



Notes from Fr. Nick

Praise - Our raison d'être

At Chet Grycz's funeral recently, I told a story about my aquarium (Chet enjoyed maintaining an aquarium as well). I contrasted the world of the aquarium from the perspective of my fish versus my own viewpoint. For the fish, the glass box in which they reside is the universe. They go about with their lives taking for granted the water, plants, and substrate. They assume that the water will have just the right components, be the right temperature, and that food will be provided. If the fish had consciousness, they would reflect little about their environment and their purpose in life.

On the other hand, from my perspective, the fish exist to delight me. I enjoy watching them interact, browse for food and mate. Thus my aquarium fish have a higher purpose beyond their comprehension. They cannot know the pleasure I take in them or how I care for them. This is analogous to our relationship with God.

We know our life's purpose in ways my fish never can. As far as we can tell, human beings are unique in the universe for the ability to reflect on their existence. As Christians we believe our essence is to mirror the glory of God back to Him. While it's true that all creation reflects God's magnificence just by the fact of being created by God, human beings take it a step further by bringing it to consciousness. Part of being human is proclaiming the glory of God's creation. We call this act "*praise*".

Often praise is implicit in our work. When we create art, do a particular task very well, display a sense of humor or even ask God for help, we are implicitly praising God by using the talents he has given us. But we expand on this when we can engage in explicit praise. The summit of this kind of praise is when we worship together, but it can take on less public or communal forms such as poetry. Consider the end of Psalm 65:

*The grasslands of the wilderness overflow:
the hills are clothed with gladness.
The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy, yes, they sing!*

The psalmist is exposing non-sentient being's praise through his or her reflection on the beauty and majesty of God's creative act, amplifying that praise into consciousness.

Every day when I walk — whether downtown, in the Berkeley hills, or up in Tilden Park — part of my task is to raise the exquisiteness of creation into a conscious act of praise. This is splendid prayer — our *raison d'être* !

*"Together we share our
Faith in Jesus Christ.*

*We live the Gospel,
and we care for others."*

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:30 pm — Vigil Mass
Sunday 9:00 am — Livestream Mass
Sunday 11:00 am — Dominican Garden

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Phone: 510-526-4811 (closed from 12:00-1:00 pm)

WEBSITE

marymagdalen.org



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00 pm
(and by appointment)

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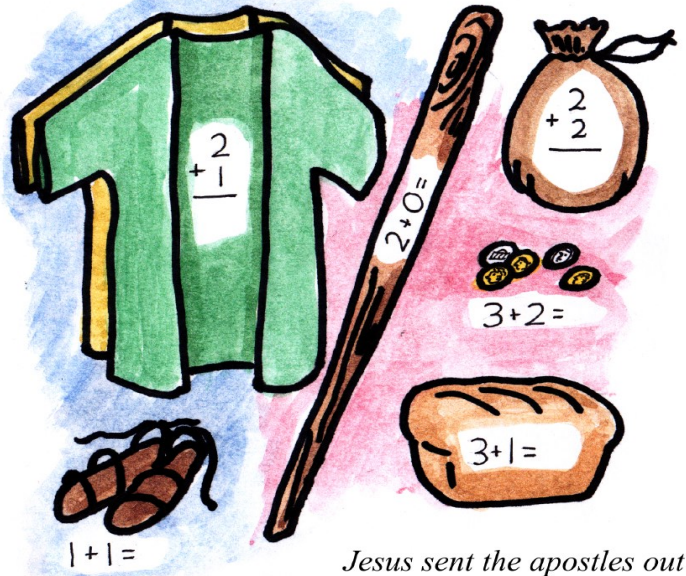
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The Kids' Bulletin

thekidsbulletin.com



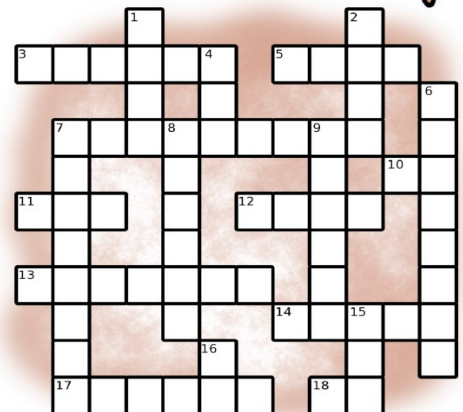
Jesus sent the apostles out two at a time to teach the people about Him and heal the sick and cast out demons. What did He tell them to take with them?

Add up the numbers. The ones that equal 2 are the things that Jesus told the apostles to take.

