

Redeemer Review -April 2009

Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends,

Discernment is a word that you have heard a lot over the past few months at Redeemer. As in “We are in the discernment process” or “I have agreed to be on the Discernment Committee at Redeemer”. But it is also an essential part of each of our spiritual journeys and our lives as human beings.

Discernment comes from the Latin word *discernere*, which means “to separate,” “to distinguish,” “to determine,” “to sort out.” Discernment is “sifting through” our interior and exterior experiences to determine if their origin is from the Spirit of God.

Discernment is a gift from God. But it also includes an intentional attempt on our part to hear God’s call in our life. It takes work; it is also a matter of grace. It involves our full humanity as well as communion with God. Discernment is the way that we ask ourselves, “How do I live as a child of God?”

The Redeemer Discernment Committee has been invited by the Diocese to explore Area Ministry. Area Ministry is a mission strategy for organizing ministries in the Diocese of California into more vital and creative agents of transformation. The work of the discernment committee is to identify neighborhood challenges through an interviewing process and seek innovative contemporary solutions.

How does Church of the Redeemer become a spiritual community for the 21st century?

Building on the ancient understanding of “parish” as a geographic designation, Area Ministry leverages resources by bringing churches, social and cultural institutions, and people together. Area Ministry leads to spiritual growth and fresh expressions of mission ministry, both inside the church and outside in the neighborhood of San Rafael. Area Ministry is mission directed outward.

On Saturday March 28th, our Bishop Marc Andrus, came to the Church of the Redeemer for the Marin Deanery Meeting. He spoke about Area Ministry and the future of churches in the Diocese. He told about new relationships between local churches and institutions to build better communities in the Bay Area. He invited the Marin Deanery to move ahead with considering the formation of an Area Ministry Team and exploring new forms of collaborative ministry.

Pray for the Redeemer Discernment Committee to listen for the Spirit of God that it may enliven our community to become a creative agent of transformation and a vibrant church for the 21st century.

Blessings!

Father Mark

Coming up:

- April 9 **Maundy Thursday, 7 pm** Holy Eucharist, Washing of the feet, stripping of Altar.
- April 10 **Good Friday, Noon – 3 pm** – Readings and meditation
- April 12 **Easter Sunday** – Services at **9.15 and 10.30** with Coffee Hour and Egg hunt between the services (Please bring filled eggs for hunt and flowers for our “Flowering Cross”).
- Note: **Book Club is postponed till May 12.** Book: *The Welsh Girl* by Peter Ho Davies.