

The Messenger



FALL 2016



ST. GREGORY THE GREAT CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

We are a Stewardship Parish, recognizing that all we have comes from God and as good Stewards we are called to share these gifts.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Adult Education | 2 |
| Faith Formation | 5 |
| St. Gregory the Great School | 5 |
| Parish Calendar | 6 |
| Youth Ministry | 3 |
| Time, Talent, Treasure ~ | Insert |
| RCIA | 4 |
| ICSC | 4 |

Dear Parishioners,

The Gaelic, Deire Fomhar translates as the month of October. It literally means the end of harvest time, the fruitful season of the year. The Harvest brings many blessings, causing us, as good stewards to have grateful hearts toward the ONE from whom all blessings flow. God is the owner of the vineyard and we are its caretakers. In the enclosed annual stewardship report, we rejoice in our rich harvest and offer gratitude to all our stewards who made a joyful response to God. If you have been particularly blessed this past year do prayerfully consider an offertory increase.

October is the month of the Missions. Mission Sunday (Oct. 23rd) gives us an opportunity to offer prayerful and material support for those bringing the gospel message to the nations and reminds us of our Baptismal calling to be ambassadors for Christ. All our teachers are wonderful Ambassadors, handing on the faith to the young and not so young. So too, all our devoted parents who deserve our best support as they respond to the call of the gospel, Luke 18:8 "when the Lord returns... shall He find any faith on earth?" It's when our faith comes under attack in our time that we begin to fully appreciate what a

treasure we carry in earthen vessels. The canonization of a saint of our time, in Mother Teresa, bolsters that faith and its practice. How heartening it is to join with such good numbers of parishioners at Sunday Eucharistic worship. Can you believe that we have over 60 children in their choir? Let's hear it for those devoted parents and Mrs. Cavallo!

"Love is repaid by love alone", wrote the patroness of the missions, St. Therese of Lisieux (Feast Day Oct. 1st), in her journal which became *the story of a soul*. In a sentence she encapsulates both the motive and meaning of mission—the impulse to respond with gratitude to the gift of love and faith offered by God. St. Paul witnessed to the same when he explained his "mission" to his beloved Corinthians, "the love of Christ compels me..." 2 Cor. 5:14

Preaching and teaching addresses more than the intellect: it is focused on the heart. Faith is not simply an action of the intellect but is firstly built on relationship. "The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

Romans 5:5 It's the love of God who fires us for Mission.

St. Augustine refers to three dimensions for handing on the faith: teaching, delighting and persuading—leading to action—faith in action. In our faith community we are a people of Mission in all our many ministries and one of our recent one, "Catholic School". The mission goes on in our new construction (see Construction Zone).

In this year of Mercy, which will conclude right before Advent we pray, "bestow O Lord your Mercy upon all who give relief from thirst or hunger, shelter the homeless, welcome the stranger, care for the sick, visit prisoners, bury the dead with dignity, comfort the sorrowful, forgive injuries, bear wrongs patiently, and pray for the living and the dead". All Souls/Saints will help us to remember our beloved dead and pray God have mercy on them as we remind ourselves "it is in the shadow of others we live" an old Celtic proverb. In God's Mercy we remember each other in our prayers.

Rev. Nicholas Clavin

Rev. Nicholas Clavin
Pastor



St Gregory the Great continuing Adult Faith Formation

November 5, 2016

Rev. Terry Hershey will present a Saturday morning workshop:

Terry is an author, humorist, inspirational speaker, dad and ordained Episcopal minister. His work has been featured on The Hallmark Channel, CNN, PBS, and NPR. He has been an extremely popular speaker at the Catholic Religious Education Congress in Anaheim for over 20 years and is a sought after retreat leader by many Christian communities, especially at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Scottsdale AZ.

This presentation will be held in the parish hall starting at 9am. There is a \$39 publishers fee which will include Terry's newest book, "Sanctuary".

