



# San Fernando Pastoral Region Ministry With Young Adults Newsletter

No. 3

Summer 2005

www.sfmya.org

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## Benedict XVI: Gracious, kind, welcoming, a good listener

By Bishop Gerald Wilkerson

Many Catholics do not know this fact, but every bishop of a diocese anywhere in the world is required by church law to visit the Holy Father every five years in order to make a report on the work of the church in his diocese.

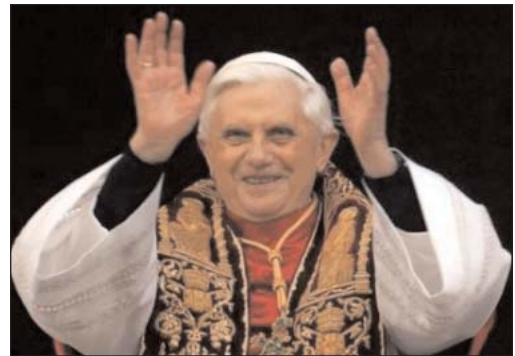
These five year visits are called *ad limina* (literally, "to the threshold"). This means that the bishop visits not only the Holy Father but also the tombs of the apostles Peter and Paul (the threshold of the church).

On these visits, the bishop meets, not only with the Holy Father, but also with the cardinals who head the various congregations or departments concerned with church life.

I have accompanied Cardinal Roger Mahony and the other bishops of California, Nevada and Hawaii, on two of these visits.

On both occasions, each bishop met privately with Pope John Paul II, and then as a group we met with the heads of the various congregations.

On both occasions, then, we met with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the



**FIRST BLESSING** — Shortly after his election as the 265th pope April 19, Pope Benedict XVI greets the thousands of faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Faith, who is now Pope Benedict XVI.

All of us found him to be gracious, welcoming and extremely kind. He especially wanted to listen to us and to learn from us

the challenges facing the church in the western United States. Only after we shared our struggles and concerns

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# Theology on Tap, Summer '05

Fellowship: 6:30 p.m. | Talks begin: 7:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Grace Parish Hall, 5011 White Oak Ave., Encino

[www.sfmya.org/tot](http://www.sfmya.org/tot)

## 'A Purpose Driven Life in a Purpose Driven Church'

July 23 | REV. JOSEPH SHEA

**T**he Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?" by Pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church has been a mega best seller, sometimes selling so fast that stores have difficulty keeping it stocked!

Unlike so many bestselling self-help books that suggest you try to find the purpose and meaning of your life by looking within yourself, this one focuses on God,

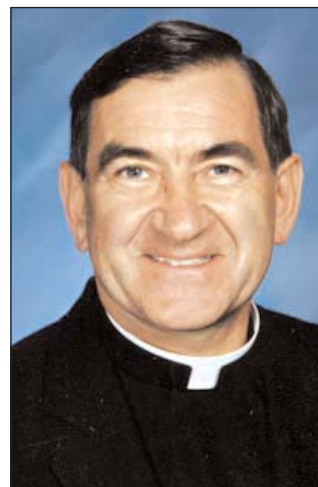
His will and His plan for you.

Find out how this book can be used by Catholics to improve our relationship with Christ as Fr. Joe Shea helps us answer the question: "What on earth am I here for?"

(Hint: It's not about you!)

You don't need to have read the book or even own a copy to appreciate this talk.

— Dennis H. Young



**Monsignor Padraic Loftus**

## 'Does Mass Confuse You?'

July 30 | MONSIGNOR PADRAIC LOFTUS

**C**atholicism is rich in tradition, ceremony and symbolism. Over the years many of the symbolic gestures and traditions have become more of a habit than anything else.

Has Mass become routine for you? Do you sometimes feel like your just going

through the motions?

Join us as Monsignor Padraic Loftus takes us on a fresh look at the history of our Mass and helps us to know why we do the things we do.

