



Pine Times



OUR LADY OF THE PINES
ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

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OUR LADY OF FATIMA



May 13 marks the 102nd anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady to the three children at the Portuguese village of Fatima. The children were nine-year-old Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

On 13 May 1917, the children reported seeing a woman “brighter than the sun, shedding rays of light clearer and stronger than a crystal goblet filled with the most sparkling water and pierced by the burning rays of the sun.” The woman wore a white mantle edged with gold and held a rosary in her hand. She asked them to devote themselves to the Holy Trinity and to pray “the Rosary every day, to bring peace to the world and an end to the war.”

During the apparitions of Fatima between May and October 1917, the Virgin Mary entrusted three child shepherds with three secrets.

The first was a vision of hell that deeply shocked the little children. Though the vision lasted for only a moment, it was enough to never forget. “There were devils and souls submerged in a great sea of fire (...) between cries of pain and groans of despair.” That horrified them and made them tremble with fear.

The second secret was prophetic. Mary told the shepherd children that if men did not stop offending God, World War II would begin. She also announced the expansion of Communism, and the consequent persecution of the Church and pope. To avoid these evils, the Blessed Mother asked for the devotion to her Immaculate Heart be established in the world and for the pope himself to consecrate Russia, which John Paul II did in March of 1984.

The third secret of Fatima consisted of another vision. They saw a bishop dressed in white, whom they identified as the pope, killed with religious, priests and lay people of various social classes.

This secret could be interpreted as the persecutions suffered by the Church during the 20th century, especially at the hands of Communism. John Paul II himself was recognized in this vision through the attack that almost cost him his life.

Francisco and Jacinta Marto died in the international flu pandemic that began in 1918 and swept the world. Francisco Marto died at home on 4 April 1919, at the age of ten. Jacinta died at the age of nine in hospital on 20 February 1920. They were beatified by Pope John Paul II on 13 May 2000 and canonized by Pope Francis on 13 May 2017. Lúcia, who had become a nun, died on 13 February 2005, at the age of 97.

WHAT HAPPENED TO BLANCHE RUEDA?



Blanche Rueda was active (very active) in the affairs of OLOP since the church was built in 1982. Welcoming new parishioners, active in social events – every time you turned around, there she was. She and **Steve Routt** created the *Pine Times*, more than 20 years ago. Our girl from Hawaii was everywhere!

Some of us are aware of the fact that Blanche is no longer at our OLOP Sunday Mass. She has moved! Her number is 510-398-8466, and her address is 21966 Delores Street, #345, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

She is as happy as a clam. She has a little one-bedroom apartment with two TV sets and a tiny kitchen. She is one of 217 people living in the Independent Living section of the facility. Her place is on the third floor, with a little deck and a nice view. She is allowed two meals (her choice) a day in the dining room, and she claims that the food is good. If she does not care for what is on the dinner menu, she can have a large dinner salad, a hamburger or a steak instead of the main offering. The facility has a pool, a spa, a beauty salon and a washer and dryer on each floor. There are plenty of activities scheduled all the time. She has someone expressing interest in buying her house and someone else might want to buy her car. Her daughter lives 20 minutes away.



OUR LADY OF THE PINES SOCIETY

Ron Burns, President

This is the season for fundraisers and we need lots of help! The first of our only two events was our "Winner Winner Chicken Dinner." Since this edition of the *Pine Times* didn't come out until after May 4th I can only say we hope the event was a big success. Now it's time to buckle down and focus on our major fundraiser, the annual Rummage Sale, set for June 6, 7 and 8. Receiving of 'early bird donations' began April 29th, Monday thru Friday from noon until 2:00 PM. As a reminder, we need your gently used clothing, furniture, books, housewares etc. Don't forget, we no longer accept entertainment centers, big TV's (except flat screens) non-working electronics and mattresses. In addition we will be assigning couples to be managers for the weeks prior to the sale itself. Please help me with this by volunteering for these week-long commitments. Lastly, please hold May 13th open as this is the set-up day. We will need several able-bodied people to bring the tables and clothing racks into the hall on that day.

