
St. Joseph of Cupertino

St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish
Cupertino, California

Flyer

September 2009



Meet our New Deacon, Ron Hansen

By Mike Hoffman



Ron Hansen was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. Although in the city, the area where he lived was rural in character. Many of his relatives are farmers. Ron is the youngest of 5 children; he has a twin brother (8 minutes older) and 3 sisters. One sister was a Dominican nun and his brother was a Jesuit seminarian but both have followed other vocations. His father and mother are both converts to Catholicism. His father's family was Mormon.

His mother is 97 and still lives in Omaha. He visits her whenever he can.

Ron was an altar boy and attended Catholic schools from Holy Angels Grade School through Creighton University, where he majored in English literature and was editor of his college literary magazine.

After college, Ron was a lieutenant in the Army's Adjutant General's Corps, stationed in Arizona. He worked on personnel matters and supervised 54 people. The Vietnam War was in progress, but through some glitch in the system he was never sent there.

After completing his Army service, Ron earned a Master of Fine Arts in fiction writing from the Iowa Writer's Workshop. Famous graduates include Flannery O'Connor and John Irving. Ron studied under John Irving and babysat his children.

After graduating from the workshop, Ron won a Wallace Stegner creative writing fellowship at Stanford, where he completed his first published novel, *Desperadoes*, and afterwards was a lecturer there for 3 years. Ron also taught at Cornell, Michigan, Iowa and Arizona.

In 1989, he accepted a position at U.C. Santa Cruz and became a tenured professor. While teaching there, he completed a Masters in Spirituality at Santa Clara University in 1995. After becoming a tenured full professor at U.C. Santa Cruz, Paul Locatelli, the Jesuit President of Santa Clara University, asked him to join the faculty there. He was unsure about what to do and prayed to Gerard Manley Hopkins (a British poet and a Jesuit) for guidance. When he was told that the position was to be called the Gerard Manley Hopkins professorship, he took it as a sign and accepted the position.

Ron had become increasingly involved in church activities as a lector and Eucharistic minister over the years, and at Santa Clara he became a spiritual director on university retreats. He went on to complete the first year of the Master of Divinity program at U.C. Berkeley, when he first inquired about the Diocese of San Jose's diaconate program and was accepted.

Ron is married to Bo Caldwell, a novelist. Her second novel "City of Tranquil Light" will be published by Henry Holt. He is the stepfather of Scotty, 23 who is pursuing a Master's degree in musical theater at NYU and Kate, 26, a first year medical student at Georgetown.

Ron's published novels include *Desperadoes*, *Mariette in Ecstasy*, *Atticus* and *Hitler's Niece*. His novel *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* was made into the 2007 movie starring Brad Pitt. *Mariette in Ecstasy* is the story of a young nun who experience stigmata; it has been filmed and adapted as a play. His essays on faith and fiction are collected in *A Stay Against Confusion*.

For several years Ron served on the International Commission on English in the Liturgy. The original English translation was prepared very quickly after Vatican II. The idea was to use "dynamic language," language that ordinary parishioners would understand and relate to. The controversial new translation adheres more closely to the Latin of the Roman Missal.

Until 2001 there was no diaconate training program in the Diocese of San Jose. After the program was restarted, he entered the program and was ordained a deacon in January 2007. It normally takes 7 years to become a deacon, but he was able to do it quicker because of his theological training.

The diaconate was reinstated after Vatican II. The purpose was threefold: to enhance the Church, to strengthen with sacred orders those men already engaged in diaconal functions, and to provide assistance to areas suffering clerical shortages. Being a deacon is an unpaid position. Mature men who enter the diaconate typically work part time and, if already married, do not take a vow of celibacy.

A deacon teaches the word of God, sanctifies through the sacraments, and helps lead the community in its religious life. He assists at the altar, baptizes, presides at weddings and funerals, proclaims the Gospel and teaches, administers viaticum to the sick, and leads Eucharistic celebrations in the absence of a priest.

Mom's Group Offers Spirituality for Mothers and Children

By Mike Hoffman

Carol Ruiz has been a parishioner at St. Joseph for about nine years. She was not raised in an actively religious family and became a Catholic through the RCIA program. She is a stay at home mom and has three children (8, 11 and 13).



Soon after joining the parish, Carol took part in a spiritual group. She enjoyed the group discussions and thought it would be great to meet with other moms in a park and bring their kids along. This thought led to the formation of the Mom's Group.

The Mom's Group started around 2000. There were 10 active participants, plus Carol. The group had potluck suppers, Christmas pageants and monthly meetings in Three Oaks Park.

All the moms brought their small children to the events.

The Mom's Group still meets on the second Friday of each month in Three Oaks Park. Meetings begin with a prayer and then the readings for the coming Sunday are discussed. Carol leads the meetings and facilitates discussion.

Carol uses resource material provided by Janice LaMotte. For example, she has a book, "Mom's Stories," which has scripture passages followed by a real life story and meditation questions.

