

DI CESAN

Diocese of Stockton

February, 2007 ■ Vol. 2 No. 2

GOOD NEWS

Outstanding Generosity

Bishop Blaire is grateful and inspired by the Catholic people of the Diocese who have been incredibly generous to victims of different disasters.

*Total Katrina Relief: \$589,434.63
Funds to the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Diocese of Biloxi: \$65,899.12*

*Lebanese Family Refugees and Homeless: \$43,767.23
(As of 12/31/06)*

“First Responders” Honored

Bishop Blaire celebrated the liturgy for the First Responders on January 6, 2007. Police, fire, and other emergency workers gathered at St. Joseph Church, Modesto.

Steps Toward Priesthood

Our Seminarians are steadily moving toward ordination as they study for the priesthood. Jeff Wilson will receive his Ministry of Reader at St. Patrick's Seminary on February 14th.

Filipino “In-Gathering”

The first In-Gathering of the Catholic Filipino community was held on January 20th at St. Luke's parish in Stockton. Bishop Blaire celebrated Mass and blessed Santo Nino statues. People from around the Diocese gathered in celebration and prayer.

World Marriage Day

The idea of a public celebration of marriage began in Baton Rouge, LA in 1981, when couples encouraged city officials and the local Bishop to proclaim St. Valentine's Day as “*We Believe in Marriage Day*”. There was

wide acceptance of this proposal. The name of the day was changed to “*World Marriage Day*” in 1983.

The permanent theme “*Love One Another*” sets before us a simple but challenging vision of how God wishes us to live. This year's celebration is February 11th.



For more information please check out the World Marriage Day web site: <http://wmd.wvme.org>

What is RCIA?

The initials R.C.I.A. stand for the “*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.” This process in the Catholic Church invites those who are searching and inquiring about the Catholic way of life.

While RCIA is intended for non-Catholics, it is useful for Catholics who want to deepen their understanding of the faith and those who seek to receive first communion or be confirmed.

On February 24th, over 800 people will gather at Our Lady of Assumption in Turlock for the Day of Reflection inviting Catechumens, Candidates, Sponsors and RCIA team members to reflect on the Our Father.

If you are interested in a deeper Catholic faith experience, please contact your parish.

Rite of Election

On February 25th, there will be three liturgies celebrating the Rite of Election in the Cathedral. During these liturgies, Bishop Blaire will receive, affirm and recognize Catechumens and Candidates. At the end of the liturgy, they are sent to their parishes as the “*Elect of God*” and then finish their process of preparation to join the Catholic community at the Eucharistic table.

Bishop's Ministry Appeal

The Ministry Appeal process begins throughout the Diocese with the pre-appeal weekend on February 10-11. It is fully launched the weekend of February 17-18. Everyone is asked to be as generous as possible.

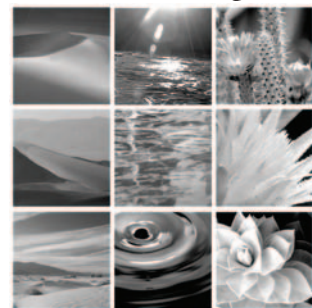
FUTURE EVENTS

March 24

Ministry Day Celebration

Saint Mary's High School

*Water in the desert
rivers in the wasteland
Agua en el desierto
ríos en el yermo*



To receive a registration booklet, contact your Parish Office or the Office for Religious Education: 466-0636.