



THE BETHLEHEM

Hebrew for "House of Bread"

May & June, 2024

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THE SEASON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALREADY HERE!



This is the Season After Pentecost. Depending on the denomination, it is also called Ordinary Time, also possibly called Kingdomtide or Dominiontide in the Church. It begins the day after Pentecost and ends the day before the First Sunday of Advent. It is the longest of all liturgical seasons and is known for the liturgical color of Green. Green symbolizes life, growth, hope, and anticipation for all believers and for God's Creation.

This is a time for us to fully grow and appreciate the Spirit of the living God in our lives and how the Holy Spirit is within us. Now that Pentecost has come and gone, we have to ask ourselves some deep spiritual questions

that can help us amplify the Holy Spirit in us: What gifts are we utilizing from the Holy Spirit today in the Church? How are we truly sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in this hurting world and taking care of those less fortunate through the gifts of the Spirit? What steps are we taking to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our hearts and minds to the realization of God's Grace and that nothing can separate us from the intimate love of God?

All of these questions take a time for discernment. The Spirit of the living God is what keeps us staying in and with and through our Lord's teachings. The Holy Spirit is seen as a moving force like the wind and fire that are refining and reshaping us into something brand new. We are no longer enclosed in a shell, hidden, covered where we are not seen, not heard or misunderstood, but we are out in the world *as Christ* for everyone to understand and listen to, with the inclusive language of God's love and grace—empowered to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in thought, word and deed for everyone.

If we allow it, God desires us all to expand our vision to see what Christ has in store for each of us, for our parish, our ministries, for our families, for our very existence now. God knows how time is so precious on this earthly pilgrimage; God wants us to take hold of the

sacred through the guidance of the Holy Spirit at this very moment-- to be healed, transformed and fully restored.

If we desire this season to live in the Spirit, If we are open and receptive, God can and does use us as spiritual vessels in powerful ways of evangelism, from within our government, our homes, our places of work and leisure. The miracle of Pentecost that occurred is that the Holy Spirit is here now, the Holy Spirit speaks to us in our native language—the language of our dreams, and the Holy Spirit bolsters us to dream new dreams and engage in bigger realities because of this awesome presence that is within each of us.

Because of the Grand opening of Santa Angelina, WE are the birthing moment of a new vision and a new dream of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament. Our Church continues to recognize the empowering and celebrating of our creative and living God within each of us. Even in the difficult and challenging times of our lives, we can be like the Disciples of Christ on that Day of Pentecost and truly evangelize with new languages that can be understood as sacred; terminology and expressions of God's love and compassion that can be fully heard and comprehended without the masks and barriers. WE can be expressive of our authentic selves and be all that God wants us to be! Veni Sancte Spiritus—Come Holy Spirit, keep coming and filling us! AMEN!!

Abiding in the Spirit of the living God,
Fr. Barrett+

Outreach

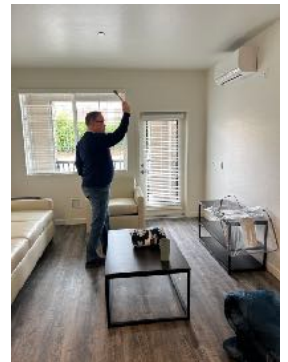
On 5/16/2024, Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love served 56 people, doing 500 loads, spending \$834.50 (\$1.67/load, \$14.90/person, 8.9 loads/person). Cash gifts used were from CLC, Marianne Weisel, Matthew Clark, Roxanne Young, and Michael Beaver. 127 50 ml bottles of hand sanitizer donated by Sheila Jordan, CLC assistant director, were given out. 6 face masks were given out. 5 coloring books and boxes of crayons were given to children. Volunteers were Tom Johnson, Marion Lee, and Doug Lee, working with Busy Bee Laundry employees Beatrix and Amalia. Detergent used was given to us at no charge from EarthBreeze.com. Thanks very much to all supporters.

Best wishes,
Doug Lee

Santa Angelina; Dress & Bless

April 19, 2024

In preparation for our new residents moving in to their new apartments, a number of units (21) designated for permanent supportive housing were showered with various gift baskets thru various donations from the local community. Hope for Housing Team, parishoners and Fr. Barrett all worked together to visit the designated apts for "Dress & Bless". Asperision was performed as part of the blessing ceremony for each of the 65 units. The Dress for the 21 units for the Permenant Supportive Housing was to make them turn key ready. Volunteers set up each of the bathroom by installing shower curtains, bathroom sets including shampoo and soap, towels and bath mats, toilet supplies- paper, plunger and cleaning supplies and equipment; making the beds with provided linens and blankets; kitchen were including dining sets for 2, washed and dried and placed in the cabinets and drawers, laundry supplies as there are washers and dryers on each floor. Also a welcome gift placed on the coffee table along with a knitted afghan comforter.



Dress is assembled brought from the storage shed. Orientation and our marching orders are procured. We had a list of the 21 rooms that we will equip with the basics to be turn key ready.. Fr Barrett begins to bless all rooms, some almost done and of course, many are vacant. A mix of dressed and bare rooms follow in the sequence below.



Kitchen prep by Anita Cruz, Marilyn White, Marylin W, Teri Niebuhr and Beverly Cardwell above and Doug Lee below opens shower curtain package with Rosie Aparicio filling kitchen pantry and a complete setup of kitchen drawers below.



