

Journey to Christ

A publication of Sangre de Cristo Catholic Community

Lenten/Easter Season 2014



Introducing some of our First Holy Communion classes for 2014. Please refer to Feature 1 on page 3 for caption info. Photo by Donna Duran

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c/o Sangre de Cristo Catholic Community
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Publication of Sangre de Cristo Catholic Community

MISSION STATEMENT We, the parish of Sangre de Cristo, are a Roman Catholic Community united by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and guided by the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Church. We willingly accept our mutual responsibility to carry out our true mission, doing the will of God, thus living out our faith as heirs in the hope of eternal life.

Lenten/Easter Season 2014

volume 4, no 2

What's Happening? IN OUR PARISH AND THE CHURCH

A Reminder from the Parish Office Please remember to update your parish registration information in the Parish Office if you have had any of the following changes:

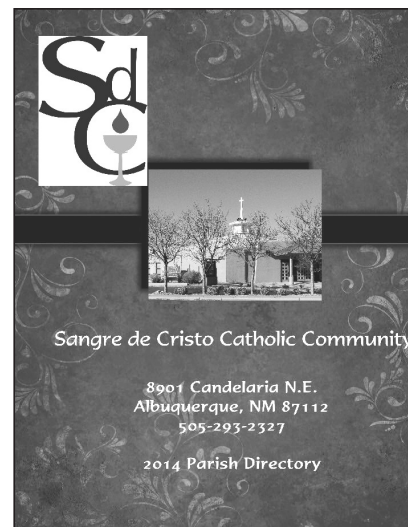
- Change of address or phone number
- Change of name
- Birth or loss of a registered family member
- A dependent child that is now over the age of 18*

*At the age of 18, everyone must register on their own at a parish of their choice.

The Kids' Summer Program this year is tentatively scheduled for the last week of May and the first week of June. We will be offering the same classes as we did last summer: quilting, cooking, guitar and wood work, plus a new class! Check out our church bulletins for more information: what the new class will be, dates, registrations, and more. You can also call or stop by the Parish Office.

2014 Parish Pictorial Directory Update Sangre de Cristo's Directory is scheduled to be completed in late March. Copies will be provided to all of the ~125 parishioners who came to have their portraits taken for the directory.

Thanks to all who helped produce the new Parish Directory. A sneak preview of the Directory's cover is at right.



A Note FROM THE PASTORAL COUNCIL

Your Parish Pastoral Council has been working hard on your behalf for the betterment of the overall Parish, beyond the fine efforts of all of our Ministries. The Council is an advisory body to our Pastor who participates actively with the Council.

We recently completed the Parish Pictorial Directory (see separate article above). It is always fun to associate names with faces you see at Mass.

We are setting up a Lenten Mission to be conducted by Allen Sanchez (see separate article, page 3). Many of us

wonder what we could do "extra" for Lent to become closer to our Savior during this special time. This is certainly one excellent and recommended alternative. A non-traditional approach will be used; specifically, after each presentation by Allen, we will break up into small discussion groups to cover what each of us heard and how we could incorporate the thoughts into our individual lives.

The Council is also planning for a Parish Picnic this fall; more information to come.

Lastly, we are arranging for a Council Retreat in February to "brainstorm" a number of ideas to enhance our faith through activities in the Parish. We invite your thoughts; catch any of us individually or jot down a note for us and leave at the Parish Office. We will be asking for your support. The Parish can only progress if all of us join in to advance our faith through our voluntary efforts. As my mother often repeated, "many hands make light work".

— Vic Berniklau

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contributing writers Tom Baca, Vic Berniklau, Donna Duran, Chris Madigan and Briana Vargas.

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Liturgical Season **UPCOMING**

A Dying Life

When I complained about something as a kid, my mother often replied, "Offer it up!" Though she was encouraging me to make the best of a bad situation, I heard only "Stop whining" or "Get over it." As an adult, more aware of how my own strengths and shortcomings contribute to my discomforts, the advice that intrigues me now is from *The Imitation of Christ*: "lead a dying life."

An odd phrase. It suggests not merely that I should live today as if my life were to be demanded of me this evening but that something about my activities today should share in the nature of dying, of turning away from what I customarily think of as life, of "giving it up." And Lent seems a good time for such attempts because, in the Sunday readings, Jesus repeatedly reminds us there's more to life than we see or think.

The first Sunday, Adam and Eve fall for the serpent's lies while Jesus rejects Satan's offers to eat well, live securely, and be powerful. Next Sunday, God tells the Apostles to listen to his transfigured Son. Later, the Israelites complain of thirst in the desert and Jesus offers living water to the

Samaritan woman at the well, Samuel is blind to kingly qualities in young David and Christ heals the blind man, and God promises, "When I open your graves and raise you, you'll know I am the Lord" before Jesus raises Lazarus.

Jesus did all these things on his way to the cross. Maybe "lead a dying life" means trying something other than eating well, living securely, being powerful, staying hydrated (!), and trusting my own perceptions. Lent might be a good time to test that theory. My mother spent the entire day she died complimenting everyone around her, even the janitor who emptied the trash can beside her bed ("Do you know how much people appreciate the good job you do? Thank you.") I'm normally critical. What could God teach me if I spent a day complimenting those around me? If we're normally frugal, what might God show us through an act of uncharacteristic generosity? If begrudging, through forgiveness. If busy, through stillness? If chatty, through quiet? If impulsive, through waiting? What graces might we receive by "offering up" or dying to our customary way of living as we prepare for the mystery of Easter?

