

Happy Holiday and Christmas Greetings

Sacred Space

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Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Where there is Charity and
Wisdom,
there is neither fear nor
ignorance.

Where there is patience and
humility,
there is neither anger nor
disturbance.

Where there is poverty with joy,
there is neither greed nor
avarice.

Where there is rest and meditation,
there is neither anxiety nor
restlessness.

Where there is fear of the Lord to
guard an entrance,
there the enemy cannot have a
place to enter.

Canon to the Ordinary, Stefani Schatz Visits

The Rev. Canon Stefani Schatz visits Sacred Space Hayward on August 4th.

Canon Stefani, arrived promptly at 2pm on Sunday, introduced herself to the members of the team and then just as quickly disappeared into the crowd.

Upon looking for her from afar, she was in our community shaking hands, greeting our members and carrying a big smile to everyone she spoke with.



Canon Stefani and Rev
Lori

The Canon celebrated the Liturgy with a special charisma and sincerity.

The homily she gave was right from the heart and many participated in sharing their reflections.

After the celebration of the Eucharist, and as our members were getting lunches, Canon Stefani offered lunches and water to everyone in line as well as helping hand out clothing.

She then stayed until 3:20 talking; shaking hands and offering comfort to everyone she spoke with.

One community member was heard saying "She was so relaxed and gave us all the time we needed to just listen."

Sacred Space was honored to have her with us and we are thankful for her presence that Sunday.

Where there is a heart full of mercy
and discernment,
there is neither excess nor
hardness of heart



Christmas Greetings From the Sacred Space Family

It is that time of year, when we look back on what has been accomplished and what we wanted to accomplish.

Sacred Space has been blessed throughout the year with wonderful supporters, from donations to sandwich making to volunteers serving those in need.

We have had many inquiries on Sacred Space and starting street ministries in various parts of the West Coast.

God has been good to us in helping us to grow our mission in serving our Sisters and Brothers on the street.

We wish to thank each and everyone of you for your support, prayers and love.

As we approach our New Year may God bless each and everyone of us and fill us with His love and blessings.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy and a Blessed season from all of us at Sacred Space to your families.

Buon Natale



Wiped Clean

I've had the privilege to celebrate Eucharist with Sacred Space/Hayward five or six times in the past year. Almost invariably, I leave whistling. Or some variant of that, like turning up the car stereo and singing along as I drive off. I think it's because I feel wiped clean after worshipping with the homeless folks in that park.

When I lived in San Francisco, I passed at least one or two people asking for money, everywhere I went. After being scammed out of funds a few times - seeing the same people use the same sob story weeks later on a different block - I resolved to never give anyone cash again. "Maybe food or a snack bar, but my money will instead go to organizations that help the homeless," I told myself. Then, nothing: no food, no donations, and barely a nod to those who held their hand out on the sidewalks. Imperceptibly, I shut them out. At first, I felt self-righteous; then, guilty; finally, numb.

And here's why it matters to go to church, among other reasons: Sometimes we need our conscience pricked awake. Hearing Sunday gospel texts like, "sell everything you have and come follow me," or "whenever you did it to the least of these, you did it to me," can catch you off guard and leave you a bit red-faced. That happened to me, and it was irritating. But I hope it happens to you, too. After swatting these messages away a few times, I was stung by the realization that I had become less human every time I treated a homeless person as less than human. Each time I saw things as "us" and

"them" - they smell, they don't really want to be helped, they're using drugs, they are crazy - I closed off any chance of there ever being a "we." But Christ calls us, only and always, to relationship. We are each and every one of us a child of God.

To practice relationship is to risk being hurt, which is scary and uncomfortable. To shut off connection is safer, but you also disengage from your sweetest self, the one that loves with ease and trusts with abandon. I recommend living into your sweetness, however that manifests. One way for me is attending a Sacred Space Eucharist.

