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WELCOME: If you are new to our parish, please introduce yourself after Mass or contact the Parish Office. We want to know you and serve you. We hope you will join us and make our parish your spiritual home.
Final Installment — A Trip to Italy
Assisi
By: Donald Marquez

Assisi is about a five hour drive from San Giovanni Rotondo. It was also my favorite city that we visited during our stay in Italy. First of all, as our itinerary informed us, “the atmosphere has not changed since St. Francis begin his ministry in the early 13th century.”

St. Francis of Assisi has long been adored by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. He is often quoted (and sometimes misquoted apparently) and his words were the inspiration behind one of the Church’s most beloved hymns. And, of course, Pope Francis chose to be named after “the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation.”

— See “Rome” on next page.

The Our Lady of the Rosary Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society — Helping Those in Need

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at OLR is available to help those who are in need. It runs a food pantry out of the trailer that is located near the B Street gate where food is provided to those who are going hungry or are having a difficult time making ends meet. SVDP can also offer help, or offer referrals to, those with other needs related to finances, counseling, health, furniture, clothing, and other necessary living expenses.

If you need help, or know of someone who does and might be too proud to ask for it, give us a call. A parish SVDP representative is available to lend a hand and offer support any day. Call 510.706.5852. In addition, you can stop by the trailer on the following days and times (our Winter season hours are now in effect):

- Wednesdays, 5:00—6:00 p.m.
- Thursdays, 5:00—6:00 p.m.
- Fridays, 6:30—7:30 p.m.

So if there is a need, you now know who to call. We’re here to help.

Every Friday — A Hot Meal With Warm Friends

Remember that we have dinners for the needy, elderly and lonely every Friday night at 6:00 p.m. in the Dobrec Room. All are welcome.
Rome
Continued from previous page

I have recently taken a deeper interest in the life of St. Francis, which only heightened my excitement of visiting Assisi. We hear Matthew Kelly speak of Jesus as a “radical” Teacher, and St. Francis took on a radical conversion from a wealthy existence to embracing the poor (literally).

He taught that unmerited suffering born patiently for love of Jesus is the path to “perfect joy.”

Radical.

While we may not act as St. Francis did when he stripped off his clothing and handed them to his astonished and furious father, we are called to remove those possessions—physical or otherwise—that keep us from relationship with God.

We celebrated Mass on Monday afternoon, November 9, at the Basilica of St. Francis (see image on page at left), where we visited his tomb and a series of murals depicting his life. We toured the Church that honors St. Francis’s sister Clare, who also lived a life of poverty and humility.

Photo taking inside the basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare was mostly prohibited, unlike many of the places we visited in Italy; however we were able to spend more free time in Assisi than any other city.

That night we assembled at the Hotel Roseo to listen to Matthew Kelly’s conference on prayer as a critical element to our faith path: “The Christian life is not sustainable without daily prayer.” (See photo of Donald and Matthew).

The next day—our last in Italy with the exception of traveling—we went to Mass at St. Mary of the Angels Basilica where St. Francis spent most of his life, founded the Franciscan Order, and is the place of his death. We also visited the beautiful Rose Garden where St. Francis and other friars lived (see image).

At our final Mass together, we were treated to a three-person homily featuring the priests that accompanied us on this trip.

Fr. Jim Deiters: “The divinity of God coming into our humanity is what we experienced this week.”

Monsignor Jim Lisante: “The privilege of serving God is God doing us a favor, not the other way around.”

Fr. Bob Sherry, who brought the theme of this journey (pilgrim or tourist?) to a fitting conclusion: “Our faith is imperishable. When you get home you are still a pilgrim, until the day that you return Home.”

