

(In His Hands, continued from page 1)

said. The story is based on Jesus' life as told by St. Luke.

Susan's work was inspired by the famous 1970 rock opera "Jesus Christ Superstar," with music written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice. The more famous rock opera is a loose adaptation of Gospel accounts of Jesus' last week, ending with his crucifixion.

"I love 'Jesus Christ Superstar,' Susan said. "The music draws people. But I was never satisfied with the way it ended." So she wrote her own musical.

**To reserve a CD of the music, go to the fan-funded album site: [www.legacyfundraiser.com](http://www.legacyfundraiser.com). A live performance May 14 will be recorded. The CD will be available in June and costs \$20 to pre-order.**

She says her version tells the whole story of Christ. "It finishes the story," she said. Although the musical has been produced before, there may be some surprises for anyone who saw

it in 1984 when it played at Lincoln High School. Susan has been fiddling with the script and as of March had not decided if Peter had converted the thief to whom he's telling the story.

"You'll have to go to see how it ends," Susan said. The thief is curious but skeptic.

Where it goes from here, nobody knows.

First, she has to fill 420 seats for four performances in three days. Then she would like to have "In His Hands" promoted for larger productions at churches, theater companies and even motion picture producers. "I'd like to have it go beyond the borders of Washington," Susan said.

Her partner charity is Washington Kids in Transition, a volunteer organization committed to providing basic needs to homeless children in crisis. The group's website says there are more than 400 homeless children in the Edmonds School District alone.

Tickets for the four shows went on sale in March. Susan hopes the show will draw attention to the production as well as the homeless kids.

Although the project has been somewhat overwhelming for her, Susan has faith that it will be pulled off.

"We couldn't do this without God's guidance and his spirit," she said. "God's saying, 'You've got to trust me' when I'm in the trenches."

**Reverend Kenneth Haydock**  
Pastor

**John Russell**  
Gifts & Blessings Editor



Holy Rosary Church  
630 Seventh Ave North  
Edmonds, Washington

Mailing address:  
P.O. Box 206  
Edmonds WA 98020  
Phone: 425-778-3122  
[www.holyrosaryedmonds.org](http://www.holyrosaryedmonds.org)

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John Russell

## Scenes from Triduum



## Holy Rosary Parish

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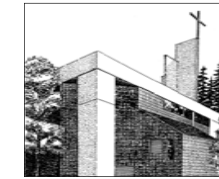
### OUR MISSION

*Led by the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Eucharist, Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Parish strives to be a welcoming servant community.*

*We celebrate the goodness of God's unconditional love through worship, education and service.*

*The Pastoral Council  
October 17, 2007*

**Save the Date!**  
**HS Baccalaureate Mass & Reception**  
**Sunday, June 5, 11:00**  
**HRS Baccalaureate Mass**  
**Sunday, June 12, 11:00**  
**HRS Graduation**  
**Sunday, June 12, 12:30**



# GIFTS & BLESSINGS

## Living In His Hands

By Jim Haley



From the 1984 production of "In His Hands".

It's been more than three decades since Susan Olmos conceived and produced a dramatic rock opera she called "In His Hands."

It's the story of Christ throughout His days on earth as told by Peter to a thief in a prison cell just before the Apostle was hustled away by a Roman guard for execution.

The production, subtitled "A Fisherman's Journey", now will come alive again, with some score and script changes.

"In His Hands" is scheduled for a four-show run May 13-15 at Mountlake Terrace High School. There will be two showings on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a matinee on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Sponsored in part by Holy Rosary Parish, the show will involve as many as 60 singers, musicians, actors and stage hands all gathered by Susan, the parish music director.

In fact, the whole endeavor has been driven by Susan, who not only wrote a show with 21 songs and recruited participants, but also promoted the event, pushed ticket sales, arranged for an available CD of the music, and partnered with a charitable organization where any profits will go.

She hasn't forgotten about her day job at the parish and school, so there's been some midnight oil burned in the months preceding the production.

"I guess for Lent I'm giving up sleep," she quipped a few weeks back.

The job is enormous.

She needed actors, singers, a stage director, lighting expert, stage manager a choreographer, a set designer, costume designer and more. A high school drummer who participated in the original production, now Grammy-award-winner Matthew Burgess, is expected to come from Nashville to lend a hand in the latest production, Susan said. She knows other people from out of state who are coming to see it.

