“There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Friends,

With all due respect to the sacred writer, it sometimes sure doesn't feel that way for most of us.

Time perceived as a merry-go-round rotating endlessly, the markers – calendar year, Church liturgical year, school year, fiscal year – all seem to be coming and going pretty fast. Not enough time.

And time seen as linear spans – infant, child, youth, adult, senior citizen – is realized faster than we think, and is unchanging, irreversible and we can’t really skip a phase, hold on to a phase or repeat one as hard as we may try. Time passes quickly.

Those aspects of time and our just plain needed busyness will not change.

But as we change the last calendars and begin the new year, it's an opportunity to re-calibrate our approach to time and take a look at the “appointed times” in our lives, hinted at by markers, and renew our belief in a God of abundance – time enough is all we really need.

And, oh yes, we remember Mary, mother of the Lord who in momentous, troubling, puzzling, mysterious times pondered them in her heart - the memory of God’s faithfulness in her people’s times past, the unfolding of her present time sealed with continuing affirmation, and the future placed peacefully in God's keeping.

This is quite another take on time, an internal measuring of a sort, that is deep, wide and welcoming, and without a lid.

Best wishes for a blessed New Year, in Christ,

Rev. John D. Keller, O.S.A.
Director, Center for Christian Spirituality

On the reverse you’ll find your invitation to join others and these speakers to explore timely “affairs under the heavens”: care of the sick and of caregivers; prayer; and leadership in the Catholic parish.

Daniel Dillabough, S.T.D.
Vice President,
Mission and Ministry

Mary Doak, Ph.D.
Associate Professor,
Theology and Religious Studies

Florence Gillman, Ph.D.
Professor,
Theology and Religious Studies

John Gillman, Ph.D.
Director of Pastoral Services,
Vitas Hospice
Companions at the Table

**PRAYER ON THE JOURNEY OF LENT TOWARD EASTER**

At the beginning of Lent, reflection, encouragement, and experience of Christian prayer. Gathered at table, food for the body and the spirit in shared fellowship and conversation with Msgr. Daniel Dillabough, USD’s vice-president for Mission and Ministry.

When: Saturday, February 18, 2012. 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Where: La Gran Terraza dining room, Hahn University Center, USD
Fee: $15 per person, includes breakfast.

For professional and family caregivers

**CARE OF THE SICK, CARE OF THE CAREGIVER**

A time of reflection on the spiritual significance of care for the sick – how we care for our sick brothers and sisters while also caring for ourselves. For professional and family caregivers. What we can learn from the Gospel presented by USD Professor of New Testament Florence Gillman, Ph.D. Review of pastoral practices from John Gillman, Ph.D., director of pastoral services, Vitas Hospice. Reflection, prayer, and shared experiences.

When: Saturday, February 25, 2012. 9:00 a.m – 1:30 p.m.
Where: Salomon Lecture Hall, Bishop Maher Hall, USD
Fee: $25 per person, light breakfast and box lunch.

Leadership in the Parish

**THE CATHOLIC PARISH TOWARD A FUTURE OF HOPE**

An opportunity for pastors and parish leadership to reflect on the vision of the local Catholic parish. How is the parish the expression of the Church, how does the parish help to realize the presence of Jesus in our lives, what sustains us in dedication to this local Christian community, what are the hopes and vision that draw us forward with hope. Reflection on the Church and local parish from USD’s Professor Mary Doak, shared insights from pastors and parish leaders, opportunities to share best practices.

When: Saturday, April 28, 2012. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Where: Solomon Lecture Hall (Bishop Maher Hall)
Fee: $20 per person. Coffee and box lunch included.

REGISTRATION: No refunds are possible except for medical or personal emergencies.

PARKING: A visitor parking permit is required and available at the kiosk as you enter campus.

INFORMATION: Please telephone (619) 260-4784 or e-mail: ccs@sandiego.edu. You can also visit our website: www.sandiego.edu/ccs

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REGISTRATION and UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION

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EMAIL:__________________________________________________

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CITY: _________________________________ZIP:______________

PHONE: (_________)_______________________

Please check which event(s) you will be attending:

___ PRAYER ON THE JOURNEY OF LENT TOWARD EASTER, February 18, 2012. **COST:** $15.


Please make checks payable to USD and mail to: Center for Christian Spirituality, 5998 Alcala Park, Maher 280, San Diego, CA 92110-2492