

# THE MAGDALENE

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**FROM THE DESK OF  
FR. NEIL...**

## **PRAYING FOR THE WHOLE STATE OF CHRIST'S CHURCH PART 2, CHRISTIAN RULERS**

Last month we began to talk about the Prayer for the Whole State of Christ's Church. We saw there the importance to take the direction of St. Paul seriously (1 Timothy 2:1-4) and frame our prayers accordingly. We are to pray regularly with "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings."

The next major section in our own Liturgy is praying for all Christian rulers. Paul said further in his letter to Timothy that they were to pray for, "kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." (ESV) Paul gives further instruction in Romans 13:1 where he says, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God." (ESV)

The design of God is that there be hierarchical rule among mankind. Anarchy is not an option. Leaderless groups will soon fall into chaos or the inevitable will happen: someone else will rise up to rule. From the beginning God gave authority to Adam and Eve to be stewards of the Earth, to essentially rule over God's creation for Him. God allowed kings to be instituted at Israel's request. In our own Churches, the minister or pastor has charge over the people. A group does not rule

the Church. We have a President who governs our country. Other countries also have governing authorities.

God has instituted governing authorities, whether we like them or not, and we are to be subject to them as far as they govern according to God's commands. This is fleshed out more fully by Paul when he writes, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. (Romans 13:1-4, ESV)

We are also to pray for them because they are set in place by God. We pray for them to govern in light of God's commands and laws. They are to govern equitably and fairly. We are to obey them as citizens. We pray for them because the job can be difficult and strenuous. They are many times under the pressure of criticism.

As Christians, we do not obey them blindly. If they ask us to do things that go against what God commands we have a right to resist as peacefully as we can. If a law is set in place that commands us to break a command that God has set in place we have the right not to obey. God is the ultimate Governor and all earthly governors are to rule by His laws.

It is noteworthy that our own Prayer Book calls us to pray for “*Christian Rulers.*” Since this is a prayer of the Church and its different members, we have to think more deeply about this wording. When this prayer was written, Henry VIII was “*fedei defensorum*” or Defender of the Faith. Henry was head of the Church though he was a monarch and ruled a country. So we can say that he was a Christian ruler.

In our day, sometimes the President we have may or may not be a Christian. The Church is not ruled by the secular government and vice versa. Therefore we must know who our ‘rulers’ are and if they are Christian, then we know they fit into that designation, i.e. Christian Ruler. If they are not, we are still bound under Paul’s command to pray for them and to obey them as much as is allowed. We might also think about the fact that our country does have Christian roots. It is founded on Christian principles, even if not all of our founders were Christian. So whoever leads us, does still walk in that pattern whether they are Christian or not. So we could further pray that that they would come to the faith if they are not Christian, be strengthened if they are, and either way, they would govern according to the Law of God and submit themselves and all they do to the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ.

**St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church**  
 205 So. Glassell Street  
 Old Town Orange, CA 92866  
[www.stmarymagdaleneacc.org](http://www.stmarymagdaleneacc.org)  
 Rev. Fr. Neil Edlin, Rector

**Sunday Services:**  
 8am Mass  
 10am Choral Mass &  
 Children’s Sunday School

**Wednesday Service &  
 Anointing of the Sick: 9am**

# CURRENT EVENTS

## CRAFT FAIR & NEW2YOU BOUTIQUE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



**On October 6<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 2pm,** a huge Craft Fair & Boutique will be held on the church grounds. Wait until you see the fabulous items to be sold at the ‘Halloween Shop’ ‘Christmas Store’, ‘Home-Good’s Craft Shop’ and New2You Boutique. We will be showing selected items from our new craft members: jewelry made by Raven Myers and fabric trinkets by Candi Tanner.

We are still looking for at a couple of strong men to bring down some racks and boxes from the store room upstairs. Please contact Elizabeth Sneddon if you can contribute just one hour of service.

All proceeds go to our Outreach Missions. This is a great way to contribute and pick up a gift for a friend at the same time.

## FOURTH SUNDAY BRUNCH IS BACK !

Join Fr. Neil and Sharon at **Katella Grill on Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup> at noon** for a hearty breakfast. We will be seated in the Garden Room so there will be plenty of tables for us. Since we must make a reservation, you have to sign up on the “Yes, I’m Coming” sheet in the Narthex by Wednesday October 24<sup>th</sup> to sit with us. Anyone dropping in on that Sunday, will be not be considered part of the reservation and seated at a separate table. Please contact Barbara Talbert if you have any questions about our 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Brunch Program.



