



2008 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

By Cathy Chenu-Campbell

What do you think of when you hear the phrase “Rebuild my Church?” A line from a story about the life of St. Francis? A reminder to think about the condition of our beautiful parish church? A call to prayerfully reflect on the direction in which the church is moving in our community, in our Diocese, in our country, and in our world? The theme for the upcoming Centennial Celebration in our parish?

Guess what? No matter which answer you picked, you’ve picked the right answer!

Just to remind you briefly about our history, discussions between the Diocese and the Franciscan Friars led to an invitation to form a new parish in this community more than a century ago. In January 1895, the first church services were held in temporary facilities. A small church was built; it was formally dedicated on April 7, 1895. We celebrated the centennial of the formation of the parish back in September 1995, celebrating with the theme “100 Years of Blessings.”

The parish grew quickly in those early years, and a larger



Members of the 2008 Centennial Committee

Back L-R: David Sundquist, Gregg Campbell, Roberta Wahlberg, Toni Tino; Front L-R: Shaaron Gilson, Marianne Grisez, Rosalie Rashid, Rose Cartmill; Not Pictured: John & Barbara Berger, Jennifer Stanley, Susan Silva, Vickie Cosentino.

PHOTO: J.D. WARRICK

church was soon needed. The cornerstone for the larger church was laid on the site of the first church on October 18, 1908. Two years later, on October 23, 1910, this church was dedicated. Almost 100 years later, this is the church building that we are still using today. And so we are planning to begin the Centennial Celebration of our church in October 2008, with events continuing into the year 2010.

In order to plan for the Centennial Celebration, a committee of the Parish Council was formed in Fall 2004, with David Sundquist

graciously agreeing to chair the committee. A dedicated group of volunteers has been meeting, working, and researching for almost 2 years. They have focused their work on compiling a history of the parish and church, and on planning events and projects to take place during the Celebration.

The group held meetings one weekend last January after every Mass, to give all parishioners a chance to suggest activities to

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MARCH 12-15 LENTEN RETREAT WITH FR. BEN INNES, OFM

“God, Grace & Growth—Not Guilt: Our Lenten Journey”

By Fran Anderson

“As a retreat Director, I have often witnessed the changes that come over people because of what they experience on retreat. The positive experiences are very life-giving. It is great to see people experience



PHOTO: FRANCISCAN FRIARS

God for the first time or to have that experience again. Also to witness people have moments of great personal insight.”
— Fr. Ben Innes, OFM

Last year, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, we made time—5 evenings in a row—for a parish Lenten retreat. On Monday through Friday evenings, members of our parish ministries prepared a simple supper for us, and then we gathered in the church to hear Fr. Michael Doherty, OFM talk to us about Lenten gospel stories and how they related to our lives.

This was new for our parish, and staff wondered if busy people could make such a huge commitment of time. But make it you did! An average of 250 people attended each night, which was phenomenal.

Given last year’s success, the parish will once again host a Lenten Retreat—this year with Fr. Ben Innes, OFM, whose experience presenting retreats includes 6 years at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona plus 9 years as Retreat Director for Mission San Luis Rey. For Fr. Ben, “Youth, Young Adult and Evangelization Retreats have been my strong suit.”

“Lent is a time for us to reconnect with our spiritual self and to grow,” says Fr. Ben.

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TAIZÉ AT ST. FRANCIS

By J.D. Warrick

Have you ever been to a Taizé service on Wednesday evenings? These days I attend as often as I can, but it took me much longer to arrive at Taizé than it probably should have.

First off, have you noticed that Taizé is a word that nobody really seems to know how to pronounce? Some say “tay-ZAY” and some say “tie-ZAY.”

Then I found out that Taizé is a town in France a little south of Burgundy. So it is a French religious service? I also read that it is popular among young people. Well, this was all foreign sounding enough to keep me away from the church on Wednesday nights.

But still I found myself very curious, and very drawn to the idea of an hour of singing and prayer.

I had read that Taizé was founded in the 1940s by Brother Roger Schutz who, a mere 25 years old at the time, settled in Taizé, France after the war in order to help those who were needy, as well as refugees of all nationalities and religions. Brother Roger wanted a community where “kindness of heart would be a matter of practical experience.” He wanted a place where reconciliation between Christians was lived out each day, and where people of all ages would be welcome.

