



Nativity News

Quarterly Newsletter - August 2010

Nativity Of Our Lady Catholic Church 221 Daly Avenue, San Luis Obispo

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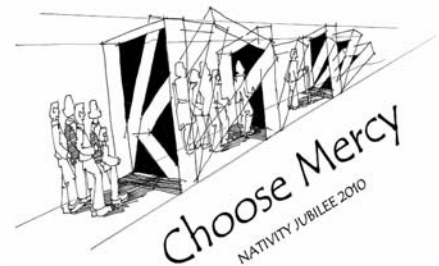
Jubilee Threshold

from the Pastor's Desk

Jubilee is always about thresholds. The original jubilee of scriptures was a year-long threshold of mercy and restoration. God in His wisdom realized that human life would constantly move to instability and inequality. Without the love of God, we as humans end up living sinfully through the misuse of power, through our greed and selfishness. Without God, the world and our lives will always be out of balance. Jubilee was God's plan for restoration for humanity.

The threshold we look at for our Jubilee is the threshold of God's mercy. Our scriptural theme is "Choose Mercy!"

Thresholds are liminal spaces. The Latin word for threshold is *limina*. It literally translates as the space in between. It is neither here nor there. It is the "nowhere" space. I am no longer where I was; nor where I am going. In spirituality it is often referred to as the "dark night of the soul" space. It is the place where we are no longer in control. It is the space that demands absolute trust in God, since none of our personal resources work. Jubilee in the Old Testament was a year of trusting that in the restoration of property, the forgiving of loans and the canceling of debts made the community whole. It challenged the community to the love, mercy and generosity of God. It challenged the community to gratitude, realizing that everything that the community and the individuals in the community had came as gift from God to be shared. It was especially about mercy.



Our gospel from Luke 15 is a series of three of the most powerful parables of Jesus. Each is about something lost and something found and the joy and celebration in the finding. Each challenges us to choose mercy.

In the first story, the sheep has wandered off and is lost. It is separated from the community and the shepherd and will die on its own. The shepherd could have written the sheep off, saying to himself, "Well, at least I have the ninety nine and it could be worse." Instead, the shepherd, reflecting the love and mercy of God, searches out the lost sheep, trusting that the ninety will be ok in the process. When he returns with the lost sheep, he celebrates. His flock is whole.

The second story is about the woman who loses the coin. The coin is more valuable than we think, representing about a year's worth of sustenance for her. She needs the wholeness that the coin represents and searches diligently to find it. Her situation is more desperate than that of the shepherd. When she finds the coin, she too, holds a celebration. Her life is whole.

The final story is one we are most familiar with and is the ultimate parable of Jesus reflecting the attitude of God towards us. Part of the story is about the son who demands a patrimony that was not really his until his father's death. In a sense, he is wishing for his father's death and makes the unreasonable demand that most in the community realize he would never get in real life. In Jesus' story, however, the father (God) gives the son what he does not deserve. The son wastes it and ultimately returns somewhat repentant (or is it really a matter of survival?) and the father even more generously—some would say, foolishly—restores him to the family. This parable however, is very different. In the story there is a celebration over the return of the lost

continued from page 1

son. But the story continues and is the only parable of Jesus that does not have a resolution. The older son—the faithful and obedient one—does not want to come to the party. The father goes out and begs, and the son complains about the injustice, though his issue is not so much about the injustice and what he could do, as much as it is about the fact that everything the father had left was his. This party to celebrate the lost brother is out of what he feels is his patrimony. We don't know what his choice was. Did he decide on wholeness and celebration or did he decide on selfishness and bitterness?

What is Christ trying to say to us? In the first two stories, there is a resolution and conclusion. We are not left in liminal space. We know the outcome. In the final story, Jesus is asking those in the crowd to provide the conclusion. He leaves them in the space in between. It is up to them and to us to provide the conclusion. It is up to them and to us to choose the mercy that is modeled in the first two stories. They are the oldest son.

So what is our choice? We are in the liminal space moving from our own selfishness and fear to a new place. Will we choose mercy or will we choose to simply stay in the foolishness of our failure and “take care of number one, reaping the bitterness that comes from that?”

Join us for our Jubilee. Help us to model a year of choosing mercy.

This year, there is a change in our Jubilee celebration. We will no longer hold the “Ministry Fair” on the same day as Jubilee. We hope to allow it more time in another venue to provide better opportunities and insights. We want to open more dialogue between our ministry representatives and parishioners. The Ministry Fair will follow all Masses on the weekend of September 25th and 26th (more information to come). We will move simply from celebration to celebration. Most importantly, we will have each other and rejoice as proper sons and daughters of a loving and merciful God. There are other wonderful surprises too, but I don't want to spoil the surprise. Come and see!

Fr. Mike

Putting the Yahoo! in Youth Ministry

from AnnE Lorenzen, Director of Youth Ministry

Wait until you get a gander at the goings-on in Youth Ministry this coming year—from a leadership gathering up in the mountains above Cayucos to an awesome OnFire extravaganza and concert at Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo to joint events with neighboring parish(es) to movie nights to parents-only socials to...well, let's just say that our year will be full of lots of high energy happenings for both Junior High and Senior High attendees! Both groups will meet from 7:00pm - 9:00pm this year (by popular demand).

