

**Personal and Special Appeal and Request toward Establishment of My Marriage and Family Apostolate and Advocacy Office in Nigeria**

Dear People of God:

I, Father Sylvester Odurinde, a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Oyo, Western Nigeria, and also a Marriage and Family Therapist and Professional Clinical Counselor, sincerely express my profound gratitude to the Pastor of St. Benedict Parish, Rev. Jayson Landeza, for given me the opportunity of residency while I was looking for where to stay for one year internship programs, I also thank you all the loving community of this church for your love and gestures toward me. I am indeed grateful. Your impact remain an indelible mark on my life. I will never forget you in my prayers, for all your kindness and gestures and love.

Dear People of God, I am indeed eager to go back home by the end of May 2017 to work as a Marriage Counselor/Counselor among my people who are less than 55,000 Catholic out of a 2 million population; a community that is primarily Muslim and Baptist.

It is my mission to provide all the professional help I can to assist and ensure the unity of families in my country. To be able to do this I am humbly asking you for your financial help. Upon return to my country I have to set up an office for myself and a sanctuary in which to meet those families I will provide counseling for. I need supplies, computers and internet services.

In the course of my internship I have written two books which are based on experiences I have had, both clinical and in advocacy, during my stay in the USA. The books are entitled "Understanding Early Childhood Mental Health" and "Crisis Response in Our School". The book entitled "Crisis Response in Our School" is dedicated to Rev. Jayson Landeza for all his support during my one year Internship Programs. This book is also dedicated to the loving families of St. Benedict Parish for your love, support and gestures toward me.

I am listing below expenses that I will incur upon my return to Nigeria when I begin work as a consultant *I am appealing to you through a second collection on May 21, 2017*, that has been approved by Father Jayson, to help me in my endeavors. For this I will be eternally in your gratitude.

- Permanent Office Outlet \$2,000
- Office Chairs and Desk \$650
- Counseling & Play Therapy tools \$950
- Photocopier Machine \$700
- Printer \$350
- Computers \$800
- Cost of Publication of Books in Nigeria \$2,000
- Book Shelf \$600
- Generators (no regular electricity in Nigeria) \$1,200
- Internet Facilities \$1,500
- Projector \$600
- Mobile Megaphone \$300
- Logistics \$500

**Total \$12,150**

**St. Benedict's Weekly Events**

<b>Sunday, April 30</b>		
<b>Monday, May 1</b>	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Wellness Group Parish Hall
<b>Tuesday, May 2</b>	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Wellness Group Parish Hall
<b>Wednesday, May 3</b>	6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Wellness Group Parish Hall
<b>Thursday, May 4</b>	6:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal Church
<b>Friday, May 5</b>	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Line Dancing Class Parish Hall
	6:30 pm	First Reconciliation Church
<b>Saturday, May 6</b>	9:00 am	First Communion Rehearsal Church

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**PARISH PASTORAL PLANNING**

Dr. Chiquita Tuttle	Chair/Facilitator
Dionne Cola	Vice Chair/ Assistant Facilitator
Leonard Pete	Meeting Recorder

**MEMBERS**

- Ariana Catherine
- Sidney Fernandes
- Jules Garibaldi
- Romel Lucas
- Emma Morton
- Linda Smith
- Jaylynn St. Julian
- Tara Sykes
- Ofelia Wanzo

**ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH?** To request a *registration form*, please complete and drop in the offertory basket. Have you moved?

Had an information change?  
Let us know by completing and returning.  
*We respect your privacy! This information is for St. Benedict Parish use only.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Me A Registration Form   
Change of Address  Moving out of Parish



**MISSION STATEMENT**

As the people of God who are loved by the Father, being saved by the Son, and strengthened and endowed with the gifts of the Spirit for the service of the Lord, and all here at St. Benedict, we resolve in the spirit of Christian unity and cooperation to use our gifts and talents in building up the Kingdom of God in East Oakland

**PARISH STAFF**

**Mrs. Divina Cabrera**  
SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER

**Mr. Leonard Pete**  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

**Mrs. Ofelia Wanzo**  
CCD DIRECTOR

**Rev. Jayson Landeza**  
PASTOR

**Mr. Ron Tutson**  
DEACON

**Rev. Paul Vassar**  
CLERGY SUPPLY

**Fr. Sylvester Odurinde**  
IN RESIDENCE

**Mr. Rufus Fisher**  
PLANT MANAGER

**Dr. Chiquita Tuttle**  
PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR

**Ms. Ariana Catherine**  
YOUTH MINISTER

**MASS TIMES**

**SATURDAY:**  
4:30 PM (VIGIL MASS)

**SUNDAY:**  
8:30 AM  
11:00 AM (GOSPEL MASS)

**MON, WED & FRI:**  
7:30 AM (8:00AM ON HOLIDAYS)

**CONFESSION**

**SATURDAY:**  
3:45 PM TO 4:15 PM  
(OR BY APPOINTMENT)

**BAPTISM**  
INSTRUCTION OF PARENTS REQUIRED

**MARRIAGE**  
6 MONTHS ADVANCED NOTICE REQUIRED

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**

**HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY:**  
510.581.2488

**ST. MARY'S CEMETERY:**  
510.654.0936

**ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY:**  
510.223.1265

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:



Two of Jesus' disciples are walking down a road when a stranger approaches them and engages them in a conversation. Later, the disciples managed to persuade the stranger to join them at dinner. During the meal the stranger take bread, blesses it, and gives it to them. Suddenly they realize the stranger is Jesus.

Throughout the history of Christianity, the breaking of the bread has been the most important sign of belief in Jesus. Despite great personal risk (being a Christian in the first century was illegal and was an offense punishable by death), The early Christians gathered at someone's house before sunrise on the first day of the week to share a meal that included fruits, nuts, cheeses, bread, and wine. In the course of this meal, they read from scripture and recalled some of the things Jesus said and did but the most important action occurred when they took the bread, blessed it, and shared it with each other just as Jesus did with his apostles on the night before he died.

