

A close-up photograph of a hand reaching down towards a chalice. The hand is positioned at the top of the frame, with fingers slightly curled. Below it, a golden chalice sits on a white tablecloth. In the background, a wooden cross and some papers are visible, though out of focus. The overall scene suggests a religious or sacramental context.

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FAITH AND LIFE

A Publication by

STAR
of the **SEA**

A Catholic Stewardship Parish

YOUNG ADULTS
celebrate Mass with
Fr. Mathias, our
visiting priest from
Kenya, on the beach

Photo Credit: Ignacio Malfabon



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From the Pastor

The KOC, Our Men's Fraternity



Rendering due honor to our fatherland is a godly virtue, and rendering due worship to the true God is an act of patriotism. A virtuous and strong people honors both God and country! Such is the goal of the **Knights of Columbus**, the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world. Right religion and honest patriotism have always been the standards under which the Knights have carried on their work. Our parish has recently chartered a new Council, named for St. Joseph, bringing our parish into the fellowship of 2 million other Catholic men around the world. Our Council joins the more than 15,000 other Knights' Councils in 17 countries dedicated to building up our families, parishes, and our societies by living our faith in the public square.

At the heart of any Catholic organization worthy of the name is **Christian stewardship**. The Knights of Columbus certainly strive to be worthy of the title "Catholic gentlemen". They commit themselves to returning a portion of God's gifts through consistent prayer, charitable service, and financial support. In "stewardship language" we call these Time, Talent, and Treasure. Let's look at each of those in turn:

Time in Consistent Prayer. A wise priest once told me that prayer is 95% consistency. Only 5% of a solid prayer life is feelings, inspirations, and enthusiasm. Most of prayer is simply showing up for Jesus when you say you will. That's the way it is with every human relationship—being there for your friends or your spouse or your children even if you don't "feel" like it. Prayer, like love, is a decision, not a feeling. And so the Knights, at their very installation, receive a rosary along with their official badge, and they are told to pray it daily, if possible, with their families. The Knights of Star will be a key part of our adoration program, and the first men to lead their families to Mass on Sundays. To be a Knight, to be a good steward of the mysteries, is to be a man of prayer.

Talent in Charitable Service. In the Middle Ages, a knight would commit himself to serving his king and his lady, thinking of others before himself. The Knights of Columbus know that God will provide for their needs in the measure that they serve those who need them. A good

Christian man is a father not just to his own children but to everyone who needs him. He takes delight in helping others as God has given him the capacity. Our Knights will provide meals for the parish, defend the unborn in pro-life work, attend to the maintenance needs of our parish plant, serve on leadership councils, and take the lead in outreach to the poor.

Treasure in Financial Support. A man who prays consistently and serves joyfully will naturally return a portion of his financial gifts. So it is with the Knights, who give around \$175 million annually in support such as disaster relief, scholarship funds, food for families, etc. Truly, the more we give to God, the more we receive, as I can testify in my personal life. I began tithing as a Knight of Columbus early on in my priesthood, and God has blessed me more than I can say. I am proud of the Knights, who are often not the wealthiest parishioners, but who often give the most financial support to the parish, the archdiocese, and many charitable funds.

If you are a Catholic man of faith and want to be a part of our Council, please call me at the office. Not everyone can be a Knight of Columbus, of course, but all of us can imitate their virtues by being good stewards of all that God has given us.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Joseph Illo

more at
fr.illoblog.com

Bud Feria, our current Grand Knight, helps Ed Tobin (future Grand Knight?!) carry the canopy for one of our Eucharistic processions on Ninth Avenue





Children leading the Tuesday night Rosary

DEVELOPING FAITHFUL FAMILIES

By Claire Herrick

**"Modern man listens more willingly
to witnesses than to teachers, and if
he does listen to teachers it's
because they are witnesses."
- Pope Paul VI**

This year we are striving for greater depth, commitment, and community for our catechists and families. We have a wave of new volunteers who will be trained in catechesis; people who know their subject, know how to communicate, translate, and make enthralling their subject for the littlest of our community to the eldest. More importantly, the catechists emphasize their main goal is to get their students to heaven. They know this comes through their own dedication and witness of the faith!

Besides catechists with knowledge and faith to educate, we also need willing families. If a program goes through the trouble of teaching children and preparing them for the sacraments, but this program is not reinforced at home,

what good is it? Families must be educated as wholes. This is why parental education has been revamped. As in previous years we will have a commitment of one parent class per month. This year we are giving more structure to family formation by inviting parents to sit in their children's class monthly, creating community events every month for all the families, and offering other resources to provide parents with the tools to make faith relevant and intriguing in their very homes, not just on Sundays.

We must recognize our responsibility in getting each other, our children, our loved ones, and friends to heaven. For it is not just knowledge that we are trying to pass down, but a way of life, thus community participation is very important for this goal. We must support each other and grow together!

Classes begin September 10th. Please register now online at <http://starparish.com/psr-registration/> or call the Parish Center for more info: 415-751-0450.

Claire Herrick is Director of Evangelization and Catechesis



VOCATIONS

Priestly Formation at Star

By Jerick Rea

To love God first and foremost, with all our hearts, souls, and strength, is the prime commandment given to us in both the Old and New Testaments, and Jesus declares that anyone who loves Him, obeys and keeps His commandments. When considering vocations as a faithful Catholic, it is easy to consider only the particular vocation that each of us is called to live: for some of us, that means a religious life; for others, marriage; some are called to become priests; and lastly, some of us are called to remain consecrated single men and women, in order to accomplish very specific intentions of God (e.g., St. Catherine of Siena). However, we must not overlook the general vocation that each one of us is given: the vocation of holiness, the call to sanctity.

