



ST. ISIDORE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



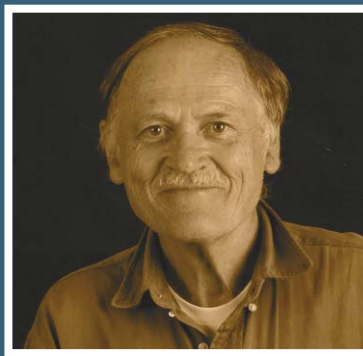
MEET PARISHIONER ED KELLY

Helping Neighbors to Love and Serve God

For parishioner Ed Kelly, serving in the church has been an essential way to live out his love for God. Raised in the Catholic faith, Ed was an altar server starting in the fifth grade and his faith continued to grow in the years since. As a member of St. Isidore for about a year, Ed has become involved as a lector, an adorer, a member of St. Isidore Knights of Columbus Council 5978, and a regular participant in Fraternus and 40 Days for Life.

“Parish involvement should help other parishioners and prospective ones get to heaven,” Ed says. “I want to help make things better for those who presently attend Mass, and also for those who do not.”

In addition to Ed’s varied ministry service, he is a member of the Lay Carmelites. For many years he wanted to improve his prayer life, but struggled



As a member of St. Isidore for about a year, Ed Kelly has become involved as a lector, an adorer, a member of St. Isidore Knights of Columbus Council 5978, and a regular participant in Fraternus and 40 Days for Life.

to make the time. After being invited to pray with the Lay Carmelite group at his parish, he decided to go all-in and was quickly named the formation director of the community, and subsequently put in charge of coordinating a dozen Carmelite communities throughout the area. He currently lives out this part of his vocation as an isolate, as there is no community close by.

Another part of Ed’s vocation has been to tell people and share the story of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Garabandal, Spain.

“I went to Spain in 1969 to meet the people whose language I was teaching in the San Francisco Bay area,” Ed says.

“People in the north talked about four 12-year-old girls claiming visits from the Blessed Virgin Mary in the

continued on page 6

MASS TIMES: Saturday: 8 a.m. *Bilingual* | 6 p.m. *Spanish* / Sunday: 8 a.m. *English* | 10 a.m. *English* | 12 p.m. *Spanish*
Weekdays: Monday - Friday | 12 p.m. *Bilingual*

CONFESSION TIMES: Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. / Thursday - Saturday: 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

ST. ISIDORE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

STEWARDSHIP: *A Need to Give*

When the church needs a new roof or the local food bank needs donations, we jump at the chance to give for the sake of the need. It's part of our human nature — we identify a need, and we want to give of our time, talent and treasure to help.

But as a stewardship people, we are called to give of ourselves not simply because the Church has needs, but because each of us has *a need to give*. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states in its pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "We need to give our money to individuals and families in need, to the Church, and to other worthwhile charitable organizations because giving money is good for the soul and because we need to return thanks to a loving God for all of the many blessings each of us has received" (67).

As fellow members of the Body of Christ, created in God's image, we should strive to go beyond simply co-existing with one another on earth. The life we live should be fueled by love for each other. This love should dictate how we live — by giving of ourselves.

Jesus Christ showed us the perfect example of this self-giving love when He died on the cross. His death was a completely selfless act. He gave of Himself for our sake,

offering us — through that gift — life everlasting.

As Christ's disciples, we follow His example, and we give of ourselves for the sake of others, out of love and an inherent need to give.

That's not to say that we gain nothing through our gifts. In fact, in His goodness, God sees to it that we do. Most of us have experienced what happens when we give of our time, talent or treasure. We feel as though we get more out of it than we give. If you speak to someone who serves at the soup kitchen or someone who has made it a regular practice to tithe to the Church, you are likely to find that he or she feels blessed to be able to give. As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops points out, "To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 21).

Find out for yourself. Get involved in a ministry. Make a commitment to put some money in the collection basket next Sunday. Don't wait to find out if there is a need — give of yourself right now. You will be richly blessed for doing so.

Jesus Christ showed us the perfect example of this self-giving love when He died on the cross. His death was a completely selfless act. He gave of Himself for our sake, offering us — through that gift — life everlasting. As Christ's disciples, we follow His example, and we give of ourselves for the sake of others, out of love and an inherent need to give.



A Letter From Our Pastor

WE PROVIDE THE GIFTS, GOD PERFORMS THE MIRACLES

Dear Parishioners,

It is human nature to try to neatly place things into categories. If we categorize the miracles performed by Christ, the two largest groupings might fall under the headings “Healing” and “Feeding.”

