



Pine Times



OUR LADY OF THE PINES
ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

MAY/JUNE 2021
VOLUME 26, ISSUE 2

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION



On Sunday, May 16, we celebrate the *Feast of the Ascension*.

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: Christ's body was glorified at the moment of his Resurrection, as proved by the new and supernatural properties it subsequently and permanently enjoys. But

during the forty days when he eats and drinks familiarly with his disciples and teaches them about the kingdom, his glory remains veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity. Jesus' final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God's right hand.



OLOP SCHOLARSHIP WINNER MIA HUSS

Joanne Sims

Congratulations to **Mia Huss**, our 2021, \$1000 Our Lady of the Pines Society Scholarship winner! Mia, who will graduate from Argonaut High School in June, is the daughter of **Mike and Karen Huss** of Ione. The committee found Mia to be especially well qualified as she has devoted over 200 volunteer hours to St. Katharine Drexel Parish, most often, but not exclusively, at Sacred Heart Church, since 2017! Serving as Membership Secretary of the Sacred Heart Ladies Club, altar serving regularly, helping out with Faith Formation classes, being a lector, and participating in Living Stations of the Cross are only a few of the ways Mia shared her time and talent with the parish.

Because of her work with her team to form an anti-bullying club at Ione Junior High School, Mia earned a Girl Scout Silver Award, the second highest award offered by Girl Scouts. She is a member of the Red Ribbon Choir of Ione and has also volunteered her time to help out at Ione Elementary School.

Mia is a member of the California Scholarship Federation and has earned several awards for academic excellence during her high school years. She is part of Link Crew, a leadership organization at Argonaut High School, which mentors incoming students.

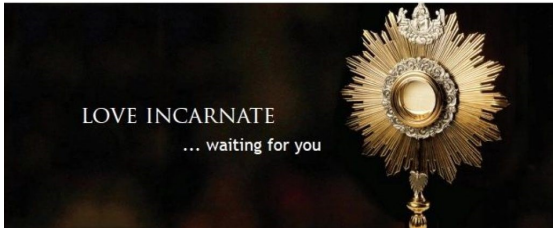
Mia says she loves to write, and plans to attend California State University Sacramento in the fall to study journalism and political science. We wish her all the best for a successful college experience!

Applicants were asked to respond to the following question:

SEE SCHOLARSHIP, PAGE 2

COME TO ME

Jacqueline Henss



"Come to Me all of you who labor and are overburdened, and I will give you rest..." "Go in peace..." (Mt 11:28; Mk 5:34)

The responsibilities and trials that people experience in

today's world cause them much stress and sorrow. The poor people who approached Jesus when He came among them lived lives of misery and hopelessness. In Jesus' Presence their fears were calmed, and their spirits were filled with an indwelling peace. While we no longer see Jesus as One who walked, talked, ate, slept, etc., He is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament under the appearance of bread and wine. (Mt 26:26)

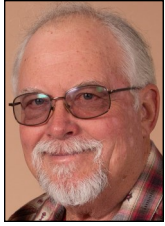
Spurred by our Savior's Love within us, we desire to receive this Holy Eucharist during the Sacred Liturgy. If we listen, we will also hear Our Lord's call to commune with Him in the Sacrament of Love outside of Holy Mass, for He says, "You can come to me at any moment, at any time; I want to speak to you and desire to grant you grace." Indeed, He waits in all the tabernacles of the world, extending an open invitation to everyone: "Come to Me, so that I can pour out graces upon you." (*Diary*, St. Faustina)

Come, then, with unfaltering trust in His promise that you shall receive from our Eucharistic Lord that which you require to cope with your specific trials in this world. Come, knowing He is there with you in this "valley of tears," and will remain with you as you faithfully live out His love with submission, and acceptance of His Holy Will. Know too, that each hour you spend with Jesus deepens His Divine Peace in your heart, and you will acquire, as well, the holy strength to reach your eternal destination: Heaven.

Editor's Note: At St. Katharine Drexel Church, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is held each Thursday from 12:30 to 5:30 PM. A Holy Hour to pray for our country is held on Tuesdays from 5 to 6 PM, preceding Mass.