Responding to God's call to live holy lives and to live the life that He has called us to particularly live is rather challenging. When I was asked to write this article, I thought about my own discernment process regarding my vocation. I can plainly attest to the ongoing struggle to submit to His Will, recognizing how much I need the assistance of His Grace, as well as the assistance and support of the other members of the Body of Christ. It seems evident that the ability to discern one's particular vocation is especially difficult precisely because of all of the distractions latent within our technologically advanced world, and the cacophony of "noise" that it produces, in addition to our own selfish and prideful desires. How are we supposed to hear the whisper of God's call, if we have no silence in our lives? How can we show our love for God if we don't make an effort to pay attention to him as much and as best as we possibly can, and don't strive hard enough to be holy?

Seeing that the process for discerning one's vocation includes lots of prayer, it bears mentioning my appreciation

for Star of the Sea. It is not merely coincidental that 3 of the 4 men who applied to enter the seminary for the San Francisco Archdiocese this year came from Star of the Sea. Though the reasons that brought David, Marko, and me to Star were all varied and unique, the environment present in this parish fosters the circumstances that assist faithful Catholics to develop stronger relationships with God. To have 24/7 access to Jesus in the St. Joseph Adoration Chapel, both reposed in the tabernacle and exposed in the monstrance, is rare; there are only 4 parishes along the 101 that have this. Mass in the Extraordinary Form almost daily and Novus Ordo Mass ad orientem with use of the Communion rail is even more rare; I know of only one other church that has this. To have a pastor who wears a cassock (a total rarity amongst secular priests nowadays) and who supports the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church (such as having an all-male group of acolytes), fosters a courageous Catholicism.

When you combine all of these things together, the picture that emerges is one that is focused on loving God above all, of fostering reverence for Him in the Blessed Sacrament, and of being subservient to His Holy Will in all matters. When you have such a God-focused environment (as opposed to people-focused), then one is in a more conducive environment to rise above the literal and figurative noise of this world, and to be able to be present and to hear God's whisper that calls us in that blessed silence. Lastly, please pray for me, and for all those who are starting their new vocations (marriage and religious) this year, for we need your prayers and support; know in turn that we are here to pray for and support you as well. God love you and be with you all.

Jerick Rea began studies for the priesthood Aug. 15

STAR YOUNG ADULTS

By Maggie Adams

"You young people have in a special way the task of witnessing today to the faith; the commitment to bring the Gospel of Christ - the Way, the Truth and the Life - into the third Christian Millennium, to build a new civilization - a civilization of love, of justice and of peace."

– St. John Paul II, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 1989

Inspired perhaps in part by these uplifting words by St. John Paul II and most certainly by a desire to find a group of like-minded Catholic young adults here in San Francisco, a new ministry at Star of the Sea was created in early 2015. For some time, a weekly holy hour had been instituted on Tuesday nights to pray for the Star of the Sea Parish and School communities. One fateful night, Martin Ford, Star of the Sea's Director of Operations, who had been faithfully attending this holy hour, decided to round up a small group to grab a bite and a drink down the street at a local Clement Street restaurant. Sharing many laughs all while discussing several faith-based topics, the group had so much fun that they all agreed to do the same thing the following week, but this time, they would invite a couple more friends. A couple gatherings in, someone else decided to dub the outing: "H4", which stands for "Holy Hour Happy Hour". From these humble beginnings, the Star Young Adults Ministry (YAM) was formed.

Starting first as this small group of Tuesday night holy hour regulars and now spanning to over 100 active members, the Star Young Adults Ministry seeks to "evangelize young adults beginning with the gift of the holy Eucharist", as per the group's mission statement. As its mission highlights, the group is grounded firmly in prayer and the sacraments. Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, and the Rosary are all mainstays of YAM events, anchoring the group in faith and Church life. Though YAM is directed towards young adults, the term is loosely defined, meaning that members span many ages – from college students to married couples and working professionals – hailing from all over the Bay Area.

Recently, a YAM leadership committee was formed to lead and support this group as it grows and matures. Members of the leadership committee include Claire Herrick, Mikhail Trinos, Lily Sin, Daniel Chan, and Maggie Adams. With the ultimate goal of facilitating authentic Catholic fellowship, this committee is structured around the four pillars of evangelization, generosity, prayer, and study (as outlined by Matthew Kelly's *Dynamic Catholic*). These pillars result in a wide range of group events including everything from hiking in Marin, serving those experiencing poverty here in San Francisco, and bonfires on Ocean Beach. Currently, the group is getting ready to visit Fr. Mathias in Kenya to help build his mission parish (please keep them in your prayers!) All events have the goal of drawing young adults together as the Body of Christ and ultimately bring about the "civilization of love, of justice and peace" as espoused by St. John Paul II.

If you, or anyone else you know is interested in joining our Young Adults Ministry please like us on Facebook (Star of the Sea Young Adults) or email claire@starparish.com to join our monthly email newsletter.



Hiking the Dipsea Trail with Fr. Mathias



H4 - Talk after Holy Hour



Watching the Mountain Play on Mt. Tam



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Upcoming Events:

Sept 10	Children's Faith Formation Classes begin 10:30am, Auditorium		
Sept 13	Fr. Kevin Kennedy on Our Lady of Fatima, 6pm, Church		
Oct 7	Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 9am, Cathedral		
Oct 14, 21, 28	Parish Leadership Retreat, 9am, Auditorium		
Mass Times		Weekday Mass Times	Confessions
Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm Sunday: 8am Family Mass: 9:30am Latin Mass: 11:30am, 5:00pm Candlelight Mass: 7:30pm		Latin Mass: 7:30am	15 minutes before every Mass
		English: 12 noon	
		Eucharistic Adoration	Saturday: 3:15 - 4:15 pm Tuesday: 7:00- 8:00pm
		Tuesday 8am to Saturday 4pm	