

# Faith *in*Formation

## SCHOOL OF FAITH FORMATION

December 2006—January 2007

Volume I, Issue 4



### St. Anne Catholic Parish

32223 Cabello Street  
Union City, CA 94587

**Fr. Geoffrey Baraan**

Pastor

**Helen A. Rojas**

Coordinator

**Telephone:**

510-471-7766 Ext. 20

**Fax:**

510-487-6540

**E-mail:**

stafaithformation@sbcglobal.net

Please note that our newsletter is available on our Parish website at:

[www.rc.net/oakland/saintanne](http://www.rc.net/oakland/saintanne)

### A Job Well Done!

**Nilda Cabardo.....** After years of working as office assistant to the School of Faith Formation, Nilda has decided to move on. But not to worry, we'll be seeing her around as she continues her ministry as a catechist here at St. Anne's. *Thank you, Nilda, for all your efforts and dedication!*

### Welcome !

**Christine Suarez.....** has graciously accepted the job as our new office assistant. Christine comes with experience and involvement in various church ministry.

### Our February Goals

- **Justice.....**giving to others what is their due, fair play.
- **Prudence.....**gathering information before acting, prudence allows you to know right from wrong.

## Our First Christmas Pageant!



**The finale of the Children's Pageant** which showed the path that Joseph and Mary took toward Bethlehem, where Jesus

was born. The audience was touched by the informative presentation and the children were fantastic. Once again, the School of Faith Formation exhibited its ability to utilize their resources for the benefit of our children and the parish. The performance was very well attended.



Rehearsals— Dec 11-14



### A SPECIAL THANKS.....

**We extend our sincerest appreciation for the success of the event to:** all student participants, parents, catechists and St. Anne Ministry Groups for their continued support, Fred Lagaya for the beautiful hand-painted props, Sonny Mamaril for the slide presentation and sound effects, Peter Petit for the lighting effects, Genoveva Bagoisan for preparing the costumes, Cristy Dizon and Melinda Dorotheo for coordinating the auditions, rehearsals and the pageant. To the Music ministry, "Thank you for inviting us to participate." We wouldn't be able to do it all without your help. We are truly one, as community.

On December 15th, our parish held it's first Holiday Concert and Christmas Pageant. The concert was presented by Saint Anne Music Ministry. They included the various choir groups who usually sing at our Sunday masses. The School of Faith Formation of was invited to participate thus, becoming our very first Christmas pageant. The school held auditions for acting and speaking parts as you can see in pictures taken Nov. 21, 2006. The selected participants worked hard and even had a dress rehearsal before the big event. Part of the pageant was a slide presentation



Audition 11-21-06



### Dec. 24th—CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S CHOIR.....Do you remember the Nativity

Play we did last year for the Christmas Eve Family mass? That play was no longer part of the mass last December 24th. By making the change, our celebration highlighted the children's choir who led the congregation with all the songs. That set a child like mood, letting us focus on the real meaning of the birth of Jesus. The diligence of Cristy Melendez, the choir conductor, and Dede Laksmana, the pianist, combined with the children efforts at rehearsal added to the solemnity and celebration of the family mass. Although few in numbers, their angelic voices were heard throughout the church. They sang their hearts out to the joy of their parents and the community. At mass, Fr. Geoff asked the children to sit around the altar during his homily, then asked them "What is the best Christmas gift?" Several children answered "Love,.. Jesus,.. Mom & Dad,.. my pet dog,.. my toy,.. a friend..."

As Christmas is the season for giving, candy canes and bracelets with spiritual messages were distributed to everyone after the mass.

*Our sincere gratitude to all students, families, and liturgical ministers who participated in the Christmas Eve Family Mass.*



# SACRAMENTAL PEOPLE

AS OUR FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES PREPARE FOR SACRAMENTS, WE THE FAITHFUL JOURNEY WITH THEM.

## FC Parents Column

### Rite of Welcome



At this celebration last Nov. 7, the First Communion candidates received blessings from Fr. Geoff, then from their parents. It was symbolic of receiving them as community in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. It was a significant celebration for both the parents and the candidates.

### Parent Gathering

During the Parent Gathering, the parents shared some of their experiences related to the questions asked of them;

#### **What did you feel when you traced the cross on your child during the Rite of Welcome?**

*Cecile Janicek.....overwhelmed by the fact that the responsibility of raising God-loving children is being fulfilled by the preparation of receiving their first communion. It was a very moving experience for me.*

*Jeannie Baldosano.....I felt a connection with God, my child and myself. My son's eyes showed me he understood and that he trusted me to teach him about our faith.*

*Mina Sanchez....I felt there is more meaning than just tracing the cross. It not only justifies your belief in God but it emphasizes the meaning of the cross.*



#### **Is the Parent Gathering helping you with your child's preparation to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Would you recommend weekly or twice a month or monthly? Explain...**

*Jojo Luna.....Yes, it does help in preparing my daughter for receiving her first communion. A monthly parent gathering would be justified, because as catholic parent, we impart teaching at home and show good examples.*

*John Delaney....Yes, basically it encourages the parent to play a bigger role in the preparation of the child. I probably is a good idea to meet weekly.*

*Yolanda Rodriguez.....Coming to the meetings help me and my daughter to understand God's word and to follow him and feel his love.*

### FIRST RECONCILIATION

December 9, 2006



The candidates celebrated their First Reconciliation. There were eight priests on hand to receive and guide the children to their very first reconciliation. The celebration started with the communal Penance Service, then the candidates were presented by their parents to the priests for the individual confession. Each candidate was given a prayer cross and a candle which he/she lighted from the candles in front of the cross at the altar area. This candle is symbol of Christ's light and the start of their journey to receiving their first communion.

The candidates celebrated their First Reconciliation. There were eight priests on hand to receive and guide the children to their very first reconciliation. The celebration started with the communal Penance Service, then the candidates were presented by their parents to the priests for the individual confession. Each candidate was given a prayer cross and a candle which he/she lighted from the candles in front of the cross at the altar area. This candle is symbol of Christ's light and the start of their journey to receiving their first communion.

### FAMILY GATHERING- January 27

#### Church tour

As we continue our preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, parents and FC candidates were invited to go on a **church tour** of our parish. During this tour they were shown by Francis Rojas, our Liturgist, the important areas of the church, the different vessels and functions held during mass and liturgy celebrations. This helped most of the parents get a better understanding of what the priest and the community does during these celebrations and why. Parts of the mass were also discussed but most importantly, they were made aware that the church is a holy place which we need to respect and give reverence to.



St. Anne's Liturgist, Francis Rojas, conducts the church tour.



Some hopeful altar servers?

### Classroom Tour - Liturgical Season and Vestments

In the **tour of the classrooms** guided by the catechists, both children and parents were shown the different colors and the vestment used during each liturgical season. Here they were allowed to touch and feel the displayed items. It was really interesting for all to see the different colors, vessels, vestments, banners, and the festive way some of these were fashioned and decorated. There were questions and answers after each session.

The School of Faith Formation served snacks with juice and muffins at break time.



Stacey with her class at Rm. 101 for the Advent season.



Collins, our sacristan showing the chalice & ciborium at Rm. 105 for the Easter season



A First Communion candidate tries the Ambo.....a future priest, perhaps?

### Liturgy of the Word



The tour ended with the Liturgy of the Word which led by Deacon Ben Calub. After the scripture reading, the catechists asked parents questions to ponder on and shared reflection moments with their children.

Altogether, it was informative and a fruitful event.