

**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, May 21</b>		
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Wellness Group	Parish Hall
<b>Monday, May 22</b>		
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Wellness Group	Parish Hall
<b>Tuesday, May 23</b>		
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Wellness Group	Parish Hall
<b>Wednesday, May 24</b>		
9:00 am - 12:00 noon	Saint Vincent de Paul Food Distribution	Parish Hall
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Wellness Group	Parish Hall
<b>Thursday, May 25</b>		
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Cursillo Fourth Day	Parish Center Church
6:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Parish Center Church
<b>Friday, May 26</b>		
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Line Dancing Class	Parish Hall
<b>Saturday, May 27</b>		

**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:



In today's Gospel, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, a Greek word meaning "advocate or helper." Judges and lawyers often use this word when describing someone who helps or advises the defense in court. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit a Paraclete because the Spirit comes to our defense in our time of need.

Because being a Christian was illegal when the Gospel of John was written, Roman authorities put many of Jesus' followers on trial and condemned them to die a very painful death. While some were fed to the lions and others crucified or skinned alive, here early Christians needed assurance that God was not abandoning them. So John says that even though they are on trial, they will not be alone because the Holy Spirit will be at their side strengthening and inspiring them, helping them to understand what was going on, and advising them about what to say. The Spirit will be with them no matter what they have to go through.

Although we are not persecuted for our faith in Jesus, the Spirit also plays an important role in our lives. We seek the advice of a lawyer not only when someone accuses us of a crime but also when we need to know the correct way to proceed on a given matter. The lawyer points us in the right direction, and gives us support and encouragement. Since it's sometimes difficult for a Christian to live in a world that does not acknowledge Jesus as God, we need the Holy Spirit to point us in the right direction and to give us advice and support so we can always choose to love God even when that's not popular.

The reading ends with Jesus telling us those who love him will obey his commands. This isn't always easy because elsewhere in the Gospels Jesus says we should love our enemies, do good to those who persecute us, turn the other cheek when someone strikes us and give without counting the costs. Living by these standards in today's world can be a very difficult task that we can accomplish through the help of the Holy Spirit.

Pray today for those who have difficulty living out their faith in the risen Jesus, especially those who

do not enjoy the freedoms that we do, particularly in the area of living out one's faith.

Talk about a crazy week! I speak more specifically about the disclosures we've been hearing regarding Trump. I have been following his decision to fire FBI Director James Comey - because of my role as an FBI chaplain, I've been in contact with numerous FBI personnel who have been deeply affected by the firing, and are sad and angry about how Director Comey was fired. Some in the Bureau may have disagreed with some of Comey's decisions, but the Bureau personnel I've spoken to are disenchanted with Trump's actions leading to Comey's dismissal.

Last week, a number of St. Benedict parishioners participated in a discussion with BART personnel about ways we can all stem juvenile crime and violence, particularly in light of the robbery that took place on-board a train at Coliseum BART. We look forward to a partnership with other like-minded, East Oakland community groups and BART folks to seek solutions to this issue.

Our Second Collection this weekend will be for Fr. Sylvester and his project upon his return home to Nigeria. Please see the bulletin for more detail. I am deeply grateful for his presence this past year, particularly in light of my absence from the parish responding to the Ghost Ship fire in December. Thank you, Fr. Sylvester, for your presence over these past few months. Abundant blessings and best wishes to you on your future endeavors!

God bless,  
Fr. Jayson

Please pray for:

- Trenton Barnes
- The Bowman Family
- The Pepino Family
- Anita Recania
- Maretta Rhone



(Will stay in the bulletin for one month)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

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

Saturday, June 10, 2017 - St. Benedict Community Feeding  
Dear St. Benedict Family,

The Cursillo Community of St. Benedict is planning for another community-feeding event on Saturday, June 10, between the hours of 11am and 2pm. The event will be held in the Parish parking area. We are requesting your assistance with this endeavor and hope you will consider donating side dishes and or personal hygiene products for distribution on the day of the event.

The day's agenda is as follows:

- Set-up from 8am - 10:30am
- Food serving and dissemination of personal hygiene kits from 11am to 2pm
- Clean up from 2pm to 4pm

Requested Items:

- Side Dishes Examples:** rice, greens, macaroni and cheese, green beans, corn, potatoes, green salad, fruit salad, potato salad and paper goods e.g. plates, cutlery, napkins etc...)
- Personal Hygiene Items:** toothpaste, tooth brushes, mouth wash, deodorant, hand wipes, hand sanitizer, bars of soap, feminine hygiene products, combs and brushes

Additional Assistance is needed with:

- Set-up tables and chairs prior to the event
- Assist with serving food
- Clean up and take down tables and chairs after the event

We ask that you bring your donations of personal hygiene items to the Rectory no later than Tuesday, June 6. Side dishes may be brought the day of the event between the hours of 8am and 11am.

Sign-up sheets are located on the tables in the back of the Church. Please sign-up today if you are able to assist with this community service project.

Should you have questions please contact:

- Name: Jaylynn St. Julian
- Contact Information: 510-635-6937

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, May 21	8:30 a.m.	For The People
	11:00 a.m.	
Monday, May 22	7:30 a.m.	
Wednesday, May 24	7:30 a.m.	
Friday, May 26	7:30 a.m.	
Saturday, May 27	4:30 p.m.	

CHURCH SUPPORT

Collection:	May 14, 2017	\$3,600.60
Other Collection:	"100" Club	\$11.00

"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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

LECTORS/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

MAY 27/28, 2017

<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>
L. Palmeri	A. West	Leon Watson #
J. Garibaldi	L. Robertson	Lucia Watson #
		C. Hadnot *
		A. Ricks *

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.

ARE YOU A FAN OF ST. BENEDICT?

Well if you're a Facebook member, Like our Page! You can find us under the following title:

Fans of St. Benedict Church Oakland, CA

Make sure that you like our page as well as spread the word to many of your family and friends. This is a great way to keep up with the latest News and Updates with St. Benedict Church.

SECOND COLLECTION

FR. SYLVESTER'S PERSONAL APPEAL - THIS WEEKEND  
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL - NEXT WEEKEND