Dynamic Catholic is sponsoring a pilgrimage to France next August. There are still spots open. They are also planning another trip to Italy in November. Contact me at donald_marquez@yahoo.com or visit the Dynamic Catholic website for more details. — Don

AT RIGHT:
THE ROSE GARDEN
BELOW:
MATTHEW AND DONALD
Christmas Wishes
from Our Lady of the Rosary Church

Dear family of Our Lady of the Rosary,

As we prepare for Christmas, the news that has been broadcasted on our television in the last couple of days has awakened the fear, the hate, and the revenge towards many people from our community and our country. You can palpate an anti-Islamic and anti-immigrant feeling. Armed people protesting outside an Islamic center in Irving, Texas, governors trying to send back Syrian refugees and some presidential candidates' trying to send back all immigrants and create a national registry for all Muslims. All this reminds me that 2000 years ago the doors were closed on Jesus by persons that did not want him to be born among them. As people of faith we have the moral and civic obligation to awaken within us the most noble and holy virtues of love, hospitality, and hope; and that these virtues, take us to construct a more human world in which we all see each other as children of God.

My prayer and wish is that God spread his mercy and joy on everyone and in each of your homes this Christmas.

-- Fr. Jesús Nieto-Ruiz, Pastor

Merry Christmas!

-- Fr. Paul Chen

The Christmas Gospel proclaims: "And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'" As we begin this Jubilee Year of Mercy let us unite in praying that peace will prevail and that God's favor will continue to rest upon us.

-- Deacon Dick Folger

Wishing all of you peace and joy on Christmas and all the blessings for the New Year.

-- Deacon Gustaaf Roemers

May this “Year of Mercy” put us in the habit of helping those in need and spreading good cheer to all – not only at Christmas time, but throughout the year. May you be blessed with Christmas joy.

-- Robert Clark, Business Manager

May this wonderful holiday season where we celebrate the birth of Jesus bring you all a bounty of love for you and yours, joyous hope for a better tomorrow and everlasting peace in our world. Many, many blessings.

-- Susan P. Garcia, Principal, and the Faculty and Staff of Our Lady of the Rosary School

A blessed and joy-filled Christmas to all God's People. Peace . . .

-- Camila Magdaleno, CCD Director

To our faith community of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, may you all be filled with the Spirit of Christmas. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Joyous New Year!

-- Susana Peinado, CCD Secretary/Spanish Youth Minister
ATTENTION USERS OF OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:
YOUR ENVELOPES WILL NOT ARRIVE ON TIME

THIS IS WHAT TO DO

As you have read in the previous two editions of the Bulletin, we are converting over from having our offertory envelopes mailed out to our parishioners' homes every two or three months to handing them out in person in what is called an “Annual Boxed Set.” For our long-time parishioners, you will remember that this is how we did it before the mid ’80’s. We are switching over as it will save us a lot of money, and it will also reduce the chance of the envelopes getting lost in the mail.

If you currently receive offertory envelopes from us in the mail, you will see that your last envelope will be for January 3. We were hoping to pass out the new boxed sets at our Masses that day. We have just learned that the sets of envelopes will not be ready on time, as the envelope graphics need to be redesigned.

So, we have to come up with a solution to “get us through.”
Here it is:

Next Sunday, we will be in front of the church to distribute temporary envelopes for the month of January.

Please stop by the table located at the entrance to the church to pick up a set of temporary envelopes.
At the end of the month we will then let you know when we will be distributing the boxed sets, so keep reading the Bulletin to learn when this will be.
Thank you for your patience.

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS . . .

... those in our parish and families who are ill or homebound: Santa Alvarez, Yvonne Alvidrez, Josephine Bonfiglio, Lindy C., Frank Cabrera, Jacob Cady, Maria Camarillo, Grace Carr, Patty Carrillo, Anita Castillo, Connie Chagolla, Richard Chavez, Grace Continelli, Maria DeAraujo, Jennie DeCosta, Irene Drouin, Jeanette Dunbar, Joseph Dunbar, Teresa Enriquez, Juanita Estrellas, Pauline Fahman, James Finnigan, Jose Franco, Angela Gallegos, Hector Gaytan, Randy Gonzales, Reynaldo Gonzalez, Pat Gowin, Deanna Graves, Ronnie Graves, Keith Gunter, Ethel Guerrero, Angelica Herrera, Brigitte Himmler, Margaret K., Shirley Lee, Cora Lorenzo, Tom Lorimer Jr., Jesus Loza, Francisco Lozano, Evan Medeiros, Maria Mederos-Romero, Joe Morales, Richard Nelson, Mary O’Neil, Ma. Elena Ochoa, Manuel Antonio Orellana, Luis Ruben Peinado, Anita Perkins, Alexandria Ramos, Monica Raygoza, Benjamin Renteria, Vida Rivera, Joe Romero, Angel Salindong, Macca Savage, Jayne Tavres-Arreguin, Vivianlee Tonry, Fernando Trujillo, Jose Valdez, Maria Valdez, Mary Ybarra.

