



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 Jan 1st - Jan. 22nd, 2018

No events this week

Birthday and Anniversary

1/19 **Martha and Bill Burn's wedding anniversary**
1/29 **Kenneth Kliever's birthday**

Dates for 2018:

2/1	6:00pm - GCG @ Gassaway's
2/16 - 18	Convocation
2/23 -25	Teen Retreat - boys
2/25	5:00 pm - Post Convocation dinner @ Seascape (details to follow)
3/1	6:00 pm - GCG @ Packer's
4/20-22	Kid's retreat at Ojai
5/11-13	Teen Retreat - girls
6/25-29	Camp Powell

Be sure and read Tim's article on St. Paul Street Evangelization and next bulletin there will be an article from Mike Bergez.

Pope's Intentions for
January, 2018

Religious minorities in Asia

That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

St. Paul Street Evangelization
Monterey Bay
January 23, 2018

"I'm attracted to apparitions of Mary."

Last Saturday was a day of big surf, lots of sunshine, and cold wind. Pam joined Dennis and me for the first time. It was a slow start at first, not many people interested in our Catholic evangelistic efforts but they were still cordial. I talked with Pam about what we might expect, as she kept our table organized and stocked. While Dennis and I were talking to people as they walked by Pam had her finger rosary on her hand in her pocket as she silently prayed for Dennis and I. It was pretty cold despite the sunshine.

After a while a friendly woman named Winter came up and asked me about the Miraculous Medal I was holding in my hand. I explained its origin as I gave it to her. She told me about her experiences of smelling roses at different apparitions in California. Although she was not Catholic or had any religious affiliation, she was attracted to our blessed Mother. In the early 90's there was an apparition of Mary on a church wall in Colfax California. I told her that I saw it because I lived in a nearby town at the time and I brought my children to see it. Some one in the church at the time told her she could not receive communion because she was not Catholic. She did not understand why they would deny her communion and she became angry with the church. After several minutes of talking to her I

realized she had a devotion to Mary but not much interest or understanding of Jesus and the Eucharist. She said she experienced peace while surfing in the ocean and that was her source of spirituality. I explained to her about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and the Catholic teaching that if a person has not been taught about the real presence and does not believe Jesus is present in the consecrated bread and wine, they should not receive it. I told her that the person who spoke to her could have been more charitable in explaining why she was refused the Eucharist. I said I was sorry about what happened and that I hoped she could try to understand the reason for the church's teaching. I told her that all the sacramentals on the table were designed to help us grow in our relationship with Jesus. Everything that Mary does points us to Jesus, and that a devotion to Mary without a relationship with Jesus is missing the mark. I told her briefly my testimony of conversion and that Jesus loves her and wants to bless her life and be in relationship with her. Pam pointed to the church across the street and told her that everyday at 11.00 am a miracle happens in that church, that ordinary bread and wine is transformed into the real body and blood of Christ. And the next time she comes to town she should see for herself.

We did our best to share our experiences and faith and we thanked her for sharing with us. Dennis then prayed for her. I know we didn't seal the deal, but we did our best to plant the seed of faith. After that all we can do is pray and trust the Jesus will do the rest.

We were also encouraged by some others who thanked us for being out there, like a protestant couple who were involved with Christian Youth Theater. Their son was friends with my nephew who was in the theater group as well. A surfer named Barry came out of the water and asked for a rosary. He said he wasn't a talker but he loved talking to us. He was a practicing Catholic who grew up in the area. It turns out I met him 40 years ago in high school.

As always it's an adventure out on the streets, and we never know what will happen. I do know that Jesus puts people in our path each week and he gives us the grace we need to share the Gospel as he has asked us to do. Thanks Pam and Dennis for being faithful servants.

Your brother in Christ,
Tim