



The Mike

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Trinity: A Fathers' Day Sermon

By the Reverend Canon Mark Shier

Sermon given at St. Michael's on June 19.

“I'll go,” said the father, his decision clear upon his face. “Their need is so great.”

The son looked at his father, his love for him like a third living presence between them. An observer would have noticed the clear, even startling, resemblance between them. Everything that one saw in the father one could also see in the son. There was the same decisiveness, the same energy, the same compassion; one could never have mistaken the one for the other, yet the expression of the one in the other was clear and compelling. “The power of DNA,” an observer might have thought to herself.

The resemblance was clearest in what could not readily be seen. The depth of eye betrayed a passion for justice, for what is right. Yet the set of muscles in each face was not harsh, not uncaring; how one combined utter justice with complete compassion, limitless love, was a mystery, one that shrouded each of them and seemed to hum with living power between them. The deference one showed to the other arose from the depths of their being and yet expressed itself in different ways. The son always seemed aware of the grandeur of his father, of the transcendent otherness and beauty that had no other likeness. The father was the origin of all that the son found most compelling. Yet one could see in the father a respect for his son that plumbed unfathomable depths. For each the other was the greatest, loveliest reality; one could never imagine any separation between them, any disagreement. If you heard one, you heard the other. If you saw the son, you saw the father. If you knew the father, the son was no surprise. You could sense that in the heartbeat of living energy that pulsed between them.

“I'll go,” said the father. “Their need is so great. They need someone to be with them, someone they can trust, someone to show the way, someone to share their destiny. Who

better than their father?”

The son looked at his father speculatively. They had been discussing for a seeming eternity the father's other children, the ones that came after this first-born, the ones born in a different way, not as close as the first-born, yet beloved of both father and son. The son had assisted



the father in their birthing, and, again, an observer might see elements of both father and son in the late-borns. There was a family resemblance, though not as clear as one would have thought, certainly not as clear as that

in this trinity of love, this union of father and son and spirit of communion that bound them infinitely close.

“But, Father,” said the son, and one could sense the hesitance in his word, the reluctance to question whom he so greatly loved and respected. “Father, let me go instead. They need me more than they need you. Their problem is that they ignore you and the way we have laid out for them. They think themselves wise and in their foolishness try to go their own way, different from what we worked into them. They need another child to show them how to respect their father. They need me, your first-born, your eternal expression, to show them how a child behaves, how one remains oneself and yet gives oneself unreservedly to the loveliness of their father.”

“But, my Son,” said the father, “I would not have you hurt. This healing of our creation will be costly; you know that. A price must be paid in order for these little ones to understand, to even begin to know who they are and what they are to be. Whoever goes to them must empty himself, must become small as they are small, limited as they are limited, vulnerable as they are vulnerable, must live and die as they live and die, so that they may begin to

comprehend, so that they may begin to see the light. They live and die in a narrowness that will be painful to bear. I would not have you so wounded.”

“Father,” replied the son, “it is no wound. It is an honor and a glory to show them the loveliness of your love. I am your perfect image. I can best show them how to reflect your glory, how to be images themselves of your infinity, how to be children honored in the way they resemble their father. Let me show them how to trust you. Let me show them that their glory is in reflecting your glory. Father, let me go to them.”

An observer might have seen a titanic struggle trouble the face of the Father. The wisdom of the Son was unassailable, but the Father would not have him hurt, would not have him absent from the courts of heaven. Finally, infinite humility won through. The Father said, “Yes, my Son, you are right. You are the one who should go to them. Go with my blessing, but know that when your work is done, when you have finished showing them the way, when you return to companion me in eternity, we will send our Love to be with them, the Spirit of love that binds us together, so that they may be bound to us forever.”

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Sermon *from page 1*

The son said, "Be it done to me according to your word."

And an angel of the Father went to a young girl in a backwater town of a brutish empire on a nothing planet circling a mediocre sun. The girl, confused and frightened yet with the integrity of true humility and obedience, of willingness to trust the other, said, "Be it done to me according to your word."

