

WINTER 2012

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*For the Lord is a sun and shield;
the Lord will give grace and glory;
no good thing will He withhold
from those who walk uprightly.*

- Psalm 84:11

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VALLOMBROSACENTER

A Ministry of the Archdiocese of San Francisco

The Catholic Church in the World 2012 *Healing in the Church*

For the past two years, Vallombrosa Center has been sponsoring a Sunday afternoon speaker series called **The Catholic Church in the World**. The first year, the lectures dealt with how contemporary political, financial, and cultural trends influence the Church, and in turn how the Church exerts leadership in such affairs. The second year featured the intersection of faith and the arts. In each series, distinguished authors, professors, artists, and religious leaders shared their views with lively audiences that then joined in spirited discussions together.

In considering which topic to choose for the 2012 Catholic Church in the World, we kept coming back to the divisions in the Church, in politics, even in families today. What united all of these wide-ranging topics is the need for healing, in every aspect of our lives. So we have planned a series that will explore the promise of God's healing power in such a way that we might learn to face the divisions in our lives and find the peace and reconciliation that we are promised as Christians.

We will start the new year with a talk on January 29 by **Father Joe Chinnici, OFM**, President of the Franciscan School of Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. He will explore the themes of his recent book, *When Values Collide: The Catholic Church, Sexual Abuse, and the Challenges of Leadership*. Fr. Chinnici draws on the Franciscan tradition in a call for "the creation of a new ethical space and practice" to restore "some degree of reciprocity in relationships of mutual fidelity" within the Church.

On February 26, **Tom Plante**, professor of Psychology at Santa Clara University, will speak on Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church: A Decade of Crisis. A leading expert on clergy sex abuse, Dr. Plante will have just returned from a worldwide conference in the Vatican on the crisis, and will give us his ideas

on how far we have come in dealing with this devastating passage in our church's history.

(Continued next page)



Another Year Gone By, Another Year to Come

Happy New Year! What a wonderful Advent

Season we had at Vallombrosa Center with "A Gaelic Christmas" Concert on December 11, and Lessons and Carols with the Vallombrosa Choir on December 18. This is the time each year when we look back over the year gone by. In two thousand eleven, we said thank you and farewell to our **Director, Fr. George Matanic, O.P.**

and to **Leonardo Rivera-Guzman**, our Facilities Manager. There has been so much to be thankful for: the dedication and hospitality of the staff, **Fr. Kevin Gaffey** and **Fr. Tom Madden**; the Vallombrosa Choir; the many improvements that were made around the facility; and all the wonderful guests that stayed with us - indeed, a record number, making it possible for the Vallombrosa Center to turn a profit for the first time in eight years.

And now we look forward to the year to come. The New Year 2012 brings great promise. The first weekend in 2012 we celebrate Epiphany Sunday,



when Jesus is acknowledged as "King" to all people, all nations, and all races, not limited to only a few. The Vallombrosa Center staff enters this New Year with a focus on our mission, as the gathering place for all for community and fellowship, especially in healing the divisions that we too often create amongst ourselves.

The Catholic Church in the World Speaker series topic is "Healing." We hope you will join us on these Sunday afternoons **January 29, February 26, March 18** and **May 6** to explore healing in our own lives and in the Church. There are other sponsored events: the **Lenten Silent Private Retreat Weekend on March 2 – 4**, the **Lenten Prayer Service on March 25**. We hope these events interest you, and that you come by for a walk on our lovely grounds, a breath of fresh air and a moment of peace.

Kathryn Gray
Interim Director

(Catholic Church in the World continued)

On March 18, **Father Patrick Labelle, O.P.**, former pastor at the Catholic Community at Stanford and current Prior of St. Dominic's in San Francisco, will deliver a Lenten meditation on forgiveness based on the themes in Dr. Fred Luskin's *Forgive for Good*.

The spring offerings in the series will conclude with **Lisa Fullam** from the Jesuit School of Theology, speaking on May 6 on "*Healing in the Church, Healing of the Church*." Professor Fullam will address what is required to heal both individual and institutional wounds, drawing on her medical background as a veterinarian as well as her expertise as a theologian.

Catholic Church in the World Speaker Series

The Catholic Church in the World lectures take place on Sunday at 2PM and are open to the public. There is a suggested donation of \$20 per person for each event.

Books will be available for purchase and signing.



Support Our Ministry

Thank you to the many donors, both in-kind and monetary; without your support we would not be able to offer the financial scholarships to those who need financial assistance and we would not have made the many upgrades to our facility this past year.

If you would like to contribute to Vallombrosa Center there are many ways to give. Please visit **www.vallombrosa.org** and click on **Support Our Ministry**.

*Thank you in advance
for your support.*



VALLOMBROSACENTER

All events are open to the public.