Schedule of Masses For New Years Day
Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Friday, January 1
9:45 a.m. – Mass in Spanish
11:30 a.m. – Mass in English

New Years Holiday Schedule for The Parish Office

The following is the schedule of the Parish Office for the New Year’s Holiday:

Thursday, December 31:
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1 (New Year’s Day): Closed

If the office is closed and you must contact us in the case of an emergency, phone 510.471.2609 and select option 2 on the menu. Thank you.

Know of Someone Who is Sick at Home? Something to Remember . . .

If you, or someone you know, is ill and cannot make it to Church, let us know. We can send a Minister to the Sick to pay a visit and provide Communion in the home. Call the Parish Office at 510.471.2609 and we will have a Minister to the Sick contact you.
Saliw Himig 2015
University of the Philippines
Concert Chorus
To Perform January 2

The University of the Philippines Concert Chorus will have Salim Himig 2015, a concert to take place on Saturday, January 2, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Union City Apostolic Church located at 33700 Alvarado-Niles Road. There is a $20.00 donation for admission. The event is sponsored by St. James Church, St. Anne Church, St. Anne’s Knights of Columbus Council #8617, the University of the Philippines Alumni of San Francisco, F.U.N. Sunset Rotary Club and the Union City Tennis Club. For more information and tickets call Omy Ronquillo at 510.585.8897.

Our Volunteer Gardeners
Given Time Off
To Enjoy the Holidays

Due to the fact that New Years Day falls on Friday, we will give our volunteer gardeners the time off this coming Saturday. Since it is winter, the lawns and shrubs are growing more slowly anyway. We hope that they will enjoy their time off.

Please Return
Your Little Houses
FESCO’s
“Homes for the Homeless”
Project Comes to An End

If you have not done so already, please turn in your “Little Houses.” Place them in the specially-marked containers found at both the entrances of the Church — please do not put them in the collection. Little Houses may also be turned in at the Parish Office, at Religious Ed. (CCD) classes and at Youth Group meetings. Checks are to be made payable to “Our Lady of the Rosary Church,” which will write a single check to FESCO.

Please help us reach our goals of raising $5,000.00 and having 200 Little Horses returned.

If you have any question, call our parish FESCO Representative, Ron Wenzler, at (510) 400-9045.

No Information
Available Yet on the
Christmas Collection

Since this edition of the Bulletin was printed on Wednesday, December 23, we cannot provide the total for the Christmas collection even though you are receiving this Bulletin after Christmas. Details on the Christmas collection will appear in next weekend’s Bulletin.

A “Thank You” to the
Many People
Who Shared With Others
this Christmas

This year 106 families are having a brighter Christmas thanks to your help and the support of individuals and businesses in our community.

We would like to thank those who have made our Christmas food and gift program possible. First we would like to thank our parishioners who took one of the “basket ornaments” off of the Advent Tree and prepared a food basket to provide a Christmas breakfast and dinner for a family in need. The Fremont Bank Foundation also deserves a huge “Thank you,” as it once again made a $5.000.00 cash donation to our program. This funding enabled us to provide a ham for each of the food baskets.

Rather than collect gifts under the tree during Advent, we reached out to the community to provide toys. We also provided each of the families receiving a food basket a $25.00 WalMart gift card. The gift card simplified the gift-giving aspect of the program, and it made it easier for families as well: they could buy what they really wanted, and if they wanted clothing, they would be assured of getting the correct size.

Larger cash donations from a number of parishioners, and the money remaining after the hams were purchased with the Fremont Bank donation, helped pay for the gift cards.

Finally, we would like to thank those who donated toys. Individual donors were Rosemarie Arenas, Ruby Connecon, and two residents of the Tropics Mobile Home Park, Lorraine Ferguson, Dan and Mariana Galindo, and another lady named Lita. Local businesses that supported us were The Tropics Mobile Home Park and Baldie’s Café’s manager and staff.