The breaking of the bread soon became a sign of the unity and fellowship of those who followed Jesus. Just as many grains of wheat are used to make flour and many grapes are needed to make wine, many different individuals come together to form the Christian community. So sharing of the one loaf and drinking from the same cup became a visible expression of Christian unity.

Historically, Christians have always been united as they should be. Disagreements over doctrine or discipline have led to splinter groups in factions that compete for converts and donations. In many ways, the unity expressed in the breaking of the bread is not a present day reality, but it is something we must continually strive for.

Does unity mean all Christians must think and act the same? Is it possible for different denominations to be united in their faith in Jesus and still disagree with each other? Pray this week that Christians will have the patience, understanding, and mutual respect needed to make unity a reality.

As I mentioned in all the liturgies over the past weekend, I am deeply grateful and thankful for all the work that people did in order to make our Easter celebrations a wonderfully joyful occasion. I'd like to thank Leonard Pete and the choir for all their work throughout the year but particularly through the three days of the Triduum and Easter Sunday. Long hours of rehearsal and leaving us in faith filled worship is the blessed task of this wonderful group of people. Thank you again Leonard and choir. I am also grateful for the work of the liturgical environment committee, who is ministry is to reflect the liturgical seasonal changes that the church asks us to display during these time. Under the direction of Betty Kennedy Tapscott, her crew makes sure that the church's liturgical environment is both beautiful and dignified, and they have done just that! Thanks as well to Ofelia Wanzo for her work in putting up the banners. Thanks as well to the lectors, under the coordination of Jo Soublet. The Triduum invited parishioners to listen intently to the rendering of various Passion accounts and numerous readings at the Easter Vigil, and that burden falls on our lectors - that you again! Wallita Sykes-Bush takes care of our ushers, and I am grateful for their ministry now and all year round. Catechists Ofelia Wanzo and Dionne Cola prepared our baptismal candidate for the Easter Vigil. Altar servers and their ministry assists us with their work and presence. Thanks to Nat Bornor and the St. Benedict Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for providing Easter food boxes for the needy. Our Young Adult Group, under the leader of Arianna Catherine, hosted an Easter Egg hunt in the parish hall after the 11:00 AM liturgy on Sunday, which many children enjoyed and parents appreciated, since it was raining last Sunday. I am most grateful to Deacon Ron Tutson, Dionne Cola and Divina Cabrera for all their hard work in making sure everything went smoothly. Thank you and may all of you have a blessed Easter Season!

Fr. Jayson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST COMMUNION SCHEDULE:



**First Reconciliation**  
Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm (Church)

**First Communion Rehearsal**  
Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am (Church)

**First Communion**  
Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.

ROSARY OF OUR LADY

Each Sunday during the month of May, the rosary will be recited at 8:10 am (before the 8:30 m Mass). If you're in need of Rosary, please see Mr. Fisher.

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, July 9, 2017. Please mark your calendars.

"LIVE" VIRTUS PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING

If you haven't completed your training for Safe Environment, this is your **last chance** to attend the live training on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the parish hall. We are mandated to do this every three years. All parishioners who are engaged in any parish ministry must complete the training. You can register on line for a live training at: [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org) or sign-up at the back of the church. **You must pre-register for the live training.**

2017 MASS BOOK

The parish office will be accepting Mass Intentions for the 2017 Mass Book. If you would like to offer a Mass for the (Living) Intentions of your family/friends, or for your deceased family members/friends, stop by the Parish Office during office hours. We will be happy to assist you.

SICK AND HOMEBOUND MINISTRY

If you know of anyone in the parish who is sick and homebound who would like to receive communion at their home or if you know someone who is sick and is in need of prayers, please contact Divina Cabrera at the church office (510) 632-1847 or fill out one of the request forms at the back of the church. Request for prayers will be listed in the bulletin for one month and extended upon request.

PLEASE JOIN US

If you have stood as a visitor to our community before, and because you enjoyed being with us you continue to come, please, seriously consider registering with St. Benedict as your faith community. We would love to have you as a part of our family. Just fill out the registration form located on the back of this bulletin and drop it in the offertory basket. Thank you. God loves you and so do we.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, April 30	8:30 a.m.	For The People
	11:00 a.m.	
Monday, May 1	7:30 a.m.	
Wednesday, May 3	7:30 a.m.	
Friday, May 5	7:30 a.m.	Maurice Fleming, Jr. 19 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
Saturday, May 6	4:30 p.m.	

CHURCH SUPPORT

Collection:	<b>April 23, 2017</b>	\$3,470.25
	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	\$255.00
Other Collection:	Rice Bowl	\$225.00
	Saint Vincent de Paul	\$1,201.25

"100" CLUB

Beginning Balance	\$3,971.55
Total Income for March 2017	\$993.65
<b>Ending balance as of March 31, 2017</b>	<b>\$4,965.20</b>

PENNY HARVEST

<b>Ending Balance as of March 31, 2017</b>	<b>\$1,195.24</b>
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*Please remember to bring your pennies and drop them off by the altar before or after Mass. There's no need to wrap your pennies in a roll.*

LECTORS/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

MAY 6/7, 2017

<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>
L. Noriega	J. Outley	R. Guillory
L. Palmeri	L. Robertson	J. Smithson-Bell S. Gressel *

Please pray for:

Trenton Barnes  
Yolanda Contaxis  
JoAnn Hines  
Anita Recania  
Maretta Rhone



(Will stay in the bulletin for one month)

SECOND COLLECTION - NEXT WEEKEND  
"100" CLUB