Relationship at the park in Hayward looks like this: learning everyone's name, at least for an hour; taking turns reading and praying; opening the sermon to anyone with something to share; listening to people's stories, and telling one of your own; handing out a meal every Sunday, rain or shine, and knowing it's you who's being fed; missing people who haven't shown up for a while and praying for their safety; letting someone's gratitude for your presence sink in without minimizing it; un-learning prejudices about others ("wow, the homeless can read!" was, alas, one of my insights); finally realizing that you're not that different from the folks in that park. That last one came to me one day, when I was offering pastoral care to a woman after the service. Twice, friends came by with a meal for her, because our talk was running long and she hadn't gotten food. When we were done, I told her, "You got double the food because people care about you!" And I saw then that God created us *all* for loving, for showing compassion.

So I whistle after Sacred Space. I just got to worship and be fed, to sweeten and be sweetened ("pass the sugar!"), to commune with the body of Christ. My sometimes-stingy soul is wiped clean.

by The Rev. Ricardo Avila



The Ecclesia Cross

A Place Where God is Present

Deacon John has asked me to write down some thoughts on my experience with Sacred Space. When he had first asked me to participate in the ministry I did not think twice about doing it. I thought that this was an incredible opportunity to be able to bring the love of Christ to our brothers and sisters who are basically outcasts in our society. Men and women, who use drugs, are alcoholics, prostitutes, mentally ill, homeless and forgotten.

Now how were we to minister to this forgotten population? We knew that we could not be the nice middle class folks from middle class churches bringing our middle class ways to the poor homeless population. So, how should we pray, distribute food and clothing and other articles that the people needed and not be sanctimonious.

Through Deacon John's vision and leadership we were accepted by the population we came to serve. They knew that we were there to help and not to preach to them or to tell them that they needed to clean up their act. How did we do this?

First of all we listened to their stories; we would allow them to talk to us before Liturgy and also during. As a priest is was a challenge to give short sermons, not to hog the spotlight so to speak. I would give a brief reflection on the Gospel of the day. Then turn it over to the people who wanted to share their insights. It is a humbling experience to hear what the people had to say. How they were able to pull together their thoughts with the readings and their own pain and sorrows and to hear how the Spirit was moving in their lives. They talked through their experience of life or of what we might consider none life. They spoke of being able to look up, to truly look up, because they were so low that looking up was the only direction left to them.

Many had reached rock bottom and it was from that level that they could feel the presence of the Lord in their lives. As an example, there was one gentleman who always wanted to sing a hymn and he would break

out in song calling us all to sing with him, even if we did not know the words. We joined him in the prayer of song. Sharing the bread and the cup with the group has been the most blessed experience in my priestly life. To share with people who truly understood their need for the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

In time Deacon John was able to take the ministry to another location into Hayward at the Park by City Hall. Again, bringing the love of Christ to our brothers and sisters who have the need to recognize the Lord in their lives; the location may be different, but the needs are the same. Sacred Space is a ministry that offers people a chance to spend time in prayer with others knowing that we are all one. That it does not matter who comes from what social class, but that we are all one in the family of the Lord.

As a priest I have found a place where Christ is present, where his cross and resurrection is so profoundly manifested in the lives of each and every man, woman and child that chooses to participate in Sacred Space. It is at Sacred Space the grace of the Holy Spirit is so powerful. And most powerful of all to see in the eyes of each of the people present, the joy that they have found for just one hour of their long week. I strongly suggest that you take an hour or two out of your Sunday and join us giving praise to God at Sacred Space.

Pax et Bonum

By Fr. Michael Anthony, osf



Sacred Space Comes Indoors For A Celebration

All Saints Parish in San Leandro provided the space for our well-attended dinner on November 8 to honor the wonderful folks who donate and volunteer for Sacred Space.

Dinner guests gathered from Hayward, San Leandro, Fremont, Pleasanton, Castro Valley, Livermore, Oakland and Berkeley for a joyous celebration of the ministries Sacred Space offers.

Those attending were treated to an Italian style feast, featuring chicken cacciatore (prepared by Deacon John's partner Mark Wood), oriechetta with sausage (prepared by Tom Breckenridge of All Saints) and lemon ricotta cake with raspberries (prepared by Kathleen Waters of All Saints). Among our honored guests were Bob and Chip, regular participants at our Hayward services. Bob and Chip helped with setting tables and decorations; we were blessed by their presence.

