

April 2009

# Saints Alive



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## **Pulled Hard in Different Directions**

Fr. Rob Droste, Rector

Ever since the earliest days of the church, congregations have experienced the uncomfortable sensation of being pulled in many directions. As early as the first century, "We really like things as they are -- they're good" pulled against "We like innovation -- we have to change to survive."

"Tradition makes us feel safe" conflicted with "The old ways are stifling us." And since Jesus' time with the Twelve, "We're here to take care of each other" (pastoral care) has always pulled against "We're here to care for those outside us" (mission). It's always been this way. And of course, All Saints is subject to these forces, too.

Neither one of these ways of seeing a congregation is right or wrong. Just as a human being lives pulled between concern for self and others, they are both necessary to a healthy community. The question we have to ask ourselves is "What do we do with the pressures and tension they create?"

To be sure, we know what not to do: indulge in black/white, either/or thinking and make others wrong. We actually need each other's viewpoints. The first step is to recognize and accept that. Once we do that, we can then ask ourselves "What can we do today, short term and long term, that pushes these together and transforms the tension into creative power?"

If we think about the way God works, this is actually what we see. God created us with these kinds of differing perspectives, and challenged us to value each and actually hold them together. That takes respect for each other, and love in action. But the payoff is great. More energy, optimism, and hope are released. We are given new kinds of

approaches that often surprise us. Jesus did it all the time. When we do it too, we're not just following Jesus. We're being him.

## New Format for Newsletter

With this *Saints Alive* we're trying out an application called Constant Contact. It includes a selection of colorful templates. You're looking at one of them now.

All recipients should be able to view the newsletter in the same way. Let us know if you have any feedback ([marvpat56@comcast.net](mailto:marvpat56@comcast.net)).

To print, click the *View Printable Version* link (left side of your screen), then click *Print*.

## Social Ministries

Tom Breckenridge

### Food Pantry

It takes a village to run a food pantry. It seems our entire village is pitching in. On March 7, 30 volunteers came to help out -- and 14 of them were not members of All Saints. There was Richard from Sheffield Village, who had read about the pantry in the newspaper and came to support the program. There was Liz, an April showers volunteer, who brought a friend. There was Charisse, our kickboxing instructor, who brought her son and two of his friends. And on it went. The word is out -- if you want to serve your village, All Saints is the place to go.

If you need food, All Saints is the place to go, as well. Last month, 94 guests took home groceries for 239 household members. Over 1300 grocery servings have been distributed since the beginning of the program. All Saints is serving its village very well indeed.

Many thanks for your good work as well as your support through the Bountiful Bucks campaign. Each dollar provides food for a household member at the pantry. Keep an eye out for that blue bucket and drop in a dollar -- you've just bought groceries for a fellow villager.

### April Showers: Salads Needed at Anniversary Picnic

All Saints will once again provide salads for this picnic lunch. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the parish hall. Come and enjoy this truly celebratory event!

The April Showers program does amazing work, and March 29 was a particularly amazing day. Check out Gene Bass's account.

## Good News: Tutoring Partnership Under Way (Volunteers Needed)

The All Saints/Roosevelt Tutoring Partnership is on board to begin Phase One in the final 7 to 8 weeks of the current school year.

We need a few more volunteers willing to spend one hour a week in a kindergarten or first-grade classroom working with individual students.

This is incredibly important and rewarding work, and the kids really respond well to the one-on-one attention.

All interested, please pick up a volunteer packet in the church office and contact Margo Howard at 562-4835 or [margohoward@sbcglobal.net](mailto:margohoward@sbcglobal.net).

Margo Howard, Roosevelt Parent

## It's Showtime!

Ken Wright

After the great Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, a group of us went in the sanctuary and had a fun time watching the Charlie Chaplin film *Gold Rush*.

The response seemed to be "Hey, let's do this again!" Our group is interested in hearing what the rest of you folks think about having an Old Time Movie Night, perhaps with a potluck dinner as part of the evening. Some suggestions are: Abbott and Costello's funniest routines; Laurel and Hardy collections; W. C. Field's *My Little Chickadee*; Orson Welles in *Citizen Kane*; and Edward G. Robinson in *Brother Orchard*.

During these stressful days, it seems we might need more opportunities for a little "R and R" -- especially together. It would be fun! Please let me know what you think and, of course, any other suggestions for an old-time movie. My email address is [wkendot@yahoo.com](mailto:wkendot@yahoo.com), or call 351-6651.

## Socks Project: Last Call!

John Trubina

Life on the street means life on your feet. But we can make a difference, one person at a time, through a simple gift of a pair of new white socks.

Throughout the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday), new pairs of white socks for men or women can be dropped in the Socks Project box in our narthex. These socks will be distributed to homeless people in the San Leandro area (through our Food Pantry or April Showers), and one quarter of them will be blessed at the School for Deacons and sent to St. Martin de Porres in San Francisco.

The deadline for socks collection is Palm Sunday, April 5.

For further information, please contact John Trubina.

## Walk with Me

John Trubina

Peace to you, my sisters and brothers.

It is now April, and time has flown with this school year. There are only two more classes left of this semester, and it's hard to believe that I will be ending my first year in the seminary. There were four of us who went to the Vocations Conference at the CDSP campus on March 21. It was quite an experience -- an intense day of interviewing with members of the Commission on Ministry. Each of us had interviews with two sets of commissioners. The questions dealt with our diaconal roles in our home parish, family life, studies, prayer life, and everything in between.