We would also like to thank the members of our St Vincent de Paul Society for organizing and working on this project.

So thank you all for helping to make Christmas brighter for those in our community who are in need.

SPONSORSHIPS FOR THE WEEK
HOSTS: Sponsored by Francisco and Yolanda Garcia, in loving memory of Jesus and Carmen Mendez, Jose and Rosa Garcia, Chema and Olivia Sevilla and Richard Martinez
WINE: Sponsored by Francisco and Yolanda Garcia, in loving memory of Jesus and Carmen Mendez, Jose and Rosa Garcia, Chema and Olivia Sevilla and Richard Martinez

STEWARDSHIP CORNER
SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT
For Sunday, December 20, 2015 — Fourth Sunday of Advent
Plate Collection (Including EFT) ............................................................ $8,382.50
Our budgeted goal for the Plate Collection ........................................ 10,700.00
Children’s Envelopes ...................................................................... 74.00

Thank you for your support!!!
Our Lady of the Rosary Church
GIFT CARDS WE SELL TO RAISE FUNDS

HOW DO WE RAISE FUNDS SELLING GIFT CARDS?
Our church purchases gift cards for a variety of stores, restaurants, and other retailers at a discount. When you buy gift cards from us, you purchase them at face value, and then you spend them at face value - there is no extra cost to you when you participate in this program. The difference between the price we pay for a card and its face value is what we earn.

GIFT CARDS THAT WE HAVE IN STOCK AT ALL TIMES

SUPERMARKETS
99 Ranch Market $25, $100 (40%)
Lucky / Food Maxx / Save Mart $25, $50, $100 (20%)
Marina Food $10 (5%)
Raley's / Nob Hill $25, $50, $100 (40%)
Safeway / Pak 'n Save / VONS $25, $50, $100 (40%)
Smart & Final / Extra $25, $50, $100 (30%)
Safeway $25, $50, $100 (40%)
Whole Foods Market $25, $100 (20%)

RESTAURANTS
Applebee's $25, $50 (60%)
Burger King $10 (30%)
Chevy's $25 (60%)
Chili's/Macaroni Grill/On the Border/Maggianos $25, $50 (90%)
Chipotle Mexican Food $10 (50%)
Claim Jumper $25, $100 (90%)
Cold Stone Creamery $10 (60%)
Denny's $10 (60%)
IHOP $10, $25 (80%)
Jack in the Box $10 (30%)
Jamba Juice $10 (60%)
KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken) $5 (70%)
McDonald's $5, $10 (100%)
Mimi's Cafe $25 (80%)
Outback Steakhouse/Carrabba's $25 (30%)
PF Chang's $25 (50%)
Panera Bread $5, $10, $25 (70%)
Peet's Coffee and Tea $20 (60%)
Pizza Hut $5, $10 $25 (70%)
Red Lobster / Olive Garden $10, $25 (20%) $25 (70%)
Starbucks Coffee $10, $25 (50%)
Subway $10, $50 (20%)
TGI Friday's $25 (90%) $25 (85%)
Texas Roadhouse $10 (30%)

GAS AND AUTOMOTIVE
ARCO $50, $100, $250 (10%)
Chevron $50 (10%)
Shell Oil $25, $50, $100 (15%)
76 Gas $25, $100 (10%)

OTHER STORES
Ace Hardware (Dale Hardware) $25, $100 (40%)
Amazon.com $10, $25, $100 (20%)
Bath & Body Works $10, $25 (11%)
Bed Bath & Beyond $25, $100 (60%)
Best Buy $25, $100, $250 (2%)
Burlington Coat Factory $25 (8%)
CVS/Pharmacy $10, $25, $100 (5%)
Century Theatres (Cinemark) $9.50 (10%), $25 (4%)
The Gap / Old Navy Banana Republic $25, $100 (7%)
The Home Depot $25, $100 (2%)
Itunes $15, $25 (3%)
Jo-Ann Fabrics $25 (6%)
Lowes Home Improvement $25, $100, $500, $1000 (3%)
Michael's $25 (4%)
Payless ShoeSource $20 (13%)
Regal Theaters (IMAX) / Edwards $10, $25 (8%)
Rite Aid $25 (4%)
See's Candy $18.50 (20%)
Sports Authority $25 (6%)
Supercuts $25, $100 (8%)
Toys 'R Us / Babies 'R Us $20, $100 (1%)
Walgreen's $25, $100 (4%)