This is exactly what we are about here at St. Isidore. At the base of all our liturgies is the Eucharist, when we come together in communion with the Lord and with one another to be both fed and healed. Even one of Christ’s most famous miracles — the Feeding of the Multitude — involved both healing and feeding from a spiritual and a literal perspective.

The reason the large crowd gathered was because Jesus’ reputation as a healer had spread and grown. He felt compassion for that crowd, which is another way of saying He loved them and felt sorry that they were hungry due to their willingness to sit and be with Him for so long. Recognizing it was late in the day and that many of them had not eaten, Jesus literally fed them — but that day, He didn’t stop with physical nourishment. He also fed them spiritually with His words, and simultaneously, healed their wounded hearts by preaching a message of hope and forgiveness in the midst of a dark and hardened world.

The narrative of Christ taking a small amount of food and using it to feed thousands is familiar to all



of us. It is reported in all four Gospels. However, I would like to highlight one aspect of that miracle. It all started with one boy who was willing to share what little he had. Because the boy made the gift of his fishes and loaves, the Lord took it and multiplied it many times over, nourishing so many more people than what that little bit initially could.

Isn’t that what we as a parish are called to do? We make gifts of our time, our talent, and our treasure as good stewards — nevertheless, it is God who takes those gifts and performs miracles with them. Our goal is to give what we have so that Christ might use it, multiplying it to feed, to heal and draw a multitude of people closer to Him.

The reality is that without the gifts, there can be no miracles, and without miracles, we are a hungry and broken people. Christ has come to renew, nourish, fulfill, and restore — and that, brothers and sisters, is what Christianity is all about.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Avram Brown
Pastor

ST. ISIDORE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

UNBOUND DELIVERANCE MINISTRY: *Sharing Journey of Prayer and Profound Healing*

The power of prayer is real and tangible in our lives. Sometimes we experience God's response to our prayer in smaller, subtle ways, and sometimes in profoundly impactful ways. A particularly healing form of prayer is offered in our diocese and parish through the Unbound Ministry. Unbound prayer teams undergo extensive training to equip them to walk alongside those with whom they pray. Cheryl Erickson has been on a prayer team for almost five years and has witnessed profound healing through this ministry.

"When people come, we have them tell us their story," Cheryl says. "We find out what brought them there and what's on their heart that they want Jesus to help them with. We listen and walk with them, usually through a lot of pain, help them recognize unforgiveness, frequently of themselves, and areas where they're not letting go."

Prayer teams have a leader who walks the participant through the five key areas of healing while two others offer intercessory prayers. The leader helps the person go deeper to discover what is holding them back from healing and how they can let go and allow God to heal them.

Individuals come to the Unbound Ministry either through the recommendation of a trained priest, sometimes during Confession, or via the diocese website through which a deacon will connect with them and help them begin the process. To prepare for the prayer session, participants either attend an Unbound Conference or read the first nine chapters of the book provided by the ministry. Preparation and openness are key to the healing prayers. One must be willing to look deep and recognize the wounds they will need to face and from which they must be healed. The prayer team is there to walk with them through that process.

"We pray with people, we walk with people, we give them time that normally they don't get," Cheryl says.

Cheryl believes that many people would benefit from deliverance prayer with the Unbound Ministry, not just those who have major or obvious problems. The prayer teams practice by praying with one another.

"We still come up with things in our own hearts

that we need to look at and that need to be addressed," Cheryl says.

There are three levels of deliverance prayer and the Unbound Ministry uses the first level. While they renounce spirits, such as those of hatred and unforgiveness, they are not performing exorcisms. Instead, they help participants recognize and let go of the lies that they have been believing about themselves.

"It's deepened my faith life," Cheryl says. "It makes me aware of other people and their pain and trying to love them where they're at. We always say, 'Love the person in front of you.' That could be in a prayer session or on the street. We're all on the same journey, but some are on a different route."



Cheryl Erickson

If you would like to learn more about the Unbound Ministry, please visit the Diocese of Sacramento website at www.scd.org/unbound.

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR BRINGS EXCITEMENT AND CLASSICAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AT PARISH SCHOOL

Full of 2022 is bringing some very big changes to the parish school, as we celebrate the opening of the Chesterton Academy of the Most Holy Eucharist. This school is a part of the Chesterton Academy Network, which consists of 45 schools around the world. There are currently 10 students enrolled and they will be housed within the current St. Isidore School.