— Regi Meehan, Kimberly Moran

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### **POPE, From Page 1**

— as well as our joys with him — did he then share some points with us. Our meetings with him were always excellent; we were received as brothers and valuable information was

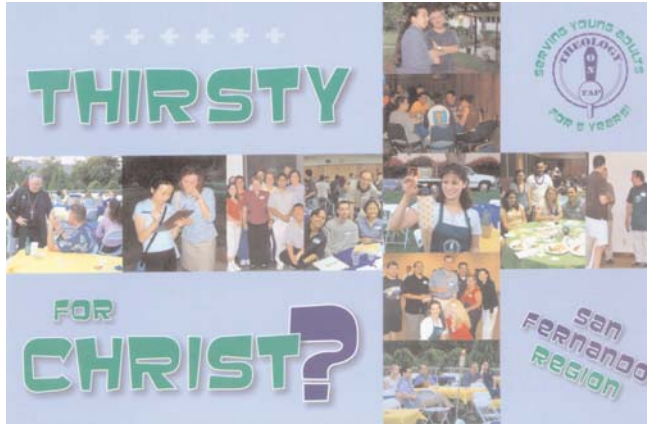
exchanged.

I know that he will bring these same qualities to the world as our Holy Father. I know that the world will find Pope Benedict XVI to be a man who is gracious, welcoming, kind and a very good listener. He

will make every effort to help us, and he will be a good shepherd who leads us always to Jesus Christ.

*Bishop Gerald Wilkerson is bishop of the San Fernando Pastoral Region.*

# Theology on Tap, Summer '05



## 'How to Bring Your Best Self Into Relationships'

Aug. 6 | PETER CANAVAN

Men.  
Women.  
Can't live with them.  
Can't live without them.

What is it about men and women that make them tick? We interact

everyday with each other, we fall in and out of love and we marry and live happily ever after.

But what makes us tick? What is the secret behind the estrogen/testosterone

balance ... and do we really want to know?

Come and explore these intriguing thoughts with speaker Peter Canavan.

— Prudence Gensman



## 'Peace & Justice'

Aug. 13 | ERIC DEBODE

*How do we reconcile the Christian command to "seek peace" when we find ourselves living in a world of injustice?*

**"If you want peace, work for justice."**

These words by Pope Paul VI set the stage for the third session on social justice. At this gathering, author Eric DeBode will introduce the concepts of peace and social justice in the context of our Catholic Christian faith. The presentation will be

followed by a question and answer period focused on determining what we can do to make a difference.

Though Catholic teachings are uniform on the sanctity and value of life, many scholars within the church differ on what the truly Christian response should be when facing multilayered social problems such as racism, homelessness, crime and poverty.

In becoming the person Christ wants us to be, we are



Eric DeBode

encouraged to seek wisdom and truth regardless of our nationality, social status, economic bracket or demographic.

—Rebecca Devereaux

## Theology on Tap, Summer '05 in the other regions

**Our Lady of the Angels St. Mary Magdalen Church, 1241 Corning St., Los Angeles**

7/21: "How to Bring Your Best Self Into Your Relationships" | Peter Canavan

7/28: "Peace & Justice: If You Want Peace, Work For Justice" | Rev. Greg Boyle S.J.

8/4: "Living Spiritually in a Material World: Following Jesus' Example of Love and Humility" | Rev. Ken Deasy

8/11: "What Drives Us Away and Back to the Church? The Young Adult's Journey Back Home," | Sister Kathy Bryant

**San Gabriel St. Joseph's Salesian Renewal Center 8301 Arroyo Drive, Rosemead**

7/20: "Got Gifts? Spirituality in Your Everyday Life" | Rev. Ik Ikeocha.

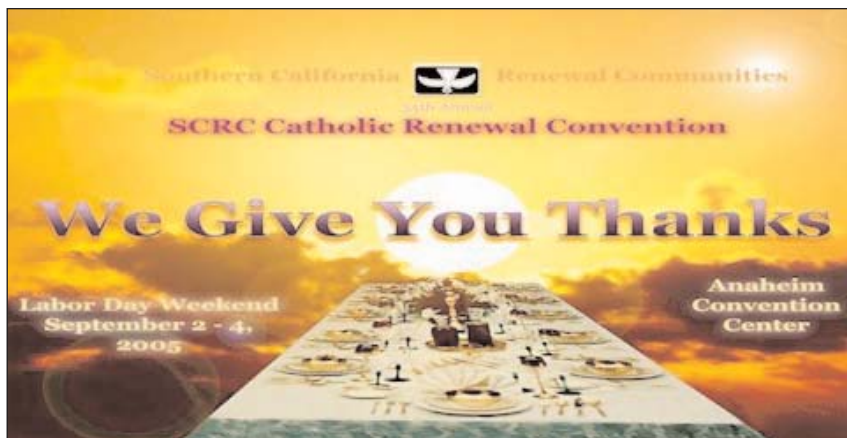
7/27: "Puzzled About Love, Lust & God? How Do They All Fit Together?" | Bill Shaules.

