



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY® OF MONTEREY BAY

WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION



Greetings!



Golden Rule Sunday, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day/Mary Virginia Merrick's Birthday . . . What a Trifecta!

All spiritual signs are on service, emulating the saints who've lived the Golden Rule so well, and remembering our beloved dead. So I'll start by **celebrating our founder Mary Virginia Merrick's birthday today**. A Servant of God under consideration for canonization in the Catholic Church, she continues to inspire us to work hard for the children and families who need us and to be on the lookout to make sure what we are doing is relevant and has real impact. To remember her today and to encourage her inspirational life to inspire others, **please pray the**

Canonization Prayer below and either add an intercession of your own or ask for her help for our work

Which brings me to the very exciting news that **Fr. Rodrigo Paredes, Parochial Vicar for the Mission Basilica, has agreed to be our spiritual advisor.** As many of you know, he is young and vibrant, and a wonderful homilist--and we are so thrilled he has agreed to provide us with spiritual advice as we take our mission forward. Fr. Rodrigo will be joining the Board for our November meeting and we are looking forward to getting to know each other better then! In the meantime, **WELCOME Fr. Rodrigo!**

Of course the best way we can both live the Golden Rule and honor our founder is by **enhancing and expanding our programs**--and this week we are. I am thrilled to announce that **we are working with our friends in the Women's and Children's Services group in Natividad and with the Salinas Fire Department on a new program by which we will be providing Graco 4-in-1 car seats to the most under-resourced infants at Natividad**--who will, of course, continue to receive our baby bundles. We are targeting donations of 5 of these high-end car seats every month next year, making this significant investment to give long-lasting benefits to half of the infants we serve at Natividad by ensuring their safety in their family cars until they no longer need a car seat.

According to our plan, Natividad will work with the Fire Department to arrange appointments for the expectant couples the hospital qualifies to pick up the car seat and receive training on the use of the car seat by Fire Department personnel. **We will deliver five car seats each month to the Fire Department** to make that happen. While there are a lot of details to be worked out, we are very excited about this new program. As Natividad's previous corporate funding for car seats ended in the last few years, we are truly stepping in to fill a significant gap, and you will hear more about our plans--and related volunteering opportunities--soon. **Say a prayer that we can finalize all the details and announce this new program publicly before Shower of Love!**

Oh, and about Shower of Love. Fr. Paul has kindly agreed to let us hold the **Shower of Love at the Carmel Mission's Mac**

Mahon Center. Mac Mahon is similar to Crespi Hall in important ways but probably an even better venue for us, with much improved parking and access. We are **grateful and excited** to create a **wonderful in-person event** that benefits our baby bundles program and features our ambitious new Car Seat Program as well. And, we have a **Committee of nine members helping to put the event together**--for the first time ever. You'll hear more after the Committee finalizes some details in the next week or so. But what ever you do--**SAVE THE DATE, LET YOUR FRIENDS KNOW, and STAY TUNED.**

Finally, may this month of November bring wonderful opportunities to show kindness and gratitude and to be with/remember your families, living and deceased. It's a holy time, when we wrap ourselves and others with love . . . Ubi caritas

Blessings,

Anne Kelley, President

**Happy Birthday,
Miss Mary!**



PRAYER FOR THE INTERCESSION OF MARY VIRGINIA MERRICK

Lord God, in your special love for children, you chose to raise up Mary Virginia Merrick to be the servant of the poor children.

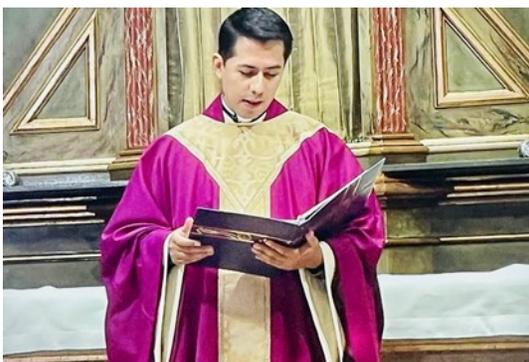
In laboring to serve the young and those without hope because of the crushing weight of poverty, she proclaimed the love of your Son. She made her life's work a demonstration that "nothing is ever too much to do for a child."

Grant that her example of selfless charity and courageous virtue in the face of her suffering will inspire us to be as generous in the service of others. We humbly ask that your servant Mary Virginia Merrick be numbered among the Church's canonized saints for edification of your holy people, in accord with your most holy will. Through her intercession, please hear and answer my request (name your intention). Through Jesus Christ our Lord. - Amen.