The interviewers met with Bishop Marc on March 26 to discuss our moving on in the seminary. I am excited to say that I have been accepted as a deacon postulant for our Diocese of California. Thank you for your prayers and support through this process. I am honored to have each of you walk with me during my seminary training.

Since my intentions were made public to the parish last year, the parish selected members of the parish family to sit on my Congregational Vocations Committee (CVC). The members of the committee were Melissa Ridlon, Nancy Churchill, Liz Berg, and Jim Halligan; Fr. Rob was an honorary member. The team is walking with me through my discernment process and continues to walk with me through ordination. Meetings consist of talking through my school experiences and my prayer life, and asking me questions concerning my vocation. Since the first meeting, Melissa Ridlon has dropped off the committee due to her being on the bishops' Commission on Ordained Ministry, and this would be a conflict of interest as I continue through the discernment process. I have asked Karen Taylor to sit on the CVC as Melissa's replacement, and she graciously accepted.

On March 28, we had our annual Inquirers Class for those who are interested in learning about the School for Deacons and for those who would like to learn what we are studying and meet the faculty and students. We had several visitors, and God willing, all or most of them will join us this fall in classes.

Please let me know if you would like to attend the next community dinner on May 9 at the school in Berkeley. This is opened to anyone in the parish family.

In Christ's service,  
John, Deacon Postulant  
[jtrubina@comcast.net](mailto:jtrubina@comcast.net), 415-517-5646

## You Are Invited to the April Showers 7th Anniversary Picnic

April 25, 11:30 to 2, San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Avenue

Come and visit with homeless guests, volunteers, city officials, and others. Enjoy hot dogs, soda, chips, popcorn, salads, desserts, and other goodies.

Cal 351-4474 for information.

If you want to bring a birthday present, we suggest new socks, briefs, and T-shirts.

## **April Showers: Demand Exceeds Supply**

Gene Bass

Hello, everyone.

As you probably know, the numbers of guests served at Interfaith Homelessness Network events have increased. Guests at April Showers at the San Leandro Boy' and Girl's Club in the last 6 months have increased from an average of 65 to over 100 today. Over 70 were waiting when we opened the building. San Leandro Community Church made 85 lunches for today's showers. We open from 11 to 2 each day, and we were out of lunches by about 12:15. We went into our emergency supplies that the Boys Club allows us to keep on site (Thanks, Bob) and made an additional 15 lunches which were all distributed.

We ran out of socks, shower packets, tote bags, and a couple of other items that required trips to resupply.

As you know, we issue laundry vouchers to all guests, and the most that we have ever issued was about 70. Our supply was depleted and more had to be secured; we issued about 90. Our cost on the vouchers redeemed is \$5 each, so if this continues we will start to have strain on our expenses.

We ran out of schedules for the following Shower events and had to improvise.

The soup makers came in with about 6 or 7 gallons of soup and again we ran short and had to go to our emergency supply. The kitchen staff was able to make soup so no one would go hungry. We will have to stock up again this week.

We had so many guests early, we had lines every where, and all guests were wonderful and thanked us for all that we did.

We had lines at the shower supply area.

We had lines at the men's shower.

We had lines at the bag lunch counter.

We had lines at the laundry voucher desk.

We had lines at the soup window.

We had lines at the barber chairs. Yes, plural -- we had 3 barbers today and did over 20 haircuts.

Bottom line, we had a wonderful day serving our guests today, and we had a fantastic group of volunteers working very hard to make sure every one got what they needed. I did not hear a single negative word today from anyone, and I went away feeling that we had truly served our mission of IHN and April Showers.

Blessings to all,  
Gene Bass

## **Gratitude**

Maxine Sitts, Neighborhood Center Facilitator

Thanks to the faithful who continue to donate to the Building Fund. If you've simply forgotten about your pledge or the fund, please remember that we are continuing to improve our building and pay back our loan to the diocese. Our building becomes more beautiful and useful each month.

Thanks be to God!

## Upcoming Events

See the [All Saints Calendar](#) for regular events including services, Bible study, Cardio-kickboxing with Charisse (every Saturday AM), and Qigong (every Wednesday AM)

### Saturday, April 4

Liturgy of the Steward 8:30 AM  
Food Pantry setup & lunch 11:00 AM  
Food Pantry 1:00 PM  
Rehearsal for Palm Sunday 3:00 PM

### Sunday, April 5

Palm Sunday service 10:00 AM  
April Showers 11:00 AM, Boys and Girls Club

### Thursday, April 9

Maundy Thursday service 7:30 PM

### Friday, April 10

Community Stations of the Cross 5:30 PM, across from Zocalo's  
Good Friday service 7:30 PM, San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft

### Saturday, April 11

Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 PM

### Sunday, April 12

Easter morning services 8:00 & 10:00 AM

### Sunday, April 19

Bag lunch preparation for April Showers after 8:00 service  
April Showers 11:00 AM, Boys and Girls Club

### Saturday, April 25

April Showers Seventh Anniversary Picnic 11:30 AM  
San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft  
Sacred Circle Dancing 7:00 PM

### Tuesday, April 28

Youth Art Academy Junior High Ski Trip 6:00 PM

### Saturday, May 2

Liturgy of the Steward 8:30 AM  
Food Pantry setup & lunch 11:00 AM  
Food Pantry 1:00 PM

## Contact Info

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