

September 9, 2007

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint John Vianney

A Mission Church of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish serving you since August 10, 1997

1100 Hood Road, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

www.sjvnm.org

Friends in Christ Jesus,

With religious education classes begin today, I remind parents of the importance of teaching children by example. When it comes to the practice of faith, parents teach their children by first practicing faithfully the faith themselves: attending Mass faithfully each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, frequenting the Sacrament of Confession, time spent each day with the Holy Scriptures, time spent each day in prayer, and so on. As is taught by Vatican II, parents have the "grave obligation" to raise their children in the faith of the Church, teaching them the truths of our faith. The best teaching tool is the tool of example.

Have a blessed week,

Fr. Scott Mansfield.

Holy Rosary

Sunday7:40AM

Sunday10:40AM

Holy Mass

Sunday8:00AM

Sunday11:00AM



Defending Our Faith – a Series on Apologetics by John Lombardo

The Sacrament of Confirmation

“Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the sacraments of Christian initiation, whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1285)

This sacrament is one of five sacraments Protestants and Fundamentalist have abrogated from their religious beliefs as unbiblical . Yet, confirmation is found in several Bible passages, to wit: Acts: 14-17, 9:17; 2Cor 1:21-22, and most especially Hebrews 6:1-2.

“Hebrews 6:1-2 is especially important because it is not a narrative account of how confirmation was given and, thus, cannot be dismissed by those who reject the sacrament as something unique to the apostolic age. In fact, the passage refers to confirmation as one of Christianity’s basic teachings, which is to be expected since confirmation, like baptism, is a sacrament of initiation into Christian life.” (Catholic Answers.com/confirmation).

The Navarre Bible New Testament clearly notes that these verses of Chapter 6 provides a summary of teachings of Christ which should be explained and which need to be accepted before a person is to be baptized; that these are basic truths from which we can proceed to grow in knowledge. Just remember that the early Church baptized and confirmed at the same time.

“Therefore, let us leave the elementary teachings of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance, from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptism, the laying on of hands (confirmation), the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.” (Heb. 6:1-2)

Catholic Answers notes how Heb. 6:1-2 walks us Christians through the stages of our journey “repentance, faith, baptism, confirmation, resurrection, and judgment.”

I wish I had the space to show what the early Church Fathers and early Christian writers wrote concerning the recognition of Confirmation as a sacrament. I have not, but synopsis is possible. The Faith of the Early Fathers, Vol. 1, by William A Jurgens, notes that Confirmation is already a true sacrament in the early church. Tertullian. A.D. 203, noted the Church’s use of unction (oil) and imposition of hands on the confirmandi. Hypolytus of Rome, A.D. 204, explains how the bishop’s imposition of hands and prayer confirms. St. Cyprian A.D. 253, explains why the previously baptized need to be anointed by chrism (oil).

Protestants object that with the sacrament of Baptism Christians have the Holy Spirit within them. This is absolutely true as far as it goes. What is not well understood is what Christ himself taught and did. Jn. 20:21-23 is a good example of Jesus conferring the Holy Spirit on the apostles on Resurrection Sunday.

(Continue on next page)

He said: "Peace be with you." He breathed on them, and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained". However, this imposition of the Holy Spirit at that time was not the total empowering Christ promised. Acts 2:1-4 vividly shows Christ's fulfillment of His promise to His apostles to provide a greater empowering of the Holy Spirit as promised in Jn 15:26 and 16:7 . On the day of Pentecost they (the apostles) were all *filled* with the Holy Spirit. On this day "of Pentecost ,the Spirit came down on the disciples that He might remain with them forever; on that day the Church was openly displayed to the crowds and the spread of the Gospel among the nations, through preaching, was begun. Finally, on that day was foreshadowed the union of all peoples in the catholicity of the faith by means of the Church of the New Alliance, a Church which speaks every language ,understands and embraces all tongues in charity, and thus overcomes the dispersion of Babel." (Vatican II,AG,4).(See footnote The Navarre Bible New Testament , Jn 2:1-13, p.301).

Next week we'll discuss the third sacrament of initiation, the Eucharist. In the meantime, **PEACE**

A VOLUNTEER'S PRAYER

I thank you Lord as I volunteer for the chance to serve another year, and to give of myself in some small way to those not blessed as I each day. My thanks for health and mind and soul, to aid me toward my goal. For eyes to see the good in all, a hand to extend before a fall. For legs to go where the need is great, learning to love and forgetting to hate. For ears to hear and a heart to care, when someone's cross is hard to bear. A smile to show my affection true, with energy aplenty. All I ask dear Lord, if I may, is to serve you better day by day.

**May God bless all those who volunteer,
The need for you is great!**

Catholic **Common Cents** Corner

Till death do we part...

What is there not to understand?

Volunteer Schedule	September 9, 2007		September 16, 2007	
	8:00AM	11:00AM	8:00AM	11:00AM
Ushers	Karl Lucero James Dory	James Sandoval Tony Quinones	Tom Anderson John Christensen	Tony Quinones Frank Charles
EM of Holy Communion	David Crawford	Rosie Root	Jose Guillen	John Lombardo
Rosary Leader	Fred Bates	Rochelle Quinones	Mary Ann	Mary Bell Lucero
Altar Servers	Ian Burnside Charles Lucero	Krista Savelle Jessica Van Loben Sels	Sergio Guillen Fernando Lucero	Tabitha Chavez Jaeson Chavez
Readers	Julie Burnside	Pink Bjornstad Peggy Riley	Lillian Ortiz David Crawford	Pinky Bjornstad

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Coordinator Ed Urich
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Head Usher & Altar Servers Ed Urich
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Head EM..... Pinky Bjornstad
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Head Snacker Harlan Harrington
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Parish Website www.sjvnm.org

Thank you for reading our bulletin. Any suggestions, comments or articles can be sent to bulletin@sjvnm.org. We also like to hear about births, baptisms, marriages or other news about our church members. Please visit our website at www.sjvnm.org and click on **Subscribe** to be added to the eMailing list.

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