OUR LADY OF THE PINES SOCIETY

Kevin Darr, President



KEVIN DARR
President

I hope that everyone had a safe and blessed Easter and a spiritual Lenten season.

As the State heads, hopefully, to a more “normal” normal situation, we have gone back to having the monthly Society meetings after

the first Wednesday Mass again at Haran Hall. It’s great to see folks in person again after three months of “ZOOM” meetings. The “May Crowning” will be after Mass on Wednesday, May 5th.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our wonderful “St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Drive-Through Dinner.” Special thanks to **Shirley Blancett** and **Shirley Coombs** who handled all the paperwork and logistics as well as getting the food and cooking for 67 meals. Thank you **Connie Wright** for creating the flyer and receipts. And a final thanks to those helping to serve and set up including **Ron Burns, Barbara Garcia, Laura Hankins, Paulette Magee and Jennifer Novelli**. Hope I haven’t left anyone out.

As many of you may know already, the Church has been painted with a deep blue in the narthex (vestibule) and a cream color for the main church itself. The main portion (only) of Haran Hall was painted with the same colors, blue on the front and back walls with the cream color for the rest.

Happening soon we are changing all the locks. Through the years control over the keys has become an issue. The goal is to get new keys to those who need them one to two weeks prior of the lock change. An email was sent to those identified initially as to when and where to get your new key. The list may not be 100% accurate but we’re trying our best.

Have a great spring,
Kevin

ON THE MOVE

In recent months, Our Lady of the Pines has said *Best Wishes* and *Don’t Forget Us* to these parishioners:

- ◆ **Art and Dale Cavalli**, to El Dorado Hills
- ◆ **Del Rae Svarc**, to El Dorado Hills

◆ **Sue Perrine**, still in the process of relocating.

We will miss you so, dear friends!

BOOK REVIEW

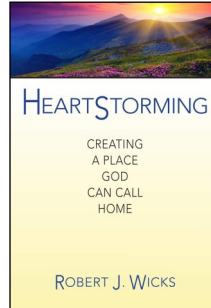
Barbara Garcia

HEARTSTORMING: Creating a Place God Can Call Home by Robert J. Wicks

I first became interested in Robert Wicks at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress many years ago and have attended his lectures year after year in that setting. We were not so lucky this year of Covid, however, I did read another wonderful book that he published just last year. What’s nice about this book is that I can go back to it over and over again and find new insights at any time. This is one of those books.

Robert is professor emeritus at Loyola University, Maryland, but in truth, he speaks all over the world. He has published more than 50 books. Much of his professional teaching is aimed at helping the “helping professions.” This includes rescue organizations, medical personnel, social workers and all caregivers in general. We are all seeking to create a place God can call home in us and so this book is a resource for just about anyone.

Through a series of thought-provoking topics, he tenderly guides the reader to look inward and see the capacity we have for God as the center of our life. He takes you where you are in your heart and highlights paths and methods to a deeper spirituality on your daily journey by using the writings of many famous authors. He writes of his personal experiences in his encounters with people of all walks of life and from individuals who have lost their way and slipped into a period of darkness or despair. He has a method of using “field notes” and encourages the reader to journal their perceptions of their daily thoughts and encounters. Personally, my hands are usually in the soil or at a sewing machine, but the book features a guide at the end to dig a little deeper into your thought patterns and prayer habits and help you weave together a most hospitable home for God in your being.



OUTSIDE THE BOX

Part 1

Joan Nikolai

“To think outside the box” has become a familiar phrase. To look at an idea from a new perspective or to see something from a unique point of view.

Some months ago, I challenged members of the OLOP Society to think outside the box and expand their concept of the Holy Spirit. During the pre-dinner gathering, with no explanation, I asked each person to choose one item from a random collection of odds and ends I had gathered.

Then as part of my report on Faith Formation I asked them to think creatively and identify how the item could be a reminder of the Holy Spirit. Clever and creative ideas emerged.

