

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear parishioners:

This ground-breaking interview with Pope Francis came out last week and I am printing it in my column for those who might not have read it. We are witnessing the Holy Spirit at work! Blessings on your week!

*In his most extensive and revealing interview since he was [elected in March](#), Pope Francis sat for a series of talks in August with a fellow Jesuit, the Rev. Antonio Spadaro. The pope talked about his vision of the church, and why he has chosen not to spend much time talking about abortion, gay marriage and contraception. He explained what he meant by the headline-grabbing remark he made about gay people: "Who am I to judge?" And he said that doubt is essential to finding God.*

**Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?** I am a sinner. This is the most accurate definition. It is not a figure of speech, a literary genre. I am a sinner.

**Why did you become a Jesuit, a member of the Society of Jesus?** Three things in particular struck me about the Society: the missionary spirit, community and discipline. And this is strange, because I am a really, really undisciplined person. But their discipline, the way they manage their time — these things struck me so much.

**What did you learn in your early experience as superior of the Jesuit province in Argentina?** My authoritarian and quick manner of making decisions led me to have serious problems and to be accused of being ultraconservative. I lived a time of great interior crisis when I was in Cordova. To be sure, I have never been like Blessed Imelda, but I have never been a right-winger. It was my authoritarian way of making decisions that created problems.

**What should the church say to divorced and remarried people, and homosexuals?** In Buenos Aires I used to receive letters from homosexual persons who are "socially wounded" because they tell me that they feel like the church has always condemned them. But the church does not want to do this. During the return flight from Rio de Janeiro, I said that if a homosexual person is of good will and is in search of God, I am no one to judge. By saying this, I said what the catechism says. Religion has the right to express its opinion in the service of the people, but God in creation has set us free: it is not possible to interfere spiritually in the life of a person. A person once asked me if I approved of homosexuality. I replied with another question: "Tell me: when God looks at a gay person, does he endorse the existence of this person with love, or reject and condemn this person?" We must always consider the person.

**What kind of church do you dream of?** We cannot insist only on issues related to abortion, gay marriage and the use of contraceptive methods. This is not possible. I have not spoken much about these things, and I was reprimanded for that. But when we speak about these issues, we have to talk about them in a context. The teaching of the church, for that matter, is clear and I am a son of the church, but it is not necessary to talk about these issues all the time.

We have to find a new balance; otherwise even the moral edifice of the church is likely to fall like a house of cards, losing the freshness and fragrance of the Gospel. The proposal of the Gospel must be more simple, profound, radiant. It is from this proposition that the moral consequences then flow. I say this also thinking about the preaching and content of our preaching.

**What should be the role of women in the church?** I am wary of a solution that can be reduced to a kind of "female machismo," because a woman has a different makeup than a man. But what I hear about the role of women is often inspired by an ideology of machismo. Women are asking deep questions that must be addressed. The church cannot be herself without the woman and her role. The woman is essential for the church. Mary, a woman, is more important than the bishops. I say this because we must not confuse the function with the dignity. We must therefore investigate further the role of women in the church. We have to work harder to develop a profound theology of the woman. Only by making this step will it be possible to better reflect on their function within the church. The feminine genius is needed wherever we make important decisions. The challenge today is this: to think about the specific place of women also in those places where the authority of the church is exercised for various areas of the church.

**If encountering God is a journey, then we can make mistakes?** If one has the answers to all the questions — that is the proof that God is not with him. It means that he is a false prophet using religion for himself. The great leaders of the people of God, like Moses, have always left room for doubt. You must leave room for the Lord, not for our certainties; we must be humble. Our life is not given to us like an opera libretto, in which all is written down; but it means going, walking, doing, searching, seeing. ... We must enter into the adventure of the quest for meeting God; we must let God search and encounter us.

If the Christian is a restorationist, a legalist, if he wants everything clear and safe, then he will find nothing. Tradition and memory of the past must help us to have the courage to open up new areas to God. Those who today always look for disciplinarian solutions, those who long for an exaggerated doctrinal "security," those who stubbornly try to recover a past that no longer exists — they have a static and inward-directed view of things. In this way, faith becomes an ideology among other ideologies. I have a dogmatic certainty: God is in every person's life. God is in everyone's life. Even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs or anything else — God is in this person's life. You can, you must try to seek God in every human life. Although the life of a person is a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. **You have to trust God.**

*Father Michael Tang*

# *Blessing of the Animals ~ October 6<sup>th</sup> ~ after 12:15 PM Mass.*

Transfiguration School invites you to their next **VOLLEYBALL GAME** here at Transfiguration on **TUESDAY OCTOBER 1.**

**FABULOUS DRUMLINE, DIRECTED BY CHRIS NUÑO,  
ALL NEW CHEERLEADERS AND GREAT FOOD FOR SALE!**

Thank you to **Michele Starks** for the paper donation!  
Please continue to assist us throughout our school year by donating copy paper.  
Contact the school office at 323.292.3011.

