

8 October 2017  
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



**MASSES:** SAT: 5:00 PM; SUN: 8:00, 10:00 AM, 12:00, 4:00 PM; DAILY: 9:00 AM  
**CONFESSIONS:** Mon-Sat: 8:30 AM; Sat: 4:00-4:45 PM

**Msgr. Mike Heher**, Pastor, [pastor@stannesealbeach.org](mailto:pastor@stannesealbeach.org), 562-431-0721 Ext. 14

**Fr. Ben Tran**, Parochial Vicar, [pv@stannesealbeach.org](mailto:pv@stannesealbeach.org), 562-431-0721 Ext. 11

**Fr. Robert Vidal**, Pastor Emeritus, [Fr.bob@stannesealbeach.org](mailto:Fr.bob@stannesealbeach.org)

**Deacon Peter Nguyen**, [dcnpeter@stannesealbeach.org](mailto:dcnpeter@stannesealbeach.org)

**Amy Papageorges**, Director of Faith Formation, [dre@stannesealbeach.org](mailto:dre@stannesealbeach.org), 562-431-0721 Ext. 16

**Jyllian Rhodes**, Youth Ministry/Confirmation, [ym@stannesealbeach.org](mailto:ym@stannesealbeach.org), 562-431-0721 Ext. 15

**Jan Cooper**, Front Office, [office@stannesealbeach.org](mailto:office@stannesealbeach.org)

## CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTY

When I am stretched out on my couch, reading the Sunday paper, I am quite content, comfortable, relaxed and sure of myself. My body is at rest but my mind is being stimulated. Most of the summer I had the windows and doors opened which let a gentle, caressing breeze flow through the living room. This is what I hope eternal rest will be like.

Life on earth, though, is a pilgrimage. While being a couch potato is pleasant, life here can be vexing and demanding. The documentary film maker, Ken Burns, was interviewed not long ago and I was taken by something he said. "Today we suffer from too much certainty. I like the middle, the uncertainty of things. I think that's where all the progress, all the healing, takes place." He is saying to us what Blessed John Henry Newman said more than a century ago, "To live is to change and to be perfect is to have changed often."

We thank God when our jobs are secure, with money in the bank and pizza on the table. We say we are blessed. But my job as a preacher is not only to say something useful, perhaps memorable, but also to motivate you to change. Or better still, I want you to be changed, as I myself long to change.

This doesn't happen because of our own individual decision to do so. (I think of all the diets that started with a solemn promise only to fizzle out before the end of the week.) The distinguished Irish writer, Colum McCann, has said, "The impulse to change comes from encountering the multiple and complex shades of the world.... The only true way to expand your world is to inhabit an otherness beyond yourselves." He adds, "There is one simple word for this: *empathy*. Don't let them fool you. Empathy is violent. Empathy is tough. Empathy can rip you open. Once you go there, you can be changed."

On the surface, no life appears to be more orderly than the life of silent Trappist monks hidden away in their monasteries. They get up at the same early hour; they pray together first; a modest breakfast follows; then labor and more prayers spaced out carefully throughout the day. They order their external life so that their energies can be devoted to their spiritual journey; they aim at perfection, which means letting go of sin and bad habits and which also means seeking the graces that transform the soul. Thomas Merton was an excellent example of such a monk; but he advised, "You do not

need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, hope and hope."

My life and ministry have been an experience of increasing uncertainty. As a seminarian, I was never in doubt; I had what Orson Welles described as "the confidence of ignorance." Back then I thought I knew everything that needed to be done in the church and I couldn't wait to get out and change the world, one parish at a time. Then I was ordained and discovered almost immediately that there was a whole lot I absolutely did not know. With help from others, I figured some things out to the point that I considered myself to be, rightly or wrongly, competent. Then the bishop sent me to Rome to study, where I was immersed in a different language, culture, educational system and church comity. I was studying with men and women from across the globe. I had mistaken thought people were pretty much like I was. When I finished there, I came back to work in the chancery for a few years.

Then the bishop made me a pastor of a very large and complicated parish with a large staff, and I found myself again swimming in water way over my head. Then to everyone's surprise—including my own—the bishop appointed me as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia where my incompetence and inexperience was on view for all to see. The most pressing part of my work was working with lawyers and judges, something that was extremely important and I had never done before.

The way forward each time was to grow up in ways I had not yet recognized that I needed to grow up. Each change required stretching my powers of perception while developing a new set of skills. I had to stop taking my own pulse all the time, to forget about checking my poll numbers with the bishop or the parishioners and to simply focus on doing my job the best I could.

From time to time I find it helps to stick my head up and look around. The most important thing I can do is keep focused. Many times, especially when I am tired, I am tempted to freeze up and do only what *must* be done but on the best days I find my ministry to be an adventure, a time for progress and occasional healing.