Trying to capture the meaning of what transpired, the commentators John and Luke wrote it this way: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.... No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known." (John 1:5, 14, 18) "For nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

The full text of Canon Shier's sermons at St. Michael's may be read at www.stmikessc.org/sermons_index.htm.

September 2011 MIKE Deadline

Please send copy and/or pictures via e-mail to administrator@stmikessc.org by Tuesday, August 23. If you don't have a computer, bring your articles to the Parish Office by that time.

Thanksgiving for a Job Well Done to

St. Michael's for supporting the Get on the Bus trip to the Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo on June 4th. It was a special day for the children to spend time with their dads. All in the parish supported this outreach program by prayers and participation. The many who brought food for breakfast, activities for the long ride and greeted the children very early Saturday morning included Lise, Alex, Gail, Charlotte, Louisa and Andre, Mary Ann, Janet, Betty, Ron and Denise, Julie, Rose, Blaire, Amador and Jing, Jane, Daniel, Meredith and Paul, Polly, Nancy, Andrea, William and John, Julia, Sarah, Gail and Bill, Leonard, Kim, Mark, plus Jane who made the trip on the bus with the children.

July Birthdays

Day	Name
4	Polly Davis
6	Jane Wilson
9	Jack Beckner Leonard Harman
10	Marj Carhart Darius Hoomani
14	Matt Davidson
15	Alexis Walker
16	John Vincent
24	Joel Fisher
25	Annie DeRose
26	Emily Taylor
27	Dalton Taylor
29	Marj Jennings Ed Dunning
30	Joan Dektar

July Anniversaries

Day	Name
12	David & Mary Piser

August Birthdays

Day	Name
3	Alex Morales
4	DJ Fuller
9	Denise Schwartz
12	Rachel Albert-Hendley Rebecca Albert-Hendley
16	Elizabeth Bartolomea Bob Postma
15	Ethan Friedman
18	Jaida Adams
20	Preston Lucy
23	Max Jacomb
27	Clinton Leupp Robin Prybil Monie Wright
28	Ryan Prybil
29	Len Thompson
31	Johan Agerbeek Betsy Hailey

August Anniversaries

Day	Name
12	Cliff & Joan Dektar

Should you be listed here? Or, if you wish to leave your birthday or anniversary unpublished, give the church office a call or e-mail (administrator@stmikessc.org) to let us know. *Please Note: Birthdays and Anniversaries will be celebrated on the last Sunday of each month.*

GOTB *from page 3*

room. They each gave their father a hug, then all four of the boys and dad did a big group hug that was equal parts laughter and tears, I looked away and locked eyes with the processing guard who was crying harder than I was. As we exited the prison the sun was finally peeping through. All four boys were grinning from ear to ear. The bus made one last stop at Cal Poly where the kids were encouraged to share their feelings, say a prayer together, sing a song, and collect a box dinner for the ride home. One station had huge buckets of long-stem roses that were supposed to be for the bus volunteers. The four boys asked me if I could snag one for each of them so they could give the roses to their mom when they got home. When we

returned to the bus, we distributed to every child a teddy bear and a letter from their dad. All the kids, from the tiny ones to the 17 year old who was with me, hugged their bear and read the letter. The bus careened silently as the sun set, each kid connected one more time with their dads, "The Lion King" clicked on to amuse the littler ones and I fastidiously removed every single thorn from the four roses I had snagged for the boys.

Please let me know if you have any interest in helping these four boys or any other families I met on this magical day. They and many other kids would like to visit their fathers over the holiday season via car-trips. You will have the experience of a lifetime.

Treasurer's Corner

May 2011—Revenue and Expense Summary

	May Actual	May Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 21,587	\$ 25,192	\$ 121,649	\$ 126,047
Total Expense	24,288	34,220	135,230	192,680
Net	(\$ 2,701)	(\$ 9,028)	(\$ 13,581)	(\$ 66,633)



This month we want to express our appreciation to the parish for your commitment to St. Michael's and all that you do to express Christ's love within our church community and more broadly in Studio City and beyond.