The Sacred Space leadership team all helped out with the event as well. After dinner entertainment was provided by Jeffrey Korst, a professional magician whose conjuring amazed us all.

We hope this may be the first of many appreciation dinners to thank and thank again all those who contribute time, talent and treasure to Sacred Space.

To see more pictures, please visit our website or Facebook page.





A World Free of Poverty 

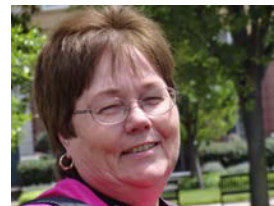
Face of Sacred Space - Hayward Tracy

Hi, my name is Tracy and I have the privilege of being the Site Facilitator for Sacred Space Hayward. I majored in biology at the University of Victoria in Victoria, B.C. and then spent 17 years working as an ophthalmic and medical office assistant.

My husband Andrew received a great job opportunity, so we moved to Livermore in 1997 with our children; Kassie and Alex.

In 1997 we started attending St. Clare's. I have been actively involved in the Youth Groups, Sunday School and Lay Eucharistic Ministry. Currently, I am the Sunday School Director.

When Deacon John approached me about being on the Board for Sacred Space I was thrilled, as it was fulfilling a calling that I had wanted to pursue for a long time. So after 2+ years I am enjoying this as much as I did when I started. I feel



blessed to have met some amazing people that I otherwise would not have had the opportunity to cross paths with. Let's say maybe our paths would have crossed, but we would not have had the inclination to stop, talk and get to know one another.

A life not lived for others is not a life."
Mother Teresa

Face of Sacred Space - Oakland Anne

I am a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Oakland.

I actually grew up there and was baptized there as a child I stopped attending church when I was about 13 and came back four years ago.

I serve St. John's in a variety of capacities: as the altar Guild director, a member of the vestry, coordinator of the women's retreat, liaison between the vestry on the ministry catalysts. Also I am a lay Eucharistic minister and lector. I participate weekly in the food pantry ministry at St. James Santiago in Oakland.

I'm in my third year of Education for Ministry.

I became interested in Sacred Space when St. John's was asked to prepare meals late last year. Since that time, I have felt increasingly called to work in the street ministry and am pleased to help facilitate the Oakland site and serve as Deanery Representative to the Alameda deanery.

Professionally I am first-grade teacher in the Mount Diablo Unified School District and I'm also a semi retired estate planning attorney having left my full time practice eight years ago to pursue teaching.



A World Free of Poverty 

What we are in need of

We are always in need of: toiletries (small bottles), razors, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, reading glasses and adult tube socks. With the nights cooling off we can expect an increase in requests for warm shirts/jackets and blankets.

If you have any questions regarding donations, please feel free to contact Tracy Brown at: glyfley@hotmail.com



"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."
Mother Teresa

You are now able to donate online to Sacred Space. We have PayPal to make donating easier and safer. Simply click on the [DONATE NOW](#) or from our [Webpage](#) and you will be taken automatically to PayPal.

Sacred Space Contacts

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@ All Saints Episcopal Church, San Leandro.

The Neighborhood Center provides an inviting and attractive space for all your group rental needs.



Contact the Church office for more information: (510) 569-7020

Roommate Wanted:

Single woman, 51, Episcopal Deacon, seeking housing in Bay Area.

Here is what I am looking for: a small, efficient studio or 1 BR apartment or a room in a shared house with 1-2 other people; rent at \$800/month; near trails where I can run (think East Bay hills, Peninsula hills, Marin hills); shops, grocery store within walking or biking distance; accessible to downtown SF by public transport; will allow cats

I have: just returned from living & working in Africa for 7 yrs; newly employed; a very respectful roommate; a runner, yoga practitioner, bike commuter and beginning skateboarder; gay, non-smoker (of any type), meat eater, non-partier, music lover; early to bed and early to rise; wanting to adopt a feline companion

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Seasons Greetings



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