**Faith, Hope and Charity Catholic Cancer Ministry Invites Everyone to  
COME PRAY TOGETHER AS ONE BODY "FOR CURES FOR CANCER"**

at the **8<sup>th</sup> Annual "Pray for A Cure for Cancer Mass & Anointing of the Sick"**.  
**Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM** at the **Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, 555 West Temple, L.A. 90012.**  
For more information contact Deacon Mark or Vickie Race at 310.259.6430 or email: pray4cure@ymail.com.

**ATTENTION ALL ORGANIZATION/MINISTRIES**  
**You are invited to attend the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Religious Education Congress  
of Our Lady of the Angels Regional  
OCTOBER 26, 2013**

Please sign up today with our DRE, Mrs. Refugio Godinez or call 323.291.1136.  
**Early Registration Fee: \$25 by October 11<sup>th</sup>. On-Site Registration Fee: \$30 per person.**  
St. Mary's Academy ~ 701 Grace Avenue, Inglewood 90301

### **31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL RED MASS**

All Members of the Legal Community are invited to the **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Red Mass on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 PM.**  
**Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, 555 West Temple Street, L.A. 90012.** The Homilist will be Monsignor Craig Cox, J.C.D. Hosted Reception immediately following in the Cathedral Conference Center. For further information call 626.914.8942 or email: stmsla@verizon.net.

### **PETITION OF THE SICK**

Virgie Aguilar, LaVern Agnew, Learie Apparicio, Helen Augusta, Veronica Bearce, Sister Juliet Berber, Glenda Brown, Andrei Briggs, Manual Brule, Joyce Burnett, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Alberto Casanova, Katherine Clark, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Beryl Davidson, Nigel Dunn, Angela Dupré, Ethel Earley, Robert Evans, Connie Farlice, Dwight Fauria, Gwen Files, Anita Finie, Teresa Franklin, Stacy Franklin, Marian Fussey, Mavis Gibbs, Msgr. Robert Howard, Mattie Hilburn, Janie Jackson, Loretta Jackson, Robert Jordan, Anita Kennedy, Irwin Lagarde, Jeanne LeBlanc, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Sister Marianna, Vydred Manor, Muriel Meyers, Yvonne Morgan, Louis Murphy, Dorothy Okoye, Dale Payne, Tina Peters, Daisy Pratt, Gerald Pratt, Wiley R. Pugh, Michelle Raines, Emma Rausch, Dottie Rodriguez, Reanna Semien, Lionel Smith, Sr., Darnell Stang, Barbara Starks, Michele Starks, Wilbur Starks, Alice Tenette, Stephanie Thompson, Emma Thornton, Iris Turner, Alice Vogel, Lubertha Weathers, and Lilla Williams.

### **Mass Intentions**

**Saturday September 28**  
5:15 PM Soul of Avelina Arcenas  
**Sunday September 29**  
8:00 AM Intentions of all Parishioners  
10:00 AM Soul of Anthony Middleton  
12:15 PM Soul of Mary Brule  
**Monday September 30**  
8:00 AM Intentions of Cynthia Richardson  
**Tuesday October 1**  
8:00 AM Intentions of the Johnson Family  
**Wednesday October 2**  
8:00 AM Intentions of Gwendolyn Files  
**Thursday October 3**  
8:00 AM Intentions of Vivian Burgess & Alice Tenette  
**Friday October 4**  
8:00 AM Intentions of Mary Lou Smith  
**Saturday October 5**  
5:15 PM Intentions of Mabel Walton  
**Sunday October 6**  
10:00 AM Intentions of all Parishioners

### **Sacrificial Gifts**

<b>Sunday, September 23, 2012</b>	<b>Sunday, September 22, 2013</b>
\$3,964.57 Sacrificial Gift	\$3,905.73 Sacrificial Gift
343.91 Building Fund	303.02 Building Fund
196.52 "We Care"	173.15 "We Care"

### **Attention Quilters!**

**African-American Quilters Of Los Angeles present their  
2013 Quilt Show Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 AM to 4  
PM at Carson Community Center in Carson, CA.**  
Admission \$7.00, Free Parking, Over 250 Quilts, Vendors,  
and Demonstrations! For more info go to  
[www.easysite.com/AAOLA](http://www.easysite.com/AAOLA) or call Sylvia Q. at  
323.293.5004.

### **Save the Date**

You are invited to HOWLETT'S new piece, ESTHER  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup> ~ 4PM**  
**PARK HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
5247 OVERDALE DRIVE L.A. 90043  
*Free will offering*