—Chris Madigan, *Liturgy Team*

Our New Parish Administrator: **DONNA DURAN**



This past July, Fr. Johnny appointed Donna Duran to serve Sangre de Cristo Parish in the role of Parish Administrator. Donna is also the Religious Formation Director in the parish so she now wears two hats.

Although this is only Donna's second year in the parish, being a Parish Administrator is not a new role for her. She was Parish Administrator at our neighboring parish and school, Queen of Heaven, for twelve years. She has had as many as 60 employees under her supervision.

When asked what she does as Parish Administrator, Donna just smiles and says, "It's easier to tell you what I don't do!" But for our sake, she explains in a nutshell what her job description entails.

First of all, she works alongside our Pastor, Fr. Johnny Lee Chavez, to assist him in all aspects of the

daily running of the parish. Donna is a member of the Finance Council, the Parish Council and the Liturgy Team. If Fr. Johnny is unable to be at these meetings, Donna is there in his place to make decisions and give direction to these ministries. In this, she upholds all existing policies set up by the Archdiocese and the Pastor.

Donna oversees all employees of the parish and chairs the weekly staff meetings and prayer if Fr. Johnny is away. Her role with employees includes supporting them and making decisions with them in their particular area of work. She helps Fr. Johnny with the hiring, retention, discipline or dismissal of employees. She takes care of annual employee evaluations, oversees job descriptions and updates to the employee manual.

Donna meets with Fr. Johnny on a regular basis and takes care of sensitive parish correspondence and meetings involving parish problems. She also supports parishioners in any way she can.

In short, Donna assists Fr. Johnny in any way she can. She feels honored and humbled to have been entrusted with this assignment. If Donna can help you in any way, please feel free to call her at 294-2375.

Feature 1 OUR 2014 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES

The photos on the newsletter's cover are of some of our First Communion classes. The one on the LEFT is of Jim Lowell's First Communion class. Julius Duran assists in testing them on prayers and steps for confession. Those in this photo are Back Row: left to right, Mr. Duran, Alexandria Mesillas, Makaylah Sandoval, Jim Lowell. Front Row: left to right, Alicia Andrade, Ty Minton, Dante Dixon and Joshua C'de Baca. Not pictured: Maria Madrid, Larissa Belmontes and Gabriel Rocha.

We have two children who are preparing for First Communion in the evening. Shown in the photo at RIGHT is teacher, Andrea Gomez and Edgar Flores. Kaley Torrez is not shown. They will all join together on First Communion Day for the Mass on Sunday, May 4th, 8:30 a.m. This is the smallest First Communion class we've had—eleven total. BUT, it's because we have the largest RCIA group ever and a number of them will be making their First Communion as well at the Easter Vigil. We have seven RCIA children this year and four adults (no photos available). Between all of them, all Sacraments will be received at the Easter Vigil: Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Feature 2 LENTEN MISSION WITH ALLEN SÁNCHEZ

Sangre de Cristo Parish will conduct a Lenten Mission on the evenings of March 24, 25 & 26 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. The subject will be *Credibility of the Eucharist as the Living God*.

These three evenings of lectures and faith sharing will take the participants on a journey back 2,000 years to the Apostolic era of the Church. The center of our Catholic Faith is the Eucharist. How is it that we know and trust, that what we have received over the centuries to be truth, will be discussed. This Lenten Mission promises to be educational and food for our spirituality.

The Lenten Mission will be conducted by Allen Sánchez.

BIO Allen Sánchez has served as President and CEO of St. Joseph Community Health, which is a part of Catholic Health Initiatives, since 2008. Allen led the organization in starting the largest home visiting program for children 0-5 in the nation, as well as the largest referral service program in the state.

Allen was co-owner of Milestone Family Center, an outpatient counseling center for alcoholism and chemical dependency.

Allen received his Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Services from the College of Santa Fe. He subsequently received a Degree of Sacred Theology from Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy, and a Master of Arts in Spirituality from St. Thomas Aquinas Pontifical University in Rome.

Early in his career Allen worked for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe as a Parish Life Coordinator and then as the Director of Renew. In 1999, he was given the opportunity to be the trainer and motivational speaker for the western region with Renew International, and served as the Director of Evangelization.

Allen was the founder of Jersey Gold, an all-natural dairy farm and processing plant. The Jersey Gold Farm was showcased numerous times by the US Department of Agriculture with tours from dairy farmers in Italy and Montenegro.

Since 2003 Allen has served as the Executive Director of the New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops. He has worked to advance important legislation to help New Mexicans. Highlights of his work with the Catholic Bishops include repeal of the death penalty, working to establish a minimum wage for all New Mexicans, banning cock-fighting in New Mexico, regulation of payday lending, reform of the scholarship lottery, funding for early childhood development, funding the housing trust fund, repeal of the food tax, banning embryonic stem cell research, and upholding the law to issue driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants.

One of Allen's joys is directing retreats, which he has done since 1989, across the United States.

Mr Sánchez is married and has two children.



Our next "Journey to Christ" newsletter will be for the Advent/Christmas season in 2014.

Please check the church bulletins or call the Parish office for upcoming events between Easter and Advent.

A Huge THANK YOU to Nancy Milligan, the Newsletter Ministry volunteers and our Parish Staff in preparing this newsletter for mailing, i.e. printing, folding, tabbing, labeling, and bulk mail sorting.

We, the Journey to Christ Newsletter Ministry, send our Blessings to you and your family during this Lenten/Easter season.