Taizé at St. Francis is one of the oldest ministries in the parish and was started during the first week of Lent in 1991. The original team consisted of Kim Ingraham, who was staff Liturgist at the time, Alan Nissila, and Jean Iacino. It seems remarkable to me that, more than fifteen years later, two of the original team members are still organizing and participating in the weekly services.

That first year Kim was the cantor and Alan the accompanist, with Jean and several others helping out. Except during a period of renovation, Taizé has always been held in the church. Each Wednesday Alan and Jean, now joined by Tony Tarango, with Vaughn Wolff on violin and Lin Maples on harp and flute, gather with a dozen or more others to sing praise to the Lord. Tony noted that “Wednesday is nicely situated between Sunday Eucharistic celebrations, so it is a nice mid-week opportunity to gather and worship in our beautiful sanctuary.”

Loosely based on evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours, Taizé is, as Jean put it, “prayer around the cross.” The hour-long service includes songs, psalms, a short period of silence, a reading of the Gospel from the Sunday coming up, intercessions, the Lord’s Prayer, a concluding prayer, and more song. After the last song, most people sit quietly for a moment or two in reflection before gathering the cushions and putting away the chairs and candles.



Members of the Taizé Ministry

Bottom Front: Tony Tarango, Jean Iacino;
Back: Vaughn Wolff; Not Pictured: Alan Nissila, Lin Maples

PHOTO: J.D. WARRICK

Most of the music used during the service was written by members of the Taizé community in France and, with a simple melody line, is very accessible to all vocal ranges and easy to learn (lyric sheets are provided). In fact, parishioners might recognize some of the music; the song “Stay With Me” (the English translation of the song “Bleibet Hier”) is sung by our congregation on Holy Thursday as we follow the Eucharist from the church, and other pieces show up once in a while during Mass.

Tony mentioned the ecumenical nature of the service and noted that “people from many different Christian churches come and join us. We have had people from the Episcopal cathedral join us, even

a minister from a local Baptist church.” Jean added that “Taizé can be what you need it to be. Some people sing, others do not. Some people fall asleep, others at times have danced or done strange things. You can sit on a chair, in a pew or on the floor, with the group or apart, participate or just listen.” In short, it seems that Taizé really does offer something to touch the spirit of everyone who attends.

One evening after Taizé, Alan suggested that I “write about what Taizé” means to me. In thinking about this suggestion I noticed that, for me, Taizé is certainly a mid-week reconnection with God, with people, with the Church, and with myself. But it is also easy to see that it can be many things to many people and your experience may be different. I am sure that most will find that, sitting in the darkened church with the smell of incense filling the enormous room and the voices reverberating off the walls and ceiling, it is easy to forget that this all began so many thousand miles away. It is an hour of calm, with a focus on Jesus. Age, nationality... it does not matter. The appeal is truly *katholikos*.

And by the way, Jean tells me that the word is pronounced “tuh-ZAY.” But however you want to say it, stop by the church any Wednesday from 6PM-7PM. Come sing, pray, sleep, or just listen. And be refreshed.

For more information about the Taizé community in France, visit their website at:
www.taize.fr/en ❖

MASS APPEAL

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www.stfrancisparish.com



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

“HOW DO I GET INVOLVED IN THE PARISH?”

By Fran Anderson

“We respond to the command of Jesus to love by welcoming all...”
– SFAP Mission Statement

There’s no doubt that people feel welcomed by our parish community! Often they want to give back to the community by participating in our ministries, and to get to know the people of our community beyond the sign of peace offered during Mass. In 2000, a special ministry began as a vehicle to help people make those connections: St. Francis Parish 101 (SFP101).

Long-time Membership and SFP101 Coordinator Loretta Tulley remembers that the name for the ministry was suggested by parishioner Patrick Maher. The analogy was to “the basic curriculum one undertakes upon entering a new subject field.”



Loretta Tulley
PHOTO: CATHY FLORES

The new subject would be our parish, the teachers would be the pastor, members of the parish staff and council; and the students would be new parishioners and anyone else who was interested. According to Loretta, the students would receive a packet of information “to take home for perusal at one’s kitchen table, as an assist in remembering who does what, whom to call for what, where to go, etc.”

