

CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION

Painting by Eve Pecchenino

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Jim Falcone: Serving God Through His Work



Jim Falcone (right) assists at Holy Grounds, our parish coffeehouse

For Presentation Administrator Jim Falcone, working at Presentation is about answering the call to live a Stewardship Way of Life. “It’s a call from God saying, ‘Okay, at this time in your life this is where I want you to be.’”

Jim says. “I see it as a ministry, and this way am always close to our Church and to God.”

Jim states, “My grandfather was an American citizen and worked on the railroads in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio.” “He used to go back to Italy to visit his wife and make children.” Jim’s father received a notice that, because his grandfather was a U. S. citizen; his father, Antonio, had a limited time to come to the U.S. Because of the strong wish of his mother, Concetta, they came to the U.S. in 1962. Both parents were in their 40s when they came to this country. He recalls “We came on a ship from Naples to New York City.” The family settled in a town named Roseto, Pa., an Italian community, built by the Italians from Roseto, Italy. In fact, his mother never had the need to learn to

speak English. Through a parish scholarship based on need, both Jim and his brother, Philip, were able to attend the regional grade school and high school.

In college, Jim met his wife, Karen, and they have been married for 38 years. They have two children, Gabrielle and Tony, who are both married with children of their own. Jim graduated from college with undergraduate degrees in Sociology and Anthropology and a Master of Arts degree in Counseling Education. For over 26 years, Jim worked in university administration at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Temple University. In 1990, Jim accepted the position of Director of Housing at the University of the Pacific and eventually was promoted to the positions of Assistant Dean of Students and Assistant to the Vice President.

Karen has always been a leader within the Catholic Church. “Karen is the kind of person who always gets involved, so she started volunteering early on,” Jim says. “At that time, I was not someone who felt comfortable stepping up to volunteer; but with her encouragement, I did. Karen nominated me to be a member of the Presentation Steering Committee.” Father Silva accepted my nomination. After the old church burned, Jim

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The Importance of Family Prayer

“The family that prays together stays together.”

This famous slogan was coined by Fr. Patrick Peyton, and has been frequently referenced ever since. The phrase pinpoints the true power of prayer, and the importance of making family prayer a consistent practice in our lives.

As Christian disciples, we are striving to follow Jesus – to grow in our love of Him and to serve Him through the use of our time, talent and treasure. If we desire to follow in His footsteps, we must first begin by getting to know Him. Spending time with the Lord in prayer forms a foundation on which we can build our lives as Christian disciples, much in the same way that spending time with a girlfriend or boyfriend forms the foundation of a strong relationship.

The Christian family is the first place where children learn to pray. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the family unit “*Ecclesia domestica*,” or “the Domestic Church” (1656). Thus, parents have a responsibility to set an example by taking time for personal prayer every day, and making family prayer a regular practice. This not only sets an example for the children, but also provides them with a faith-filled foundation and brings them closer to the Lord – forming them as grateful stewards of their time.

There are many ways in which a family can pray together. One of the most important times for prayer is before meals, where we thank God for His blessings and for the food on our family table. Families may also share in the formal prayers of the Church, or perhaps pray a Rosary together every night. We can also thank the Lord aloud, asking Him to answer our prayers and offering Him our daily petitions. One often-suggested method of family prayer is ACTS, where we offer Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Families may also go to their church and kneel together before the Blessed Sacrament, offering prayers in Christ’s presence.

These are just several of the many opportunities for families to pray together. Of course, prayer will be influenced by each family’s dynamics and

personalities. But no matter how we pray, it is important that we make the time to do so. This will deepen the family’s relationship with the Lord, our commitment as His disciples will be stronger, and we may continually renew and foster our families’ bonds.



PRAYER OF PARENTS:

God, our Father, I thank you for the gift of my children and for the privilege and responsibility of being a parent, for this is my way of holiness.

May I regard each of my children as a sacred pledge of Your love and a beautiful sign of Your confidence in me.

Help me to pass on to my children our greatest treasures - faith in Your truths, hope in Your goodness, love in Your name for all.

I entrust my children to Your loving care.
Banish from our home any bitterness or lack of forgiveness.

Let us have time, deep concern, and a sense of sacrifice for one another. Teach us never to be ashamed that we are, in name and in fact, a Catholic family striving to live in the way of Jesus, Who is head of our home.