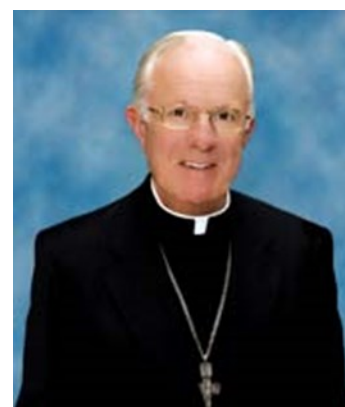
This is guaranteed to be to be an inspirational morning. All are invited



December 3, 2016

Bishop Robert Brom

Bishop Brom will be joining us once again to offer a Saturday morning of prayer, reflection and discussion. This presentation will be on MERCY. The presentation includes two parts: "Mercy in sacred Scripture" and "The Face of Mercy: Jesus & the Church – Merciful like the Father".



Bishop Brom is a wonderful teacher sharing humor and wit. He makes difficult theological concepts understandable. He has been well received here at St. Gregory the Great as well as many parishes throughout the diocese.

The presentation will start at 9am in the parish hall. All are invited.

YOUTH MINISTRY

It was a full and faith-filled summer for the youth ministry! One major highlight was our annual trip to the Steubenville Youth Conference, where our parish sent 90 teens and 15 adults to join over 4,000 youth for talks, music, Eucharistic adoration and more.



St. Gregory Youth getting pumped up for Friday night at Steuby!



Big group photo in our Sunday Hawaiian theme.

Also, our parish sent five of our young adults, including me to join over 2 million young people and Pope Francis at World Youth Day. We visited various holy sites in Prague, Krakow as well as powerful visits to the shrine of our Lady of Czestochowa and Auschwitz- Birkenau. Our group joined a larger group of young adults from around the United States. The highlight of our trip was the pilgrimage walk to Mercy Field, where we camped out with 2 million pilgrims in vigil with Pope Francis.



Bishop McElroy celebrated mass with the San Diego World Youth Day pilgrims at Saint Nicholas Church in Krakow. St. Gregory pilgrims from L-R – Adam Guzzardo, Daniel Witham, Pamela Poe, Timmins Rickling & James Poirier



The world youth day crowds gathered at Blonia Park with Pope Francis.



Our group made great friends with young adults from Virginia. Photo taken in Wadowice, the hometown of Saint Pope John Paul II. We are in front of the church where Saint John Paul II was baptized.



RCIA

The RCIA process has begun and we welcome new inquirers. We have an enthusiastic, vibrant, faith-filled team who are eager to share their faith with you. If you know of someone who would like to know more about the Catholic faith or who might be considering becoming Catholic please refer them to the RCIA on any Tuesday evening in the parish hall. It is never too late to join the RCIA. For more information please call Deacon Ron at 858-653-3582.



INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE

The first week of October, representatives of the staff recently attended the International Catholic Stewardship Conference. This conference provides an opportunity for ongoing education, developing enhanced communication both on social media and the parish website and gives us a chance to network with other parishes to share ideas on developing Time, Talent & Treasure. The ICSC offers us the means to acquire tools (speakers, programs, etc.) to make our parish communities more vibrant so that we can go out and evangelize. Simply put, many times we can fall into just “managing” the community, and conferences like these can help stimulate the church into active outreach or “mission”, and that is the ultimate call of the church.



Here we are networking with other parishes.

