“To know Christ better, live as He calls us to live, and make Him better known.”

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF PLEASANTON

FEBRUARY 2, 2020  
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

A Note from Fr. Mark

Last year, at the end of November, the Catholic Voice ran an article entitled “Missionaries of Mercy to reconvene in Rome in 2020.” As the only Diocesan priest in Northern California who is serving as a Missionary of Mercy, I was interviewed for the article. While I am excited by the chance to return to Rome later this year, the news has unintentionally and unfortunately caused some confusion and related concern here in the parish. I thought I would take a moment today and clarify what my ministry as a Missionary of Mercy involves and means for our community, and what it doesn’t mean.

You may recall, that in Divine Mercy Sunday of 2015 Pope Francis announced that from December 8, 2015 (the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception) through the Solemnity of Christ the King 2016, the Church would hold an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. At that time, he said he would be sending out into the world “Missionaries of Mercy” who would be “living signs of the Father’s readiness to welcome those in search of his pardon.” And who “can be, above all, persuasive preachers of mercy.”

In November of 2015, I was encouraged to apply to become a Missionary of Mercy, and with our Bishop’s permission, did so. I, along with about 1200 priest from around the world, were accepted to become Missionaries of Mercy, and on Ash Wednesday of 2016, we were commissioned by Pope Francis in Rome for this ministry, with the understanding that when the Extraordinary Jubilee Year ended, our work as Missionaries of Mercy would be completed.

During the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, even though I was serving in our Diocese as a  

(Continued on page 2)
pastor, I was on the road quite a bit preaching about God’s mercy everywhere I was asked to come. Sometimes I was asked to speak for a single evening, or for a day of recollection. Other times I was asked to come and lead an entire weekend retreat or parish mission on mercy. It was a grace-filled year for me. I saw God’s compassion touch and change lives wherever I went. It truly changed and deepened my relationship with God as well.

The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy ended on November 20, 2016, and so did my commission as a Missionary of Mercy. However, on the next day, November 21, Pope Francis released a document in which he wrote:

“An experience of grace lived out by the Church with great effectiveness in the Jubilee year has certainly been the Missionaries of Mercy. This extraordinary ministry does not end…. I wish to continue until further notice as a concrete sign that the grace of the Jubilee remains alive and effective in the world.”

In other words, Pope Francis said, “You ain’t done yet!” The Missionaries of Mercy were called back to Rome in 2018, and now in 2020 for continuing formation and reflection, a chance to share our experiences, and an audience with the Holy Father. There are now 911 Missionaries of Mercy in the world.

I will be traveling to Rome on April 15, 2020, will concelebrate Mass in St. Peter’s Square with Pope Francis and my brother Missionaries on Divine Mercy Sunday (April 19, 2020), attend meetings and conferences, and then enjoy a few vacation days in Italy before returning home on April 29, 2020. My ministry as a Missionary of Mercy is a ministry I have in addition to my ministry as Pastor here at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton. Contrary to some rumors, I am not leaving the parish, nor am I moving to Rome to live for a year (although I’d be open to the later 😊).

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

- Fr. Mark
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Scripture Readings
February 9
Isaiah 58:7-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16

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@catholicsofpleasanton.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. Questions? Please contact Rachelle Harmon (408) 205-4057.

WINGS
The Permanent Diaconate: A Ministry of Service
All women are invited to hear Deacon Joe and Gina Gourley speak on “The Permanent Diaconate: A Ministry of Service” at the next WINGS meeting, Monday, February 3. WINGS (Women in God’s Spirit) meets at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Joe will share the history of the permanent diaconate in the Catholic Church, talk about the formation required to become a deacon, and discuss his ministry of service with emphasis on charity and social justice. Gina will share her experiences and support throughout the formation process, as well as her role as the wife of a deacon. Following the inspiring talk, the group will join in fellowship, refreshments and small group discussion.

Please drop in and bring a friend. No registration is required. For questions, call Sandra Ryan at (925) 487-3289.

Detention Ministry
Open Annual Enrollment for Detention Ministry
Enrollment for the Detention Ministry at Santa Rita Jail is now open until February 9. This may be the only opportunity for the entire year to join a group of women and men visiting inmates, bringing them the gospel message of God’s enduring mercy and love. Comprehensive training will be provided by the jail and the Catholic Detention Ministry. You must be 18 or older to volunteer.

For inquiries, please contact Matt Gray at (925) 202-5425 or mgray@catholicsofpleasanton.org.
Lenten Small Groups
Enrich Your Easter Experience!
Join a small group for reading and discussion during the 6 weeks of Lent. Meetings are held in group members’ homes once a week between Ash Wednesday & Easter. Materials will be provided. Participants reflect on readings and share how passages relate to our everyday lives. Sign-ups will be after all the Masses on Saturday and Sunday, February 15 and 16. Forms are also available at catholicsofpleasanton.org. For questions, please contact Gina at (925) 216-5193 or Sharon at (925) 462-8625.

Employment Connections
Our focus is on where you are as an individual in your job search and address those issues where you need immediate direction. Job Search Guidance, Resource Information, Networking, Inspiration and Support in an open and safe environment. We welcome anyone in need of help with their job search to join us.

Meetings are held on the 1st Monday Evening each month at 7:00 PM, at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church.

Please join us on Linkedin.com Group - Employment Connections CCOP mikemachi5600@gmail.com or call (925) 519-5797.

Prayer Shawl Ministry
The Prayer Shawl Ministry team will meet on Thursday, February 8 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in rooms A & B. Please bring finished and ongoing projects. Crafters of all abilities are welcome! For information, please contact Joanne Lenigan at jolenigan@gmail.com or (925) 872-8940.

Save The Date!
Parish Mission
March 2, 3 & 4
St. Augustine & St. Elizabeth Seton
Fr. Mark will be hosting this year's parish mission at both St. Augustine in the morning at St. Elizabeth Seton in the evening. Stay tuned for more details!

Welcome David Weiss!
David Weiss is in the Deacon Formation Program for the Diocese of Oakland. He is in his fifth and final year of formation. David lives in Livermore with his wife of 34 years, Darcel. He has two sons, Dan and Derek, and seven grandchildren. The grandchildren range in age from 1 year to 6 years old. His family is his foundation.

David grew up Catholic in Gilroy and attended Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose before heading to California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in Southern California where he would eventually meet his wife. After spending the better part of 25 years in SoCal, his job brought David back to the bay area. He attended the diocesan programs, Serra Catechetical Institute and School for Pastoral Ministry before beginning his journey in the Deacon Formation Program.

David works in Fremont for a computer company. In his spare time, he enjoys watching baseball (he’s a Dodgers fan), playing with his grandchildren, and visiting the Tri-Valley breweries.

He will be joining the Catholic Community of Pleasanton for the next 5 months for his Liturgical Internship where he will learn how CCOP prepares and executes the various Catholic liturgies including Sunday Mass, Baptism, Weddings, and Funerals.
MEMORIAL MASS

REV. PAUL D. MINNIGHAN

18 JULY 1966 - 24 FEBRUARY 2019

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

7:00 PM

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH