popular guest presiders and preachers come. Of course, there was more conversation around the abuse of minors by clergy.

I truly appreciate all that has been shared over the last month with me. Even if I am unable to respond to each email personally, rest assured they are all being read and should make for rich conversation with the pastoral council and staff.

One thought I have that I will share with you at this point is this: many of the suggestions about how we need to change may lead to an increase in Sunday attendance by causing Catholics from other parishes to travel to ours. While everyone is always welcome to join us, my personal interest is not so much in “poaching” from other parishes, but in forming new Catholics and helping those who have fallen away find their way back. While there are some things we could do very quickly and painlessly to make people feel even more welcome, the sad truth is that throughout the Catholic Church, for every two people we baptize, 13 walk away. If that was happening in a secular business, alarms would be ringing and people would be losing their jobs. To change those types of trends will take a major shift in Catholic culture, and how we understand / practice what God calls us to do.

Have a blessed week. Let us keep each other in prayer.

Fr. Mark
## Sunday, November 10
- **8:00 AM** - 10:00 AM: For the People
- **10:00 AM** - 12:00 PM: Children's Liturgy of The Word
- **10:00 AM** - 1:00 PM: Baptismal Rehearsal
- **6:30 PM** - 7:00 PM: Baptism Class II

## Monday, November 11
- **8:30 AM** - 10:00 AM: Helen Santos
- **10:00 AM** - 1:00 PM: Offices Closed
- **6:30 PM** - 7:00 PM: Rosary

## Tuesday, November 12
- **8:30 AM** - 10:00 AM: Shirley Moresi
- **12:00 PM** - 1:00 PM: Infant Toddler Playgroup
- **7:00 PM** - 8:00 PM: Adult Choir Rehearsal
- **8:00 PM** - 9:00 PM: Parish Finance Council

## Wednesday, November 13
- **8:30 AM** - 10:00 AM: Roger Dabney
- **12:00 PM** - 2:00 PM: Rosary
- **7:00 PM** - 8:00 PM: Parish Pastoral Council
- **7:30 PM** - 8:00 PM: Safe Environment Night—Confirmation

## Thursday, November 14
- **8:30 AM** - 10:00 AM: Gaston & Dora Morineau
- **11:00 AM** - 12:00 PM: Knights of Columbus Business Meeting
- **7:00 PM** - 8:00 PM: Cantor Rehearsal
- **7:30 PM** - 8:00 PM: SPRED

## Friday, November 15
- **8:30 AM** - 10:00 AM: Jorge Luis Barraza
- **11:00 AM** - 12:00 PM: Al-Anon - Friday AM
- **6:00 PM** - 7:00 PM: Hispanic Prayer Group

## Saturday, November 16
- **8:00 AM** - 9:00 AM: For the People
- **5:00 PM** - 6:00 PM: Children's Liturgy of The Word
- **6:30 PM** - 7:00 PM: Rite of Baptism

## Sunday, November 17
- **9:00 AM** - 11:00 AM: Demetrio & Elizabeth Pulanco
- **4:00 PM** - 5:00 PM: Marsha Baker
- **6:30 PM** - 7:00 PM: Lilla Bova
- **9:00 AM** - 10:00 AM: RCIA Inquiry Gathering
- **10:00 AM** - 11:00 AM: Children's Liturgy of The Word
- **11:00 AM** - 12:00 PM: Baptismal Rehearsal
- **12:00 PM** - 1:00 PM: Baptism Class II
- **1:00 PM** - 2:00 PM: Children's Liturgy of The Word
- **2:00 PM** - 3:00 PM: Rite of Baptism

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## Sunday, November 10
- **9:00 AM** - 11:00 AM: Eusebia Paje
- **4:00 PM** - 6:00 PM: Paulino & Ana Pereira
- **6:30 PM** - 8:00 PM: Marsha Baker
- **8:00 PM** - 9:00 PM: Lilla Bova

## Monday, November 11
- **12:10 PM** - 1:15 PM: Offices Closed

## Tuesday, November 12
- **12:10 PM** - 1:15 PM: Joe Holt

## Wednesday, November 13
- **12:10 PM** - 1:15 PM: Edward P.L. Averell

## Thursday, November 14
- **12:10 PM** - 1:15 PM: Bill Hamzy

## Friday, November 15
- **12:10 PM** - 1:15 PM: Inbae Antonio Kim

## Saturday, November 16
- **1:00 PM** - 2:00 PM: Liturgical Ministry Training

## Sunday, November 17
- **9:00 AM** - 11:00 AM: Demetrio & Elizabeth Pulanco
- **4:00 PM** - 5:00 PM: Lancey & Leah Pinto
- **10:00 AM** - 11:00 AM: For the People
- **11:00 AM** - 12:00 PM: Maria del Carmen Gutierrez
**Scripture Readings**

November 17
Malachi 3:19-20a
2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Luke 21:5-19

**Holiday Office Hours**

In observance of Veterans Day the Rectory, Faith Formation and St. Elizabeth Seton Offices will be closed on Monday, November 11. Mass will be celebrated at St. Augustine Church at 8:30 AM only.