The curriculum follows a classical education model, which weaves together the study of all traditional educational subjects. Chesterton Schools Network explains that “From history and theology to math and science, the Incarnation is the central mystery we explore across the entire curriculum.” Classical education seeks to focus on the true, the good and the beautiful, as children learn to be curious and experience the joy of discovering the world.

Principal Susan Burky shares her excitement about this opportunity for the children of the schools.

“A classical education has a strong emphasis on the fine arts,” she says. “With the basis of truth, beauty and goodness, all of the learning is administered in an integrated form. Each year has historical themes and the literature, science and arts will be delivered in a historical context so that children learn how the world is connected together. Life has these time connections through history. They see the progression of discovery of knowledge. The teacher presents an opportunity for the students to discover, have wonder and awe. It instills in them a desire to learn.”

As the foundation of the Chesterton Academy takes place within the walls of St. Isidore, the K-8 school will



**CHESTERTON ACADEMY
OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST**

be working on a three-year renewal to also follow into this classical education model. The school is working with the Institute of Catholic Liberal Education to change over their curriculum to follow this model.

There will be a parent information night in September so parents and parishioners can see what a classical Catholic school looks like and how it is different. The Institute of Catholic Liberal Education will share their decades of experience to answer the deep questions that people have.

“It is our job and obligation to fill their minds to create this wonder and awe,” Mrs. Burky says. “It is our duty to introduce them to the best. Our deposit of faith is the cornerstone and foundation of their learning. Earth and creation is here for our enjoyment. But we can only enjoy

continued on page 6

“Our deposit of faith is the cornerstone and foundation of their learning. Earth and creation is here for our enjoyment. But we can only enjoy it when it is rightly ordered. Right now, everything is very disordered. So we are trying to restore truth — even just the understanding that there is truth.” — SUSAN BURKY, PRINCIPAL

ST. ISIDORE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR AT PARISH SCHOOL

continued from page 5

it when it is rightly ordered. Right now, everything is very disordered. So we are trying to restore truth — even just the understanding that there is truth. If they don't have anything to be wondering about or thinking about, then there is no encounter with the truth. And that is what this renewal of our education system is all about.”

As Mrs. Burky notes, our school is also partnering with the Education in Virtue initiative.

“This is a perfect complement to the classical education because ‘a life well lived is a life worth living,’” she says. “We are not just educating children — we are working to form their moral compass. If your character and conscience is well formed, the academics will follow as a result of that.”

St. Isidore's transition to a classical school is a wonderful addition to the area. It is providing children in the region with an option for an excellent education that wasn't available previously. The parish is a great support for what the school is building. Many of the families within the school are on scholarship thanks to the generosity of the parish and the diocese. One of Mrs. Burky's goals for the school is to be self-sufficient in providing for the school itself. She hopes to wean off of the diocesan subsidies that

are provided for the school through higher enrollment numbers and more parish support.

“Truly, this is an extension of the parish's goal of passing on and sharing the Gospel message,” she says. “Our mission is to lead people to discover Jesus, Who heals all and fills all desires. Our parish is so great at being here for the spiritual, financial and physical needs of the school. We are so appreciative of the support of our parishioners and diocese.”

If you would like to learn more information about the Chesterton Academy Network, visit their website at Chestertonschoolsnetwork.org. And to learn more about enrolling your child at St. Isidore School or the Academy, please contact the school office at 530-673-2217.

PARISHIONER ED KELLY *continued from front cover*

Cantabrian Mountains. On May 4, I returned from my 19th visit to the area, having spent some five years total in San Sebastián de Garabandal, the surrounding villages, and in Santander.”

Ed wrote a book titled, *A Walk to Garabandal: A Journey of Happiness and Hope*. In his book, Ed shares about his time in Spain and all that he has learned about the apparitions of Mary to the young girls.

“In all my time there, I found no one who denies that the girls were seen to fall into ecstatic trances, be levitated, and many more reactions to their visions which investigating doctors call ‘naturally unexplain-

able,’” Ed says. “The girls were told of three future events — a worldwide Warning, following within the same year by the greatest miracle in the history of the world at which the sick would be cured and sinners converted, and if we don't amend our lives, a Chastisement, after which those who remain will live in peace with God forever.”

Ed says that he asks God to let him know if there is a better way that he can help his neighbor come to love and serve God, but that God has not done that yet. So, his vocation remains to share the story of these apparitions with the world.