SFP101 sessions have been held for the past 6 years, 3 times per year. New parishioners receive a letter with a personal invitation, plus a follow-up phone call from Parish Council



SFP101 Coordinators
Left-Right: Janet Vitt, Barbara Bucher

PHOTO: J.D. WARRICK

members inviting them to attend. The sessions are open to anyone who is interested; upcoming sessions are announced in the Sunday bulletin.

Loretta “retired” last year as Membership & SFP101 Coordinator, first providing helpful training to parishioner Barbara Bucher who, along with Parish Council member Janet Vitt, is currently coordinating SFP101 sessions. We thank Loretta for her years of service and Barbara and Janet for ensuring that this ministry continues.

Barbara herself is a “graduate” of SFP101 and remembers well the session that she attended: people introduced themselves and told briefly “how they wound up at St. Francis. In each case you could see other heads nodding as in, ‘I know that feeling.’” After brief presentations by staff and council members, those attending were encouraged “to ask any questions, or make any comments, they might have. As I recall, this finally had to be brought to an end or we would have been there all night.” All in all, Barbara shares, “It was a great evening.... Best of all, we had met the people who were listed on the handouts, so making that first call, or accepting that first invitation to help, was so much easier to do.” She and her husband, Ken (who volunteers in the Music Ministry) were “both greatly surprised at the amount of ‘walking the talk’ that goes on at St. Francis.”

The next session of St. Francis Parish 101 is scheduled for February 25 at 11:00 AM in Brunsmann Hall. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

More info: Barbara Bucher, Membership Coordinator
(916) 443-8084 x210 or Membership@stfrancisparish.com ❖

LENTEN RETREAT

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During Lent, more than at any other time of the liturgical year, we feel the yearning to walk with Christ. We experience not only the suffering of the passion of Christ, but the hope of his resurrection; and we reflect on the suffering in our own lives, in the lives of family, friends and the world, and we feel the stirring of hope. We long for spiritual renewal.

Fr. Ben’s passion is, “To free people from guilt, to open them up to God’s unlimited love...[so that they can] love not fear God. ...[Can] be open to God’s plan for each of us.” This enthusiasm and his “own experi-

ence of God” underlie the theme of this year’s retreat, “God, Grace & Growth–Not Guilt: Our Lenten Journey.”

During Lent we fast, we give alms, we walk the Stations of the Cross with Jesus on Friday afternoons in the Church, we read our Little Black Books for Lent. And we wish for just a little bit more time to spend in prayer and reflection. Please join us for an inspiring Lenten experience!

Flyers with registration forms are available in the church literature racks, or register online: www.stfrancisparish.com ❖

Lenten Retreat
Mon-Thu, March 12-15
7pm-8:30pm
in the Church

*Preceded by Simple Supper
at 5:50pm in Brunsmann Hall*

- **Teen Session: Sun 3/11**
5pm-7pm
Brunsmann Hall
Pizza provided
- **Senior Session: Tue 3/13**
10am-Noon
Brunsmann Hall
Lunch provided

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"From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."
Ephesians 4:16

2008 CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

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include in the Celebration, and many great ideas emerged in those meetings.

Here are just a few of the plans for the Centennial Celebration:

- **Coffee Table Book** - containing the history of the church and the parish
- **Special Musical Events** - to be held in the church
- **Special Centennial Celebration Quilt** - to be created
- **Special Celebration Masses** - such as a mass honoring all couples married in our church. (The Committee found that we've had thousands of weddings in the past century!)

The parish will also be considering building improvements that

would coincide with the Centennial Celebration. These might include repairs to the frescos and stained glass windows, new or refurbished main doors to the church, and other projects as fund-raising allows.

The 2008 Centennial Committee would be happy to hear any other suggestions you have, and of course, your volunteer time and talent will be needed as the group starts to work on specific events and activities. Together, we can rebuild our church.

Please contact David Sundquist with your offers of help and any ideas you'd like to share. Send an email to:
ParishCouncil@stfrancisparish.com ❖

MASS APPEAL

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Information: Ministries & Events

Please check the weekly bulletin on our website at www.stfrancisparish.com, or call the parish office at (916) 443-8084 if you would like more information about, or would like to become involved in, one of our ongoing ministries, or for information about any of our scheduled events.

Mass Schedule

- Saturday Vigil—5:15 PM
- Sunday—7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 12 NOON
- Daily Mass Monday-Friday—12:10 PM in Chapel

Reconciliation

- Saturdays—4:00-5:00 PM and by appointment