*The Holy Spirit is like a **key** to unlock the wonders God offers.*

*Like a **water pitcher** the Holy Spirit fills us with His love and like a **sponge** the Holy Spirit helps us soak up the goodness of the Lord.*

*Like a **pencil sharpener** the Holy Spirit helps us sharpen our faith.*

*Like a **Post-it-Note** the Holy Spirit enters unexpectedly to help us overcome problems and remind us of God’s faithful love for us.*

*Like an **appliance manual** the Holy Spirit helps us troubleshoot our problems.*

*Like a **lip balm** the Holy Spirit helps us to replenish our lips in spreading the word of God our Father.*

*Like a **transparent plastic bag** keeps items safely contained the Holy Spirit, though unseen, surrounds us and keeps us safe and contained in God’s love.*

SEE BOX, PAGE 3

FROM PAGE 1

SCHOLARSHIP

Scripture talks quite a lot about how God brings good out of suffering (Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4, Hebrews 12:10-11). For example, Joseph was sold into slavery and put into jail, but told his brothers, “...do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life” (Gen 45:5). God can transform our pain and suffering to bring goodness into our lives and into the lives of others. During this pandemic, explain how you think God has used suffering to accomplish His plan.

Read Mia’s essay response on page 3.

Like a "Life Saver" the Holy Spirit alive within me makes it possible for me to live my life as the Lord wants.

The invitation to use their imagination to see the Holy Spirit from a fresh viewpoint was a way to refresh a familiar belief. A credit card, measuring spoons, a garage door opener. Think outside the box, see the Holy Spirit from a new perspective.

Part 2 next issue.

YMI NEWS

Phil Fondale



The Council was able to meet in February and March after a long period of inactivity. We also reaffirmed our commitment to continue as a YMI Council and a social and spiritual outlet for the men of Our Lady of the Pines.

The Council is still hoping for a Sunday Mass at OLOP if things ever get back to normal. A future fund raiser in the form of a "special" raffle is in the works. Be ready for future announcements.

The Brothers were unable to offer a *Father George Thomas Scholarship* this year. Covid prevented us from meeting and a lack of a Sunday Mass also didn't help. Both of those resulted in a lack of fund raising to help raise money for the annual scholarship. Maybe next spring things will be different.

The Brothers of YMI #137 will again place the large flags at Pioneer Cemetery on Memorial Day, May 31st. It is an honor to do this.

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

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. We hope to see our fellow Catholic men and future brothers at our next meeting.

The Young Men's Institute was founded in 1883, and Our Lady of the Pines Council #137 is proud to be a part of this national organization.

OLOP SCHOLARSHIP WINNING ESSAY

Mia Huss

The Bible has its own version of the modern phrase "No pain, no gain" that's seen in Romans 5:3-5 that states: "Glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into the hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." There're many examples of good coming out of suffering in the Bible that we've all read about but could never imagine experiencing, yet we're living out God's plan to bring us closer to Him. Although the pandemic led to our rights to go to church in person being taken away, it will lead us to something greater than ourselves, salvation.

Suffering makes us appreciate coming to church, and will also bring us closer to God and Heaven. Before the pandemic, I saw some people come and go from church. Some people would skip a few weeks, then come back whenever they felt like it. When the pandemic first hit, we weren't allowed to be in church at all. I remember seeing the number of views on Facebook reaching almost 300, and some Sundays more. The parishioners of St. Katharine Drexel, and all over the world, were forced to stay home and watch live streams of masses. When our basic right to go to church was taken, we still turned to our screens to praise God from home. However, there shouldn't have to be a distance from Him and the church, right? While this is true, God's idea of making people realize how important church is, by taking it away, resonated with many. This was clearly exemplified when hundreds of people tuned in to Facebook live streams, specifically in our county.

Recently, there's an immense push at St. Katharine Drexel to join a small group, even I joined one recently. The pandemic left people seeking to strengthen their faith and the push for small groups in our community proves that faith is stronger than ever. I've heard and seen many people join small groups and find joy in strengthening their faith safely during these times. God's plan, simply, is to bring us closer to Him through suffering. Although we've seen loss through the pandemic, there was always one thing that was there for us: God.



In Memory
Carol Hatch
1933 - 2020
✠
*Rest in the
Peace of Christ*

Sadly, we lost **Carol Hatch** in 2020, during the height of the coronavirus pandemic. There will be a private funeral Mass and reception for her in May.