FINANCE REPORT FY2016

Saint Gregory the Great Church

www.saintgregorythegreat.org 858-653-3540

Annual Income Year-end 6/30/16

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Wkly Envelopes/Credit Card Pmts | \$ 1,876,995 |
| Youth and Confirmation programs | \$ 192,632 |
| Other parish income | \$ 224,770 |
| | \$ 2,294,397 |

Annual Expenditures

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries and benefits | 851,486 |
| Operating & Facility expenses | 648,169 |
| Debt Payments | 128,183 |
| Youth and Confirmation programs | 194,919 |
| Diocesan tax assessment | 224,690 |
| Charitable contributions | 39,938 |
| | \$ 2,087,385 |

General Observations

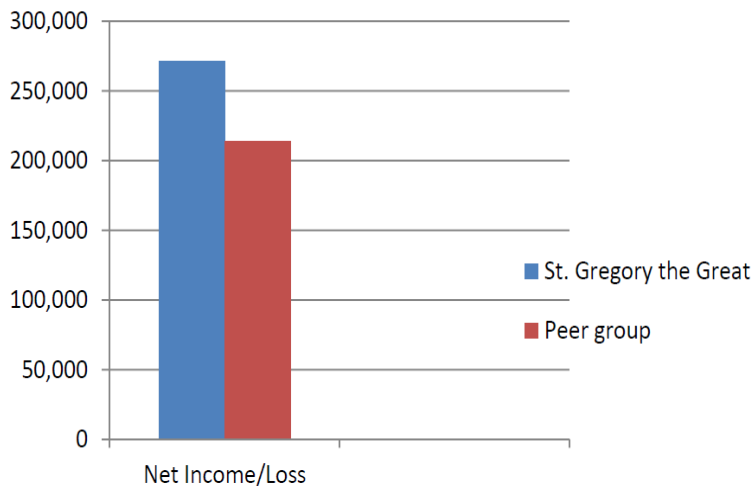
> Our ordinary income (Sunday donations) has been flat since 2014. In the last year our ordinary income went up just 2%.

> Overall operating disbursements increased by 11% in the last year.

> \$1.5 million of the \$2.1 million capital campaign pledges have been paid.

> The School generated enough revenue to cover its expenses and pay 50% of the monthly debt service.

St. Gregory the Great Parish vs. Peer Group Average



Contributing Households

Credit Cards and Weekly Envelope Giving

| Weekly Giving | Households | | Contributions | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| | # | % | \$ | % |
| \$60 or more | 101 | 5% | 563,000 | 33% |
| \$40 to 59 | 104 | 5% | 260,017 | 15% |
| \$25 to \$39 | 182 | 9% | 279,646 | 17% |
| \$20 to \$24 | 157 | 8% | 172,235 | 10% |
| \$15 to \$19 | 143 | 7% | 120,026 | 7% |
| \$10 to \$14 | 254 | 13% | 150,158 | 9% |
| \$5 to \$9 | 274 | 14% | 88,185 | 5% |
| \$1 to \$4 | 390 | 20% | 45,980 | 3% |
| Other | 389 | 20% | 9,888 | 1% |
| Total | 1994 | 100% | 1,689,135 | 100% |

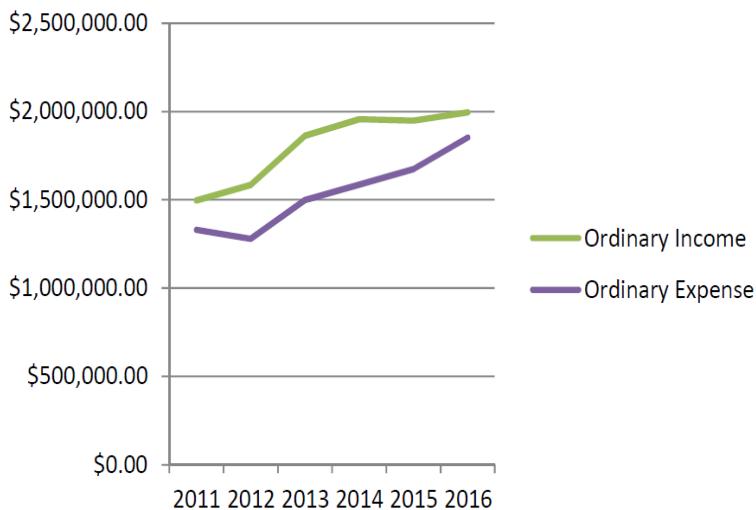
Recommendations:

> As God's stewards of treasure, please carefully reflect on your contributions as a sacrificial sharing.