Every day Fr. Bob, Fr. Ben and I try to keep our eyes on Jesus, listening to the Gospel and saying our prayers. Every day, we also try to keep our eyes on you, our parishioners, listening to you and praying for you. Msgr. Mike

# Around our Parish

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

### PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

Fall is in the air and Pennies from Heaven is in the forecast. The Knights will be collecting Baby Bottles filled with coins, cash and/or checks through Sunday, October 22nd to help support our Diocese's Respect Life Ministry with proceeds benefiting local Pregnancy Centers and Women's Shelters.

### NEW DEGREES

St. Anne's Council 9594 is pleased to announce our newest Degree members: 1st Degree—Art Wicks and Robert Crabb, 2nd Degree—David Davies, James Tinker, Ed Kearns, Roy Roudine and Richard Greco.

### MONTHLY MEETING/MEMBERSHIP

All interested Catholic men are invited to attend our Council meetings. We typically meet the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 6, 2017. For additional information, please contact J. Jones at 562-936-0164.

*"Help Us Help Those In Need"*

## WOMEN'S GUILD

### TRAPPED IN PARADISE EDITORS TO SPEAK

"Trapped in Paradise" editors Eileen McNerney, CSJ, and Maureen Habel will tell us how they compiled this amazing journal which follows four Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange who volunteered to be missionaries in the Solomon Islands. Arriving in December of 1940, they were new to missionary life, a culture not their own, the languages spoken, and navigating in the geography that surrounded them. On Dec. 7, 1941, a year and a day after the nuns arrived, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. This special presentation will be held on Monday, Oct. 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

### MONTHLY MEETING/MEMBERSHIP

General meetings are usually the 4th Monday of each month in the parish hall. To support our ministries and speakers as a member, please contact Joanne Groustra at 562-296-8705 or Lorraine Fiori at 562-296-5163.



### OUR MISSION:

Saint Anne Church exists to help us become disciples of Jesus Christ who connect with God, grow in faith, and serve in love.

Never worry about bringing your checkbook or your envelope to Mass again.



### EXISTING PARISH PAY USERS—VERIFY YOUR ACCOUNT

If you gave online through ParishPay, the work of transferring you account to WeShare is done. Visit the ParishPay site to securely verify your account.

You'll need some information on hand:

1. Your ParishPay user name
2. The last four digits of the bank account or credit card used for ParishPay

You'll also need one of the following two options:

Your email registered with ParishPay OR a collection name and specific amount you donated in the last six months.

### QUESTIONS?

Contact WeShare support at 800-950-9952, select Option I between 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

## LIGHTHOUSE RETREAT 2017



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

### FAIR TRADE/ETHICAL TRADE NIGHT

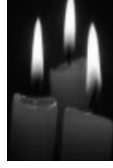


Human Trafficking is modern slavery and is the fastest growing illegal activity in the world! It is a hidden crime so many are not aware of it. You may unknowingly contribute to this problem if you drink coffee or eat chocolate and don't know about Fair Trade/Ethical Trade (FT/ET). On Tuesday, Oct 10th from 7:00—7:30 p.m., we will gather at St. Anne to pray for an end to this horrific crime. Free samples of FT/ET food will be available in the Parish Hall from 7:30-8:30 p.m. Organic FT/ET dark chocolate minis will be available to purchase, \$20 for a bag of 100 minis. All are welcome!



## 9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

10/9 † Frank Caliri, Jr.  
 10/10 † Mila Nicolas  
 10/11 † Burke & Keating Families  
 10/12 † Salon Victims  
 10/13 † Delores Mendoza  
 10/14 † Tax Marquez  
 († Rest in God's love and peace)



## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Fr. Bob Vidal, Katia Bergstrom, Juanita Kho, Brenda Malloy, Ed Palacol, Kathleen Kastner, Kathy Purcell, Aurora Lavadia, Mike Pendleton, Jerome Gendron, Julia Poirier, Jim & Julie Ferguson, Mary Maskell, Dixie Redfean, Roy Roudine, Rosemary Hirsch

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## Around Our Diocese

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### SACRED HEART KIDS CLUB

All children, grades 3—8, are invited to join a unique Catholic Club at the Heart of Jesus Retreat Center, 2927 South Greenville Street in Santa Ana. In a Club atmosphere, children are offered opportunities to nourish their faith and grow in friendship with Jesus. The Club begins on October 12th at 3:30 p.m. The suggested donation per family is \$25 for the year. For more information, call 714-557-4538.

### SECULAR ORDER OF DISCALCED CARMELITES

Do you desire to learn and experience a deeper spirituality? The Catholic spiritual tradition inspired by St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, and St. Therese of Lisieux, explains how to live in a closer relationship with the living Christ and the practical caring for others that flows from this relationship. Join with men and women committed to living the fullness of God's love through prayer and scripture, with the aid and guidance of our Lady. For more information, please call 562-774-3549. Meetings are held once a month at St. Raymond's Catholic Church, 12348 Paramount Blvd. in Downey.