

CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION

Painting by Eve Pecchenino

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Encouraging Our Youth to Be the Future of the World and the Hope of the Church

As we look back on Pope St. John Paul’s faithful leadership and service to Catholics around the world, it is clear that love and hope for youth was a characteristic that marked his entire papacy. For instance, he initiated World Youth Day, beginning a tradition that welcomes millions of youth from around the world to share in faith and fellowship. During one of his many addresses, the Holy Father greeted the youth saying, “You are the future of the world, you are the hope of the Church.”

Here at Church of the Presentation, the belief that the youth are “the future of the world and the hope of the Church” is one that is also held by Lynee Monckton, our Director of High School Youth Ministry.

“I’ve come to understand that the desire to deepen and change has to



Retreats provide our youth with the opportunity to grow in their faith and form lasting friendships.

be within the youths’ hearts,” Lynee says. “[Youth] have to take ownership of their Church. My role is to facilitate, because then they can go out and spread their wings in other areas of parish life. It’s not just our hope and our future, but it’s their hope, their future and their ownership.”

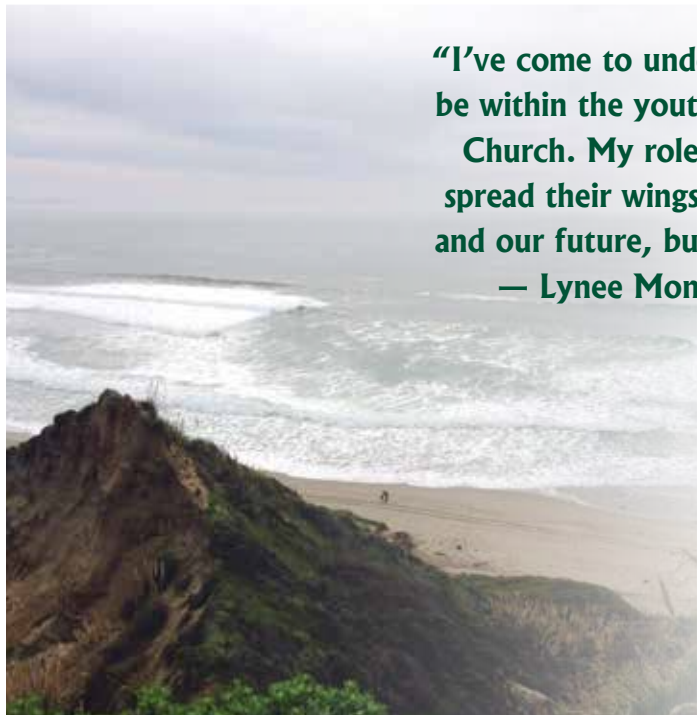
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Encouraging Our Youth *continued from front cover*



One of the ways youth can experience God's beauty is through nature as they spend time outdoors together.



Youth Ministry programs allow our youth to be themselves with their peers – whether that means enjoying leisure time or learning about their faith together.

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— Lynee Monckton, Director of High School Youth Ministry

Lynee’s approach both allows and encourages youth to become leaders in the parish. As the “voice of reason” for the youth, she works with their ideas and asks them, “What can we do?” instead of turning them down.

“I want them to realize that they have to take value in the Church and in what they do here and carry that over into what they do in the secular world,” Lynee says. “Then, they realize that they’re building a relationship with Jesus and being strengthened in their faith.”

The Youth Ministry program at Church of the Presentation follows the LifeTeen model, which is composed of a Mass focused on teens and their families, followed by a learning session known as

a “Life Night.” By focusing on the Mass, teens are taught about the importance of the Eucharist – the “source and summit” of our faith.

“Along with the Life Nights, the youth are involved with various community service projects throughout the year – from the Walk for Life to the various fundraisers within the parish,” Lynee says. “We want the youth to support the parish from within, and it can’t always just be the labor. They also have to be the leaders.”

The Youth Ministry program is always open to more volunteers. If you have a special skill or talent to share, please reach out to Lynee and ask her how you can help!

If you would like to learn more about or become involved in our Youth Ministry program, please contact Lynee Monckton at 209-320-5722 or youthministry@presentationchurch.net. Additionally, all parishioners are invited to keep the youth of our parish in prayer as they continue to be challenged to grow in the faith!

ALL ARE WELCOME

A Letter From Our Pastor

Supporting Programs and Services, Touching the Lives of Parishioners

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am truly grateful to all of our parishioners who generously share their time, talents and treasure for the glory of God and the betterment of our parish and our diocese. As Catholics, we pray each weekend that we believe in a Church that is “one, holy, Catholic and apostolic.” This prayer reminds us that we are part of the larger Church of the Diocese of Stockton (Catholic) and share with all our brothers and sisters in the ministries and mission (holy) of the Diocese. The Bishop’s Ministry Appeal (one) is an opportunity for each of us to support our Bishop (apostolic) with the many Diocesan programs and services that touch the lives of our parishioners.