8/3: "What Is ... Fun With Faith? The Answer Is ... Let's Play Catholic Jeopardy!" | Rev. David Loftus, Juliette Marsh-Williams and Douglas Leal.

Aug. 10: "Do You Yearn To Discern? Making Life Choices as Young

See **REGIONS**, Page 4

# SCRC young adult conference slated for Labor Day weekend



**THANK YOU, LORD** — “We Give You Thanks” is the theme for the 34 annual Southern California Renewal Communities Renewal Convention. The event, expected to draw worshippers from all over the United States, will be held Labor Day weekend Sept. 2 to 4 at the Anaheim Convention Center.

By David Granucci

Southern California Renewal Communities (SCRC) serves as the liaison of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. SCRC began holding its annual conventions in 1971, and they have averaged from 12,000 to 15,000 attendees annually.

In November 2002, several young adults approached SCRC with a proposal to begin a separate conference, specifically aimed at young adults ages 18 to 39. SCRC agreed, and after nine months of planning

and much prayer, the first conference was held in September 2003 — 350 young adults attended that weekend.

In September 2004, the number increased to 700, with the young adult attendees experiencing powerful speakers and spirit-filled liturgies.

The conference also sponsors Jesus & Java on Saturday night, featuring performances by young adult music groups from around Southern California.

The goal of the SCRC Young Adult Conference is to provide a venue where young adults can meet, fellowship and nurture their Catholic faith.

It is trusted that the Holy Spirit will use these weekends to bring about a conversion and sanctification of individual young adults. Consequently, it is hoped and prayed that this will set in motion the transformation of young adult ministry in Southern California and beyond.

SCRC will hold its annual convention at the Anaheim Convention Center during the Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2 to 4.

To register or for more information (including registration for the young adult conference), call (818) 771-1361 or visit [www.scrcc.org](http://www.scrcc.org).

## REGIONS, From Page 4

Adults," Floy Hawkins.

**San Pedro**  
St. Bernard Church,  
9647 E. Beach St.,  
Bellflower

7/19: "Lights! Camera! Action!"  
Catholicism in the Media," | Rev. David Loftus.  
7/26: "Men! Women! Can't Live With Them! Can't Live Without Them: The Relationship Quest" | Peter Canavan.  
8/2: "Religion in an Age of Science: Special Bioethics Concerns," Rev. Richard Benson.  
8/9: "A Purpose Driven Life

in a Purpose Driven Church" | Rev. Joe Shea

**Santa Barbara**  
Our Lady of the  
Assumption Church  
3175 Telegraph Road,  
Ventura.

7/17: "One Nation Under God? The Separation of Church and State" | Bishop Thomas Curry.  
7/24: "Star Wars: Religious Faith in an Age of Scientific Knowledge" | Rev. Dave Heney.  
7/31: "Catholic to the Core: Understanding Funky Traditions and Quirky Rituals" | Rev. David Loftus.  
8/7: "How to Maintain Your Faith and Find Peace at Work" | Floy Hawkins.

## Feast days for July, August

### July

- 1, Blessed Junipero Serra || 4, St. Elizabeth of Portugal
- 6, St. Maria Goretti || 9, St. Augustine Zhao Rong
- 11, St. Benedict || 13, St. Henry
- 14, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha || 15, St. Bonaventure
- 16, Our Lady of Mount Carmel || 18, St. Camillus de Lellis
- 20, St. Apollinaris || 21, St. Lawrence of Brindisi
- 22, St. Mary Magdalene || 23, St. Bridget of Sweden
- 25, St. James || 26, Sts. Joachim and Anne
- 29, St. Martha || 30, St. Peter Chrysologus

### August

- 1, St. Alphonsus Liguori || 2, St. Eusebius of Vercelli; St. Peter Julian Eymard
- 4, St. John Mary Vianney
- 5, The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
- 6, The Transfiguration of the Lord || 8, St. Dominic
- 9, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)
- 10, St. Lawrence || 11, St. Clare
- 13, Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus
- 15, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 16, St. Stephen of Hungary
- 18, St. Jane Frances de Chantal
- 19, St. John Eudes || 20, St. Bernard
- 22, The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 23, St. Rose of Lima || 24, St. Bartholomew
- 25, St. Louis of France; St. Joseph Calasanz
- 27, St. Monica || 29, The Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

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