

THE MAGDALENE



**From the Desk of Fr.
Neil...**

THANKSGIVING OF WOMEN AFTER CHILDBIRTH

In light of the recent decision by certain states to allow late term termination of the life of unborn children, and other progressive politicians, (some who falsely claim to be Christians!) encouraging and hoping for the legislature to give them the opportunity to terminate children even after they are born, I am struck by just how evil this mindset is, and to how different it is to what a Christian ought to pray for when a woman becomes pregnant and a child is born.

There is a very short but meaningful service in the Anglican Church called *The Thanksgiving of Women After Childbirth*. The rubrics of the service tell us that the woman, the mother, comes to the Church, decently appareled (a topic for another time) soon after her delivery, kneels down at the front of the Church and the minister says, "FORASMUCH as it hath pleased Almighty God, of his goodness, to give you safe deliverance, and to preserve you in the great danger of Child-birth; you shall therefore give hearty thanks unto God." Here a portion of Psalm 116 is read by both the mother and the minister.

Then follows the Lord's Prayer and then this prayer, "O ALMIGHTY God, we give thee humble thanks for that thou hast been graciously pleased to preserve, through the great pain and peril of child-birth, this woman, thy servant, who desireth now to offer her praises and

thanksgivings unto thee. Grant, we beseech thee, most merciful Father, that she, through thy help, may faithfully live according to thy will in this life, and also may be partaker of everlasting glory in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

How different all of this is to the thinking and the desires of so many women and girls today, who get pregnant and instead of giving thanks to God in His Church, they seek out a way to kill the child that is growing in them. This short service of thanksgiving and blessing is what a Christian woman is supposed to believe and do and feel toward childbirth. The very title is telling...*Thanksgiving after Childbirth*. Giving humble thanks to God that she has the privilege to bear a child and bring it to term. Giving thanks to God that He has preserved her through the process. Asking God to help her to be a good mother and to raise the child in a Christian home and to live a godly, exemplary life, according to God's will and all so that she may, at her death, be a partaker of everlasting glory in the life to come. What a reward for this type of obedience.

There is no use asking what's wrong or what happened. The sinful nature of mankind, in this area in particular, has risen up against God in a most profound way. Moreover, the Church has lost much of its influence on the culture. The culture is difficult to lead and influence in the direction it should go. Yet, the Church should never give up its role in teaching and raising up women who understand fully the nature, responsibility and blessing of childbearing. It is the design of God that women have this honor of bringing life into the world. When properly understood, childbearing is God's will for women. It is His ordained method of populating and multiplying His creation.

The Church must continue to be an influence in the life of women, especially at this crucial time in their lives. We must be willing to do all we can to help women as they carry their child to term and we must pray that God would turn the hearts of many to despise the option of killing their unborn child as see what their pregnancy is, an opportunity to give thanks to God for such a blessing.

Acquiring Truth

"When I was reading the Systematic Theology of Louis Berkhof many years ago, I was fascinated by this thing he said about the baptism of clocks. I am wondering: does anyone know what he is referring to?"

In this section of Berkhof's work he is discussing the proper subjects of baptism. He correctly argues that baptism is for believers and their children. He briefly states that Roman Catholicism "loses sight of this in so far as it applies the sacrament also to clocks, buildings, and so on."¹ It's difficult to know precisely what he is referring to as he doesn't elaborate any further on this issue.

My research into a specific practice of baptizing clocks yielded no results. However, a couple of related items came up with some frequency which may be what Berkhof was referencing. Church historians, such as Philip Schaff, report that there were *some* instances of objects being baptized. Schaff writes, "Bells, like other church-furniture, were consecrated for sacred use by liturgical forms of benediction. They were sometimes even baptized; but Charlemagne, in a capitulary of 789, forbids this abuse."²

¹ Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans publishing co., 1938), 631.

² Philip Schaff and David Schley Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, vol. 4 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1910), 440.

A more likely option for Berkhof's reference is the ceremonial blessing of objects with holy water which in some cases resembles baptism. An example would be the "baptism of bells." *The Catholic Encyclopedia* states that this phrase is "merely popular and metaphorical. It has been tolerated, but has never been formally recognized by the Church."³ The article continues to discuss the ceremony saying it's not surprising that "a certain resemblance should be traced to details in the ritual of baptism. Exorcisms are used, and water and salt and unctions with the holy oils; the bell receives a name ... suggested by a 'godfather.'"⁴ These resemblances are claimed to be only "superficial," but the similarities may be enough to cause some, such as Berkhof, to object.



St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church
205 So. Glassell Street
Old Town Orange, CA 92866
www.stmarymagdaleneacc.org
Rev. Fr. Neil Edlin, Rector

Sunday Services:
8am Mass
10am Choral Mass &
Children's Sunday School

Wednesday Service &
Anointing of the Sick: 9am

IT'S CHILI COOK-OFF TIME!

³ Herbert Thurston, "Bells," *The Catholic Encyclopedia* (New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1907).

