

January 28-29, 2017
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (one week to PSA!)
Zephaniah 2:3-3:13 First Corinthians 1:26-31 Matthew 5:1-12

The recent Episcopal Ordination and accompanying celebrations were a festival of delight for those who like HIGH Church ceremonies and all the regalia that goes with them. Oil, incense, plenty of candles, prostrations, plumage, swords, lots of miters (the pointy hats), crowded gatherings and ample priests and seminarians dressed to the nines with shoes nicely polished (and sometimes even borrowed), the events were festivals for the senses. Scattered throughout each event, sitting in the corners or standing in the back, were some who were mourning, the poor in spirit, the meek, those hungering for righteousness (and some just hungry for a burger or sandwich), some peacemakers and those persecuted for their faith, along with a bunch of merciful distributors of grace as well as those who just wandered in and sat down. **BLESSED ARE THEY.** Within 30 minutes of the Ordination's conclusion the participants for a regularly scheduled Vietnamese 5:30pm Mass began gathering, an opportunity for those who rely on the grace of God to get through each day to be reliably nourished...no hoopla, no swords, no prostrations or incense....just Mass. **BLESSED ARE THEY.** Here today, at this Mass...**BLESSED ARE YOU**....you who do not have all the answers, you who keep getting up each day and giving it your best, you who keep loving your kids, spouse and family even when you are exhausted, you who are confused and worried about the future...**BLESSED ARE YOU.** The episcopal ordination regalia has been packed away, the visiting bishops have returned to their own dioceses, the abundant orchids that filled the sanctuary have been offered for personal purchase here at SCDA, life has returned to normal...because it is within NORMAL....with its ups and downs and all-arounds where you and I dwell and where, despite our tiredness, confusion and sometimes grievous errors, we become blessed in the eyes of God...and the whole reason that Tim Freyer was ordained a Bishop and the whole reason people like Daniel are seeking to become priests is to keep telling you....**BLESSED ARE YOU!**

Thank you for sharing these final days of January with our Santa Clara community. The excitement in the air is palpable....the Ordination and Inauguration were mere warm-ups for the next really BIG event....**our 2017 Pastoral Services Appeal Pledge Weekend coming NEXT WEEKEND!!!** PLEASE take some time to review all the material I have sent you, PLEASE take some time to prayerfully consider your participation within the life of our Santa Clara community and PLEASE bring your 2017 pledge envelope with you next weekend so I may personally accept it from you. If you are not Registered here at Santa Clara but consider this your parish home, there are extra copies of our PSA material on the tables beneath the photo montage: Once Upon a Yorba Linda Time. Our ability to thrive, grow and be a community of warmth, love, tolerance and acceptance is dependent on your generosity and support. On a separate note, **St. Francis of Assisi School invites you to meander up the hill (on Sunday) to visit for their BIG OPEN HOUSE event.** Even if you do not have children, please consider visiting the SFA campus so as to be able to speak knowledgably about it to your neighbors or friends who might be looking for a school for their kids or grandchildren. Lastly, bulletins are available as you exit, and please, always remember that you are loved. FKB