

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 1, 2012

Behold, our God; our protector

Jesus Provides Help in Hopeless Cases

It's said that a woman often marries someone like her father. It appears I married someone who resembles my mother. They're both warm and generous – and seriously directionally challenged. If not for online maps and GPS technology, neither would get to their destinations. My assessment is that both are beyond hope and help when it comes to improving their navigational skills.

Two of the people in today's Gospel are also beyond hope and beyond help, but in much more dramatic ways. The woman who touches Jesus' cloak has hemorrhaged for 12 years. She's not only physically ill, she's also considered ritually unclean and a social outcast. Jairus's daughter deteriorates from serious illness to death, and the crowds vocally discourage Jairus from bothering Jesus anymore. Both individuals appear to be too far gone to be helped.

Yet that's exactly where Jesus' healing touch is found – where hope is lost and help is exhausted. The woman reaches out and finds healing; Jesus brings new life to Jairus's daughter.

Certainly we know the experience of feeling beyond help. Whether it's a physical illness, battles and depression, patterns of sinful behavior we struggle to shake, or feelings of being unloved – at times many of us feel that human intervention can't reach us.

But Jesus isn't afraid of those dark places, and that's exactly where he reaches out to touch us with his gentle healing. Jesus may be unable to fix the navigational challenges of my family members, but in our true places of pain, he couldn't be closer.

– Janel Esker
sundaybulletins@liguori.org

Editor's Note: Fr. Bart's past columns are available on our parish's new Web site. Simply go to www.SJTBC.us and click on Priest's Weekly Message or subscribe to the RSS feed.

Mass Intentions for the Week

June 30 – July 7, 2012

	Intention	Requested By
Saturday, June 30	5 p.m. Jim Sanders †	Sanders Family
Sunday, July 1	8 a.m. Luis Torres †	Torres Family
	9:30 a.m. Cristituto Cruz †	Manuzon Family
	11 a.m. Paula Liu Thang	Grandparents
	12:30 p.m. Mark McEntire †	Eulalia McEntire
	6 p.m. Rosa Simoes †	Gina Rodrigues
Monday, July 2	8 a.m. Scott Thudium †	Menci Fereros
Tuesday, July 3	8 a.m. Michael Gorin Sr. †	Frank & Mildred Gardner
Wednesday, July 4	8 a.m. Fred Schlutner †	Don & Maria Davenport
Thursday, July 5	8 a.m. Olimpro Abella Real †	Anonymous
Friday, July 6	8 a.m. Peter Vietti †	Vietti Family
Saturday, July 7	8 a.m. Paula Liu – Good Health	Grandparents
	5 p.m. Flaviana J. Ramos †	Ferreros Family

Stewardship

Envelopes & EFT (117)	\$2,733
Loose Donations	<u>1,642</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$4,375

Please remember your parish in your will.



Lucas Gavidia

Tomas Gavidia

Message of Stewardship

Today's reading from St. Paul explains the "divine economy" of stewardship – "The relief of others ought not to impoverish you; there should be a certain equality. Your plenty at the present time should supply their need so that their surplus may, in turn, one day supply your need."



Rosario Aguilar

Antonio Carrico

St. John's Seniors

St. John the Baptist Community Center
6500 Gladys Ave., corner of Lexington

Director: Jan Duckart 527-2850

Telephone 237-3808 on Tuesdays

Tuesday, July 3:

11:30 a.m.: Sally Touriel (aka Sally Clark)

will demonstrate flower arranging

12:15 p.m.: Lunch

Let Us Pray for the Sick:

Crisostomo & Virginia Alday, Jade Austin, Evelyn Baker, Stella Baptista, Pearl & Patrick Batiste, Barbara Brendinger, Robert Britto, Genevieve Callegari, Lena Cardella, Jeff Chavez, Bernadine Clark, Jennette Cleadenger, Ernesto P. Cruz, Deloris Davis, Marlene Destine, Jim Gentile, Ann Gerletti, Philomena Giese, Teresa Grant, Domingos Gregorio, Ruben Gutierrez, Frances Haynes, Pat & Ray Jeffre, Addie Kasari, Tom Kennedy Jr., Robin Laws, Maria Impang Lozada, Alvina Lyons, Nancy McVey, Philip Moore, Victoria Payless, Fermin Radana, Linda Schneider, Amy Stymer, Jack Sudall, Salvador Tejero, Anna Verbanac and Helene Wulbern.

Please call the rectory to add or remove names.

We'll Honor the Chinese Martyrs Next Sunday

Catholicism was introduced to China in the 13th century by Italian Franciscans, but soon died out in a century or so.

The second wave of missionary activity started in the 16th century. The initial results were very promising, and a number of well-respected scholars and high court officials, such as the prime minister, became Catholics.

Unfortunately, a clash of cultures soon erupted, the focus of which was the ancient Chinese custom (or rites) of paying respect to Confucius and ancestors. Pope Innocent X forbade all Chinese Catholics from participating in all such activities at the beginning of 17th century. In response, the emperor of China banned Catholicism.

With the Church seen as an agent of foreign invasion, a persecution that lasts until this day soon ensued. Consequently, churches were destroyed and Catholics were imprisoned, tortured and killed, by government officials or mobs. Among the Chinese martyrs were bishops, priests, nuns, lay catechists, consecrated virgins and even catechumens; they were Chinese, French, Spanish, Italian in nationality. Regardless of their status in life and country of origin, each provided a heroic witness of faith in Christ with their lives.

