

DIOCESAN

News

Diocese of Stockton

December 2009 ■ Vol. 4 No.11

GOOD NEWS

From Bishop Blaire

My Dear People,

As we begin this holy season of Advent and this new Church year, we hear the call to welcome the stranger, to open our doors and to offer a blessing to everyone who enters.

I pray with you that we, as a believing people, may be transformed during this season of longing for the presence of Jesus in our lives, in our homes and in our world.

Let us pray together that Christ, the Prince of Peace, comes to us and inspires us to extend signs of peace; that Christ, the Light of the world, shines in us as a beacon to all who wander in darkness. May Christ enter our hearts and our homes to alleviate fear and open us to the wonder of His life among us.

May you and everyone you love be blessed with the light and peace of Christ shining through your lives of faith. May the door to your home and to your heart open with warmth and welcome.

Yours in Christ Jesus,



Bishop Stephen E. Blaire
Roman Catholic Bishop of Stockton

Bless Your Door on Epiphany



The gospel tells us that the Magi found Christ “on entering the house.” The door to your home is a holy threshold. You can bless those who come in and go out by inscribing above the door in chalk the first two numbers of the year+C+M+B+the last two numbers of the year. Tradition tells us that the letters stand for the

names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. Adolph Adam points out that they may also mean “Christus mansionem benedicat” or “May Christ bless this dwelling.” It’s appropriate to bless your door in January—janua means “door” and the first month is the door to the new year.

After inscribing the doorway, say this prayer:

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star.

Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. *Together:* Amen.

Sing a Christmas carol for a closing.

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FUTURE EVENTS

Priestly Ordination Invitation

The Vocations Office announces the **Priestly Ordination of Deacon Samuel G. West** on Saturday, December 19, 2009, at 10:00 am in the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Stockton, California. All are invited.

Not To Miss...

for Youth Ministers, Pastors, Core Team, Volunteers, Parents, Youth & Young Adults:

December 15, That’s God on Your iPod—*Aaron Del Monte from Cornerstone Media*

January 28, “Parents, Teens and Catholic Identity Rally”, with *Mike Patin at St. Bernard’s, Tracy*

January 29, Thriving in Ministry, *Day of Reflection with Mike Patin*

February 22, Effective Practices of Dynamic Youth Ministry with *Ann Marie Eckert, Center for Ministry Development*

For more information, contact: Ann Marie Avansino 466-0636
aavansino@stocktondiocese.org

6th Annual Walk for Life West Coast

January 23, 2010 – Join 32,000+ people. Call the Respect Life Office at 209/465-5433 or check the website: <http://www.dioceseofstockton.org/english/ministries/Life/index.htm> to ride one of the diocesan buses or to see if your parish is providing its own bus. Last year 1,700 people (27 buses) from the Stockton Diocese walked for life. Join us this year!