

The Deacon's Bench**Deacon Jim Carper, Parish Life Director**

The deacon's bench, historically, is where the deacons sat during church services in the early protestant church. It seemed an appropriate title for this small section of our Church Bulletin; since it is an opportunity for me to share with you what's going on in our Parish, from my point of view.

In a letter dated 18 August 2018 to Catholics in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Archbishop José H. Gomez addressed the recent scandals in the Catholic Church in the United States. The text of his letter follows:

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is a sad and confusing time for all of us, with the recent revelations about sin and abuse in the Church in this country. I am praying for you and your families and for our young people; and for our bishops, priests, deacons, seminarians and religious. I am praying most intensely for the victim-survivors of these crimes and am trying to offer what small penance I can for everyone who has suffered abuse by pastors of the Church.

In one sense, the Church's pastors are no different than any Christian. We are all called to holiness and to grow in our relationship with Jesus and to glorify God by our lives. But the priest above all is consecrated to serve "in the person of Christ." That is why the evil at the heart of these scandals is so terrible. A sacred trust has been broken by men whom Jesus entrusted to be his representatives on earth. These priests have betrayed Christ and done violence to his children. The cruelty they have done casts a shadow on the priesthood and the vast majority of priests who are good and faithful servants of the Gospel.

I understand the anger and frustration that people have against the Church and her leaders right now. For me, I am feeling a deep sadness. I am horrified that such crimes could be committed against innocent children of God. We need to hold people accountable and we need to atone for these sins as a Church. I am a member of the executive committee of the U.S. Bishops and we have issued two statements that I think are a good start for responding to the present crisis. These proposals should go a long way towards increasing transparency and addressing the culture of clericalism that contributed to these abuses and failures in leadership.

Here in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, we have an effective system for reporting and investigating suspected abuse by priests and for removing offenders from ministry. Our oversight board includes both clergy and lay experts from several disciplines and also includes persons who have experienced abuse. We have also established an extensive program of education and background checks to make sure our children are safe and cared for in our parishes, schools and ministries. We remain committed to keeping our children safe and providing a compassionate environment in which victim-survivors can come forward to seek justice and find healing. If you or any one you know is a victim of

clerical abuse here in Los Angeles, I urge you to call our hotline (800) 355-2545 or visit our website: <http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/protecting/>.

Programs, protocols, and best practices are essential. But they are not enough. The deeper crisis today in the Church is spiritual and moral. I believe we need to respond to this crisis with a new call to penance and purification and a new dedication to leading holy lives. Renewal of the Church is first of all a duty for bishops and priests. We need humble penance for what has been done by our brothers. We need to live with simplicity and integrity and be models of conversion and holiness. Now more than ever, I pray that every bishop and every priest will rediscover his love for Jesus Christ and burn with new desire to bring holiness and salvation to our people.

I am confident that the Holy Spirit will raise up saints from every walk of life to renew and rebuild his Church in this time of need. What has happened is the responsibility of bishops and priests. That is clear. But the way forward will mean lay people and clergy working together. To renew and rebuild the Church takes time. Conversion, which means changing our lives in the image of Jesus Christ, is an ongoing process and it lasts our whole lives.

We need to begin again right now, starting with those of us who are bishops and priests. All of us in the Church need to commit ourselves again to the basic practices of our Christian life: personal prayer, the Eucharist and Confession, the works of mercy, growing in the virtues.

My brothers and sisters do not lose hope in the Church. Jesus told us that God permits evil to grow up alongside the good, both in the world and in the Church. This truth does not make us excuse or accept what has happened. Just the opposite. In this moment, our Lord is counting on us. So please do not give in to discouragement. Put your hope in God's promise: where sin increases, his grace will increase even more. Please keep praying for me and know that I am praying for you. Let us pray in a special way in these days for every person who has been hurt by members of the Church and let us keep working to help them heal.

And let us ask our Blessed Mother Mary to intercede for us and give us the courage and wisdom to purify the Church and renew our love for Jesus Christ and his Gospel.

May God grant you peace,
Most Reverend José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles

Over the past fifteen years, the Office of Safeguard the Children has trained 329,000 adults and over 1.4 million children through VIRTUS® Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Awareness Programs and the Fingerprinting Office has background checked 168,000 adults who work or volunteer with or around children

Last Sunday's Collection.....\$8,179.00	
Intentions for the Week	
Saturday 5:30PM	Intentions of All Parishioners
Sunday 8:00AM	Darrell Jackson
10:00AM	+Vivian Guidry +Carlton Pachot
Monday 8:00AM	Eric Dupart Intentions of All Parishioners
Tuesday 8:00AM	Intentions of All Parishioners
Wednesday 8:00AM	Intentions of All Parishioners
Thursday 8:00AM	Intentions of All Parishioners
Friday	NO MASS
September 2nd 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	
First Reading	-Deut. 4:1-2, 6-8
Psalm	-15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5
Second Reading	- James 1:17-18
Gospel	- Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
September 9th 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	
First Reading	-Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm	-146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
Second Reading	- James 2:1-5
Gospel	- Mark 7:31-37

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL WHO HAVE DIED

Pray especially for **Carlton Pachot**, husband of Cynthia Pachot. May he and all who have died be received into Our Lord's heavenly kingdom. May those grieving the loss of loved ones be consoled and strengthened through faith and prayers.

Thank You

From KPC Ladies Auxiliary Court #162

To all those that were able to donate school supplies for the 2nd annual backpack roundup, thank you. It was a huge success because of all of you. Hopefully we can continue to provide supplies for the children of our parish and community every year.

-Grand Lady Michelle Dancy and Court #162

To have doughnuts available after mass we need more volunteers from the parish to sponsor them.

HELP sponsor doughnuts.

Please call the rectory@ 323-293-4877 if you can assist.

Thank you for your support!

****Office and Church Closed Monday
September 3rd****

LOS ANGELES

Registration is now open for Faith Formation!



1st Holy Communion

High School Confirmation

RCIA - Adult Formation



Norma Jean Jackson, Director

323-293-4877 * normaje@pacbell.net

Journey through Scripture – The Bible and The Sacraments - Preregistration

The Bible and the Sacraments is unlike any other study on the sacraments. It looks at the basic teaching of the Church as to their meaning and origin. **But it goes further.** It investigates the deeper mystery of the sacraments as illuminated by Sacred Scripture.

Examining the rich relationship between the Old and New Testaments, it reveals the sacraments as more than mere earthly rituals. They are incredible “powers that come forth” from the Body of Christ”

Class forming now! Tuesday: Sept. 18, 25; Oct 02, 16, 23 @ 7:00pm Cost \$16.00 (Covers the cost of the Workbook)

Please contact the office and provide us with your name, phone number and email address.



COFFEE HOUR

September

2nd Eric, Debora & Adam Griffin

9th Eric, Debora & Adam Griffin

16th Eric, Debora & Adam Griffin

23rd Eric, Debora & Adam Griffin

30th Rachel's Hope

Did You Know?

Sports seasons start early, even for young children, and while it's great that they're out getting exercise and learning new skills, safety is still a top priority. It's recommended that all children who are playing school sports have an annual physical, and relevant health information (allergies, conditions, etc.) should be shared with coaches. Parents should make sure their children have the right gear, and that it fits and works well. Children should stay well-hydrated, well-fed, and well-rested to keep up their energy and strength. Student athletes should be learning to be kind and fair, too, no matter the outcome of the game.

ST BERNADETTE SPECIAL MONTHLY COLLECTIONS

1st Weekend: Christian Service collection

3rd Weekend: Debt-Reduction collection