In 2015, 16 percent of our parish households participated in the Appeal and helped us reach our goal. I pray that God has blessed those of you who shared of your treasure. I encourage more of our households to accept and respond to this year’s challenge. Our chairpersons suggested a \$280 commitment spread over eight months: that is approximately \$35 a month or a dollar a day – a reasonable goal for most families. My own personal commitment is \$40 a month.

Please prayerfully consider Bishop Blaire’s Ministry Appeal request. Please be as generous as you can in helping us reach our 2016 parish goal of \$146,174. Once again, 100 percent of the money raised over the goal will be returned to our parish – which we plan to use to upgrade technology in the church: our goal is to eliminate song books and paper song sheets (costing us \$5,000 in paper per year). Any amount of sacrificial giving on your part makes a difference in helping us reach our goal.

I pray that God will inspire each of you to consider a gift to the 2016 Church of the Presentation Bishop’s Ministry Appeal goal.

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



*Holy Grounds
Cafe*

St. Joseph Meeting room

Wednesdays from

7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Sundays from

7:30 a.m. to noon

and 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

*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.**



SOMETHING FOR *Music Ministry*



The Presentation Chorale sings alternately at the 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Sunday Masses.

For Geremie Rebutillo, who attended public schools as a child, faith was a part of his young life. He went through the classes for Reconciliation and First Eucharist, as do so many young Catholics. Still, he wasn't all that serious about his faith. That all changed by way of a simple invitation.

"At breakfast, one Sunday after Mass, a band member from the Contemporary Music Group came up to my family and said, 'We need a piano player; our pianist is going to have twins and she's going to be out of commission. Would you be willing to play piano?'" Geremie says. "That was basically it. It was that personal, open invitation that got

me involved. And, at that point – as a typical, rebellious high-schooler – I was really doubting my faith, so it was a Godsend when [she] invited me to join their band. Then I felt like I was doing something in church – I had a reason to come to Mass. Eventually, slowly, my faith began to build."

Such was our Director of Music's introduction to music ministry at Church of the Presentation. As a sophomore in high school, Geremie got involved at the parish, and hasn't looked back. For the past five years, he's served the parish by overseeing our three contemporary bands, two choirs, two Hispanic bands,

and additional cantors and musicians.

Geremie is passionate about using music as a tool to help the congregation pray and is diligent in helping the different music groups minister to people with all different tastes in music. From the LifeTeen Mass Sunday at Five band, to traditional cantor and organ music, he believes there's something for everyone.

"We have a wide variety of music to cater to a wide range of people," he says. "In today's environment, with media and entertainment, we're bombarded. I think some people realize they're being bombarded; so they come to church so they can hear familiar tunes and really center themselves.

If you would like to become involved with the Music Ministry at Presentation, please contact Geremie Rebutillo at 209-320-5717 or music@presentationchurch.net.

EVERYONE:

Music at Presentation

Others prefer contemporary music to stay energized, to keep themselves engaged.”

He hopes that music ministry helps not only the congregation, but also those who participate by using their musical talent to serve the parish.

“The biggest trap that musicians in ministry can fall into is becoming a performer,” Geremie says. “Even myself, I have to slow down and step back and ask myself, ‘Am I performing or am I leading music for prayer?’ I always try to remind my choirs to say a prayer before rehearsal and before Mass, to really center ourselves, to ask, ‘Why are we here?’ I think with our busy day-to-day lives, sometimes we forget exactly why we’re here.”

As the Director of Music, Geremie has found himself growing through the ministry. He hopes to develop more opportunities for music ministers to receive formation in the future.

“It has been a challenge for me to really break open the Word and open my heart to the readings in preparation, but it’s been very enlightening,” he says.

Geremie encourages those who have musical gifts or experience singing in choirs or playing in bands to find a way to participate in music ministry at Presentation. He’s quick to clarify that you don’t have to be an expert vocalist or musician — you just need to be willing to learn.

“Any time I meet with someone new, I tell them, ‘You don’t have to learn how to read music,’” he says. “As long as you’re willing to practice and put in some time, the pitches and the rhythm will follow.”

Having personally experienced music ministry at a young age, Geremie loves to help young people find their niche.

“Rather than spending hours playing a video game on a Wednesday night, they can be

playing in a band, with their peers, learning music, learning liturgy, but also gaining friends and a connection with their parish,” he says. “You’re singing in choir, you’re playing instruments in a band, how come you’re not doing ministry at your church?”

According to Geremie, not only is it a great way to use your gifts, but it’s also an opportunity to find community within the parish.

“Each ensemble, you can look at it as a small prayer group,” he says. “You spend hours together, you’re laughing together, sometimes you’re crying together, you’re praying for one another and supporting one another. I sometimes feel closer to some of my church family, my choir members, than I do to some of my own family. If people want to feel like they belong, it’s a great place to have a community. If you’re musically inclined, what better place?”



“We have a wide variety of music to cater to a wide range of people. In today’s environment, with media and entertainment, we’re bombarded. I think some people realize they’re being bombarded; so they come to church so they can hear familiar tunes and really center themselves.” — Geremie Rebutillo, Director of Music

Scott Suerdieck cantors, accompanied by Geremie Rebutillo on piano. Cantors serve at the 5 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. Sunday Masses.



