

St. Gregory's History Day



St. Gregory's held its History Day on June 28, 2014. To prepare for the day a timeline was created that highlighted significant events in the history of the parish, the nation, the national church, the diocese and the city of Long Beach. The timeline was then displayed in the parish hall and parishioners were encouraged to record on the timeline significant events in their lives that were associated with St. Gregory's. This proved to be an interesting exercise since it caused parishioners to reflect on, and recognize, how central St. Gregory's has been to many of the major milestones in their personal, family and spiritual lives. The timeline was then hung on a wall of the parish hall for use on History Day. In addition to the timeline old church photo albums and old copies of the parish newsletter were available for parishioners to peruse on History Day.

History Day was facilitated by Fr. Mark Stuart who was trained for this task by the diocese, and is experienced in directing History Day activities. Discussions were structured around the tenure of each of our past rectors. All attendees were encouraged to be open and free in their feelings about the strengths and weaknesses of past rectors, and what they liked about the way things were done and what they didn't like. The discussions were quite lively at times as could

be expected. The central thing that came out of this session was that parishioners really started thinking about, and discussing, what characteristics they liked in our past rectors and what traits they would like to see (and what they would like to avoid) in our next rector.