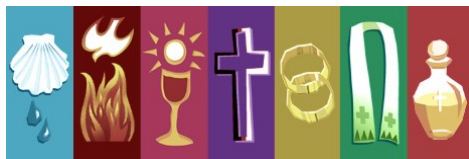
As a side bar issue, we desperately need a volunteer to take over as OLOP Secretary. The position will commence at the July meeting. If you have any experience with secretarial duties as well as computer skills, please let me know so I can provide you with an in-depth explanation of the secretary's duties.

SUNSHINE MINISTRY

We are all reminded to contact **Joanne Fitzpatrick** (209-295-7387) when and if we

wish to have a card sent to someone who needs a touch of sunshine in his or her life. She would also like to know of any special birthday or anniversary.

The OLOP Society expresses its sincere appreciation to Joanne for her dedicated service to this rewarding ministry that brings cheer to so many each month. She is truly Miss Sunshine!



A SACRAMENT PEOPLE

Joan Nikolai

We gather the family. We prepare. With cake and balloons, with games and gifts, with stories and music, we mark special events in life. We acknowledge our relationship with one another. We name it birthday, anniversary, graduation. We celebrate.

We gather the family. We prepare. With water and oil, bread and wine, words, stories and gestures, we mark special occasions in our life as people of God. We acknowledge our relationship with God and with one another. We name it sacrament. We celebrate.

We know that Jesus did not hand Peter a list of seven sacraments complete with instructions, prayers and symbols. Jesus lived the sacraments. Jesus lived in relationship with God his father. He lived in relationship with his apostles, the disciples and the crowds of people who followed him. These were the people Jesus blessed, forgave, healed, and fed. These were the people he served and loved. These were the first people to "celebrate" the sacraments.

Through ritual and symbols the sacraments help us recall the values Jesus taught through his actions. The sacraments help us deepen our awareness of God's presence in our life. The sacraments challenge us to go out and live in ways that make God's love present in our world.

The ritual of the sacraments may take place in the church, but living the sacraments, as Jesus did, takes place in all of our everyday life experiences. The dinner table, sports field, work place, neighborhood, car pool lane, grocery store — all places we are called to bless, forgive, heal, feed, serve. This is where we are called to be sacrament people to celebrate the presence of God.

RUMMAGE SALE 2019

Connie Wright

Hold onto your hats (but feel free to donate your gently used hats and more to *The Upcountry's Biggest Annual Rummage Sale*)! This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the OLOP Society, and we rely on many donations and many helping hands to make the sale a success. Important dates and other details:

Now thru Friday 5/10: Limited receiving of donations in Haran Hall. Weekdays, noon to 2 PM.

Monday 5/13: One day to set up the hall with tables, clothes racks, and bookshelves. Several strong, able-bodied folks needed. All other volunteers, come back the next day.

Tuesday 5/14: The work begins in Haran Hall to receive, sort, clean, display, and price. Continues weekdays through Friday, 5/31. 9 AM to 2:30 PM.

Tuesday 5/14 thru Friday, 5/31: Open for donations while we work, 9 AM to 2:30 PM, weekdays and for a short time right after the 11:30 Sunday Mass. **Last day to donate is Friday, 5/31!**

Monday 5/27: Memorial Day holiday. *No receiving or setup.*

Monday 6/3 thru Wednesday 6/5: Final setup/preparations for rummage sale. No more donations.

