



# Sunny Heart

A community united in Christ

SHARING OUR TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE TO SERVE GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

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## A Letter from our Pastor

*Welcome to another issue  
of SUNNYHEART!*

I continue to look forward to serving you in all your spiritual needs. Helping you to understand what stewardship is part of what being a pastor should be. And, I am truly honored that you have allowed me to assist you in understanding how you can share your time, talent and treasure.

The past year was a busy one for all us and much was asked of you as parishioners and school parents of St. Cyprian. Last year, I requested your participation in the parish survey. Now,

the Parish Advisory Council would like to share the results and encourages all parishioners to read the variety of observations from the respondents.

I want to thank Kathleen Haas who compiled the result of the survey and to all those who took the time to fill out this important survey. I am aware that it was an extensive survey and that it was not an easy one. But I think we achieved a significant response. We had 25% participation from those who normally come to the weekend Masses. Please get a detailed copy of the result of the survey at the vestibule. Thank you!

In September 2005, we mailed the survey to all registered parishioners and left

some 200 copies at the vestibule for the non-registered. During the Fall, I encouraged you to complete the survey. This survey was very important because in responding, you were giving the parish staff and the Advisory Council the ability to draw an objective assessment of the parish and school and, eventually, to plan appropriately for the future. More importantly, your input counted toward the needed image of the parish and school to move forward as we celebrate the silver anniversary of our Diocese this year.

I want to personally thank you for your commitment to the parish and school. Truly, it is my pleasure to serve you as pastor of the Catholic Community of St. Cyprian.

Sincerely,

*Fr. Arthur Yates*

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## Stewardship

### ***The Four Pillars of Stewardship***

You have heard about the three T's of stewardship; but what about the four P's? Well, the three T's – time, talent and treasure – describe the personal gifts that we offer to the Church. The four P's are the “four pillars” of stewardship described by the renowned pastor Msgr. Thomas McGread. They are the hallmark of a stewardship parish: hospitality, prayer, formation and service. Let's take a look at each of them to understand how we can improve in each area.

#### HOSPITALITY

##### **(Christian kindness)**

Jesus said: “When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25:35). The gospel teaches that whenever we welcome the least of our brothers or sisters, we welcome Jesus himself. That is why, the first pillar of a stewardship parish is hospitality. Being friendly is one of the first ways we can be Christ-like toward others. Modern Catholic parishes are often so large and have so many Masses that many parishioners don't know one another. Fortunately, here at St. Cyprian's, we are a small community. And, to effectively create a deeper sense of community, be sure to smile and greet others as you enter and exit the Church. Let us always try to be a welcoming community.

#### PRAYER

##### **(Heart-to-Heart with God)**

A seminary professor once taught: “Do not become so involved in the work of the Lord that you forget the Lord of the work.” In other words, don't get so caught up with parish projects and outreach efforts that you forget to draw aside to spend time with God in prayer. Every great saint has taught that prayer is the most essential component in the life of the Christian. Through prayer, we nurture our most important relationship – the one that will last for all eternity.

A healthy prayer life should include communal prayer such as Mass, as well as personal prayer and family prayer. The two biggest obstacles to prayer are lack of time and lack of understanding of how to pray. We have to schedule time for prayer just as we would for an important appointment. And, we have to learn how to pray for other people. Many saints have written spiritual books that describe different methods of prayer.

#### FORMATION

##### **(Continuous Conversion)**

The late Pope John Paul II always emphasized ongoing conversion. From childhood through adulthood, our whole life must be a process of drawing closer to God. He never

stops calling us forward to learn more and to examine

Ourselves more deeply.

Very often our society values material things more than interior virtues. But as personal experience shows, when we finally acquire the car or house or “toy” that we wanted so badly, it doesn't really satisfy. On the other hand, we don't tend to desire spiritual virtues with the same kind of longing but when we actually have them, we find them far more rewarding than material things.

#### SERVICE

##### **(Love in Action)**

Jesus said to his disciples: “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did to the least of my brothers or sisters, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40). This scripture was one of Mother Teresa's favorites. Each time she picked up a poor and hungry child, she knew that she was ministering to Jesus. While we may not view ourselves as saints, we too are called to such heroic service right within our own community. As the late Mother Teresa said: “To be a saint is not the privilege of a few but the duty of everyone.”

We have many service opportunities right here within our own parish. If you have the willingness to serve and take the initiative to find where you are needed, you will find that there is no end to the families and individuals who truly need help. How can you reach out to them in love?

## *Parishioners Profile*

### ***Otto and Sharon Stengel***



Here at St. Cyprian, we are privileged to have a number of parishioners who actually live outside the parish boundaries but volunteer their time to assist the celebration of the Eucharist through music. Two of them are the Stengel couple: Otto and Sharon. They made the commitment to lead the 9:30 AM choir in 1989.

For over 15 years now, Otto and Sharon have been serving us in some capacity as music ministers. A year after Fr. Hendel arrived, they signed up to help with music. Otto and Sharon believed that being music ministers at Mass together was something that they could do as a couple. They also saw the need for music ministers. They made a commitment and have led the 9:30 AM Sunday Mass choir since.

Sharon has shown how she values being involved in music ministry by representing the 9:30 choir on the parish Liturgy Committee. As a member, she has contributed countless hours of her time to making good music a priority in our liturgy, to helping us coordinate music groups for special liturgies and in bringing up important issues affecting music in the liturgy.

Serving the Church is a labor of love for Otto and Sharon. Serving our parish since the 90s, they have already received the Paul VI award from the Diocese for dedicating many years of their time to serving through music.

Otto enjoys playing the bass and the drums. By doing so, it inspires people to pray. Most of all, they can honestly say that what they love most, here at St. Cyprian, is being able to share their time and talent as they develop great music in the Church. And, it must be very rewarding for them!

Their choir practices every Tuesday evening from 7:30 till 8:30 and their line-up of songs follow the themes of the Sunday readings.

Let us thank Otto and Sharon for this great example of stewardship.

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### ***The Rodriguez Family***

Coordinating the hospitality during the 1st Sunday of the month is a great involvement to the parish and



school community for Elton and Anna. Elton works for the San Jose Park Department while Anna teaches part-time for migrant children. Daughter, Julia, who is a 5th grader of our school, serves as one of our altar servers and is in the school choir too. Julia enjoys school life at St. Cyprian's, especially because it will be where her younger sister Emilia will study someday.

When the Rodriguez family was first invited to lead the hospitality program, they were not quite aware of the magnitude of the task they were taking on. However, they were excited to immediately get started and figure out some changes to the usual hospitality.

They started raffling off a gift basket each month after the 11:00AM Family Mass. They appreciate the help that they have received from the school families, as well as the feedback on the changes they have made to this great St. Cyprian tradition.

Although this has entailed a lot of commitment from the Rodriguez Family, they hope that their efforts would inspire other families to get involved in other opportunities to improve the St. Cyprian community. They are glad that they are taking the lead for this because it offers them more time to get-to-know parishioners and school parents and most of all meet new friends.

Thank you, Elton and Anna.

# THEOLOGY On TAP

SiliconValleyYoungAdults & St. Cyprian Church  
present...

## Theology on Tap



"Living Out Loud: Being a Christian in the Silicon Valley"

featuring

**Rev. Brendan McGuire**

Sunday, February 19, 2005

Dinner 7pm

Speaker 7:30pm - 9pm

Admission: Free

Food and Drinks sold

**Scruffy Murphy's Irish Pub**

187 S. Murphy Ave  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086



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