There will be NO 12:10 PM Mass and NO Eucharistic Adoration at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel.

**Requests for Mass Intentions**

A wonderful way to honor and remember your loved ones is to offer a Mass intention. Please visit one of the offices in person to reserve Masses. The 2020 Mass Intention Calendars (January - June) will open for reservations on Wednesday, November 13:

- St. Augustine Rectory Conference Room
  9:30 AM - 12:00 PM and 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM
- St. Elizabeth Seton Office
  9:30 AM - 1:00 PM and 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

We will meet on Thursday, November 14 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in Room A. Crafters of all abilities are encouraged to join us. We make prayer shawls for CCOP parish members, as well as hats and scarves for clients of St. Anthony’s mission in Oakland, CA. Guests are welcome! Contact Joanne Lenigan at (925) 872-8940 or jolenigan@gmail.com.

**Liturgy Training**

Fr. Mark wants to address all New and Returning Ushers, Greeters, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Head Eucharistic Ministers during the first hour of training at both churches on November 16.

- St. Augustine: 9:00 AM – Noon
- St. Elizabeth Seton: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

This is a great opportunity for our new pastor to meet you all, pass on his vision for Liturgical Ministry and answer questions.

**Medshare**

Please join us at MedShare on Saturday, November 16, from 9:00 AM until Noon. A group of volunteers will be sorting medical supplies at MedShare in San Leandro. MedShare provides free medical supplies to hospitals and free clinics around the world where there is great need. We are looking for 15 volunteers. For information or to volunteer please contact Marti at martiannnc@yahoo.com or at (925) 667-6169 no later than Tuesday November 12. Thank you.

**WINGS**

Ministering to the Poor and Homeless

All women are invited to the next WINGS (Women in God’s Spirit) meeting Monday, November 18, to learn about Ministries to the Poor and Homeless in the Tri-Valley. Two CCOP parishioners, Roxanne Rasmussen and Chuck Deckert, will discuss their volunteer work in our community. Both Roxanne and Chuck volunteer at the Livermore Homeless Refuge. Chuck also serves the poor through St. Vincent de Paul.

WINGS meets on the first and third Mondays from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Chapel at St. Elizabeth Seton Church. No registration is necessary. Just drop in. For more information, call Sandra Ryan at (925) 487-3289.

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<td>Rusty Hewitson</td>
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Christmas Nativity Displays
St Elizabeth Seton Chapel
Sunday, December 9, 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Participate and celebrate in the wonder of Jesus' birth started by St Francis of Assisi. Share your family traditions by bringing your Nativity Sets - simple or unique. Set up will be Saturday, December 8 from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Please contact Nancy Navarini before December 3 at (925) 640-6334 or na.navarini@gmail.com. Please pick up your nativity set by Sunday night from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Sponsored by the Italian Catholic Federation

Christmas Concert
Save The Date! Friday, December 13, 7:30 PM.
“Gaudete” featuring our music ministry!

Pilgrimage With Fr. Fili
Fr. Fili is leading a pilgrimage to Mexico, visiting the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Plaza of the 3 Cultures, Metropolitan Cathedral, Tulpetlac, San Juan de Teotihuacán and many other locations. For more information, please see the website or email Fr. Filiberto at fbarrera@catholicsofpleasanton.org.

Concert: Fog City Singers
Saturday, November 23, 8:00PM
St. Augustine Church
The Fog City Singers present barbershop, folk, and choral music at their Fall Concert on November 23, exploring the human tendency to look into the heavens and wonder, “What’s up?”. From Georgian chants in the 9th century to Catholic chants in the 12th, from Hindu mysticism in the East to Galilean skepticisim in the West, from lunar jazz on the air to stary poetry on the page—this concert joins Secular with Sacred in a flight to the death, and beyond. Tickets are available at fogcitysingers.com.

Grief & The Holidays
November 14, 2019, 7:30 PM
St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel
The holidays you have dreaded are approaching. At every turn, you are faced with your heartache and loss. Please join us Thursday, November 14 at 7:30 PM at St. Elizabeth Seton. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation.
THE HOLIDAYS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER!
Help make this Christmas season a little brighter for needy families in our Diocese. If you are a part of a SCC, IFC or other group, consider adopting a larger family.

PICK-UP A FAMILY ENVELOPE AFTER MASS
- November 9th & 10th and November 16th & 17th (before Black Friday!)

RETURN ALL (Wrapped & Bagged) GIFTS to the RECTORY GARAGE
- Between Saturday, November 30th - Saturday, December 7.
- Read the date on your envelope and instructions carefully.

DELIVERY DAY
- Sunday, December 8th
- Help us pack-up and send off gifts for the 400 families CCOP serves! Drivers are needed!

If you are interested in helping with any of these activities, please contact Roxanne Rasmussen at roxanneras@gmail.com.

Watch the bulletin, Facebook and website for future announcements and updates.

CCOP thanks you for your generosity and caring for others!