— **THE RUMMAGE SALE** —
Thursday 6/6: 9 AM – 3 PM
Friday 6/7: 9 AM – 3 PM
Saturday 6/8: 9 AM – 2 PM

Acceptable donations. We accept kitchen and household goods, furniture, clothing, shoes, handbags, outdoor items and yard equipment, sporting goods, luggage, holiday decorations, books, videos, music, office supplies, jewelry, knickknacks, linens. **NO PLANTS THIS YEAR!** Also, **NO TVs or computer monitors (flat screens ok), computers/printers/scanners, large appliances, entertainment centers, mattresses, sofas/beds, infant cribs/carriers/car seats, tires, hazardous materials, open cans of paint/stains/thinners.**

Questions? Call Ron Burns at 209-295-6257 or Art & Connie Wright at 209-223-9525.

Thanks in advance to all of you who will be helping and or donating. We couldn't do it without you!



IN MEMORIAM

We Remember Our Sisters in Christ
May they rest in peace.



Carmel Hout
1933 - 2019

Marion Muratore
1920 - 2019

YMI NEWS

Phil Fondale

**YOUNG MEN'S
INSTITUTE**



The Our Lady of the Pines Men's Club, YMI Council #137, continues to be active in living up to its motto of *Pro Deo, Pro Patria*. **Brother Ted**

Novelli is this year's Council President.

Our meeting night is the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM. All men of the parish are welcome to come and enjoy the fellowship of our monthly dinner and short business meeting.

We would like to thank all the students who submitted an essay for the Father George Thomas Scholarship. Our Scholarship Committee is reviewing the submissions and will announce the scholarship recipient in a few weeks. The \$1,000 will be presented at a future YMI meeting.

As in past years, the Brothers of OLOP Council #137 will have the honor on May 27, Memorial Day, of helping to place and take down the large 5x8 American flags that line the long driveway at Pioneer Cemetery. Come join us at 7 AM if you would like to help.



We were pleased to hear that one of our Past Presidents, **Brother Ray Mutter**, won one of the prizes in this year's YMI Pro Patria Raffle. The raffle proceeds help furnish the prize money for the YMI's national essay contest for 7-12th grade students. Congratulations **Br. Ray**.

The main purpose of our council is to give the Catholic men of OLOP and the surrounding area the opportunity to get together, strengthen their faith, have fellowship, and help our parish and community.

GOOD NEWS FROM NAPLES

Lt. Commander **Sam Trassare**, former altar server at St. Bernard's and husband of **Harmony Waugh Trassare**, has just been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

The Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) is a military award presented to members of the United States Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves by outstanding meritorious achievement or service to the United States. It is equivalent to the Bronze Star.

The Navy typically reserves the MSM for senior Navy officers in pay grades O-5 and O-6 (commander and captain). Award of the MSM to USN officers in pay grade O-4 (lieutenant commander) is typically by exception.

Lt. Commander Trassare is presently serving as an Information Warfare officer with the Sixth Fleet, based in Naples, Italy.



Sometimes having a smartphone makes for a love-hate relationship. You love the convenience and the features of this pocket-size computer, but it can come to control your life more than you care to admit. We've come to rely on our smartphone so much that we leave it on most of the day or night and often forget to silence it when we need to – like at Mass! Recently, improved cell phone reception in the foothills (including Pioneer) has added to the convenience of leaving our smartphone on, but our human nature can still forget to silence it.

If you've faced that embarrassing moment when your phone starts to ring during Mass, in a meeting, at the movies, etc., then here are a couple of suggested apps that can help you regain control over your smartphone pretty painlessly. Android users, try the free app called **Phone Schedule** by Anton C., available at the Google Play Store. iPhone users, try **AutoSilent** for \$3.99 by Niv Gutherz, available at the App Store. Both apps allow you to schedule muting and unmuting of your phone automatically. Set it and forget it!



WE NEED A PHOTOGRAPHER

Heather Engstrom has graciously served as the official photographer for the *Pine Times*. Unfortunately for us, she and her husband **Skip** and daughter **Emma** are moving up to the State of Washington. We will miss them.

Do you have skills with a camera? If so, please contact Ray Waugh at 295-1217 or ray_waugh@juno.com.