> Our parish requires everyone's financial support for daily operations, please consider contributing consistently.

> We strongly encourage parishioners to consider signing up for automatic credit card payments.

> If your income has increased over the past year, please consider increasing your tithe.



Christian Formation

Confirmation Preparation & Youth Programs

- ~World Youth Day - 5 Pilgrims
- ~Synergy/San Diego Youth Day - 20 Teens
- ~Steubenville - 90 Teens, 15 Adults
- ~A solid core team of adults help lead youth group nights
- ~Lifeteen Conference - Youth Ministers attended in Arizona
- ~Youth Summer Events: Bonfires, Dance Lessons, Disneyland, and more!
- ~80 youth leaders in our confirmation leadership program
- ~111 youth confirmed in our church
- ~38 new core team leaders attend the Camp Emmaus youth leadership camp hosted by the Diocese of San Diego



Faith Formation

- ~760 students were enrolled in Faith Formation
- ~150 volunteer catechists for Pre-K through 8th Grade
- ~121 students celebrated their First Eucharist
- ~121 students celebrated their First Reconciliation
- ~**Children's Liturgy** is orchestrated by 2 staff members, serving 9am & 11am Sunday Masses during the summer.

Bible Studies

- ~Steady parish-wide participation in bible study.
- ~Five different sessions will begin in September.

DID YOU KNOW...

Adult Formation

- ~13 adults participated in **Adult Confirmation Preparation**
- ~75 people joined small lenten groups through **Adult Faith Formation**
- ~5 people came back to the church in the **Returning Catholics** ministry
- ~Parish Mission with Deacons Eddie Ensley & Robert Herrmann
- ~Reconciliation Services (2)
- ~Parish-wide Year of Mercy Series

RCIA

- ~9 stewards supported religious education for adults & children exploring the Catholic faith
- ~Conducted 3 Retreats and many focus sessions
- ~11 adults & children were baptized at the Easter Vigil
- ~7 adults & children were confirmed at the Easter Vigil



Baptism Seminars

- ~20 Seminars given with 106 Parents and 64 Godparents in attendance.

Widows

Friendship Group

Social ministry for support and friendship. Attended concert, dinners, luncheons & more.



Knights of Columbus

200 stewards render service to their members and families at St. Gregory the Great, as well as the community at large. Highlights include Lenten Fish Dinners, Pancake Breakfasts, Support for Fall Festival (Beer Garden & Barbecue), Golf Tournament, Our Lady of Fatima support,

Groups & Organizations

Filipino American Group

- ~Lumpia Sales several times per year
- ~Caroling in December
- ~Valentine's Dinner & Dance
- ~All proceed donated to church exceeded \$12,000

Cursillo

60 parishioners have made their Cursillo. Father Nick and Father Ed regularly attend ultreyas.

Boy Scouts

116 youth & 61 adults participated in many activities; Wreaths across America at Miramar Cemetery, Various Camps, Ladle Soup Kitchen and Backpacking.

Cub Scouts

102 scouts and 25 leaders enjoyed Laser Tag, Rock Climbing (indoor) and a Bike Rodeo. Sold popcorn - annual fundraiser. 12 scouts received Arrow of Light awards.

Senior Social Ministry

18 Members participated in various activities; Lenten Fish fries, Halloween party, Oktoberfest, anniversary party, game night, luncheons, and others.

Cooking Group

- 8 stewards provided food and refreshments for the following events:
- ~New Parishioner Orientations
- ~Anointing Masses
- ~Lessons & Carols Reception
- ~RCIA Pentecost Reception



Women's Book Club

25 members meet monthly to discuss books and relevant topics.



Women's Friendship Circle

Hosted women's retreat, 4 members donated 25 hours each, 50 women attended.

