Marked with the Sign of Faith

It was about 1:00 am, on the morning of November 16, 1989, when the 35 soldiers arrived at the university. A small group broke off from the main body—heading towards the Jesuit residence. They forced the door of the residence, only to discover the cook—Elba Ramos—and her 15 year old daughter—Celina—in the room beside the kitchen where they entered. Leaving one soldier to hold the two at gunpoint, the main body of men went further into the house.

They found Fr. Ellacuria coming down the hall. He was their primary target—a sociologist and proponent of the Jesuit work in Central America to bring what their documents called “a faith that does justice”. They pushed him out into the garden, and with him his companions—Amando López, Ingacio Martín Baró, Segundo Montes, and Juan Ramón Moreno. They forced them all to lie face down on the grass.

Then they shot them—over and over again—giving special care to shoot their heads: a small sign of the hatred that they had for these men’s ideas. Yet, these ideas came not from theory, but from faith; born of their encounter with Christ in the gospels and the Spiritual Exercises. Ideas that spoke the radical gospel of Jesus, where the poor and the sorrowing are blessed, and where God “has thrown down the rulers from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.”

Finished in the garden, the soldiers went on to kill the witnesses—71 year old Fr. Joaquin Lopez, frail from prostate cancer, was shot in the hall; and the women were gunned down in their room. In all, eight people died in a matter of minutes, and when the murders were announced by radio in the army barracks, a cheer went up.

This month in our Parish we remember those who have died, and especially those “who have died, marked with the sign of faith;” but what is this “sign of faith” except the way in which the beloved of God loved God in those around them—even to their death?

And so we remember these eight, whose sign of faith was shown in the care with which they taught and served, and written in the blood they spilled.

But, we also remember Mother Teresa, whose sign of faith was lifting the dead and dying from the streets of Calcutta.

We remember Maximillian Kolbe, whose sign of faith was taking the place of a Jewish father, condemned to starve to death in Auschwitz.

We remember Oscar Romero, bishop of San Salvador, murdered during mass by assassins trained in our own country, whose sign of faith was his proclamation that “every effort to improve society, above all when society is so full of injustice and sin, is an effort that God blesses; that God wants; that God demands of us.”
Reminder!

Please bring a box or can of food for offering each Sunday.

All food collected is distributed to those in need by St. Francis House. During these extremely difficult times, especially during the holidays, if every family donates one food item, we will surely have an impact on the current shortage and help make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Smile for the Camera!

Fr. John will be available to take your family’s Christmas picture on Friday, November 20th, as well as the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 27th. Each family will receive a disk with several photos suitable for printing and ready for use as cards or photos.

Please contact Fr. John directly at jwhitney@stjosephparish.org or call 965-1647 to schedule an appointment. Suggested donation of $100, or whatever you can afford. Funds raised are being used for restoring statues in the church.

We remember the founders of St. Joseph Parish, our own parents and grandparents, whose sign of faith we see around us, in the thousand little ways they gave up their lives that we might live in the light of Jesus Christ and the promise of the resurrection.

With such examples, we are called to something new: called not just to love God, but to live God; to see in every face, the face of Christ. We must carry our worship from our hearts and church, to our homes and workplaces—this is our sign of faith. We must love the world, even though such love threatens us, as it threatened the saints, with the dangerous promise of grace.

Yours in the Lord,

John D. Whitney, SJ
Seniors on the Go...
Special Mass with Fr. John Whitney is set for Tuesday, November 17th. Mass at 6 pm in the SOCIAL HALL followed by potluck supper. If you are in need of a ride or for details, contact Mary Ott at 324-7459 or Delores Dorn at 322-2259.

Creative Art Group... Bring your pencils, brushes, paints and a spirit of creativity and join the creative art group at St. Joseph. For more information, contact Joanna Campbell at 206-328-6991.

Save the Date...
The December Seniors outing is scheduled for Monday, December 7th. Watch the bulletin for details.

The Blood Drive Was A Success!
Thanks to all who participated - Donors, Bakers, PSBC Staff, Volunteers! We registered 51 donors from the parish, neighborhood, Holy Names Academy, St. Joseph School parents, people on their way home from work, recipients of PSBC email and phone reminders. Thank you all! Next drive is scheduled for January 4, 2010. See you next year!