Give us Your Holy Spirit to unite us throughout this life and let the circle of our family be unbroken in the Kingdom of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A Letter From Our Pastor

October: Helping to Feed Spiritual Hunger

Dear Parishioners,

Have you ever been hungry – *really* hungry? Some of us may have experienced this physical kind of hunger; and we know that living here in Stockton, there are those in our community who even experience extreme hunger. As intentional disciples, we know that Jesus asks us to “Feed the Hungry.” While we are aware of the reality that we, as a faith community, cannot eliminate everyone’s physical hunger; we must do what we can to feed those around us. I am sure that individuals in our faith community help to alleviate hunger in ways that we never see, through sharing their time, talent and treasure. We as a faith community try to help satisfy physical hunger, as well as other “hungers” for shelter and clothing, through our Food Pantry, the various Giving Tree projects, participation in Love Stockton and the Fifth Sunday Collection.

For most of us, when we are asked, “Have you ever been hungry?” – the answer is no. However, ask the question in a different way: “For what do you hunger?” If you reflect on that question, you will find that you tap into times when you experienced “spiritual hunger.” As intentional disciples we must also feed the “spiritually hungry.” We probably all know someone who is hungering for something, but doesn’t even have the language to express it. How do we as intentional disciples connect with those who are hungering for a relationship with Jesus or who feel disconnected from the Church or the Faith Community? Being an intentional disciple is a response to a relationship with Jesus and a call to respond to others. Much of responding to this type of “spiritual hunger” comes from personal connection and invitation. One parishioner stated this reality this way, “When I was out there in the wilderness, I didn’t seem to have time to even think about what I was missing, as I was raising five rambunctious sons. Additionally, I was concerned about my own mother’s lack of community and could see how much good a faith community would be for

all of us. When I began to explore becoming a Catholic, Sister Sylvia said that Jesus had called me. I began to see that Jesus did call to me often, I just didn’t recognize his voice.”

As a parish faith community, we have used our time, talent and treasure to respond to various “spiritual hungers” through our Grief Support Ministry, Funeral Ministry, Prison Ministry participants and those who visit the homebound. We have also responded to “spiritual hungers” through our faith formation processes, various scripture and prayer ministries and by welcoming returning Catholics through Landings,. Still, we are aware that there are still those who feel alienated and/or disconnected.

The parish’s strategic plan includes looking at ways to better meet the spiritual needs of our families in our faith formation processes; as well as considering ways to reconnect with the Catholics who feel disconnected in our community. We are not sure how to nourish these hungers, but we are in the process of exploring ways to meet those needs. In January, our family-friendly Parish Mission will center on our relationship with Jesus; and, hopefully, as a faith community we can also invite those who may feel “unwelcome” to join us. Will YOU reach out lovingly to those who are “spiritually hungry,” by sharing the love Christ has lavished upon you?

As intentional disciples, we are all called to be in relationships with Jesus and to emulate Him for the sake of others.

Blessed Mother Teresa advised us, “If you can’t feed a hundred people then feed just one.” Let each of us be open to noticing that one, and feeding him or her - whether physically, spiritually or both.”

In Christ,
Msgr. Lawrence J. McGovern, STL
Pastor



“Our Pursuit of Academic Excellence Infused

Presentation Parish School has built a distinctive reputation within our community. Our school not only offers an excellent education, but also does so within a familial environment – and the fruits of this model are evident in our graduates.

“Our pursuit of academic excellence infused with Catholic values, culture and life has been what has guided Presentation Parish School for the last 50 years,” says Frederick A. Medina, the school’s President. “Although the future is always changing, we are rooted in the principles and beliefs of our Catholic faith in Jesus Christ.”

As we begin another school year, Presentation School continues to find new modes of augmenting its mission to form well-rounded young adults. In pursuit of this goal, the arts will become an even larger part of school life.

The new music teacher, Ms. Maribel Alvarez-Munoz, will direct the choir and start a Strings program for fifth through eighth-grade students. In addition, seventh and eighth-grade students will be learning to play the ukulele and fourth-grade students the recorder.

Theatrical instruction will also become an integral part of the school’s academic life, because, “We have a great new resource as our new fourth-grade teacher,

Mrs. Elizabeth Costello, has much experience in theater,” Principal Maria Amen says.

“We also have a great resource as our fourth-grade teacher and her husband have a local live theater,” Principal Amen adds. “Reader’s Theater will also be part of our Language Arts program.”