Catholic Men's Fellowship

15 men meet regularly to encourage one-another, strengthen their faith and become better sons, brothers, fathers, and friends.

DID YOU KNOW...

- ~There were 100 monthly participants for **Adoration**, 6 facilitators, and at Easter there were 240 adorers!
- ~The **Altar Linen Ministry** has 9 ministers who ensure that altar linens are properly cared for and maintained.
- ~There are 60 **Altar Servers**. New altar servers are always welcome.
- ~35 Ministers in the **Daily Mass Ministry**. New this year: development of written procedures ensuring efficient coverage of duties.
- ~There are 170 **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharistic** serving at all Masses.
- ~62 **Lectors** proclaimed the Word at all Masses.
- ~27 Stewards of **Liturgical Environment** coordinate floral and other decorations in the church during various liturgical seasons and special events. New banners created for the ambo by talented member.
- ~8 **Martha's Ministry** stewards devoted much time keeping sacred vessels clean and Mass essentials well stocked.
- ~The **Ministry of Consolation** has 16 stewards who supported 15 families to prepare a funeral for a loved one.
- ~19 ministers served 8 homebound parishioners for the **Communion to the Homebound Ministry**.
- ~135 **Greeters & Ushers** serve the parish at weekend and Holy Day Masses.
- ~1 steward devotes much time in the **Scheduling Ministry** to ensure good coverage for all liturgical duties at Mass.
- ~150 members support the **Music Ministry**, including 57 youth. The choir continues to bring joyous music to enhance all liturgies.

Stewards of Liturgy

Stewards of Parish Life

Rosary Cenacle

- ~Monthly meetings where we Gathered for friendship and prayed two rosaries for the intentions of the parish.
- ~Conversed about the Blessed Mother and her messages to Father Gobbi.



Computer Help Ministry

Provided computer diagnosis, repaired printer malfunction, assisted with coaching & purchase recommendations.

Our Lady of Fatima Devotion

- ~27 families hosted the statue of Our Lady.
- Families pray the rosary together during the two week visitation program.

Family Cancer Support Ministry

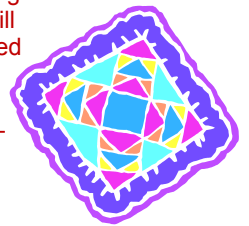
- ~Hosted the Mass of Hope with reception in the Parish Hall
- ~Attendance at "Talking about Cancer" sessions were above average.
- ~Total 120 hours spent counseling and assisting two families fighting cancer
- ~Calderon Family assistance: Forty-one meals delivered; cash and meal donations exceeding \$3000, Ten rides to radiation treatments; FCS

Special Needs Ministry

Successful continuation of our special needs faith formation class.

Prayers & Squares

31 stewards created 53 quilts presented at Mass for prayers and knot tying which were then gifted to seriously ill parishioners and families. Supported Daisy Days program with their Girl Scout project, supported the parish Gala, and assisted the Cancer Support Ministry with meals and driving for the Calderon Family.



Gardening Ministry

- ~20 Stewards donated many hours towards the design & maintenance of the Church grounds
- ~Plant sale; raised almost \$1000
- ~Mary prayer garden completed

Helping Hands

20 stewards provided transportation to medical appointments & Mass, coordinated meals with cooking group for parishioners needing assistance.

Kitchen Coordinator

- ~Initiated "Kitchen Corner" periodic bulletin article
- ~Professionally deep-cleaned the kitchen
- ~New convection oven and dish washing station
- ~Locker installed for volunteers

Blood Drive

~Average per drive: 32 parishioners donated 33 units of blood. This will touch the lives of at least 99 people.

STEWARDSHIP... A DISCIPLES' RESPONSE
THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP
BY SHARING YOUR GIFTS OF
TIME, TALENT & TREASURE!!!

DID YOU KNOW...

