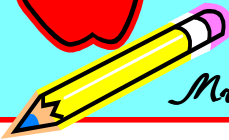




St. John the Baptist Catholic School

# 4B News

Mr. Nguyen's Classroom Newsletter



St. John the Baptist  
Catholic School

1021 Baker Street  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

September 7, 2009

On Friday, September 25th, St. John the Baptist Catholic parish and school will unveil six stained glass windows depicting six saints significant to our parish and school community. In this series, I will share with you the history and significance of each saint.

## Mother Catherine McAuley

Mother Catherine is the foundress of the Irish Sisters of Mercy who have labored in our parish school since its beginning in 1959. Mother was born on September 29, 1778 and died November 11, 1841. Her window faces the parish school and is positioned next to two other saints of education (St. Herman Joseph and St. Elizabeth Seton).

### Symbolism in the window

(detail of two center panels shown only):

Mother Catherine's face is based on early portraits painted while she was still living.

She wears the distinctive habit of the Sisters of Mercy.

In her right hand she holds the rosary worn by the Sisters which is distinguished by the characteristic "Mercy Cross" (white inner Cross superimposed on a black outer Cross). This Cross also forms part of our parish school's official shield.

Mother is holding a tea cup and saucer. Shortly before her death, when her sisters had been keeping vigil around the clock and wearing themselves out to take care of her in her final illness, Mother Catherine instructed the superior to "give them a cup of tea when I'm gone".

She wears on her left hand the simple ring which symbolizes the total consecration of her life to Jesus, her heavenly Spouse.

The background has several details which evoke the Irish countryside, homeland of Mother Catherine and all the Mercy Sisters who have taught and labored in our parish school. Typical hills, farmland, cottages, sheep and a grazing horse can be seen in addition to the shamrocks growing at her feet.



## SAINTS FUN FACTS

by mario d. macari

**K**ING ABGAR THE BLACK, THE OSROENE RULER OF SECOND CENTURY ASSYRIA (WHICH IS NOW MODERN TURKEY), ONCE SENT A LETTER VIA MESSENGER TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ASKING TO BE CURED OF A DREADFUL DISEASE. THE REPLY WAS SENT BY SAINT THOMAS IN THE FORM OF SAINT ADDAL, WHO NOT ONLY COMPLETELY CURED THE KING OF HIS ILLNESS, BUT CONVERTED HIS ENTIRE KINGDOM TO CHRISTIANITY!



The cat at Mother's feet is a special tribute to Sister Mary Vianney Ennis, the Mercy Sister who has served our school the longest. She came to St. John's in 1962 and became principal in 1975. Sister has endeared herself to generations of alumni and their families and happens to be a great lover of cats (the cat portrayed here belongs to the artist who designed the windows!)

The window contains a symbol of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, placed in Mother Catherine's window because of her great devotion to the mystery of God's Mercy. The keys hanging from her belt symbolize the power granted by Christ to His apostles (and through them to all priests) to bind and loose sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (cf. Jn. 20:22-23). The keys face away from each other to symbolize binding and loosing of sins. The cross-shaped design in the keys reminds us that it is the Lord's Cross that unlocks the fountain of God's mercy in our lives.

## Someone is Watching

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, 'You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it.' Then he thought, 'Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter, who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.'

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, 'Here, you gave me too much change.' The driver, with a smile, replied, 'Aren't you the new preacher in town?' 'Yes' he replied.

'Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday.' When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, 'Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter.' Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test!

Always be on guard -- and remember -- You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself 'Christian.'

~Anonymous~

## Upcoming Tests

Religion	Ch. 1	Mon., 9/14
Reading	Little House Ch. 1	Wed.
Spelling + Vocab		Friday
Math	Ch. 1A	TBA
Language	Nouns	TBA
Science	Germs	Thu
Social Studies		Check Planner
Spanish, Music, Computer		Check Planner

**Tests will be given in this pattern:**

<b>Religion:</b>	Monday
<b>Math &amp; Language Arts:</b>	Tues., Wed., or Thurs.
<b>Science &amp; Social Studies:</b>	Tues. or Thurs.
<b>Reading:</b>	Wednesday
<b>Vocab &amp; Spelling:</b>	Every Friday.



... to the following students who earned an A+ on the following tests.

Spelling			
Kelsey Julia	Katherine Kayla	Marissa G.	Emily
Vocabulary			
Lance	Josh	Aubrey	Michael
Hope	Kyler	Marissa B	Jonathan
Mart	Katherine	Marissa G	Tommy
Tiffany	Zachary	Maile	Trinity
Julia	Lia	Kayla	Victoria
Andrew			

## Weekly Giggle

Miss Jones had been giving her second-grade students a lesson on science. She had explained about magnets and showed how they would pick up nails and other bits of iron.

Now it was question time, and she asked, "My name begins with the letter 'M' and I pick up things. What am I?" A little boy on the front row proudly said, "You're a mother!"

## Upcoming Events

- Mon., Sept. 14:** Spirit Attire Monday
- Wed., Sept. 16:** Back To School Night 6:30 PM
- Fri., Sept. 18:** Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 PM
- Mon., Sept. 21:** Lunch Orders for Oct. Due
- Tue., Sept. 22:** Hawaiian Day
- Thu., Sept. 24:** Mercy Mass 10:00 AM
- Fri., Sept. 25:** Stained Glass windows unveiled
- Mon., Sept. 28 to Wed., Oct. 7:** ITBS Testing. Attendance & Punctuality critical.
- Thu., Oct. 1:** School Picture Day.
- Fri., Oct. 2:** Noon dismissal
- Mon., Oct. 5:** Spirit Attire Monday
- Wed., Oct. 7:** All School Mass