EATING AT JOAN'S HOUSE

Joan Alimonti

ONE PAN SKILLET DINNER

Serves 4

In a large skillet:

3 cups cubed, fully cooked ham
½ cup chopped onion

Sauté until onions are cooked.

ADD: 1 Tbls chopped garlic, ½ tsp each dried parsley, basil, oregano, and pepper
Stir and cook 2 minutes.

STIR IN: 3 cups chicken broth, 2 cups milk, ¼ cup flour and 16 oz penne pasta, uncooked

Cook 10 minutes.

ADD: 2 cups frozen peas, thawed

Cook 5 minutes.

Serve garnished with Parmesan cheese.

OLOP LADIES LUNCHEON



On the second Wednesday of every month, the OLOP Ladies Luncheon meets. Recent meetings have taken place at the Waffle House in Jackson. This event is run by **DelRae Svarc**, who can be reached at 296-7365.

NEWS OF A LOCAL ARTIST

A bit over a year ago, Sutter Amador Hospital opened the Irene Marie Infusion Center for the treatment of cancer patients. Brightening one wall is a mural of giant poppies, painted by our own **Lexie Loader**, daughter of **Rebecca Tracy**.



*It's not how much we give
but how much love we put into giving.
— Mother Teresa*

RECALL NOTICE

The maker of human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of this defect in all subsequent units. This has been identified as "Subsequential Internal Non-morality," more commonly known as S.I.N. Some of the symptoms include: 1. Loss of direction, 2. Foul vocalizations, 3. Amnesia of origin, 4. Lack of peace and joy, 5. Selfish or violent behavior, 6. Depression or confusion, 7. Fearfulness, 8. Idolatry & 9. Rebellion.

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this defect. The Repair Technician, JESUS, has generously offered to bear the entire burden and has paid the price of the staggering cost for these repairs. There is no additional fee required. The number to call for repair in all areas is: P-R-A-Y-E-R. Once connected, please upload your burden of SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT & FORGIVENESS from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with: 1. Love, 2. Joy, 3. Peace, 4. Patience, 5. Kindness, 6. Goodness 7. Faithfulness, 8. Gentleness & 9. Self-control.

Please see the operating manual, the B.I.B.L.E. (Best Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details. WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list, and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on Jesus. DANGER: The human units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility. Thank you for your attention!

— GOD

P.S. Please assist by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father any time by "knee mail." Because HE Lives! Working for God on earth doesn't pay much, but His retirement plan is out of this world!

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YAY, NO SCHOOL ... PLAGUE DAY!



ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

Members of our parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society beg for money after Mass from time to time. The money collected goes to support the needy. Please bring a bit of extra cash with you on Beggar's Sunday, the last weekend of every other month, when volunteers beg for donations.

OLOP SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Ron Burns
Acting 1st Vice President: Kevin Darr
2nd Vice President: Barbara Garcia
Secretary: Connie Wright
Treasurer: Gary Sims

OLOP MEETINGS

Our Lady Of the Pines Society meets on the first Wednesday of every month. A potluck dinner begins at 5 PM and the meeting starts at 6 PM (note new times!). All parishioners of OLOP are members of the Society. There are no dues. We welcome your participation and look forward to seeing some new faces at future meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you need an announcement made from the altar, please contact the office at St. Katharine Drexel Parish Center at 223-2970. If you need an announcement placed in the church bulletin, please contact the Bulletin Editor, also at the Parish Center, at 223-2970 or bulletin@stkatharinedrexel.com.

PINE TIMES STAFF

Ray Waugh, Publisher
ray_waugh@juno.com or 209-295-1217
Connie Wright, Production Editor
cnwright@att.net or 209-223-9525
Heather Engstrom, Photographer
hengstrom@volcano.net or 209-295-6729
Submit comments, compliments, questions, or articles to Ray Waugh, Publisher. Material submitted via email is very much appreciated.

PARISH WEBSITE

www.stkatharinedrexel.com
webmaster@stkatharinedrexel.com