⁴ Ibid.

On Sunday **May 26th** from **11:30am to 1:30pm**, our parish men will hold their **14th Annual Men's Outdoor Chili Cook-Off**.

Chef Priest has gathered up twelve of the best amateur chefs to compete for 1st prize.



Who will hold the title of **"Best Chili"** Cook this year?

Will it be Chef Whitney's **"Franciscan Frenzy"** Chili?

Will it be Chef Lee's **"Quad B"** Chili?

Every person who pays \$5 bucks can taste all the chili they can eat including a hot dog and chips. Every person eating and not cooking is qualified to vote. **It's Open to the Public. You won't get handed a bible, just a lot of lip-smacking chili.**

ASCENSION DAY **MASS AND DINNER CELEBRATION**

On **Thursday, May 30th** at **6:30pm**, Fr. Neil will celebrate the ascension of Jesus into heaven as a **"high mass"**. Our fabulous choir will be singing.

The Guild has planned a wonderful dinner after the service for only \$10 per person. You will not be disappointed but you must sign up in advance.



Orange Seniors, you are welcome to join us for dinner. Please let Fr. Neil know if you plan on attending so we will have an accurate head count. Proceeds from dinner will go towards our Outreach Program.

ST. MARY MAGDALENE'S ANNUAL **OUTDOOR CHURCH BARBEQUE**



Try out our grilled mega burgers on **Sunday, June 23rd** at the St. Mary Magdalene Church Barbeque. The food fest begins at **11:30am** and ends when the last guy is full. The parking lot will be converted into a tented picnic ground complete with Gas Grills for a good old fashioned Barbeque with Pot Luck contributions from the congregation.

This year **"Ben and the Band"** will be playing all of our favorite **"rock and roll"** songs. Parents should bring the kids in swim suits or shorts. There will be a water slide and squirt toys for the kids. Bring your cameras.

The Guild has contributed a wonderful Opportunity Basket that someone will win. A new Grab Bag game can also be played for some fun winnings.

Everyone is allowed picnic attire in the service or you can change later. The weather should be great. Just come and enjoy.

ORANGE SENIORS COME TOGETHER **FOR BIBLE SHARING**

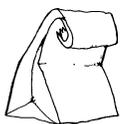
On **Thursdays from 10am to 11am**, seniors have the opportunity to come together to talk and have fellowship with one another. It's a great group. Next time you are sitting in front of your TV around 10am, turn it off and come to the Orange Senior Center for some great discussion

with some great people. Better yet, join the Bingo group at 9am, come to Bible Sharing at 10am and have lunch at noon **at the Orange Senior Center**. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Neil at 714-532-2420.

TOYS AND SHOES FOR CASA TERESA

The Guild women did some house cleaning and were able to provide 4 garbage bags of toys and shoes to Casa Teresa. Casa Teresa, located in Orange, provides shelter, other basic needs, and supportive services for pregnant women/new mothers and their children. They are committed to women and giving them the support they need in transitioning from homelessness to a permanent productive lifestyle for themselves and their children. This Christian based organization includes Hanna's House, a home for pregnant mothers, a prior Outreach recipient of St Mary Magdalene Church.

JOIN THE "BROWN BAGGERS"



Fr. Neil has organized a wonderful "brown bag lecture series" for the months of July, August and September. Watch for future announcements in the Narthex. For August and September you can pre-order a brown bag lunch for only \$5.00 which includes a sandwich, chips and fruit. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

DIOCESE OF THE HOLY TRINITY ANNUAL SYNOD

The Diocese of the Holy Trinity Annual Synod is scheduled for **June 7th** from 12noon to 7:30pm at St. Matthew's Church. The delegates representing St. Mary Magdalene are: Fr. Neil Edlin, Deacon Sean Cochran, Brian Lee, Rob Tanner, Violet Younis and Sharon Edlin. The price to attend the Synod is \$50 per person. If

you have any questions about the Synod, please contact Sharon Edlin.

Report on the Synod will be posted two weeks following the day.

SAVE THE DATES

MEN & CIGARS A GREAT COMBINATION

After second service, some of the parish men met Fr. Neil in the church yard with cigars and soft drinks for some sun and conversation on the times. They had such a great time that the women had to remind them about lunch. Fr. Neil will announce another casual Men's get together on the **2nd Sunday of the month**. Men who smoke e-cigarettes, or pipes are welcome. Listen for an announcement after service.

GUEST LECTURE FOR JULY BROWN BAG LUNCHEON

Dr. David Freeman from the International Churchill Society (ICS) will speak at our July Brown Bag lecture series. The ICS, founded in 1968 shortly after Churchill's death, is the world's preeminent member organization dedicated to preserving the historic legacy of Sir Winston Churchill.

Mark your calendar for **July 28th at 11:30am** in the Parish Hall. A Salad Lunch buffet will be served at \$8.00 per person.

Pray for our members in absentia: Clare Rider, Sam Foreman, Eve Menees and Dave Fuller.