Over the past year, many of you have given time to our outreach activities. Under the leadership of Jane Wilson and many others, we have had opportunities for many parish members and other supporters to get engaged in meeting the needs of children and families in our community. We have collected food

for those in need in our community, visited those in jail and in nursing homes, ministered to soldiers and their families, and brought smiles to the faces of many children and parents.

Many of you have participated in various education programs for our parish members, including children's Sunday programs and the Adult Ed classes which gave us opportunities to understand and appreciate the lives and gifts of many of those in our church family. Visiting the sick and together sharing in the Eucharist, bringing those unable to drive to the worship services, singing in the

choir, preparing the Sanctuary for worship, cleaning out the janitor's closet, bringing food for coffee hour, contributing extra funds for painting the campus buildings ... it really does take all of us working together to make our parish function as smoothly as it does.

Thanks to each of you for all that you do and all that you give to this community. All of the small and large acts of service add up to a parish community that experiences Christ's love with and through each other. We are deeply grateful for each member of this precious Christian family.

Get on the Bus

By Jane Wilson



On Saturday, June 4th, I arrived at St. Michael's to open up the parish hall, along with our merry band of early-rising volunteers (for names, see Thanks column on page 2). We assembled all the snacks, breakfast bags, and activity bags that everyone in the church donated and waited for families to arrive as well as the bus that would take us to the Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo. The bus, which had picked up families at a church in San Bernardino, arrived a little late, but by 6:00 a.m. we were blazing a trail across the 101 en route to reuniting kids with their dads.

As I settled in on the packed bus I looked back at all the kids and moms already on the bus, snoozing away. I was immediately introduced to four brothers whom I would be chaperoning for the day, ages 10, 12, 14, and 17. They were going to be seeing their father for the first time in three years. Because their mother also has a felony record, she is banned from visiting the prison, making it nearly impossible for these kids to see their father, but through the Get on the Bus program.

About an hour in, we received a call from the GOTB coordinators. It was raining in San Luis Obispo. Because the meeting area at the prison for the family visits is literally half outdoors, capacity was going to be an issue. We were advised that if the rain did not subside the visits were going to be halved (to two hours instead of four) and our group would have to wait at the student center at

Cal Poly State University. As we were about an hour out of San Luis Obispo, the rain had not let up, so we announced to the families about the situation, the delay in entering the prison, and the truncated visiting schedule. All were slightly saddened at this news, but glad that the entire visit had not been cancelled, something that could have been a real possibility with rainy weather.

After settling in at Cal Poly and watching "Toy Story," making Father's Day cards and sharing all the snacks and beverages (we had an abundance because of all your donations!), we were finally loaded back on the bus and made our way over to the prison. There are so many rules and regulations: no jeans, no leggings, no orange clothes, no bras with wires, no grey or green clothes, no blue shirt, no phones, no jewelry. They even searched the Kleenex in my pockets! I had to care-take the birth certificates of my four kids plus my ID plus the notarized paper saying I was officially their chaperone plus their dollar bills for the vending machines. We proceeded through three checkpoints and then were finally escorted into the

meeting area. The prisoner's ID number was announced over the intercom to the cells. The four boys sat stick-still, waiting and looking about. I looked up and saw a man that was unmistakably their dad. He said, "Hey boys!" and all the anxiety and quiet politeness melted away as all four boys surrounded their father and the hugging and kissing, the laughter and tears began. I tried so hard not to cry as I backed away so they could have a private visit. Volunteers had pizza, drinks, snacks, and desserts for the families to enjoy. I looked about and saw family after family laughing, snuggling, kissing, catching up. There was a photographer taking formal family portraits which were instantly processed for both inmate and family to share. One of the kids, who had gotten on the bus at St. Michael's, was quite a handful for his grandma (who has custody of him and his sister). Severely autistic he was racing away from grandma, going dead-weight on her, crying, screaming, but then he saw his father and ran into his arms and for the entire visit this kiddo relaxed, had nothing but a big smile on his face and behaved like an absolute angel. It was so moving to be in the middle of all of it. I found myself constantly trying to hold onto myself and not cry, but at a certain point I looked around the room and realized that *everyone*—moms, dads, kids, volunteers, guards, everyone was crying.