Susan Dolliver making bed with it finished on right. Great job!



Food and drink were provided before and after, thank you! Great fellowship with over 6-8 hours of work.



Part of our Blessed Sacrament team!
Thanks be to God for all!

Santa Angelina Grand Opening May 13, 2024



Opening with a pano view of venue and The South Portal to the Santa Angelina Senior housing area as the CLC kids head for the stage. Michael Beaver prepares to start the Pledge of Alligence, with veterans in full salute position.



Dcn Dominique and Ned Bergert of Blessed Sacrament led the Invocation, followed by the CLC singing and performing routines while singing during "Welcome to the Family" and "God Bless America" with Ashley Mangino directing. Brigitte Bellavoine provides beautiful organ music!



Michael Ruane, President, National CORE, comments on the effort to create resources like this with additional support from Hafsa Kaka ,Sr. Advisor on Homelessness representing Gov. Newsom, Alexa Washburn, Chief Dev. Officer, National CORE introduces Kevin Kirwin< Mayor Pro Tem, City of Placentia and presents Certificate.



The Right Rev. John Harvey Taylor, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles whose vision for using church properties for affordable housing is gaining more traction with many more projects done and planned with support from the Rev. Michael Bell, Dir. of Housing & Business Development, via the Episcopal Community Services added more info. Alexa then introduces Fr. Barrett Van Buren, Rector, Blessed Sacrament who holds up a pix of Santa Angelina.



Alexa introduces Jr. Warden of BSC, Tom Johnson by stating that he was a vital support for the project due to his wide experience in construction and was the main liaison between BSC and CORE. Tom then introduces leaders of the Construction team.



Doug Chaffee, Vice Chair, Orange County Board of Supervisors and Katrina Foley brings the county's praise for the project supported in part by the county and becoming a valuable asset that addresses homeless in Orange County. After that they jointly present a Certificate to Fr. Barrett. Then Josh Hamilton of Century Housing, Michael Hunn from Cal Optima and Ian Kemmer of



OC Health Care Agency mentioned support services that would be available to residents. Alyssa Cotter of Hope Through Housing Foundation, introduces Maggie Nobel, formerly homeless and now a resident of Santa Angelina who shares her happiness and hope for the future with her son, who suffers from muscular dystrophy who lives in nearby assisted living facility making easier for her to see him. Alexa and another speaker conclude the presentations.



Gathered for the ribbon cutting, scissor held by Bishop Taylor, Maggie Nobel and Dec. Dominique perform the action depicted and Santa Angelina is officialy open!! All proud and happy filled with hope!



Final candid shots as parties go to the reception and some prepare to tour the now operational Santa Angelina. A taco food truck passes out tacos supplementing set up in the Parish Hall, followed by a brief tour.

Below, elevator portal and open space in corridors with a final view of the South Portal.

The end of a long procces of planning and construction now complete, Santa Angelina now embarks on a bright future filled with hope and as a new ministry of many parts now opening up for our Blessed Sacrament Church.



Editor's Note: my thanks for the communiques and media releases for contributing to this narrative. Thank you.

Maggie Nobel, now a Santa Angelina Resident



For Maggie Nobel, a Santa Angelina resident who addressed the gathering, the welcome and her move to an affordable apartment on the church's campus felt like "true paradise. I stand here before you to let you know that places like Santa Angelina are not just good for the community, they're good for our country and for so many people," said the former librarian and mother of a disabled son.

"Over the last year, my son and I lost our home of 20 years. We had to live in a motel because my Social Security payments were not enough for the apartment," she said. "I wasn't on the street like some, but I was still homeless. I know from experience that affordable housing means less stress and a better life."

Joining the Santa Angelina community has placed Nobel closer to her son, who suffers from muscular dystrophy and whose deteriorating health forced her to place him in an assisted living facility. "My life is turning around," she said. "I don't have to worry about living on the streets. I don't have to worry about the dangers of being homeless. I don't have to live in that hotel that was so far away from my son."

"I am forever grateful to be here," she added. "I'm so glad to get to be here with many kinds of residents and workers. I have a safe place to walk my dog. I'm much closer to my son, allowing me to visit more often. I know from experience that affordable housing means less stress and a better life. The partnership between National CORE and the Episcopal Church to make this apartment complex is a blessing. This community is a work of great charity. And I'm so glad that I and many others can benefit from such thoughtfulness."

Ed Note: My thanks for media releases from CORE for her story.

Pentacost Sunday

Pentacost Sunday with incense. Our new Thurifer James Blackburn, makes his debut. Red is the color of the day because it symbolizes the Holy Spirit being inside each of us like fire blazing. Everyone was encouraged to wear red.



David F in red robes: We give thanks to God for the Holy Spirit working within D Freeman being our lay reader and Eucharistic Minister.

Other celebrations and blessings.

Trinity Sunday & Memorial Day Service “Lest we forget”



Colors led the procession and were presented by Veteran Michael Beaver from our parish. He posted the colors by the front candle stand so all could reflect on the importance of Trinity Sunday and Memorial Day weekend combined. We also had additional celebrations and blessings, and anniversaries - 57 years for Ruth & Rudy Govorchin and 9 years for Ashley & Brian Mangino.



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