Respect for Life / Social Justice

- ~COLFS baby bottle drive
- ~Promoted "40 Days for Life"
- ~Led prayer group in front of Abortion Choices Clinic
- ~Educate the parish on Life and Social issues via bulletin and website

Build-A-Miracle

- ~Built 11 homes this year, 260 overall
- ~30 new homes planned
- ~2 beauty salon/small business projects initiated and funded by parishioners
- ~Sewing program run by parishioners
- ~New community center being built

Rosary Makers

25 stewards created over 6350 rosaries which are distributed all over the world.



Parish-wide Involvement

- ~Organized 2 **Ministry Fairs**: 30 Ministries participated, resulting in 127 new members.
- ~**New Parishioner Orientations**: Welcomed 88 new families. Staff, mentors and the cooking group support the monthly orientations.

School Population

- 1 Principal and Vice Principal
- 1 School Secretary
- 1 Counselor
- 11 Credentialed Teachers
- 6 Instructional Aides
- 3 Extended Daycare Personnel
- 253 Students enrolled K-8
- 25 Eighth Grade Graduates
- 146 School Families

Student Services

- 16 Student Council Members
- 10 Students on Peace Patrol
- 35 Student-led Prayer Assemblies
- 35 Scout-led Flag Ceremonies
- 650 Extended Daycare hours offered
- 10,673 Hot Lunches consumed
- 687 Visitors at Catholic Schools
- Week Open House

After School Enhancement Programs

- Cheerleading
- Choir
- Guitar
- CYT
- Study Hall
- Young Engineers
- Monart

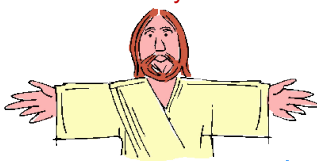


Adopt-A-Family

- ~95 families adopted from Our Lady of Angels and St. Gregory the Great (504 people)
- ~\$2375 in gift cards were donated for needy families.

Rosary Makers - Outreach Mission

- ~Shipped over 600 mission rosaries
- ~Helped other churches establish their own Rosary Makers Ministries



WELCOME

Special Events

- 4 Spaghetti Dinners (over 1,000 guests in all)
- Father Daughter Dance
- Fall Festival
- 260 Guests on Grandparents Day
- Artist & Author Fair
- Scholastic Book Fair
- Jog-a-thon
- CYT Production of "Peter Pan"
- Diocesan Track Meet
- CYT productions of Aladdin & Lion King
- 1 Kids News Day
- Jolly Gift Boutique
- Olympic Day
- Fifth Grade Play "American Revolution"
- 6th Grade Camp
- 7th & 8th Grade Overnight Retreat
- 5th Grade Overnight field trip on the Star of India
- 4th Grade Field trip on Amtrak to Mission San Juan Capistrano
- Talent Show
- Parent Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
- Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Communication and Publicity

- 37 Guardian Newsletters
- Articles for Parish Bulletin
- 5 Articles for Scripps Ranch Newsletter

After School Sports

- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Soccer

Stewards of Parish Outreach



Sister Parish Outreach

- In gratitude to all parishioners, the Sister Parish Outreach Ministry has been able to provide the following support to our sister parish:
- ~Donated \$4,000 for Scholarships to Our Lady's School (Rummage Sale proceeds)
 - ~Distributed over 1600 bags of food to Our Lady of Angels families and homeless
 - ~114 blankets and 30 sleeping bags were donated in the Winter Blanket Drive.
 - ~166 bags of food from Thanksgiving Food Drive

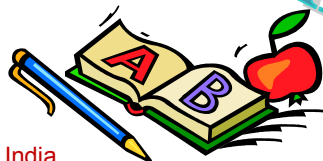
St. Vincent DePaul, Meals for the Homeless

Saint Gregory parishioners continue to serve the homeless at Father Joe's Village the first Saturday of each month. Many volunteers are bringing items like clothing and toiletries that are given to the homeless.