OLOP MINISTRY CHANGES

As **Sue Perrine** prepares to relocate to an as-yet-to-be-determined destination, she leaves behind two ministries that she has chaired for years, Church Cleaning and Haran Hall Kitchen. Two good-hearted parishioners have stepped up to replace her — **Cindy Harvey** for cleaning ("Top Mop") and **Cindy Fondale** for the kitchen. Thank you, Cindys!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS

Kevin Darr

In the past two months, your St. Vincent de Paul conference helped a total of 310 individuals either as singles or families.

At our continuing Thursday community supper at St. Patrick's Hall, we serve an average of 30+ meals to those unhoused in our community. Thanks to your generous donations and the forethought of a young parishioner, we distributed 76 Easter baskets for children of needy families and included WalMart gift cards for those families.

If you would like to know more about our charitable organization or would possibly like to join us, please call Kevin Darr at 296-2221.



MAINTENANCE

Ted Novelli

We are still looking for help cleaning up the parking lot area. If you can help with clean-up, please contact **Mike Shoda** (295-4413) or me, **Ted Novelli** (295-1302).

We have bids for new lighting and doors in the church.

Watch the parking area on cold mornings for icy conditions. Very slippery. Thank you all.

CHURCHES OF EUROPE

Joan Alimonti

FAMOUS DUOMOS OF ITALY (Part 2)



DUOMO OF SIENA

Siena Cathedral is a medieval church dedicated from its earliest days as a Roman Catholic Marian church, and now dedicated to the Assumption of Mary. The cathedral was designed and completed between 1215 and 1263 on the site of an earlier structure. The bell tower has six bells, where the oldest one was cast in 1149.



The inlaid marble mosaic floor is one of the most ornate of its kind in Italy, covering the whole floor of the cathedral. This undertaking went on from the 14th to the 16th centuries, and about forty artists made their contribution. The floor consists of 56 panels in different sizes. We were fortunate to be there in September, since it is the only month where the incredible mosaic floor is open to the public. For the rest of year it is covered; this in hopes that it will last for centuries.

The Duomo is well noted for its art. Seven hundred years ago tremendous rivalry arose between Florence and Siena of who had the best art. After the plague in 1348, Siena history was one of defeat at the hands of the Florentines. But as her fortunes fell, her arts flourished and as written in an 1800 guidebook, the treasures of Siena are of such quality and quantity, they are better than those in Florence.

Florence and Siena were, and still are, extremely competitive. The art of Florence is more of the Renaissance and Siena's art is more Medieval.

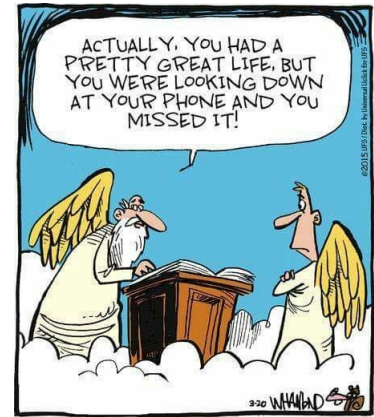
Siena's cathedral is as Baroque as Gothic gets. Its many statues of Bernini, Donatello, and Michelangelo dominate the interior. Bernini is considered to be the greatest Baroque sculptor and his *Cappella della Madonna del Voto* (Chapel of the Madonna of Vows) proves it.

MUSEO dell' OPERA (Duomo Museum)

Siena's most enjoyable museum was built to house the cathedral's art. There is a room where you sit and study one of the great pieces of medieval art, Duccio's *Maestà* (Enthroned Virgin).



On the opposite wall are 26 panels showing scenes of Christ's Passion (you can listen as it is explained in English).



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Our local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society continues to serve the poor as best it can during the coronavirus pandemic. Funding remains a challenge on Beggar's Sunday. If you haven't already, consider donating via the parish's Electronic Giving or Text2Give programs. Visit our website for more information.

OLOP SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

OLOP MEETINGS

Our Lady Of the Pines Society meets on the first Wednesday of every month, following the 11:20 AM Mass. 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 the meetings!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you need an announcement placed in the parish bulletin or a name placed on the parish prayer list, please contact the Bulletin Editor at the Parish Center, at 223-2970 or bulletin@stkatharinedrexel.com. Deadline is Tuesday for the following weekend's bulletin.

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