Ignatian Spirituality Center
Introduction to Lectio Divina
Thursday, November 19th, 7-9 p.m. in the St. Joseph Parish Center. This is being presented by Christine Paintner, ISC Program Coordinator and co-author of Lectio Divina: Contemplative Awakening and Awareness. For more information, visit www.IgnatianCenter.org

Praying the Gospel of John
Join us for a guided experience praying the Gospel of John using the gift of Ignatian Contemplation. Fourteen Monday evening sessions beginning November 23rd, 7-9 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish Center and journeying through the Easter season. This is facilitated by Mary Hartrich, ISC director, and Rosanne Michaels.

Spirituality on Tap
SEYA Program (Spiritual Enrichment for Young Adults Ages 21-35) Expanding the Heart Through Gratitude: A Mini Art Retreat Sunday, November 22, 2009 from 12:30-4 pm in the St. Joseph Parish Center.

Through prayer, simple art-making, poetry, and presence to the world around us we will savor the fullness of our lives in expressing gratitude. Facilitated by Christine Paintner, PhD. Suggested Donation: $10-$20. Please RSVP by November 19th. No art experience necessary.

Hosted by the Ignatian Spirituality Center. For more information, email deb@ignatiancenter.org or visit www.ignatiancenter.org

Resuscito! Living the Legacy of the El Salvador Martyrs
Panel Discussion & Procession of Hope
Monday, November 16th from 7:00-9:00 pm
Seattle University, Le Roux Room (Student Center 160) & Procession down the Lower Mall

November 16, 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the tragic deaths of the six Jesuits and two lay women assassinated by Salvadoran government forces at the University of Central America in El Salvador. As we look back twenty years later, we ask: what legacy have the martyrs left us? How have their lives and the circumstances surrounding their deaths impacted us personally? What lessons can Jesuit universities learn from their stances and actions against injustice? How can we all live out their legacy and commitment to peace and justice in today’s world?

Come hear Seattle University President Stephen Sundborg, S.J., Professor Emeritus of Theology & Religious Studies Gary Chamberlain, Alumna Devin Seman, Undergraduate student Yessina Medrano-Vossler, and St. Joseph parishioner Daniel Stoner offer their reflections on these questions. The panel discussion at 7:00 pm in the Student Center LeRoux Room will be followed at 8:00 pm by a procession down the Lower Mall. A reception will follow in Pigott Atrium at 8:30 pm. All students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members are welcome.

Sponsored by Seattle University Campus Ministry & Magis: Alumni Committed for Mission

Foundations in Faith-Morality
Using the Bible, The Catechism of the Catholic Church, and Church documents, this adult enrichment program will explore the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as the framework of a moral life, identifying the call to dignity for each human person and the common good as two foundations of a moral life. Participants will look at objective moral truth and the sources of moral norms in the Church, and explore the Christian virtues and how they are relevant to moral decision-making. In addition, they will discuss what is meant by a “well-formed conscience” and a process for Catholic moral decision-making as well as the primacy of the Church’s moral teaching in the life of the believer and the inviolability of human conscience. Please bring your Bible and copy of the Catechism to the class. Sunday, November 22nd at St. Peter’s in Beacon Hill from 1:30-5:30 PM. Cost: $5 per class. (Co-sponsored by St. James Cathedral with the South Seattle Deanery) Information, Helen Oesterle, 206-382-4514.
A Special Call For Liturgical Ministers
Eucharistic Ministers are needed:
Saturday 5 pm, we need 5 additional ministers.
Sunday 11 am, we need 1 additional minister.
Sunday 5:30 pm, we need 3 additional ministers.

Singers for the Christmas Choir are also needed:
The choir is just beginning rehearsals for Christmas Eve. We sing the 10 pm Christmas Eve liturgy and rehearse Wednesday evenings between now and Christmas with an odd rehearsal moved to another day here and there. For the full rehearsal calendar please consult the parish website.

If you are open to answering the call to serve as a Eucharistic Minister or as a singer in the St. Joseph Choir, please contact Bob McCaffrey-Lent at rmclent@stjosephparish.org

Attention Lectors! The new Lector workbooks for 2010 are available. Please stop by the parish center and pick one up from Renee.

