

# Parish Notes



## Church of the Holy Cross + Episcopal +

Newsletter

July/August 2011

### Bethel Starts Drive for School Supplies

School supplies are being gathered at the Bethel Community Storehouse in Moriarty. School supplies will be given out to school children in need when the school year begins in August. Last year about 700 children needed help to have the basics needs for school.

Pick up supplies, bring them to Holy Cross, and we'll deliver them to Bethel for you.

### A Prayer for Vacation

Here's a prayer for each of you to begin each day of your travels this summer. May God's angels watch over you and return you safely.

"O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve us as we travel this day; surround us with your loving care; protect us from every danger; and bring us in safety to our journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

### One 9 a.m. Service on August 7

We gather together for one Eucharist at 9 a.m. on the last First Sunday of this summer – August 7. The July service was modeled on the 10 a.m. Eucharist, so the August service will be modeled on the 8 a.m. service – mostly spoken. Mark your calendars for our last joint-Eucharist on Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> so we can worship and share a Potluck brunch.

## Thank You for the Grace To Participate in CREDO

I want to thank all of you in the Parish of Holy Cross for the opportunity to attend the CREDO conference from June 20-27, 2011. I also want to thank Father Richard Valantasis and Doug Bleyle for covering for me on the Sunday I was at the Bishop's Ranch Conference Center just outside Healdsburg, California.

The weather was perfect, sunshine all eight days, something I was told that doesn't happen often. The area is Sonoma, where many of the wines we've had at the Music for the Soul pre-concert wine tastings have come from.

I hadn't realized how tired I was until we gathered for the opening prayers, and I nearly fell asleep in the pews. Through the workshops and individual counseling I was able to realize I wasn't doing what Vic Rizzo often asks me: "when are you taking your day off." I realized that I cannot serve you if I do not take care of myself.

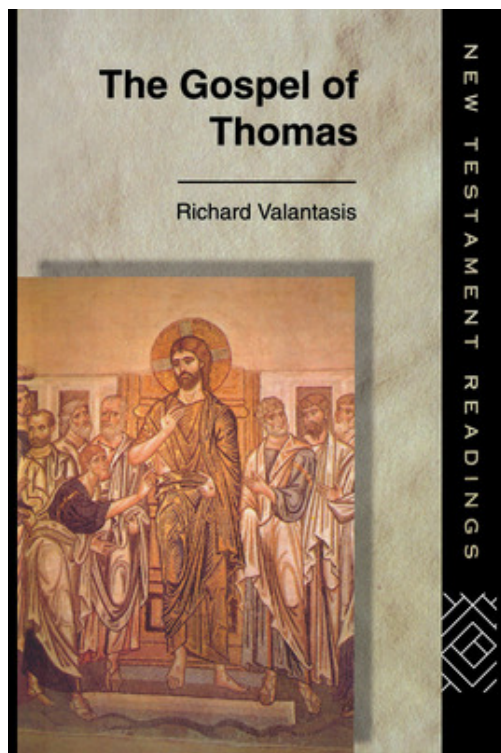
CREDO was a great experience. We (and when I say "we" I mean the 30 clergy who came to California from as far away as the Carolinas and Maine) worked in the four areas:

- + Spiritual gave us a sacred space where we could reflect and interior life and relationship with God in Christ.
- + Vocational provided a chance to look at our choices and opportunities. I came to the conclusion I have no desire to move on.
- + Health work required us to take a hard look at our physical and emotional health, and to plan a program to stay well.
- + Financial took a look at the realities of where we're at in preparation for retirement, and a chance to reflect on what God has given.

What can I say: the food was good, the weather sunny, the companionship great. What I enjoyed most was each morning walking up to the Chapel at 7 a.m. for 20 minutes of contemplative prayer before breakfast. There was a centering quality to the experience that I hope I will carry with me.

Thank you all again for being who you are!

*Fr. Raymond+*



## Study The Gospel of Thomas

Our beloved scholar and Priest Associate Father Richard Valantasis will teach his book, *The Gospel of Thomas*, during two classes August 28 and September 4.

You can either obtain the book on your own, or I can order the book for you. If you wish one ordered for you for \$35, email me or sign up on the door at church by July 24.

## Teaching Videos to Air Between the Services

Starting Sunday July 10 we'll be having video classes between services, which will start around 9:15 a.m., with presentations from the Nooma group. We began viewing these videos on Wednesday evenings during Lent. According to the publicity:

“Jesus lived with the awareness that God is doing something, right here, right now, and anybody can be a part of it. He encouraged his listeners to search, to question, to wrestle with the implications of what he was saying and doing. He inspired, challenged, provoked, comforted, and invited people to be open to God's work in this world. Wherever he went, whatever he did, Jesus started discussions about what matters most, because for Jesus, God is always inviting us to open our eyes and join in. **NOOMA** is a series of

short films that explore our world from a perspective of Jesus. **NOOMA** is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion.”

I invite each of you to stay after the 8 a.m. service or come early for the 10 a.m. Eucharist. You'll find the experience worthwhile, and the discussion to videos evoke is substantive and evocative.

## Sunday at the Movies

### Shall We Go post-Potter?

Many of us have gathered these last few weeks after the services to watch the adventures of an English boy thrown into the world of Magic. It has been an eventful series of films based on the inventive creativity of J.K. Rowling.

Theologically, they are a testimony of the power of good to conquer evil – even when that evil carries the power of death. As we close in on the final chapters, we need to remember that the one power that conquers all evil in this series is love. From beginning to end, love is the underlying theme for all that we find dear in the narrative.

This has been a successful venture for us. The screening has made church an attractive Sunday morning activity for some, and an incentive for others to pick up the books and read them.

There's something about seeing a series in sequence that is most satisfying.

So what should we show next at Holy Cross. I'd like your ideas and votes. Write a note and give it to me or email me with your suggestions. Some have mentioned the Narnia series, and others have suggested showing the Lord of the Rings. What say you? Let me know, and we'll compile the names and vote.

## Exploring Healing at Hope

The Rev. Canon Dr. Mark A. Pearson, President of The Institute for Christian Renewal in Kingston, New Hampshire, will conduct a two-day teaching on Christian healing at Hope in the Desert Episcopal Church, 8700 Alameda N.E., Albuquerque, on Friday and Saturday, August 26 and 27.

Registration cost for the two-day event is \$45 and includes a bag lunch on Saturday. For further information or to receive a registration form and schedule, see [www.hopeepiscopal.org](http://www.hopeepiscopal.org) or call the church office at (505) 830-0572.