The Richard Nixon Foundation  
in association with  
St. Mary Magdalene Church Invites You To

A White Horse Inn Forum  
**Featuring Founder Dr. Michael Horton  
with Dr. David Corbin & Dr. Adam Francisco**  
Moderated by Dr. Frank Gannon  
Former Assistant to the Nixon White House

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**THE INFLUENCE OF RELIGION ON  
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FOR A MODERN REFORMATION

a Bible studies campaign. He is also a well known, successful author having written more than 15 books on the Christian faith, theology and it's influences in America.



**Dr. David Corbin**, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Providence Christian College, has taught political philosophy, American politics, and international relations for over two decades. Dr. Corbin has participated in numerous academic and civic endeavors, including serving a term in the **New Hampshire State Legislature**. **Dr. Corbin is a writer, author and well known orator.** Dr. Corbin's analyses of political, cultural and social trends has appeared in the Investor's Business Daily, The New York Times, The Washington Times, First Things "First Thoughts", Radio Free Europe, New Hampshire Public Broadcasting, New England Cable News, and WCVB's "Chronicle," along with various other news organizations.

**Dr. Adam Francisco** is the Chair of the Department of History and Political Thought at Concordia University. He has published a variety of articles, essays, and books on Christian apologetics and reformation history to include 'Making the Case for Christianity: Responding to Modern Objections' and 'One God, many gods'. Dr. Francisco is a current speaker for "1517: The Legacy Project" where he is a **co-host for The Thinking Fellows**, a weekly podcast, with Rod Rosenblatt and Scott Keith.



### About our Distinguished Speakers.....

**Dr. Michael Horton**, a J. Gresham Machen Professor at Westminster Seminary, is the **founder of White Horse Inn**, a multi-media online resource center. He is editor-in-chief of the Modern Reformation magazine, **permanent co-host of the nationwide radio broadcast, the White Horse Inn**, and primary force behind Core Christianity,



**Dr. Frank Gannon**, Former Assistant to the Nixon White House, television producer, author and speech writer. He was educated at Georgetown University, Oxford University and at the London School of Economics.

# NEWS

## **LABOR DAY WEEKEND PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER!!**

Our thanks to everyone who took the time to come out and work the Labor Day Parking Lot fundraiser. We raised almost \$1,300. We would also like to recognize Elizabeth Sneddon for her initiative and management expertise in pulling off this three-day fundraiser as well as Brian Lee who acted as her back-up. This fundraiser was officially chaired by the Vestry so all the proceeds will go towards the church's facilities.

## Acquiring Truth

***"Is there any historical basis for the colors used in the church calendar and vestments that come from the early Church?"***

There is no Biblical command to use specific colors in the Church. The early Church, as far as we know, did not have certain colors for certain days and seasons of the year. There was not even a Church calendar. Flowers were used to beautify the worship space but even then, they were mixed colors. But as interest to devotion to certain events in the life of Jesus grew, certain days and even season began to be celebrated, such as Christmas and Easter, and a calendar slowly began to evolve.

The colors that we use today symbolize the character of the days and season for which they are used. In other words, we have a long season called Trinity Season where the focus of the lessons and preaching is on growth in the Christian life. Green is a color of growth. Red is used at Pentecost because it is a reminder of the tongues of fire that rested on the disciples' heads. Red is also used to recall the blood of those Christian martyrs we hold in high esteem.

The colors we use are intended to describe the season or even a specific service. For example, black is used for funerals. It is a dark and dreary color. White is incorrect for a funeral because it reflects cheerfulness. On the other hand, white is used at weddings because of it's a symbol of purity. Black would not make sense at a wedding.

Church historian and liturgist Cyril Pocknee describes the origins of the use of colors in the Church this way, "The use of special and different colors to mark the season of the Christian year is a useful custom, but it cannot claim a very high antiquity. The first appearance of a complete sequence of liturgical colors was in the second part of the 12<sup>th</sup> century in the Latin Church at Jerusalem; and this differs considerably from the colors with which we have now become familiar, notably in the use of black at Christmas and for festivals of the Blessed Virgin Mary and blue for the Epiphany and the Ascension. The familiar white, red, green, and violet sequence is first mentioned by Pope Innocent III right at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> cent."<sup>1</sup>

He also notes, "In England before the Reformation there was considerable latitude in the interpretation of liturgical colors, thus yellow and green were interchangeable, and blue, violet, and black were of the same significance. Also there was a tendency to use the best vestments at great festivals irrespective of their color."<sup>2</sup>

So, though there is no command for us to decorated the Church with certain colors at certain times, there is certainly great value in both beautifying the Church with color and at the same time, there is great teaching value in the use of colors.

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<sup>1</sup> The Parson's Handbook Cyril Pocknee. 1965.

<sup>2</sup> IBID