Communion for the Homebound
Eucharistic Ministers are available to bring Communion to the homebound. Please contact Fr. Jack O’Leary 206-329-5981, ext 101 or Deacon Steve Wodzanowski at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org if you or someone you know would like to receive the Eucharist.

FYI... Family Mass Dates
Mark your calendar for the Family Mass schedule for Saturdays this year. The next one is January 23rd, followed by February 20th, March 13th (Ceili), May 1st (St. Joseph the Worker Dinner), and May 25th. The evenings begin with Mass at 5 pm followed by dinner and a family activity in the Social Hall. These evenings are part of the Sacramental Preparation Program (CFF1 & CFF2). April 24-25th, First Eucharist will be celebrated at all Masses.

“In the Footsteps of St. Paul”
A special invitation is being extended to parishioners at St. Joseph Parish to join members of St. Patrick Parish on a tour to Greece and Turkey this summer, June 24-July 3, 2010. The tour is called “In the Footsteps of St. Paul”, and we will journey to some of the most important sites in the life of St. Paul and of our early church. Together we will see places in Greece associated with Paul’s ministry, and also visit key sites of ancient Greece. Highlights include: Athens, Corinth, Mycenae, and a 4 day Greek island cruise to Ephesus, Mykonos, Rhodes and Santorini. If you are interested in joining, please contact Laura Ash at (425) 347-6727.

Sustaining Grace Update...
To date we have received 318 pledges of prayer, service and financial support totaling over $617,000. To complete your pledge, fill out a form, or go online to the parish website, www.stjosephparish.org

Women’s Spirituality Group
Please join us Wednesday, November 18th at 10 am in the Parish Center. Our pastor Fr. John Whitney will be speaking. For more information, please contact Giselle Pavlovec at 206-329-7122 or gisellepavlovec@msn.com

Women’s Ministry Home Mass
The Women’s Ministry will have a home Mass on Friday, November 20th at 6 p.m. at 2109 E. Capital Hill. All women are invited to meet with Fr. John and be with one another. A potluck will follow the Mass. For more information please contact Candace Franklinburger at 206-617-8352.

Mass at Calvary Cemetery
The monthly celebration of the Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturday, November 21st at 10:30 am at Calvary Cemetery. All families and friends are welcome to celebrate the Eucharist during this special month of remembrance.

LEGAL NOTICE
- SOCIETY OF JESUS, OREGON PROVINCE BANKRUPTCY -

NOTICE OF DEADLINE TO FILE CLAIMS

IF YOU SUFFERED INJURY BY PHYSICAL, MENTAL, OR SEXUAL ABUSE OR MISCONDUCT BY A JESUIT PRIEST OR OTHER PERSON FOR WHICH YOU CLAIM THE SOCIETY OF JESUS, OREGON PROVINCE HAS SOME RESPONSIBILITY, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER REASON TO ASSERT A CLAIM AGAINST THE SOCIETY OF JESUS, OREGON PROVINCE, YOU MUST ACT NOW TO FILE YOUR CLAIM

THE LAST DAY TO FILE CLAIMS IS NOVEMBER 30, 2009

SOCIETY OF JESUS, OREGON PROVINCE (the “Debtor”) has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection (United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Oregon, Case No. 09-30938-elp11). The Bankruptcy Court has ordered that all persons with a claim for damages against the SOCIETY OF JESUS, OREGON PROVINCE for injuries resulting from sexual, mental, or physical misconduct or abuse, or for any other reason, must file a claim on or before November 30, 2009.

You must complete and file a proof of claim if:
(1) you contend that the Debtor is responsible for any injury or other damages to you because you claim that you were injured by physical, mental, or sexual abuse or misconduct, whether by a priest, other clergy, a worker, a volunteer, an employee or other person or entity within the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington (the “Oregon Province Territory”) for which you claim the Debtor has some responsibility; or through such acts that occurred outside the Oregon Province Territory for which you claim the Debtor has some responsibility; or (2) if you have a claim against the Debtor for any other reason.

For more information, or to receive a long form Notice of Claims Bar Date and Proof of Claim Form write to: Society of Jesus Oregon Province Case, c/o BMC Group, Inc., PO Box 3020, Chanhassen, MN 55317-2011, call the toll free number listed below, or visit the website set forth below.

1-888-909-0100
www.bmcgroup.com/sjop