



November 14, 2010 The Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time

*"But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun which is justice with its healing rays."
Malachi 3:20*

Dear Friends;

This past year **"Catholic Charities USA was one of only four charities among the top 10 charitable organizations to witness an increase in donations last year..."** (The Tablet 23 October 2010). Catholic Charities increased 5.2% while, overall, of the top 400 U.S. charities declined 11%, the largest decline in 20 years. The decline is attributed to the recession.

Catholic Charities USA attributes its success to coordinated efforts. Their campaign motto was "Now...more than ever." This year Catholic Charities of the East Bay celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary. Born in the Great Depression to serve people in great need, CCEB has been serving the needs of those most vulnerable, especially now. We congratulate them on a job well done. We pray for their continued success.

We live in difficult times in many ways similar to seventy-five years ago. **Yet they are times of great opportunity.** Recently I sent a letter to all of you thanking you for your generous contributions to the parish. While many parishes have experienced a decline in financial contributions we have remained flat.

However, the parish continues to grow and the demand is great. **Our financial contributions need to meet our current and growing needs.** We are not able to accomplish all that we could due to our financial limitations. Today as we look at the budget I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you might help us.

I urge you to fill out and mail your financial pledge cards. Your pledge helps us to formulate our budget for the coming year. Your pledge helps us to continue to further the work of the Kingdom of God. **I thank you in advance for your generous response—"now...more than ever."**

November is the time of the year when we begin to look back on the past year and to give thanks. It is also the time when we look forward to the coming year. Next Sunday on the feast of Christ the King, we will have the opportunity to renew our parish covenant.

The **St Anne Covenant** is the how we express our commitment to the mission of Jesus. What we as a parish community have to offer is Christ. We find him in our worship, in our connection with one another, in our growing of our God-given gifts and knowledge of Christ; and finally in our serving him by serving others.

Worship, connect, grow and serve are the central pillars of our mission. The word 'covenant' means partnership. Next Sunday we will again renew our commitment to partner with each other in bringing Christ to the world. **Thank you** again for the gift of yourselves; and thanks be to God who has blessed this community with an abundance of gifts.

You may have noticed the work going on around the facility. We have put in a lawn in the front of the building. We have also finished the rest of the landscaping around the chapel. We have also placed a hedge of dwarf oleanders along Camino Diablo. All of this should help improve the look of the place and keep the weeds at bay.

It also has become necessary to have a top coat placed on the parking lot. This is preventative maintenance. After four years the aggregate was starting to come loose. The seal should help preserve the asphalt for some years. We needed to get these projects completed before the height of the rainy season. These are but a few of the ongoing projects with which we need your help. Again thank you.

Peace,

Fr Ron