

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 10, 2017

Dear Faith Community of St. Cecilia in Christ,

Parish Staff Reorganization effective on September 1st, 2017

I hope that each of you had a great and blessed summer. Things are now getting back to normal as we begin a new academic year. Please join me as we pray together for your children, as well as college students who are returning to school that the Lord may grant them, their teachers and professors a very blessed and successful academic year 2017-18 - a year of full wisdom, patience and love.

Speaking of beginnings, our St. Cecilia Church has also begun to follow a newly revised financial plan to save additional funds for the building of our new two-story structure which will house both Faith Formation and Parish Pastoral Services. We will soon launch the Capital Campaign for this Building Fund. More information to follow soon. **This new financial plan has led to the following restructuring which took effect on September 1, 2017:**

The Church Main Office is now opened Monday to Saturday, from 9 am to 6 pm. Besides our regular Main Office phone number 714-554-3250, we have a 24 Hour Emergency phone number 714-953-7024 only for the Sick, Dying or Death. Besides five clergymen (i.e Fr. Bao, Fr. Ismael, Fr. Nicolaus, Deacon Dong and Deacon Rafael) our staff includes the following individuals: **Rose Schiller** (Mon. to Fri.) – Parish Secretary, Facility Coordinator and Bulletin Editor; **Chakie De Guzman** (Mon. to Wed.) and **Carmel Sanchez** (Thurs. to Sat.) – Office Administrative Assistants; **Bill Weeks** (Mon. to Fri.) – Church and School Business Services Manager; **Kathy Kelly** (Mon. to Wed.) – Accounting Administrative Assistant; **Bill Serafin** (Mon. to Fri.) – Maintenance; **Sr. Francesca Tran** – Coordinator of English High School Confirmation & Vietnamese Children Faith Formation (CFF VIE); **Tony Macias** – Coordinator of English Children Faith Formation (CFF ENG); and, **Evelyn Carrasco** – Coordinator of Spanish Children Faith Formation (CFF SPA). With a volunteer team, **I** will continue to oversee English RCIA; **Carlos Maeda** will oversee Spanish RCIA; and **Deacon Dong** will oversee Vietnamese RCIA. With respect to our **Music Ministry**, the Director of Music position has been regretfully eliminated. I am searching for a volunteer who may assist the parish in conducting our 9:00 AM Sunday Choir. Meanwhile, we are continuing (as we traditionally did in summer) with an accompanist and a cantor at the 9:00a.m. Mass on Sundays. If you know of someone who has music credentials and would like to assist us in a volunteer manner, please let me know by either email or phone. The **St. Cecilia School Choir** directed by **Kristine Linares** is now joining us and will sing at our 11:00 AM Mass on the second Sunday of every other month, beginning this coming October 8th. Please join me in welcoming all our Church staff in these roles and pray that Our Lord may grant them many blessed years of joyful service with us. Likewise, please join me in wishing **Alina Artemova, Hedy Quinones, Eliut Sanchez** and **Tim Reid** much thanks for their many years of service to our parish. All are moving on to other opportunities. We pray that Our Lord may grant them many blessings as they begin these new chapters in their lives. Let us continue to keep each other in prayer always.

Finally, as we commemorate the 16th anniversary of 9/11 and pray for the safety of our country, let us not forget to pray for the souls of all the victims and the safety of those whose lives have been devastated by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Archbishop José Gomez, Vice President of the USCCB, has asked all dioceses throughout the United States to take up a special collection to support the relief and rebuilding efforts needed after Hurricane Harvey. We join with other parishes in taking up this collection this weekend at all masses. Remember that all funds will go directly to the USCCB to aide all the families affected by this tragic event.

As always, I am grateful to you and your family for your fervent prayers, constant generosity, and loving support for our St. Cecilia's. May God reward and bless you and your family abundantly.

With gratitude in and peace of Christ,

Rev. Bao Thai

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