To register for an event call (650) 325-5614
or visit www.vallombrosa.org

JANUARY

January 29, 2012

The Catholic Church in the World:

"Faith In a Time of Scandal"

with Fr. Joseph Chinnici, OFM

Join us for a thoughtful discussion with Fr. Chinnici who will talk about his own journey as a leader during the sexual abuse crisis and address the challenges to our belief.

FEBRUARY

February 11, 2012

"Engaging the Heart"

– Catholic Marriage Preparation

A one-day Pre-Cana program which includes presentations and workshops by Catholic professionals. The sessions address Catholic teaching on the Sacrament of Marriage as well as various aspects of married life such as intimacy, communication, spirituality, family of origin, role expectations, and sexuality.

February 12, 2012

Valentine Mass for Married Couples

with the Vallombrosa Choir

Celebrate your marriage at Vallombrosa Center during the Valentine Mass with the Vallombrosa Choir. Fr. Kevin Gaffey will celebrate mass at 2PM in the Vallombrosa Chapel. Light refreshments will be served following the Mass.

February 26, 2012

The Catholic Church in the World:

"Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church:

A Decade of Crisis" with Thomas Plante

Dr. Thomas Plante will lead us in a discussion reflecting on the 10 years since the clergy sex abuse crisis in Boston; where we are now and where we need to go.

MARCH

March 2 – 4, 2012

Lenten Silent Private Retreat Weekend

Vallombrosa opens its doors several weekends throughout the year for people to make a silent retreat beginning Friday afternoon and concluding midday Sunday. There are opportunities for spiritual direction and morning and evening prayer each day.

March 10, 2012

FOCCUS Workshop

A training workshop for marriage preparation ministers. Learn how to facilitate the FOCCUS inventory for couples preparing for a Catholic wedding.

March 18, 2012

The Catholic Church in the World:

"Forgive for Good"

with Fr. Patrick LaBelle, OP

Continuing with our Sunday afternoon speaker series, Fr. Patrick Labelle, OP will lead a discussion on forgiveness based upon the book by Fred Luskin, *Forgive For Good*.

March 25, 2012

Lenten Prayer Service with the

Vallombrosa Choir

Join us for an afternoon of music, prayer and reflection during the Lenten Season.

(Continued on back)

Newsletter Mailing List

We enjoy keeping in touch with you. However, if you'd like to help us save a little postage and receive this newsletters via email, please visit www.vallombrosa.org and sign up for our electronic newsletter. Thank you.

Quick Look Calendar

The Catholic Church in the World – with Fr. Joseph Chinnici, OFM
January 29, 2012

"Engaging the Heart" – Catholic Marriage Preparation
February 11, 2012

Valentine Mass for Married Couples with the Vallombrosa Choir
February 12, 2012

The Catholic Church in the World – with Thomas Plante
February 26, 2012

Lenten Silent Private Retreat Weekend
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FOCCUS Workshop
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March 18, 2012

Lenten Prayer Service with the Vallombrosa Choir
March 25, 2012

"Engaging the Heart" – Catholic Marriage Preparation
April 21, 2012

The Catholic Church in the World – with Lisa Fullam
May 6, 2012

"Engaging the Heart" – Catholic Marriage Preparation
May 12, 2012

FOCCUS Workshop
May 12, 2012

Mother's Day Mass with the Vallombrosa Choir and Brunch
May 13, 2012



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WINTER 2012 Calendar of Events

APRIL

April 21, 2012

"Engaging the Heart" – Catholic Marriage Preparation

A one-day Pre-Cana program which includes presentations and workshops by Catholic professionals. The sessions address Catholic teaching on the Sacrament of Marriage as well as various aspects of married life such as intimacy, communication, spirituality, family of origin, role expectations, and sexuality.

MAY

May 6, 2012

The Catholic Church in the World: "Healing in the Church" with Lisa Fullam

Joins us Sunday afternoon for a discussion with Lisa Fullam, *"Healing in the Church, Healing of the Church"*.

May 12, 2012

"Engaging the Heart" – Catholic Marriage Preparation

A one-day Pre-Cana program which includes presentations and workshops by Catholic professionals. The sessions address Catholic teaching on the Sacrament of Marriage as well as various aspects of married life such as intimacy, communication, spirituality, family of origin, role expectations, and sexuality.

May 12, 2012

FOCCUS Workshop

A training workshop for marriage preparation ministers. Learn how to facilitate the FOCCUS inventory for couples preparing for a Catholic wedding.

May 13, 2012

Mother's Day Mass with the Vallombrosa Choir and Brunch

Celebrate Mother's Day at Vallombrosa Center with a special Mother's Day Mass with the Vallombrosa Choir. Then enjoy a delicious brunch.