Visual Arts will be emphasized through the parent-run Art Docent program, and one of the teachers will teach about artists and help students create pieces that reflect that artist’s style. We are also working with a local artist who will come in and teach art classes.

Seventh and eighth-grade students will rotate each trimester through three “elective” type classes – Presentation Theater, Nurturing Artists and Gathering News. In Gathering News, they will write articles and then record and interview local people about their businesses, jobs or ministries.

“In addition to giving students an opportunity to develop creativity and self-esteem, studies have shown that the arts are a key component of improving learning in all academic areas,” says Principal Amen.

This year, Presentation School will also be increasing opportunities for students to use technology and to learn about the legal and social responsibilities associated with technology.

“Technology provides support for students and teachers to use visuals, reinforce and practice skills,



“Our parish and school continue to embrace the stewardship model. As we move forward, this spirit of gratitude will give us the blessing to maintain the sense of family community.”
— *Principal Maria Amen*

With Catholic Values”

Presentation Parish School



and to apply skills to create products” Mr. Medina says. “The ability for teams to work together via the Internet without having to physically meet is essential to sharing ideas across the world.”

Individual iPads are available to students in seventh and eighth grade. Students from first through sixth grade share a set of 16 iPads. The students also have access to a computer lab and tech instructor.

“We are working on completing the shared set of iPads this year to create a 1:1 ratio,” Mr. Medina says. “Our goal is to have iPads for each student in sixth through eighth grade, and mobile carts for first through third grade, and fourth and fifth grade.”

Both Mr. Medina and Principal Amen are members of Presentation Parish and believe in Monsignor’s visionary model of stewardship for the parish and the school.

Currently, Presentation Parish generously offers scholarships up to 50 percent of the tuition, although in extreme circumstances, individual cases can be reconsidered for additional support. If we continue to embrace stewardship, the impact will be tremendous.

“As a school ministry, we would be able to open our doors to all our parishioners, regardless of income, as cost of tuition is the number one barrier to attending our school,” says Mr. Medina. “Parents have expressed the desire to attend Presentation School not just for the academic excellence, but also for the Christian community.”

Presentation Parish School continues to build upon its reputation within our community and anticipates serving the community for decades to come by offering

a holistic and innovative education for our young people.

“Our parish and school continue to embrace the stewardship model,” Principal Amen says. “As we move forward, this spirit of gratitude will give us the blessing to maintain the sense of family community.”



**For more information about
Presentation School, contact the school
office at 209-472-2140.**



October: A Month to Turn to Our Lady of the Rosary



Day by day, our heavenly Father provides spiritual food and graces to His beloved children, nourishing us on our earthly pilgrimage. October brings us the grace of the Holy Rosary, a prayer buried deeply in the heart of the Church, as one of its most precious treasures.

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, which takes place Oct. 7, is a commemorative feast established by St. Pius V on the anniversary of the naval victory won by the Christian fleet at Lepanto. The victory was attributed to the help of the Mother of God, whose aid was invoked by praying the Rosary.

This victory revealed the power of the Holy Rosary more than ever. Catholics who were open to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit took with deep resolve the Rosary as their link to God.

Pope John Paul II, in his 2002 Apostolic Letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, writes:

“The Church has always attributed particular efficacy to this prayer, entrusting to the Rosary ... the most difficult problems. At times when Christianity itself seemed under threat, its deliverance was attributed to the power of this prayer, and Our Lady of the Rosary was acclaimed as the one whose intercession brought salvation” (39).

Thus, not merely through the Rosary, but more significantly, through the woman behind the Rosary – the glorious Mother of our Savior, Christ the Lord – a wellspring of God’s love has been discovered. Indeed, the Rosary is truly a way to discover Christ’s infinite love by means of the tender heart of His Mother.

“With the Rosary, the Christian people *sits at the school of Mary* and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer” (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae* 1).

A great number of saints, such as Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who had a special concern for the preservation of the Christian family, sensed that its salvation would be through the Holy Rosary. And as Pope John Paul II wrote, “Today I willingly entrust to the power of this prayer ... the cause of peace in the world and the cause of the family” (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae* 39). Our Lady of Fatima, who pleaded with families to pray the daily Rosary, would agree with him!

Let us entrust everything to the Rosary along with the saints. As our hearts burn with hope, let us give to the Mother of God every concern that we bear, each cross we carry, piece by piece, worry by worry. She will be there to offer everything to our Heavenly Father, whose care for each one of His children reaches beyond anything we could ever imagine.