And then there are the incredible and continuing journeys of our Year I and Year II Candidates for Confirmation (and their Families!). Calendars are already complete with the dates for *all Youth Ministry families* (including Confirmation)—these are on-line at nativityslo.org and in packets being mailed out directly to our families/youth. This year we are offering our teens even more opportunities to not only serve our Parish but each other as well, and these opportunities will be introduced at our first gatherings as well as at our **First Ever Stressless Orientation Social** for *all* parents of *any* age Youth Ministry pre-teen or teen (Junior High through High School/Confirmation). The **S.O.S.** is scheduled for Tuesday evening, September 21st at 6:30pm in the Nativity Parish Hall.

Patty Miller is riding shotgun with AnnE this year—especially in the Junior High Ministry—and the Miller Family is hosting the First Gathering for Junior High at the Miller Home on Friday evening, August 27th at 7:00pm. The first High School Gathering is Sunday, August 29th at 7:00pm at the Mission Youth Center. Expect e-mails, post cards, and phone calls to keep you all in the loop of Happenings. Please Note: AnnE will be calling upon our Dads this year for an exclusive opportunity called **DADS ON DECK** (DOD) which will be introduced at the S.O.S.

Here's to a spectacular year with Youth Ministry—and you don't have to be a parent of a teen or pre-teen to join up with us!

Family Fun at Jubilee Sunday 2010

This year's 11th Jubilee Sunday promises to be just plain, good old-fashioned country-fair atmosphere and fun for the entire Family. Who doesn't enjoy participating in—or watching—three-legged races, egg races, water-balloon tosses, and the like? Every age group can compete—or cheer contestants on—for any of these offerings and several others. And given our Jubilee Theme, "Choose Mercy," we are imagining that all participants will be merciful in their play.

Our super-generous Walter Ajanel will be providing us once again with his awesome wheeled things from Wally's Bicycle Works—those small-but-hilarious vehicles are always a big part of the fun at Jubilee. Fair warning, though, these are designed to amuse and entertain our younger parishioners as opposed to our full-grown manly types because Walter wants everyone to experience fun AND safe riding/peddling.

As for food, come prepared to indulge in and enjoy some home-cooked, stick-to-your-ribs delicious fare with your Parish friends and neighbors.

What a day! We celebrate Eucharist together and then we bring Jesus to our Jubilee and all the wonders that this day holds for our Parish. And since many hands make light work, do call Donna or Mary in the office (544.2357) to find out if we're holding the most perfect spot for you to fill. See you all on Jubilee Sunday, September 12th!

Jubilee Sunday

Volunteer Opportunities

It takes many awesome volunteers to make Jubilee a fabulous parish-wide celebration. Please review the list of opportunities and join in the fun!

The **Volunteer Opportunities** include:

- *set up and clean up*
- *lunch servers*
- *game attendants*
- *bake sale servers*
- *book sale shop keepers*
- *refreshment bar attendees*

Sign-up sheets will be available in the parish hall after Mass beginning Saturday, August 21 and also at the parish office during regular business hours.

Mary and Donna will be anxiously awaiting your participation, so for questions, and/or more information, please contact Mary or Donna at the parish office! Thank you!

Jubilee Sunday - Annual Parish Event
Come Celebrate!

Jubilee Raffle

The raffle is always a fun event for all ages and we hope to make this year's raffle even more exciting.

Some raffle items for this year will include:

- *Four Tickets to Walt Disney Museum In San Francisco*
- *Tickets for Patriot Sport Fishing in Port San Luis*
- *Gift Certificates to Performance Athletics and Splash Cafe*

We need your help as it will be great to have a variety of gifts including toys, sports equipment, board games, books, gift certificates and gift baskets. If you are interested in donating items, please drop off your donations at the parish office. If you have any questions or ideas to share, please call Mary or Donna at the parish office. Thank You!

Jubilee Book Sale

New and Used Books We are gathering new and used books for our annual book sale on Jubilee Sunday. We accept hardbacks and paperbacks in good condition. Please no textbooks, magazines and/or encyclopedias. If you would like to donate, please drop books off at the parish office during business hours or in room 5 after Mass. Thank you!

Jubilee Mass - Music Ministry

Interested in singing with the Jubilee Mass choir? Please contact Sr. Theresa Harpin by Monday, August 23rd. Watch for rehearsal dates and times in upcoming bulletins.



Nativity of Our Lady Catholic Church
221 Daly Avenue
San Luis Obispo CA 93405

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Jubilee Sunday, September 12

**Italian Pasta Feast
1:00pm**

Enjoy a fabulous Italian Pasta Lunch which includes Three Pasta Entrees:
Cheese Rigatoni, Fettuccini Alfredo
and Penne with Meat Sauce,
Green Salad, and Bread

\$8.00 per person

Italian Pasta Feast Tickets available to purchase after all Masses beginning Saturday, August 21 and at the parish office during regular business hours.

Jubilee Sunday Schedule

11:00am Mass under the tent

1:00pm Italian Pasta Feast

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Bake Sale

Book Fair

Cotton Candy

Face Painting

Carnival Games

Popcorn

Pedicab Rides

Raffle

Three Legged Races

Water Balloon Tosses

....and more!!!