Of course, the hardest part of the day was when the kids and other loved ones had to finally say their goodbyes. We were the last group and my four boys stayed back with their dad until the very last moment. We were literally the last out of the meeting

See GOTB, page 2

St. Michael's Community Outreach Projects presents

LIT UP

**"One Hand,
One Heart"**

Sunday
July 3
8:00 pm

A benefit for
St. Michael's Community
Outreach Projects



Featuring words of love by
Rev. Henry Atkins
Zachary Barton
W. Bruce Cameron
Ed Crasnick
Sharon Houston
Jackie Kashian
Danielle Koenig
Ron Lynch
Betsy & Hank Meiman
Cathryn Michon
Christy Murphy
Michael Oosteram
Judith Shelton
Jennifer Courtney Stevenson
Marcia Wilkie
Tim Wilson

SPECIAL EVENT! Jane Edith Wilson & Gary Lucy celebrate their 10th Anniversary with a vow renewal (at 6:30) followed by a star-studded celebration (at 8). No gifts, please! Just bring a \$10 donation for SMCOP &/or a non-perishable food item for the NoHo Interfaith Food Bank



St. Michael's & All Angels Church
3646 Coldwater Canyon Blvd
Studio City, CA 91406
Just south of Ventura Blvd.

\$10
Donation



The Calendar

July 2011

Sunday Schedule • Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.
 • Sunday School (Godly Play, Middle School, Sr. High, and Adult Forums) and Adult Choir begin at 9:30 am.
 • Children's Church begins at 10:30 in the Blue Room and the children are brought into Eucharist for the Peace.
 • Coffee Hour immediately follows the 10:30 am service unless otherwise noted.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Locations: CO: Church Office CR: Choir Room MR: Music Room FR: Fireside Room PH: Parish Hall UR: Upper Room YL: Youth Lounge S: Sanctuary					1 Parish Office Closed	2
3 Pentecost 3 (Proper 9) 12:15 PM SMCOP (YL) 8:00 PM Lit.Up! (PH)	4 Independence Day Parish Office Closed	5	6	7	8 Parish Office Closed 12:00 noon Fourth Quarter Luncheon (CO)	9
10 Pentecost 4 (Proper 10)	11	12 7:00 PM Finance Committee (CO)	13	14	15 Parish Office Closed	16
17 Pentecost 5 (Proper 11)	18	19 7:00 PM Vestry (UR)	20	21	22 Saint Mary Magdalene Parish Office Closed	23
24 Pentecost 6 (Proper 12)	25 Saint James 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group (YL) 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group (YL)	26	27	28	29 Parish Office Closed	30
31 Pentecost 7 (Proper 13) 12:15 PM Pastoral Care Committee (FR)						



The Calendar

August 2011

Sunday Schedule • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*
 • *Sunday School (Godly Play, Middle School, Sr. High, and Adult Forums) and Adult Choir begin at 9:30 am.*
 • *Children's Church begins at 10:30 in the Blue Room and the children are brought into Eucharist for the Peace.*
 • *Coffee Hour immediately follows the 10:30 am service unless otherwise noted.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Parish Office Closed 12:00 noon Fourth Quarter Luncheon (CO)	6 Transfiguration
7 Pentecost 8 (Proper 14) 12:15 PM SMCOP (YL)	8	9 7:00 PM Finance Committee (CO)	10	11	12 Parish Office Closed	13 8:00 PM Lit.Up! (PH)
14 Pentecost 9 (Proper 15)	15 Saint Mary the Virgin	16 7:00 PM Vestry (UR)	17	18	19 Parish Office Closed	20
21 Pentecost 10 (Proper 16)	22	23	24 Saint Bartholomew	25	26 Parish Office Closed	27
28 Pentecost 11 (Proper 17)	29 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group (YL) 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group (YL)	30	31			

Locations:
 CO: Church Office
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