Jesus Sends the Apostles Two by Two Cross-Word

And he called to him the _____ 9D and began to send them out two _____ 18A two, and gave them _____ 7A over the _____ 13A spirits. He charged _____ 12A to take nothing for their journey

except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money _____ 16D their belts; and to wear sandals and not put on _____ 4D tunics. And _____ 10A said to them, "Where you enter a house _____ 2D there until you leave the place. And if _____ 15D place will not receive _____ 11A and they refuse to hear you, when you _____ 14A, shake off the dust that is on your _____ 1D for a testimony against them." So they went out and _____ 6D that men should _____ 3A. And they cast out many _____ 17A, and _____ 7D _____ 5A oil many that were sick and _____ 8D them.



July 11th, 2021 ~ 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Collection for the Week Ending July 4 th , 2021			
Sunday	Actual	Budget	Difference
07/4/2021	\$7,617.60	\$8,471.00	-\$853.40
Year-to-Date	\$217,416.06	\$239,246.00	-\$21,829.94
<i>Thank you.</i>			



4th Annual St. Mary Magdalene Festival July 24-25, 2021

Saturday: Talks on Zoom by **Dr. Kathryn Barush, Fr. Chris Renz, OP, and Fr. Brendan McInerney, OP.**

Happy Hour at 6:30 pm in Rengel Plaza
Gospel Reflections (all three Masses) by
Dr. Gina Henz-Piazza

Sunday: Cookout; Icon Exhibit at DSPT

Scripture Readings for the Week

- 11th *FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*
Amos 7:12-15 / Ephesians 1:3-14 or 1:3-10 /
Mark 6:7-13
- 12th *Weekday*
Exodus 1:8-14, 22 / Matthew 10:34-11:1
- 13th *Weekday [St. Henry]*
Exodus 2:1-15 / Matthew 11:20-24
- 14th *Weekday [St. Kateri Tekakwitha]*
Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12 / Matthew 11:25-27
- 15th *Weekday [St. Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor]*
Exodus 3:13-20 / Matthew 11:28-30
- 16th *Weekday [Our Lady of Mt. Carmel]*
Exodus 11:10-12:14 / Matthew 12:1-8
- 17th *Weekday [Blessed Virgin Mary]*
Exodus 12:37-42 / Matthew 12:14-21

Mass Intentions

- Saturday 5:30 For the People of the Parish
- Sunday 9:00 Intentions of Fr. Laurent Okitakatshi
11:00 Intentions of Charles Altekruise and
Benjamin & Jeremy Banks-Altekruise
- Monday 8:30 Barbara Banks RIP
5:30 Intentions of the Grycz Family
- Tuesday 8:30 Intentions of Monica Grycz
5:30 Intentions of Kathleen Foley
- Wednesday 8:30 Intentions of Monica Grycz
5:30 José Ras RIP
- Thursday 8:30 Fr. Michael Morris, OP, RIP
5:30 Maria Lewicka RIP
- Friday 8:30 Jo Ellen Hansen RIP
5:30 Carmen Guerrero RIP
- Saturday 8:30 Jo Ellen Hansen RIP

Peace & Justice Notes

Friday, July 16th at 4:00 pm in Norton Hall – the *Peace and Justice Committee* will resume meeting **in person!** If you've wanted to participate, or are curious and want to learn more, please come and check it out. We "welcome the stranger" by supporting immigrants and asylum seekers in multiple ways. We take actions to end hunger, war, environmental degradation and the death penalty – all goals consistent with our faith. Questions? Contact Ann Fitzgerald at fitz1607@gmail.com.

The Vision Act (AB937) – Last month the California State Assembly passed AB937, sending it to the Senate for action. This legislation ends transfers of people who have completed their sentences or have been paroled from California jails and state prisons into ICE custody.

The Vision Act would "prohibit any state or local agency from arresting or assisting with the arrest, confinement, detention, transfer, interrogation, or deportation of an individual for an immigration enforcement purpose ... and additionally prohibit state or local agencies or courts from using immigration status as a factor to deny or to recommend denial of probation or participation in [alternatives to incarceration]..." This does not conflict with Federal law, which does **not** "affirmatively" require any local or State governments to assist ICE with immigration enforcement.

Volunteer for Housing in Berkeley - The City of Berkeley, in partnership with *Dorothy Day House* and *Rebuilding Together*, will soon open the newest shelter, the Horizon Transitional Village Program on Grayson St in Southwest Berkeley. Initially, it will provide 50 people a place to live, and offer meals, workshops, and services to our most vulnerable neighbors. The City is asking for volunteers to help finalize the project! If you can wield a hammer or paintbrush or garden tool, contact Mayor Jesse Arreguin's office (mayor@cityofberkeley.info or phone 510-981-7100) to volunteer or go directly to this link: www.rtebn.org.

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