After reflecting on the scripture, there is some general discussion, and prayers for any intentions the moms have. The format of the meetings is very flexible. If, during the discussion, one of the children needs some attention, the moms take a break and talk about whatever is on their minds while the issue is addressed.

For Carol, the Mom's Group is a way to find peace in her busy life and focus on God. Carol said of the Mom's Group meetings: "It's a beautiful thing to come to Mass on Sunday and hear the Gospel because you've already given it thought." Carol also finds the discussions with other moms who have dealt with whatever issue she may be struggling with very helpful.

Attendance at the meetings has fallen off. One problem is that it fits Carol's schedule to have the meetings during the day. But, many moms work and can only attend evening meetings.

The Mom's Group is unique in one respect. Parents and children meet together and the parents talk about their faith in the presence of their children. Many Catholic parents are deeply concerned about passing on their faith to their children. The Mom's Group seems like an excellent way to do this.

Anyone interested in leading meetings or participating in any way can contact Carol Ruiz at carzoo@pacbell.net or 408-777-2966.

Mommy & Me Playgroup Growing

By Mike Maloney

Founders Kristin Bacich and Yvonne Fernandez are mothers of young children, who were looking for a way to connect with other moms and to share something beautiful with their kids. Inspired by their participation in the Communion and Liberation ministry, they sent out feelers for other moms with young kids through the SJC Mom's Group. A core group of five mothers then established a playgroup that now meets once per week, and which has since grown to seven families.



It was founded on the belief that education in the faith starts from the beginning of a child's life and that as parents they could create a special setting of companionship each week in which their own children, however young, could participate. As mothers, they begin each playgroup session by praying the Angelus together, recalling Mary's 'yes' to Our Lord. There is then time for songs and 'music and movement' as both kids and moms learn and sing songs, many of which are in different languages. Sometimes the group works on arts and crafts projects, with the moms directly helping their kids. With the help of the other moms, they take the kids on field trips to places like the local zoos and children's museums. All their activities are designed to encourage their children to appreciate what God has given us, to expose them to our faith and the things we love.

The best part for the moms is the companionship. Generally about half the time is structured, so new moms have at least an hour per week to develop new friendships and discuss their children's development. The kids are happy to have that hour of free time to play with each other. The group meets every week on Tuesdays from 9:30am to 11:30am, and the venue rotates between homes (all done voluntarily). The children's ages range from infant to 3years old.

If you are interested or know someone who is, please refer them to Kristin at klhbacich@hotmail.com and she will add them to the mailing list. You're encouraged to bring some new songs with you!



8:00 AM Ushers Have a Long History of Service to Parish

By Steve Hill



Vincent LaPorta has reliably and faithfully served as usher for 52 years, starting in 1957 when he moved his family to Cupertino. Vince was born in Chicago in 1921, and graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, majoring in electrical engineering. He served in the Army Air Force's Signal Corps for four years

during World War II.

He married Mary Delach on July 16, 1949. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this past July.

Vince and Mary moved their family from Chicago to California in 1951, and settled in Cupertino in 1957. He went to work for Lockheed in 1954 and retired in 1984 after 30 years of service.

Vince has a long history of volunteerism. He signed on as an usher when his family joined our parish in 1957. Over time, he has served the 6:30am, 7:00am (head usher) and now 8:00am Masses. He is a member of the Holy Name Society and was one of the founders of their bingo program. His three children, Michael, Mary Ann and John, graduated from the parish school. His daughter, Mary Ann, was profiled in the spring *Flyer* for her many years of volunteerism for the parish and community.

Vince's volunteerism for the City of Cupertino has focused on disaster preparedness. In 1985, he became a founder of the Cupertino Amateur Radio Emergency Service, (C.A.R.E.S., Eng. In-Charge). CARES is a group of Ham radio operators who will deploy throughout the City during disasters, providing a communications network relaying damage and safety assessment information from the neighborhoods to civic leaders.

Marc Ziegler was born in Barberton, Ohio in 1946, and moved to Salinas, California in the late 1940's. Later, in the 1950's, his family moved to Los Altos. His family moved again in 1959 and settled in Cupertino, and they joined St. Joseph of Cupertino parish. Marc became a part-time usher 45 years ago in 1964, and then went full time around 1968.



Marc went to both public and private schools. He graduated from St. Francis High School in 1964, and San Jose State University in 1974, with a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering. He was drafted into military service (Army) between 1971-1973.

While he was growing up, Marc helped in his father's retail liquor business in Los Altos and Saratoga. Working in a family business taught Marc what hard work was about.

In 1970, he earned his pilot's license, and for about six years worked as a flight instructor while attending college. He flew as a corporate pilot after graduation and then was hired by Lockheed in 1982. He worked in Satellite Operations for 20 years, retiring in 2002. His retirement job is working with investment properties.

Victor Ragni settled in Cupertino 27 years ago in 1982 and joined our parish. He began ushering on a fill-in basis at the 8:00am Mass that year, and then went full time 1985.