Pastor Fr. Kenneth Haydock, who has a fondness for the arts, has been one of her big supporters. The production is a good sendoff for Fr. Haydock, who is planning retirement, she added. "In a way he's giving a great gift to the community in backing this," Susan said.

Susan decided to bring the musical endeavor out of mothballs because "God pretty much compelled me to do it now or never," she said. "I feel as though it's God's thing and He wants it out. I'm just following orders."

The original production was an ecumenical venture performed during Holy Week, she

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**For more information, go to the "In His Hands" website: <http://www.inhishands.xyz/>**  
**For tickets, go to: <http://inhishands.brownpapertickets.com/>.**  
**Tickets range from \$20 to \$25 plus a small service fee. Some tickets also are available at the parish office without a service fee.**

### Scenes from Holy Rosary



Above: assembling pinwheels for the 750 Easter baskets that we distributed to Cocoon House, Angelorum Next Step Pregnancy Services, St. Vincent DePaul, ChildStrive, CCS, Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish Co., Housing Hope, and Neighbors in Need. Below left: Bishop Elizondo receives Candidate Joe Murphy to the Elect as sponsor David Coffman looks on. Below right: Marie Tran sells raffle tickets to raise fund for the Vinh Son Orphanage in Vietnam at the Knights of Columbus crab feed.



From the Auction, above left: raising the paddles for school scholarships, selling raffle tickets for the quilt, and honoring Jack and Shirley Serwold for their long support for the school. The auction raised over \$95,000 for the school. The quilt was made by prisoners at the Monroe Correctional Center through the quilting program of Helen Jolly and Dolly Haakenson.



### Creating the Foundation of a Better World

by Jim Haley

Hermona Girmay used to be shy.

The 2015 graduate of Holy Rosary school is anything but that nowadays. A freshman at Edmonds-Woodway High School, Hermona has the grace and smile of a confident young adult, and she speaks articulately about her ambitions and dreams.

“I love talking now,” she says.

And the 15-year-old owes her confidence to competition over several years in the Miss Washington Junior Teen pageants, an event she won in August among some 90 young girls and women from around the state. She is the reigning 2015-16 Miss Washington Junior Teen.

The competition isn’t a “beauty” contest, and there is no bathing suit competition. The focus is more on becoming good role models, volunteering, becoming active community members and assuming self-confidence, she says.

But of course there’s the talent competition for the teen who was in the Holy Rosary School choir for five years.

Hermona sang an aria from the Puccini’s opera Gianni Schicchi, “O Mio Babbino Caro,” a most difficult ditty for the most polished opera singer. And she belted out a Broadway show tune, “Not for the Life of Me,” from Thoroughly Modern Millie.

**Hermona plans to start her own foundation to supply school supplies and teddy bears to children in developing nations.**

Did she “wow” the judges?

“I think so,” Hermona said.

But the judges also were looking for something real and natural.

“They want us to be kids,” she said. And confident kids at that. In November, she and her mother, Aster Mender, traveled to California where she competed in the National America Miss contest, and Hermona wound up as a top 10 finisher.

She didn’t win, but “it makes me want to do even better,” Hermona said. She would someday like to become the National American Miss Junior Teen.

The completion is based on contestants’ personal introductions of themselves, their appearance in formal wear, interviews with judges and their community involvement.

Hermona was born in Edmonds of immigrant parents from a war-torn part of the Horn of Africa. Her parents are from Eritrea, which had been involved in a long struggle to gain independence from Ethiopia. The family visited Ethiopia in 2006 and met relatives, including Aster’s mother.



Memories of that visit, and the plight of some of the children in villages spurred Hermona to form some of the long-term goals that she emphasized during her Junior Miss Teen competition.

“Even then, I wanted to help them out,” she said. She recalls children playing with rag balls and lacking many of the things she takes for granted.

She said her career path is changing but the straight-A student should have no problem getting into college. She insists that she wants to travel and make a difference in developing countries, perhaps working for UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund.

She has seen herself that children in developing countries lack such things as school supplies and even teddy bears. That’s why Hermona intends to start her own foundation to help supply some of those items in her parents’ homeland. She’s set a goal of raising \$10,000 to that end.

Aster, who owns an adult family home, said she did not push her daughter to start pageant competition. However, she’s proud of her daughter and glad that Hermona decided on her own to enter the Junior Miss contests.

“I’m really happy she did this,” Aster said. “Before she started, she was quiet and shy. Right now she has a big picture of what she wants to do. I can see the growth, the confidence and the drive.”