Parish Events

- ~St. Patrick's Day Mass & Dinner
- ~Knights of Columbus Fish Fry Dinners (6)
- ~Venetian Carnivale Gala
- ~Family Camp at Whispering Winds
- ~Mass for the Sick (2)
- ~Parish Fall Festival
- ~Lessons in Carols Christmas Concert

At the school...



Stewardship & Service

- Over 6,000 Parent Volunteer Hours
- 145 Toys donated to Toys for Tots
- \$1,476.41 donated to the Missionary Childhood
- \$3,730 raised for the American Heart Assoc.
- 7,584 meals provided on World Food Day
- \$1,896 donated to GI GO Veteran's Fund
- \$200 donated to Catholic Relief Services

Sacraments

- 32 First Communions
- 32 First Reconciliations
- 20 school liturgies
- Advent and Lent Reconciliation
- May Crowning
- 180 Morning Prayer Assemblies



Saint Gregory The Great Catholic School

Our eighth year as a Catholic parochial school in the Diocese of San Diego began on August 23. The theme for this school year, "...with God, all things are possible", (*Matthew 19:26*) instills in us a spirit of hope and faith that in times of celebration and challenge, God is in our midst. Christ is the reason for our school and we are proud to offer a learning environment where our Catholic faith is nurtured, gospel virtues are practiced, and where an outstanding academic program supports each child in realizing his/her fullest potential. We welcome Miss Raquel Silva to our staff this year and announce the appointment of Miss Darlene Howard as Assistant Principal. The faculty and staff at St. Gregory the Great are second to none, demonstrating the love and compassion of Christ both in and out of the classroom.



Construction of Phase III of development at St. Gregory the Great Catholic School is on the horizon. This phase of development includes a Pre-School, Science Lab, Learning Center and re-assignment of or kindergarten classroom to the new building. Brand new state requirements concerning storm water drainage have caused considerable delay on this project, but we are excited to announce that construction activity on the school site should be evident by October—early Nov.



Following an intensive self-study process and a three-day on site visit last year by team of educators from both the public and private sector, St. Gregory the Great Catholic School was notified during the summer that full accreditation status has been awarded to the school by both the Western Catholic

Educational Association (WCEA) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The rubrics for accreditation included assessment of the school's Catholic Identity, Academic Program, Student Services, and establishment of an Action Plan to ensure future growth and development.

We pray God's blessing for another great school year!!!



©2015

Faith Formation

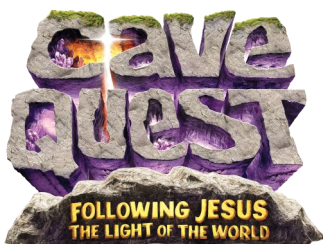
Faith Formation started at the beginning of October; If you have children that are not registered yet please stop by and get them registered. We are also getting the children ready that are in their 2nd year of study for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist which requires an additional registration form. You will see through the photos that we had a wonderful Vacation Bible School this summer called Cave Quest. Please don't miss the middle school Christmas play on December 9th in the church. Come join in the fun!

More pictures can be found on the back page!



Parish Calendar Highlights

- **ICSC Regional Conference** - Saturday, October 22, 2016
- **Office Closed** - Monday, October 24, 2016
- **Staff Day of Reflection** – Friday, November 4, 2016
- **Terry Hershey** – Saturday, November 5, 2016
- **Pista Sa Nasyon** – Saturday, November 12, 2016
- **Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed** – November 24 & 25, 2016
- **Lessons & Carols** – Friday, December 2, 2016
- **Bishop Brom** - Saturday, December 3, 2016
- **Middle School Christmas Play**—Friday, December 9, 2016
- **Parish Penance Service** – December 12, 2016



**Saint Gregory the Great
Catholic Community**

11451 Blue Cypress Drive
San Diego, CA 92131



Phone: 858-653-3540

Fax: 858-653-3550

E-mail: info@stgg.org