*Don't
Forget!*

2015
PARISH
RETREAT

The retreat will be held
October 16-17, 2015.
There is no cost to attend.

Contact the Parish Office for
details: 209-472-2150

Presentation Parish Operating Results July 1, 2014 — June 30, 2015

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:10

	Actual
Revenue	
Offertory	1,438,280
Ministry Income(Including School)	1,879,891
Other Income *	140,226
Restricted Donations **	172,248
Gain on Sale of Investments	<u>56,012</u>
Total Revenue	3,686,657
Expenses	
Ministries Expenses(Including School)	2,232,763
Clergy, salary & benefits	139,735
Administration	570,859
Facilities	302,667
Utilities	82,884
Diocesan Assessments	93,857
Insurance & Fees	84,287
Parish Improvements **	<u>289,930</u>
Total Expenses	3,796,981
Net Cash Flow	<u>(110,324)</u>

We continue to thank the many parishioners who have made a personal and family commitment in building our community of faith, hope and love here at Presentation. We encourage all parishioners to continue to prayerfully reflect on the many blessings God has given to you, and we ask that you support Presentation with your gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure.

* Other Income consists mainly of : Planned Gifts/Bequests, Facility Use, Diocesan Donations, Mass Intentions, Bulletin Advertising and other miscellaneous income

** Parish improvements were funded by restricted donations and are made up of:

	Expenses
Pre-School	108,468
Holy Grounds Coffee House	102,974
Stained glass windows	49,269
Sound System - OLGH	27,939
All Other	<u>1,280</u>
	289,930



*Holy Grounds
Cafe*

**St. Joseph Meeting room
Wednesdays from
7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Sundays from
7:30 a.m. to noon.**

*Come visit with friends
and make new ones!*

**If you would like to use
Holy Grounds for your next
parish group meeting,
please contact
Ron Hoverstad at
rhoverstad@sbcglobal.net**



CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION

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Liturgy Schedule

Weekdays (Mon-Fri): 7:00 a.m.

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. (Vigil)

Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 8:45 a.m.**, 10:30 a.m.**,
12:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m. (Spanish),
5:00 p.m. (Life Teen)

***Toddler Time Parent Co-Op Child Care is available during the Sunday 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses in the Preschool. Signing Ministry for the deaf is available at the Sunday 8:45 a.m. Mass.*

Confessions: Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to
7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to
10:00 a.m., or by appointment.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

Jim Falcone *continued from front cover*

also became involved with the Gift and Art Committee, as well as the construction of our new church.

A few years later, Jim's involvement was brought to the next level, when the position of Administrator became available. "When Msgr. McGovern came to Presentation, I was working with John Freitas; we all became close friends," he says. "They both encouraged me to apply for the new position, and I have been the Administrator since 1993." Jim reports directly to Monsignor and is responsible for the overall operation of the church and school. Jim states, "Presentation has been blessed with having the right priests at the right time; and even though we are not perfect, the Team is a well-oiled machine, especially with our leadership."

Jim views his position as one of dedicating more of his life in serving the parish, and that it has helped him to grow closer to God. "Never, in my life as a university administrator, would I have thought of the possibility of working for a church," he says. "But things just worked out – it is a calling and a mission. What I enjoy most is the spirituality and having the opportunity to get closer to Jesus. I also enjoy working with our parishioners – they are very supportive, strong and involved." Through his work, Jim feels a duty to not only

serve God, but also his fellow parishioners. His commitment to stewardship and community is also exemplified in his membership on the board of the Red Rhino Project and his memberships in the Pacific Italian Alliance, the Italian Catholic Federation, the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and the St. Edward's support team.

"We are a Catholic institution, but we also are a business operation and need to honor each and every individual who is a part of it," he says. "We have a large budget for the church and school, and we need to be good stewards of the funds that parishioners provide. Every penny we spend has to be a reminder that our parishioners worked hard to earn it and then made the commitment to give it to God."

Over the years, Jim has greatly enjoyed serving the parish in his work and hopes to continue to positively impact the parish for years to come. "It's wonderful to work at Presentation with Msgr. McGovern, the Ministry Team and the parishioners," he stated. "We have accomplished a lot since I've been here, and it is always great to be able to walk over to the church, prayer garden or chapel and say a prayer. Presentation is a wonderful faith-filled community."