Juanita Diaz-Medina: *Emulating Our Lady through Stewardship*



Fred and Juanita at a weekend fundraiser

“Being that I’m the receptionist, I’m right at the front desk. I see everybody, I meet everybody, I mingle with everybody. I love helping people and that is what I do best.”

— Juanita Diaz-Medina

Our Lady of Guadalupe has always been an important influence in the life of Church of Presentation’s receptionist, Juanita Diaz-Medina. Named after St. Juan Diego – the humble man to whom Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in 1531 – our Lady seems to have wrapped Juanita in her mantle from an early age, calling her to a life of joyful service.

“Being Hispanic, I have a huge devotion to our Lady of Guadalupe,” Juanita says. “She is the mother of the Americas – she was a wife, she was a mom, she was Hispanic. My mother’s name is even Guadalupe.”

Looking back over the years, Juanita realizes that it was the influence of the two Guadalupes in her life that helped shape her into the wife, mother and Catholic she is today. Born and raised in a small village in Mexico, the only church available was more than an hour and a half away. With no means of transportation, this made attending Mass and receiving the sacraments very difficult for Juanita’s family. Yet, her mother worked hard to instill a love for God and his Church in each of her eight children.

“With my father emigrating to the U.S. when I was very young, my mother mainly took care of the eight children by herself,” Juanita says. “She made sure that we prayed the Rosary every night with her and that each of her children was baptized.”

These early experiences, shares Juanita, cultivated within her a deep love for our Lord’s Mother and His Church. Having experienced firsthand that many places in the world do not have easy access to the sacraments, Juanita is deeply appreciative of the availability of the sacraments here at Church of the Presentation.

“Being here as the receptionist has enriched my spiritual life tremendously,” Juanita says. “Because I am literally right next door, there is no special event or holiday that I miss. I know when everything is happening and, although it is very convenient; I also make time for it, recognizing its importance.”

The self-giving example of her mother also made Juanita passionate about serving others, including her husband, Fred, their two sons, and the countless parishioners and strangers with whom she comes into contact each day as parish receptionist.

“Being that I’m the receptionist, I’m right at the front desk,” Juanita says. “I see everybody, I meet everybody, I mingle with everybody. I love helping people and that is what I do best.”

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ALL ARE WELCOME

Juanita *continued from page 6*

Over the past 21 years, Juanita has “done what she does best” in a number of ways, from volunteering as an usher with her family, assisting with the Annual Fall Festival, serving as a parish wedding coordinator/hostess, providing and collecting yearly Christmas gifts for the children of prisoners, and serving as a newly-trained Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. No matter what the task, Juanita takes joy in her service, seeing it as an opportunity to serve Christ through His Church.

“Jesus commanded us to serve,” Juanita says. “My work with the Church community has enabled me to do just that. By serving others, I feel that I serve Christ.”

Just as Our Lady of Guadalupe is known as “the Star of the New Evangelization,” changing hearts through her unfailing love and service to God’s children, Juanita has touched countless hearts through her joyful service. In the process, says Juanita, she has also been abundantly blessed by gaining a second family.

“It has been a great blessing over the years to get to know so many people,” Juanita says. “I consider all of the parishioners here to be my second family. It’s not unusual for me to attend families’ sacramental celebrations – baptisms, weddings, celebrations at the park – I get invited. People invite me to join their family gatherings, which I enjoy doing with them.”



Fred and Juanita at Presentation's new gathering place, Holy Grounds, enjoying coffee and fellowship



Church of the Presentation's receptionist, Juanita Diaz-Medina, and her husband, Fred, at the yearly Volunteer Dinner hosted by ministry staff





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.

MARCH/APRIL 2016

“Committed to Being Good Stewards in All We Do” Update on Our Presentation Parish School Ministry

Our Presentation School has adopted stewardship as a way of life, just as our parish has.

“The stewardship way of life means that our students are not just responsible caretakers of the Earth — yes, that is stewardship — but they also embrace what it means to give of yourself, of your time and talent,” says Principal Maria Amen. “We recognize and we encourage and teach that serving others is as important as deepening our faith and making academic progress, both also important goals of the school.”

Stewardship is a way of life that has been prevalent in the Church for centuries. However, it is only in recent years that the Catholic Church in the U.S. has emphasized stewardship and made an effort to form and inform our people relating to it. One place that it has thrived is the Diocese of Wichita, Kan., which serves as a model for other dioceses,

parishes and Catholic schools. As noted by Mr. Bob Voboril, who serves as the Superintendent of Schools there, “Stewardship is a spiritual gift. At the core of stewardship is an invitation to people and students to share what they have. God wants our hearts. That requires conversion.”

“Our school and our students have committed to being good stewards in all we do,” Mrs. Amen says. “This fits in well with the Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis. Every day in our school, we see the ways students interact with each other. One of the things we teach them is that they must look at relationships and life the way Jesus might. How would He want us to treat others? Serving others was an important instruction from Jesus — that is also at the heart of stewardship.”