*Published with ecclesiastical approval by the
Archdiocese of Washington*

www.maryvirginiamerrick.org

Greetings from Our New Spiritual Advisor Fr. Rodrigo Paredes . . . in his own words



My name is Fr. Rodrigo and I graduated from Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon. I was ordained a priest on June 8, 2018. Currently, I'm serving as a parochial vicar at Carmel Mission Basilica, Carmel CA.

It is with great joy and anticipation that I'm blessed to be able to serve you and Christ the Child Society of Monterey Bay as a spiritual companion. I'm fully convinced that we will journey in faith and grow together in charity. I come to you with a great sense of hope and trust. I hope to be able to assist you in your life-giving ministry and I trust that together we will continue to expand God's unconditional love to all children and women who deserve of the love of Christ the Child!

As we endeavor to share the force of love to all children and their mothers alike, I remind myself of a couple of phrases. On the one hand, ***"Do not be afraid"*** (SJPII). These words have resonated in my heart since I started formation many years ago and after more than 14 years of seminary training, they continue to be a great source of inspiration and motivation. On the other hand, ***"act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God"*** (Micah 6:8). As for so many of you, this biblical passage is a source of inspiration to my soul, and nourishes my spiritual life and ministry. Trusting in these words, I'm very optimistic about my new beginning with you.

Fr. Rodrigo

Thank you for supporting the book drive!

2021  **NE**
Christ Child Society
National Day of Service

We received 115 books thanks to your generosity, and additional financial donations to purchase quite a few more. You answered the call, and we will start 2022 with a good inventory of books for both our bundle and literacy programs. And we did it with our fellow chapters across the nation--truly serving together! Thanks again!



VOLUNTEER & SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Yarns & Stitches Meets Wednesdays
November 3 and 17 at 10:30 a.m.



As usual, we'll meet at the St. Angela Library in PG! [Let Joan know](#) if you have any questions . . .

Help Pack or Deliver our Baby Bundles
this November

We will pack our bundles on
Wednesday
November 10 in the
Christ Child Room at
the Victorian at St.
Angela's between 10
a.m. and 12 p.m.



We need one additional driver to deliver our bundles to Natividad Hospital in Salinas on Tuesday November 30, leaving the Christ Child Room at 9 a.m.

LET RITA KNOW if you are interested in packing or delivering on these days!



Walking Group Outing
Asilomar, Saturday November 20 at 10 a.m.

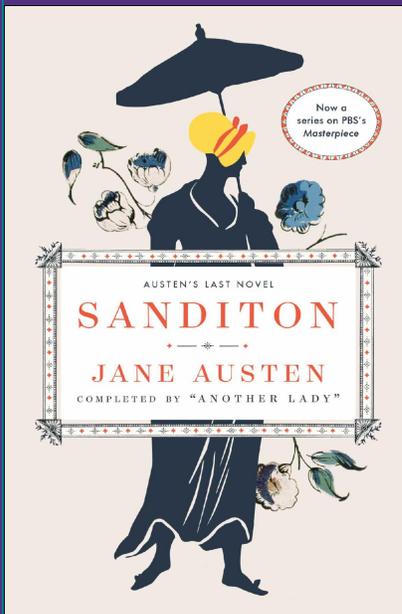
After a fabulous walk at Palo Corona last month the **Christ Child Walking Group** will meet at The Fish Wife in Asilomar at 10 a.m. Saturday November 20 and walk Asilomar. **Come join us** for



our last outing of the calendar year!

[RSVP HERE](#)

The Book Club Is Meeting on Wednesday Dec. 1
Come discuss *Sanditon* at 5:30 p.m. in Carmel



It was a fun coed book club meeting considering Steinbeck's *Pastures of Heaven* last month at El Torito. Our last book club meeting of the year will be focused on *Sanditon*, Jane Austen's unfinished novel later finished by an Austen devotee and novelist. Fitting with the refined theme, **we will meet at the Patisserie Boissiere in Carmel for our dinner and discussion--and some may wish to sample the restaurant's excellent desserts!** *Join us!* The more the merrier!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

**Save the Date ! -- SHOWER OF LOVE
December 4, 10 am-12 p.m
Mac Mahon Center, Carmel Mission Basilica
More information coming soon**



Cheryl Kinney (Nov 25)
Grace Gambucci (Nov 29)
Kathy Bonelli (Nov 30)



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