On Oct. 1, 2000, Bl. Pope John Paul II canonized 120 Chinese martyrs in St. Peter's Square. In his homily, the Holy Father quoted the last words of St. Chi Zhuzi to his torturer, "Every piece of my flesh, every drop of my blood will tell you that I am Christian." Chinese Catholic martyrs, pray for us!

We will have a joint celebration with our Mandarin community next Sunday, July 8, at the 12:30 p.m. Mass, in honor of the Chinese martyrs. Their memorial is July 9.



Faithful Asked to Participate in 'Fortnight for Freedom'

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, concerned over threats to religious freedom, has called on all dioceses, parishes and other Catholic institutions to participate in a "Fortnight for Freedom" from June 21 to July 4.

This is a 14-day period of prayer, education and action by Catholics in support of religious freedom.

All Catholics in the Oakland Diocese are invited to join with the faithful cross our nation during this special time of prayer, study, catechesis and public action to emphasize both our Christian and American heritage of liberty.

All are invited to attend a Eucharistic Holy Hour at Christ the Light Cathedral each weekday, from 11 a.m. to noon during the fortnight.

One example of the threats to religious liberty is the rule, published by the administration in Washington DC. in February, that forces almost all private health plans nationwide to cover contraception, abortion-inducing drugs and devices, and sterilization.

Catholic charities, schools, universities or hospitals are not exempt, because – in accordance with their religion – they serve society as a whole.

In other words, the mandate forces these institutions and others to violate their conscience by paying for and facilitating procedures and drugs they consider immoral.

Information and resources are available at www.usccb.org and the diocesan website, www.diocese.org.

Our Freedom Was Purchased at Great Personal Price

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists.

Eleven were merchants.

Nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKearn was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding.

His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged Gen. George Washington to

open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year, he lived in forest and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later, he died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more.

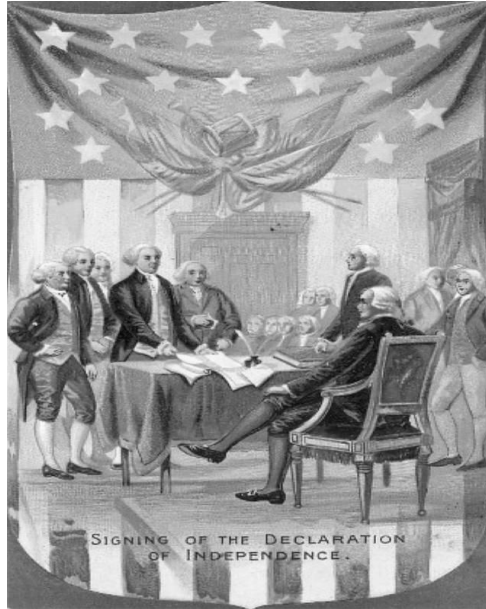
Standing tall, straight and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot about what happened

in the Revolutionary War. We didn't fight just the British. We were British subjects at that time, and we fought our own government!

Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't. So take a few minutes while enjoying the 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask, for the price they paid.

Remember: Freedom is never free!



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July 2012

CC – Community Center

CC-2 – Community Center Upstairs

CH – Church

CR – Conference Room

DR – Dining Room

MR – Music Room

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>13th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i> Noon: Ethiopians (CR) 7: Brazilian reception (CR)	2 7:30: 12:30 Choir	3 <i>St. Thomas Apostle</i> 9 am: Seniors (CC)	4 <i>Independence Day</i> Church office closed	5 7:30 pm: 11 am Choir	6 7:30 pm: Brazilian prayers (CR)	7 8:30: Anointing Sick 9:30: Council (CR) 3:30 pm Prayers (CH) 4: Confessions (CH)
8 <i>14th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i> 12:30: Chinese Martyrs Mass 2: Mandarin reception (CR) 7: Brazilian reception (CR)	9 7:30: 12:30 Choir 7:30: Sister Parish (CR)	10 9 am: Seniors (CC) 7 pm: African-Americans (CR)	11 12: Women's Covenant (CC-1) 6:30: 8 am Cantors	12 10: EC Royale Mass 7: St. Vincent de Paul 7:30: 11 am Choir	13 7:30 pm: Brazilian prayers (CR)	14 4: Confessions (CH)
15 <i>15th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i> 7: Brazilian reception (CR)	16 7:30: 12:30 Choir	17 9 am: Seniors (CC) 7 pm: Stewardship (CR)	18 12: Women's Covenant (CC-1) 6:30: 8 am Cantors	19 7:30: 11 am Choir	20 7:30 pm: Brazilian prayers (CR)	21 4: Confessions (CH)
22 <i>16th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i> 1 pm: Mandarin Bible (CR) 2 pm: Mandarin Mass 3 pm: Mandarin reception 7: Brazilian reception (CR)	23 7:30: 12:30 Choir	24 9 am: Seniors (CC)	25 <i>St. James Apostle</i> 12: Women's Covenant (CC-1) 6:30: 8 am Cantors	26 7: St. Vincent de Paul 7:30: 11 am Choir	27 7:30 pm: Brazilian prayers (CR)	28 4: Confessions (CH)
29 <i>17th Sunday of Ordinary Time</i> 7: Brazilian reception (CR)	30 7:30: 12:30 Choir	31 9 am: Seniors (CC)	1 12: Women's Covenant (CC-1) 6:30: 8 am Cantors	2 7:30: 11 am Choir	3 7:30 pm: Brazilian prayers (CR)	4 8:30: Anointing Sick 9:30: Council (CR) 3:30 pm Prayers (CH) 4: Confessions (CH)