



City of the Lord
www.CityoftheLord.org

*'Receptivity & Commitment to the Person and Culture of the Holy Spirit
Particularly in Covenant Love'*

*The Monterey Bay branch leaders may be contacted with any issues. Please remember
to pray for them: Rob Albright, Greg Beardsley, Pam Flynn, and
Tim Gassaway (PBC)*

This MONTH in COTL August 21st - Sept. 3rd-2017

No events this period

Birthday and Anniversary

8/25	Kehoe's anniversary
8/27	Powell's anniversary
8/27	Valjean's birthday
9/1	Vanessa Kehoe's birthday
9/7	Briley's anniversary
9/11	Tim Gassaway's birthday

Dates for 2017

9/14 6:00 p.m. - GCG @ Vicki's

Sept. 29-Oct. 1 Men's retreat and Women's Retreat (Mission San Antonio)

Be sure and read the stories from the Street Evangelization on the last page by Tim Gassaway

A big welcome and congratulations to Krista Brkich who has joined the "Fellowship of the Holy Spirit" in the Monterey Branch. Praise the Lord!

Pope's Intention for
August, 2017

Artists

That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the Beauty of creation.

Pope's Intention for
Sept., 2017

Parishes

That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

St. Paul Street Evangelization Monterey Bay

"Would God still love me if I was gay?"

This was the question asked of me as we began our day evangelizing on the streets of Santa Cruz. As two young teen age girls rode their bikes past us, I asked them if they would like a free rosary, which is the standard ice breaker method to start a conversation about God. Their curiosity caused them to stop and come back to our table, where one of them replied "what's that." I explained to them that the beads and cross are a tool to use in a prayer and meditation on the life of Jesus through the eyes of Mary, who was Jesus' mother. After introducing myself I told them that we were Catholic and I asked them if they went to church. One of them said she went on Tuesday nights to a Christian youth group. I then asked her if she had any questions about the Catholic Church as I pointed to all the informational pamphlets about what we believe and teach. She looked at me and replied "I have one question." She hesitated then said "Would God still love me if I was gay." I said "Of coarse He will, for God to stop loving you He would have to deny his very nature, and He wouldn't do that." I told her that I had seven children and I love them all, and there is nothing they could do that would stop me from loving them. And God loves you more than I love my children. I may not always approve of the things they do or the decisions they make, but I will always love them. They each accepted a crucifix and chain, put them around their necks and smiled as they rode off. Later I thought of some things I could have said to her, but maybe that's for another time. At least she went away knowing that God loved her.

Soon after that a middle aged women came up to our table and said she was having a hard time. One of her children was in collage and the other one was leaving for collage the next day. She said she was worried about both of them as well as how she would miss them and had been praying for them as she was walking. I showed her the miraculous medals and the Holy card with the origin and explanation of what it was. I offered her one for each of her children as well as one for herself. I told her that I could empathize with her because I had a very similar experience with my children. I asked her if we could pray for her and her children, and she accepted. She said that this was not a coincidence that we met her there that day, and that it was Gods providence that brought her there. After praying for her she said that was just what she needed. I told her that I would continue to pray for her this coming week. She left with a big smile. After that I looked at Dennis and asked him if we weren't there who could have encouraged her and he said nobody.

After that Fr. Paul McDonnell came over from the shrine across the street to see what we were doing. He encouraged us as we shared with him what a typical day was like evangelizing on the street. What an honor and a blessing it is for us to share our faith this way. We spoke to and prayed for many people that day. What Joy it brings us to witness the personal encounter people experienced with Jesus, and the joy on their faces as we shared the love of God with them. What a glorious day in the life of the church on the streets of Santa Cruz.

Your brother in Christ,
Tim Gassaway