

# St. James Parish Family

"You Are A Stranger Here But Once."

"En este lugar, Usted es un desconocido solamente una vez." (Spanish)

"E Fa'atasi Lava Ona E Tagataese 'I Inei." (Samoan)

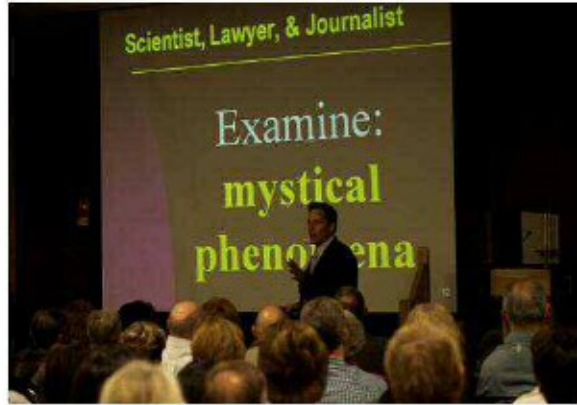
Siete qui ma una volta uno sconosciuto." (Italian)

"Vous n'êtes étranger ici qu'une seule fois." (French)

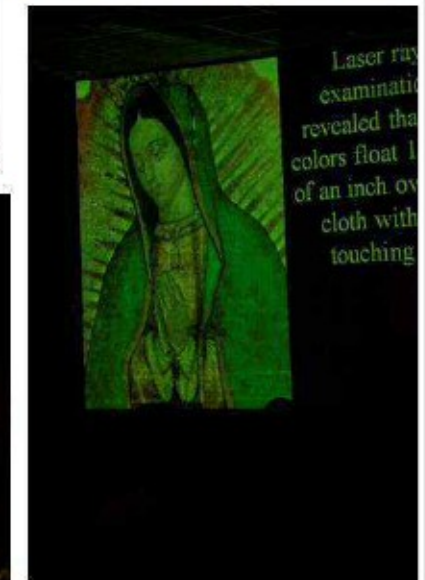
"Dunya'ya yatrance Tek defa geliyoruz." (Turkish)

Jij bent een vreemdeling hier alleen maar een maal." (Dutch)

## SCIENCE TESTS FAITH



was  
St. James Parish  
Lenten Mission



"Tu, tylko raz, człowiek pozostanie nieznanym." (Polish) "Égy idegény vagy itten csak égsyszer." (Hungarian)

"Uko Mgeni Hapa Mara Moja Tu." (Swahili-Spoken in East Africa) "In Wendo Kari Dichiel Kender" (Luo-Spoken in Western Kenya.)

Nyidiamu ni tete vu alu adite (Madi—spoken in Northern Uganda) "Uri Muenzi Kamwe" (Chishona, spoken in Zimbabwe.)

## Pastor's Corner

### SCIENCE TESTS FAITH: REFLECTIONS FROM OUR LENTEN MISSION

This was the theme of our Lenten Mission which very successfully concluded last Wednesday. In my opinion, this has been one of the most enriching and spiritually energizing missions I have attended in a very long time. This is not only because of the huge attendance it attracted but also because of the content delivered and the quality of facilitation. Throughout the three days, it was evident to me that God was communicating to us more urgently than ever about His Love and Mercy and inviting us to respond. This urgency can only be appreciated when we realize that at no point in human history God has ever been silent. His love for us has always compelled Him in some way or the other to communicate with us, His people. Right from the Prophets to our own times, He has continued to communicate!

He chose the Israelites as His own and lavished them with His own love. They constantly tested His patience and disobeyed Him but He did not abandon them. Instead, again and again, He sent his prophets to straighten them out even though they treated most of them with disdain. Then He sent his own son to clean up the mess of all messes, their arrogance and indifference. Led by the religious gurus of the time, they rejected Him despite all the signs and cures He performed and eventually they subjected Him to a shameful death. As a last powerful testimony to His unconditional love for us, God miraculously raised Jesus from the dead. In so doing, He promised and continues to promise resurrection and eternal life to all who will faithfully follow him and believe in him and in the one who sent Him -God.

The tragedy and irony of all this however, is that humanity has refused to listen to Him. Unfortunately, in our own modern times too, we have increasingly become more indifferent to anything related to God. Any mention of God in the public square is frowned upon as antiquated and offensive. We have become so arrogant and insolent. True, we have advanced so much in technology but have in the process, become miserably impoverished in our relationship with our God and with each other. Wealth, power and pleasure have become our modern gods in the name of human freedom! What a pity!

Therefore, Science Tests Faith is, in my opinion, God's new effort at reminding us that He is the omnipotent and loving God that He always has been, is and always will be. The various miracles of the bleeding statue of Jesus, the bleeding consecrated host found abandoned outside the Church, the stigmata of K atya (for those of you who attended the Mission) all bring this out very clearly. By allowing those miracles to be subjected to scientific scrutiny which came out with no natural explanation and conclusion, God is bending low to our level. He is responding to the mentality of our age which will not believe unless something is subjected to scientific proof. He uses modern technology which is far inferior to his might.

Unfortunately, despite all this, not many people will be excited about these miracles and come to believe because they link us to the name of God. No wonder these and other modern miracles have largely gone unnoticed at best and ignored altogether, at worst. The greatest miracle which has remained consistent for over two thousand years however, is Jesus becoming truly present body, spirit, soul and divinity at the consecration during Mass. This happens every day that priests celebrate the Eucharist. You would expect our Churches to be filled to capacity with people wanting to be a part of this great miracle each time Mass is celebrated. The sad reality is, awesome as this is, that is rarely the case. My appeal to you, St. James parishioners, is to try to consider at least sparing some thirty minutes to one hour a week to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament during the remaining time of Lent. The returns will be immeasurable for you personally and for your entire family. Try it! This is the response I demand of you as a product of this Lenten Mission.