DEPARTMENT STORES
K-Mart $25, $50 $100 (40%)
Kohl's Department Store $25, $100 (30%)
Macy's $25, $100 (10%)
JC Penney $10, $25, $100 (5%)
Ross Dress for Less $25 (8%)
Sears $25, $100, $250 (3%)
TJ Maxx / Marshalls / Homegoods $25 (6%)
Target $10, $25, $50, $100 (1.5%)
Wal-Mart / Sam's Club $10, $25, $100, $250 (1.5%)

STORES WITH ELECTRONIC SCRIP
The following stores have electronic scrip programs:
• LUCKY / FOOD MAXX / SAVE MART (S.H.A.R.E.S Card)
These programs have no cost to the participant. See us after Mass or at the Parish Office for assistance in enrolling.

GIFT CARDS THAT WE CAN ORDER FOR YOU. There are so many gift cards available we cannot afford to stock them all. Read the list below carefully. If you ever want to purchase gift cards for any of these merchants, let us know and we will order it for you. It takes less than a week for us to order it, and we will call you when it is in. For more details on the gift cards for these merchants, visit our website at www.olrchurch.org. If anyone tells us that they would purchase any of these gift cards on a regular basis, we would be willing to stock it - let us know.
AMC Theatres, AT&T Prepaid Card, Arby's, Auto Zone, AVIS, Baja Fresh, Best Western Hotels, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Black Angus, Bloomingdale's, Boston Market, Brooks Bros, Budget Car Rental, Build-a-Bear Workshop, California Pizza Kitchen, Carl's Jr, Carnival Cruises, Carrows, Casual Male, Champs Sports, Cheesecake Factory, The Children's Place, Circle K, Claire's, Clarion Hotels, Coco's, Comfort Inn/Suites, Container Store, Cracker Barrel, Crate & Barrel, Dave & Buster's, Del Taco, Dell Computer, Dillard's, Disney, Dress Barn, Domino's Pizza, Dunkin' Donuts, EB Games, Econo Lodge, Eddie Bauer, El Pollo Loco, Electronics Boutique, Express, Exxon, Fairmont Hotels, Foot Locker, GNC, GameStop, Golfsmith, Great Clips, Gymbookee, Hallmark, Hard Rock Cafe, Harry & David, Honeybaked Ham, Hyatt Hotels, J. Crew, J. Jill, Jiffy Lube, L.L. Bean, Land's End, Lane Bryant, Limited, Lion Food Center, Little Caesar's Pizza, Marriott Hotels (Courtyard/Fairfield/Renaissance/Residence Inn/Spring Hill/TownePlace), Men's Wearhouse, Mobil, Motherhood Maternity, Neiman Marcus, Office Depot, Office Max, Omaha Steaks, Overstock.com, Papa John's, Pep Boys, PetSmart, Pier 1, Pottery Barn, Quality Inn, REI Sporting Goods, Radio Shack, Red Robin, Regis Haircare, Restoration Hardware, Ritz Carlton Hotels, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Sally Beauty Supply, Sephora, Six Flags, Sleep Inn, Staples, Sunglass Hut, Tomatoes/Soup Plantation, Talbots, Ulta Salon, United Artists Theatres, Williams Sonoma ... AND MORE! You may purchase gift cards after Mass or at the Parish Office. Phone us to special order or email us at admin@olrchurch.org

12/02/2015
Tuesday, December 29
  Bible Study, English, home of Olive Riley-Stewart, 10:00 a.m.
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.
  Rosary, English 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 30
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.
  Rosary, English 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 31
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.
  Rosary, English 6:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1
  NEW YEARS DAY
  Parish Office will be closed
    Mass in Spanish, 9:45 a.m.
    Mass in English, 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 2
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.