Victor is a native Californian raised in Orange County. He earned an MBA from Cal State Fullerton in 1980 and then settled in the Bay Area. He works in the banking profession, and is a commercial lender at Private Bank of the Peninsula.



He met his wife, Grace, in 2005 and they were married by Fr. Nathan in 2006. They live in Santa Clara.

Estella Chan was born and raised in Hong Kong. She earned her BA in Geography (comprised of Geography, Geology and Meteorology) at the University of Hong Kong.



She taught school for a few years and then moved to England to study Special Education at the University of London.

Estella came to the U.S. in 1972, and moved to San Jose in 1974. She has been living in Cupertino since 1975. She studied computer science and became a programmer for a major communications company.

While working full time, she finished her master's degree in Human Resources Management in 1993. Estella is now retired. She and her husband have two grown children and one beautiful, sweet granddaughter who is 20 months old.

Estella was baptized in 2000 and has been ushering since. She has also served on the Parish Council.

Signs and Symbols of St. Joseph of Cupertino Church

By Jim Schaaf

This article continues a description of the church building along with descriptions of some of the signs and symbols present in the church.

Nave (the Main Church)

Passing through the center two doors of the vestibule, the church-proper opens up to reveal a long nave (from the Latin word for ship) and an altar on the far (eastern) side in areas that are called the chancel and the apse. The architecture of the church tends to make ones eyes be lifted heavenward principally because of the vaulted ceiling. A large crucifix (a Latin cross with corpus) dominates the altar area. Natural light from a skylight keeps the apse illuminated during the day. The other light sources during daylight hours are from the beautiful stained glass windows along either side of the nave. Sunlight streaming through these windows bathes the entire church interior in a multi-color blush of light. This soft, welcoming glow beckons one to enter and become a part of the light.

The pews are arranged in straight rows so that all eyes can look eastward to see the altar and the ever-dominant crucifix. Our

church follows an ancient Christian tradition, practiced in both east and west, that the people face east to pray and worship God, *i.e.* all look toward the direction of the rising sun – our rising sun – Christ who is risen and is the one who brings light to the world and is the light of the world.

The pews have kneelers so that the congregation can actively participate in any liturgy by taking the positions of standing, sitting and kneeling as described in the rubrics of the Church's liturgies.

At each end of each pew is a Patée Cross with a circle around it. This symbol reminds us that Jesus Christ is true God.

Around the outside walls of the nave are magnificent statues depicting the fourteen Stations of the Cross (Via Crucis).

Many people pilgrimage from station to station to meditate on the suffering and death of Jesus. This devotion is particularly popular during the Fridays of Lent and during Holy Week.

The center aisle and the two side aisles of the nave terminate at the crossing aisle which runs the entire front of the nave and into the Chapel.

Parish Calendar			
Sept. 13	Noon	Hall	St. Joseph of Cupertino Feast Day Celebration
Oct. 2 – 4	Fri night, Sat-Sun	Parish	St. Joseph of Cupertino Carnival
Sept. 29, Oct. 6	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Comm. Center	"Tell Me Your Story"
Oct. 9 & Dec. 4	7:00 pm	Church	Taize Prayer
Oct. 14	7:00 pm	Comm. Center	The Catholic Understanding of the Bible, Fr. Greg
Oct. 18, 25 &, Nov. 1	1:00 – 2:30 pm	Comm. Center	Healing the Trauma of Divorce
Nov. 4	7:00 pm	Comm. Center	History of the Mass, Msgr. Milani
Nov. 18	7:00 pm	Comm. Center	Anointing of the Sick, Fr. Chris Bennett
Nov. 20 – 23		Hall	Prepare Thanksgiving baskets
Dec. 5	10:00 am – noon	Comm. Center	Consolation During the Holidays, Fr. Bennett
Dec. 11	7:00 pm	Church	Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
Dec. 16 – 19	7:00 pm	Church	Simbang Gabi – Advent Novena
Saturdays	6:30 pm	Hall	Bingo
Mondays	6:30 pm	Hall	Bingo
Mondays	Noon	Comm. Center	Prayer Group
Tuesdays	9:30 – 11:30 am	Various	Mommy & Me Playgroup
Wednesdays	7:00 pm	Comm. Center	RCIA
2 nd Friday	9:00 – 10:00 am	Local parks	Mom's Group
Sundays	10:30 – 11:00 am	Front of church	Video library
1 st Sunday	Morning Masses	Comm. Center	Hospitality after Mass – Coffee and Donuts
1 st Sunday	3:00 – 4:00 pm	Rectory	Grief Support Group
1 st Sunday	6:15 pm	Church	Evening Prayer
2 nd Sunday	12:15 pm	Rectory	Scripture Sharing Group

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The Flyer, with color photos, is posted on the parish web site



**Bible Study with
Deacon Ron Hansen**
Sept. 13 & 17, Oct. 11 &
25, Nov 8 & 22
Community Center
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm