

Our Mission: To Evangelize God's People,
beginning with the Gift of the Holy Eucharist



A Stewardship Parish

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH • 1813 OAKDALE ROAD • MODESTO, CA 95355

April 29, 2012 Fourth Sunday of Easter

(209) 551-4973

Fax: (209) 551-3213

Visit our website:

www.stjmod.com

Holy Eucharist

Sunday Mass:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sundays: 7:30am,

9am (Traditional Latin), 10:30am,

12, 1:30pm (Español),

5:30pm & 7:30pm

Daily Mass:

8am & 5:45pm; Saturdays 8am

Traditional Latin Mass, Fridays at Noon

Perpetual Eucharistic

Adoration:

Chapel access code available in office

Children's Services:

Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Sunday Mass 10:30am

Adoration & Confessions

First Friday 6:30pm-7:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday thru Thursday 5-5:30pm

Fridays 6:30pm-7:30pm

Saturdays 8:30-9:30am & 4-5pm

Homebound please call 551-4973

for a priest to visit you by
appointment.

Clergy:

Fr. Joseph Illo, Pastor

Fr. Benny Kottarathil, Assoc Pastor

Fr. Tony Chacko, Assoc Pastor

Fr. Larry Guerrero, Hospital Chaplain

Rev. Mr. Ken Ochinerio, Deacon

Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarella, Deacon

From the Pastor's Laptop

"I told her not to 'settle'," a friend told me thirty years ago. "What does 'settle' mean?" I asked her. "It means settling for a man who does not meet her standards."

A priest, it is said, marries the Church. Does the Church "settle" for priests that don't meet her standards? Do you settle for a merely good *man*, or will you accept nothing less than a good *priest*? "A good priest is a very good thing," wrote Victor Hugo in *Les Miserables*. How is a good priest more than just a good man?

A good man puts you at ease; a good priest puts you at ease, but often challenges you as well. A good man makes you laugh; a good priest makes you laugh, but sometimes makes you cry. A good man helps you reach success in life; a good priest helps you reach success, but he also prepares you for heaven. A Catholic priest must be a good man, certainly, but God calls His priests to a *greater personal sanctity*. A really good priest never ceases to call others, as well, to *sanctity*.

How much do we, the Church, settle for good men when we could expect of our priests that they be other Christs: men of prayer, of purity, of sacrifice, of obedience? Christ was "obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:8). Is your priest striving for this kind of obedience?

Do not be satisfied with your priest if he preaches dynamic, engaging homilies but does not preach difficult truths. Do not be satisfied if he shows you the world but does not show you Christ. Do not be satisfied if he teaches your children soccer but does not teach

them the Gospel. I often hear laypeople saying how wonderful a *man* Fr. So-and-So is. They don't seem to mind that he is not very *priestly* — that he doesn't wear his collar, or flirts with women, or disrespects his Bishop or hardly ever prays. The erosion of priestly virtue is the real scandal in our Church, the source of all particular clergy scandals.

I don't want to be just a wonderful man. I want to be a faithful priest.

Please help me to be a saint. The Church, the Bride of Christ, should settle for nothing less in her priests.

Fr. Joseph



Questions?

To make an appointment with a priest or deacon or to register at St. Joseph's please contact Lulu, Alex, Brenda or Donna in our parish office at 551-4973 or stop by during any of the 50 hours our office is open each week.

Parish Office

(Lulu, Donna, Alex, Brenda)

Sunday: 10am-3pm.

Monday: 10am-7:30pm

Tuesday through Thursday 8:30am-7:30pm

Closed Wednesday from 11am-1pm

Friday 8:30am-12

Weekend Maintenance 568-7558

How can we help? 551-4973

- Se Habla Español*..... Alex x103
- Accounting..... Barbara x108
- Adult Ed & Bible Studies.... Michael x203
- Altar Servers Svetlana x200
- Audio / Video..... Jeremy x213
- Buildings & Grounds Susie x201
- Bulletin & Website..... Jeremy x213
- Child Ed & Sacraments Debbie x205
- Choirs & Cantors Svetlana x200
- Events & Activities Susie x201
- Faith & Life Magazine..... Michael x203
- Giving to St. Joseph's Tammy x207
- Parish Lending Library x208
- Parish Ministries Tammy x207
- Parish Registration Donna x102
- Room Reservations Rosario x110
- Volunteering..... Tammy x207
- Youth Ministry Nathan x206

☞ Readings 4/30-5/6 ☞

Monday:

Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday:

Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday:

Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Jn 12:44-50

Thursday:

1 Cor 15:1-8; Jn 14:6-14

Friday:

Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6

12pm Latin Mass:

1 Tim. 5:3-10; Lk. 7:11-16

Saturday:

Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14

Sunday:

Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14

Latin Mass:

Jas. 1:17-21; Jn. 16: 5-14

Welcome to St. Joseph's

We're glad you're here!

Parish Life

☞ Upcoming Events & Activities ☞



ST. JOSEPH'S LIBRARY SALE

On the plaza today is our annual book sale; please stop by and check out our selection. Proceeds go back to the parish library to purchase new books, DVDs and CDs.

OPUS DEI MEN'S EVENING OF RECOLLECTION

All men are welcome and encouraged to come to an Opus Dei Men's Evening of Recollection on Thursday, May 3, from 7:15pm-9:15pm in the church. This Evening of Recollection will be conducted by an Opus Dei priest. For further information, please contact Nilo Casiano (209) 324-5926.



St. Josemaria Escriva

CROWNING OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



On May 6th during the 12 Mass the children of St. Joseph's will participate in the Crowning of Our Blessed Mother, sponsored by The Militia of the Immaculata Villages. If your child is interested in participating in the procession and crowning, please call Suzanne Flint at 521-8299. There will be only one practice on Friday, May 4th at 4pm in the church.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICE GUILD — MAY 9

Catholic Social Service Guild is having their Celebration of Mothers Luncheon on Wednesday, May 9, from 10am-2pm, in Fr. O'Hare Hall. This "tablescape" event will include beautiful tables, delicious food, great vendors and wonderful musical entertainment. Tickets are \$40. All proceeds benefit the Seniors of Stanislaus County. For Tickets call Patty at 529-2940.

LAY DOMINICANS — MAY 12

There will be a Lay Dominican (Third Order Dominican) meeting on Saturday, May 12, in JP11, Room 5 after the 8am Mass. If you would like to learn more about this vocation for the laity, feel free to drop in. For more information please call Sandy Uyeshiro at 209-577-1493 or email at sandyopl@gmail.com.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT — MAY 18

Take Friday off and join us on the links for a beautiful day of golf followed by a prime rib dinner in Fr. O'Hare Hall. Cost is \$85/women, \$100/men and includes greens fees, cart, lunch & dinner. Proceeds raised benefit scholarships and local charities. Contact Michael Loschke 572-2271 for more information. Deadline for registering is May 4.



Religious Education

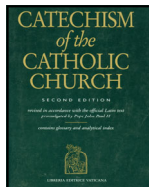
MASS 101 — MAY 12 9am-2pm in the Hall

Do you want to get more out of the Mass? Did you know that most of the words we hear and say at Mass come from the bible? Save the date for this workshop on the Holy Mass. Details coming soon!



CATECHISM 101 — JUNE 18

All adult Catholics are invited to discover the richness of our Catholic faith. On the third Monday of every month, we will have a workshop on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We will meet at 7pm in JP11 room 8.



VACATION BIBLE RETREAT (VBR) JUNE 25-29

VBR is a treat for the children of St. Joseph's and always fills quickly. Be watching for upcoming announcements for opportunities to sign up your child and to volunteer.



✠ Militia Immaculata ✠

Join us and learn about Militia Immaculata!

May 5th — Monthly meetings for the Prayer and Spanish Villages, following 8am Mass in Rm. 5, JP11 bldg.

May 6th — Family Village monthly meeting. after 9am Mass in the Hall.



Save the Date for...

June 6-8 Women's Retreat
led by the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries.

✠ Bible Studies ✠

Lunch Bible Study—
Thursdays at Noon,
beginning May 3rd in the
Vatican Council room.

Light Weigh —Tuesdays
10:30-12:30, JP8

Widows/Widowers —
1:30-4pm, JP5

Women's Bible Study—6
week courses 3 to 4 times a
year *.

7 Steps Bible Study—6
week courses 3 to 4 times a
year *.

* Starting dates to be
announced in the bulletin.

Sacred Art... Man's Search for Truth, Beauty & Goodness

On January 8th, Fr. Joseph wrote in his Pastor's Laptop:

Never has the world been more beguiled by superficial appearances than today. The TV screen began to change our perception of reality in the 1950s, and by 2000 we were spending enormous amounts of time staring at all kinds of flat screens. Almost everything now has a "screen." How much time do you spend looking at a screen rather than engaging the real world? Don't get me wrong: screens are quite useful, but we tend to forget that they are only two-dimensional. They seem so real that we easily begin to live inside of them. And in doing so, we too become flat and superficial. Every time I walk out my door I have to fight the urge to check texts or emails on my phone rather than look at the real world and greet real people. How many of us are addicted to computer-generated images that don't exist beyond pixels on a screen? In the worst cases, these people themselves become "pixilated" — superficial images, ghosts of their real selves.

Now more than ever we live in a culture of screens and images full of advertisements, distractions, pornography, etc. This has caused us to see the world as zombies and lose our sense of the sacred. We need to recover a sense of real truth, beauty and goodness. Have you realized that even the architecture of our church building can lead us to recognize the sacred? For example, the sanctuary ascends three steps, helping us to recognize the sacredness of what happens in the sanctuary and that through the Holy Mass, we ascend to God. Also, the beautiful stained glass windows around the perimeter of the church help us to remember the truth that when we gather for the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass, all the angels and saints are gathered with us. As Catholics we must see the world through the eyes of our faith, to see the truth, beauty and goodness in our world and to build a Catholic culture, particularly within ourselves. Therefore, to help us all promote this Catholic culture we will showcase and explain a piece of sacred art in the bulletin once a month. Also St. Joseph's parishioner, Sue Forrest, in June will teach classes on how to write icons. Details will be coming soon.

✠ RCIA ✠

Inquiry classes are for people who want to learn more about Catholicism, but aren't necessarily sure they want to become Catholic. The RCIA process is also for Catholics who have not yet completed their sacraments of Confirmation or Holy Communion. To start the process: **call Stacy Phillips: (209)541-8903** to make an appointment.

∞ Youth Ministry ∞

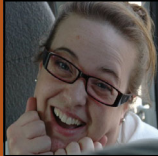
Contact Us!



Nathan Steingrebe

C.247.7863
W. 551-4973, ext. 206

Nathan@stjmod.com



Katie Steffanic

W. 551-4973, ext.223

St. Joseph's youth ministry challenges young people to love Christ and embrace the Catholic Church. We have High School Life Nights after the 5:30pm Sunday Mass in the hall. Also, we have our C1 nights for 7th graders on Wednesdays at 7pm in the hall.



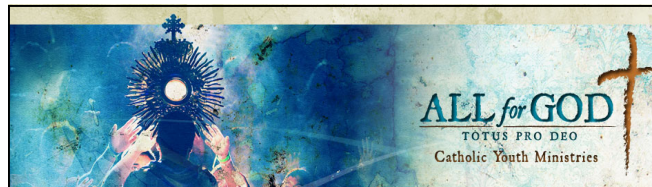
WYD Cookbooks

Looking for some great food recipes? These books have 200 pages full of favorite recipes and ideas from parishioners here at St. Joseph's. Contents include appetizers, salads, breads, candies, cookies to beverages. The books are available in our bookstore and the cost is \$15. Proceeds go toward WYD Rio 2013.

Upcoming LifeNights:
4/29: Gifts of the Spirit
5/6: Protect this House:
Dignity, Rights and Responsibilities
5/13: Our Blessed Mother
5/20: Last LifeNight
All high school teens are



invited to join us for Youth Group!
Come and enjoy prayer, games, and fellowship.
Every Sunday from 7-8:30 in the Hall.



Steubenville San Diego July 27-29

We are now accepting permission slips! This conference is open to all high school teens, graduating 8th grade through 12th grade. Guest speakers and musicians this year include Ike Ndolo, Fr. Michael Schmitz, Matt Smith, Jackie Francois. Righteous B will be the host. Space is limited. Cost is \$150. Payment options are available. Please contact the youth office for a permission slip and more information.

Upcoming Confirmation Masses:
Saturday, May 5 at 10am & 1pm. Please pray for all the young people receiving this beautiful Sacrament.

∞ Parish School of Religion ∞

PSR Registration June 9-11

Does your child need their First Holy Communion or Confirmation? Save the date for our Parish School of Religion registration weekend. Details such as hours and enrollment cost will be coming.

PSR students, please bring canned fruit this month for St. Vincent de Paul. Thanks for your kindness and stewardship!



Parish School of Religion
E-mail: psr@stjmod.com

Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Plaza Refreshments are being served this morning by the Militia Immaculata Villages, who always welcome new families and participants.

Parish Stewardship—a way of life

Join the Planning Committee!

MANY HANDS, MANY HEARTS,
ONE MISSION.



5th Annual Parish Gala—November 3, 2012

Our first Committee Meeting will be an offsite lunch meeting on Monday, May 7. Regular meetings are once per month, in the evening.

This is our parish's gala event, with gourmet dinner, auctions and dancing.

Please call 551-4973, ext. 207

Thank you,
Tena Urgo, Chair

New to the Parish? Wondering where to start??
Call the Center for Lay Apostolates
551-4973, ext. 207

Profiles in Stewardship

by Fr. Joseph Illo



Tom and Wendy Morton became Catholic this Easter. And not only them, but their whole family as well! It reminds me of the hapless jailer in Acts 16, who had his whole family baptized after finding an angel with Paul and Silas in the jail. But how did Tom and Wendy come to the Catholic Church in the first place? It is a tale of “junior stewardship....” A little girl named **Mary English** was school pals with the Morton’s daughter Zoe. Mary invited Zoe to Mass, and Zoe invited her parents. Soon Mary’s parents, **John and Francine English**, got to know Zoe’s parents, and a little base community began to develop. In a sense, little Mary brought little Zoe and the entire Morton family into the Church. She did it through simple friendship. She said, “Come to my house! Come to our church!” She invited her friends to meet Jesus. Reminds me of John 1:42—“And Andrew brought Peter to Jesus.” We welcome Tom and Wendy, with their children, **Zoe, Jagger and Eden**, into the Church, and we thank Mary English for bringing them home.

In the Diocese

ST. STANISLAUS PARISH PRE-SCHOOL

St. Stanislaus Preschool offers a fun, faith-filled environment with developmentally appropriate curriculum. We are now enrolling children ages 2 years 9 months to 6 years old for our Preschool program and newly expanded pre-kindergarten program, for the 2012-13 school year. For more information call (209)524-3428.

THE CATHOLIC TOUR PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

Pilgrimage to Rome for the opening of our Holy Father's proclaimed "Year of Faith," plus a Mediterranean Cruise followed by the Canonization Ceremony for 7 new Catholic Saints; two of whom are from the United States. Dates are Oct.9- 21. Call 1-877-627-4268 toll free or e-mail jimadair@thecatholictour.com for prices, itinerary, reservations and questions.

CENTRAL VALLEY MARKETPLACE (CVM)

Central Valley MarketPlace (CVM) Connections is a Catholic network of businesses and community members engaged in learning and discussing leadership skills from the John Maxwell internet program and listening to a local business presentation. CVM Connections meets every Friday morning from 7am to 8:30am at Marie Callenders Restaurant & Bakery on Sylvan . Call Anthony Butera for more information at 551-6562.

From our Holy Father in Mexico

APOSTOLIC JOURNEY TO MEXICO AND CUBA *Celebration of Vespers with the Bishops—25 March 2012*



Dear Brother Bishops,

It gives me great joy to be able to pray with all of you in this Basilica-Cathedral of León, dedicated to our Lady of Light. In the lovely painting venerated in this basilica, the Blessed Virgin holds her Son in one hand with immense tenderness while extending her other hand to succor sinners. This is how the Church in every age sees Mary. We praise her for giving us the Redeemer and we put our trust in her as the Mother whom her divine Son bequeathed to us from the Cross. For this reason, we invoke her frequently as "our hope" because she has shown us Jesus and passed down to us the great things which God constantly does for humanity. She does so simply, as a mother teaches her children at home.

A decisive sign of these great things is given to us in the reading just proclaimed at these Vespers. The people of Jerusalem and their leaders did not acknowledge Christ, yet, by condemning him to death, they fulfilled the words of the prophets (Acts 13:27). Human evil and ignorance simply cannot thwart the divine plan of salvation and redemption. Evil is simply incapable of that. Another of God's great works is evoked in the second of the psalms which we recited: "the rock" turns into "a pool, and flint into a spring of water" (Ps 113:8). What might have been a stumbling block and a scandal has, by Jesus' triumph over death, become a cornerstone: "This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes" (Ps 117:23). There is no reason, then, to give in to the despotism of evil. Let us instead ask the risen Lord to manifest his power in our weakness and need.



I have greatly looked forward to this meeting with you, the Pastors of Christ's pilgrim Church in Mexico and in the different countries of this great continent. I see this meeting as an occasion to turn our gaze together to Christ, who has entrusted you with the splendid duty of preaching the Gospel among these peoples of sturdy and deep-rooted Catholic faith. Certainly your dioceses face a number of challenges and difficulties at the present moment. Yet, in the sure knowledge that the Lord is risen, we are able to move forward confidently, in the conviction that evil does not have the last word in human history, and that God is able to open up new horizons to a hope that does not disappoint (Rom 5:5).

The initiatives planned for the *Year of Faith* must be aimed at guiding men and women to Christ; his grace will enable them to cast off the bonds of sin and slavery, and to progress along the path of authentic and responsible freedom. A great contribution will be made to this goal by the *continental mission* being launched from Aparecida, which is already reaping a harvest of ecclesial renewal in the particular Churches of Latin America and the Caribbean. This includes the study, dissemination and prayerful reading of sacred Scripture, which proclaims the love of God and our salvation. I encourage you to continue to share freely the treasures of the Gospel, so that they can become a powerful source of hope, freedom and salvation for everyone (cf. Rom 1:16). May you also be faithful witnesses and interpreters of the words of the incarnate Son, whose life was to do the will of the Father and who, as a man among men, gave himself up completely for our sake, even unto death... I urge you to be vigilant in proclaiming day and night the glory of God, which is the life of mankind.

Sacraments

Our Mass Intentions

This Week

Sunday, April 29 (Fourth Sunday of Easter)			
7:30a	Bienvenida De Leon	1:30p	Jose Mercado Gonzalez and Ignacio Corea
9:00a	Teofilo Alviar	5:30p	Joe Mendes
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Jessica Solis
12:00p	Martin Lorega		
Monday, April 30			
8:00a	Patricia Loise Nannini and Anthony Galuppi	5:45p	Bill Vierra and Dwaine Stephan
Tuesday, May 1			
8:00a	Sylvester De Leon and Filomena & John Mendes	5:45p	Dennis Walsh and Bill Armell
Wednesday, May 2			
8:00a	Charles Tidwell and Donie Dincen	5:45p	Judith Gomez and Luis Reis
Thursday, May 3			
8:00a	Leo Cusenza and Ines Lebin	5:45p	Cefus Willianand Apollonia LaForges
Friday, May 4			
8:00a	Ethel Irene Crom and John Caratti	5:45p	Rosanna Hollander and John & Virginia Bairos
Saturday, May 5			
8:00a	Joseph Alegria and Jim Trevillyan	5:45p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
Sunday, May 6 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)			
7:30a	Irene Routson	1:30p	Beatriz Valencia and George Medina
9:00a	Albert Mendonca	3:00p	Indu Samson Kurusinkal
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	5:30p	Richard Martin
12:00p	Marianne Lague	7:30p	Jose Scotto

Sunday, April 29, 2012		
10:00A	Children's Liturgy of the	JP6
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7
Monday, April 30, 2012		
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer Grp.	JP10
Tuesday, May 1, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP7
10:30A	Light Weigh	JP8
5:30P	ESL Classes	JP4
6:15P	Knights of Columbus	Hall
6:15P	Legion of Mary	JP4
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer	JP7
Wednesday, May 2, 2012		
5:30P	AA Principle Study Group	JP8
5:45P	Al Anon Group	JP10
Thursday, May 3, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP7
6:30P	Rosary Makers	JP5
6:30P	Compartiendo la Biblia	JP4
7:00P	Confirmation rehearsal	Chur
7:00P	Spanish Young Adults	JP2
Friday, May 4, 2012		
12:00P	Latin Mass	Chur
3:00P	Divine Mercy Prayer	Chap
4:00P	MI practice May	Chur
6:30P	Children's Adoration	Chur
Saturday, May 5, 2012		
7:30A	Spanish Militia Immaculata	JP7
8:00A	Blessings (Free Parish	Hall
8:45A	Militia Immaculata - Adult	JP5
Sunday, May 6, 2012		
7:00A	Blessings in Plaza	
10:00A	CLOW	JP6
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7
3:00P	Indian Mass	Chur
5:30P	Development-	Chur

Offertory and Expense Report for March 2012

Estimated Offertory Income for March 2012:	\$ 135,400
Actual Offertory Income for March 2012:	\$ 146,000
Over Estimate:	\$ 10,600
Average <i>monthly gift</i> per household:	\$30

Operating Income and Expense, July 1, 2011 - December 31, 2012

Actual Operating Income for the Parish:	\$ 990,400
Actual Operating Expense for the Parish:	\$ 978,700
Surplus from July through December of this year:	\$ 11,700

See our website (www.stjmod.com) for a full financial report

Parish Facts:

- Our St. Vincent de Paul Ministry provided 596 bags of food in March
- The monthly cost of our Altar Bread is \$450
- Approximately 27,200 people attended Masses during March

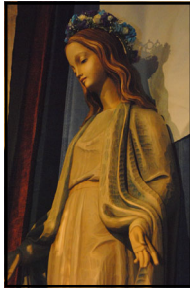
Thank you for your careful and generous stewardship of treasure!

Remember a special day or person
~Altar Flower Donation~
Call the Development Office for info. 551-4973, x207

Pay your bills online?
Call the parish office at
551-4973 to find out
about online offertory
gifts, instead of
writing checks.

CORONACION DE LA
SANTISIMA VIRGEN MARIA

El 6 de mayo, durante la misa de las 12pm del los niños de St. Joseph's participarán en la Coronación de la Santísima Virgen María patrocinada por el grupo de la Milicia Inmaculada. Si su niño está interesado en participar en la procesión y coronación, por favor llame a Zuzanne Flint al 521-8299. Tendremos únicamente una práctica el viernes, 4 de mayo por la tarde. Se anunciará el horario más tarde.



INTRODUCCION
A LA BIBLIA

14 de mayo -18 de junio
¿Desea aprender más

sobre la Sagrada Escritura pero no sabe como comenzar? Venga y disfrute de esta clase todos los lunes de 7pm-8:30pm en el salón "All Saints" #4 del edificio JP II.
¡Lo esperamos!



Ministerio Juvenil

¡Dele a sus hijos la oportunidad de conocer buenos amigos!
¡Todo adolescente de high school está invitado a asistir al Grupo Juvenil!

Ven y disfruta de la oración, juegos, y compañerismo.
Cada domingo de 7-8:30pm en el Salón Parroquial.

Juntas Sigüientes:

- 4/29: Dones del Espíritu Santo
- 5/6: Protege esta Casa-Dignidad, Derechos, y Responsabilidades
- 5/13: Nuestra Santa Madre
- 5/20: Ultima reunión

Pase una Hora Santa con Jesús en la Capilla de Adoración al Santísimo. Llame a David & Mónica al 527-4920.



"Le dije que no se 'conformara,'" me dijo una amiga hace treinta años. ¿"Que quiere decir 'conformar'? Le pregunté. "Quiere decir el conformarse con un hombre que no llega al nivel esperado."

Un sacerdote, se dice, se casa con la Iglesia. ¿Se conforma la Iglesia con hombres que no alcanzan el nivel esperado? ¿Se conforma usted con un buen hombre, o no acepta nada menos que un buen sacerdote? "Un buen sacerdote es algo magnifico," escribió Victor Hugo en *Les Miserables*. ¿Cómo es un buen sacerdote mas que un buen hombre?

Un buen hombre nos hace sentir bien; un buen sacerdote también nos hace sentir bien, pero muchas veces también nos desafía. Un buen hombre hace reír; un buen sacerdote hace reír, pero a veces hace llorar. Un buen hombre ayuda a que tenga éxito en la vida; un buen sacerdote ayuda a que tenga éxito en la vida pero también lo prepara para el cielo. Un sacerdote católico debe de ser un buen hombre, por supuesto, pero Dios llama a sus sacerdotes a una *mayor santidad personal*. Un buen sacerdote nunca cesa de llamar también a otros a la *santidad*. ¿Cuántas veces nos conformamos en la Iglesia con buenos hombres cuando podemos esperar que nuestros sacerdotes sean otros Cristos: hombres de oración, de pureza, de sacrificio, de obediencia. Cristo fue obediente hasta la muerte, hasta la muerte en la cruz: (Fil. 2:8). ¿Está tratando su sacerdote de alcanzar esta clase de obediencia?

No esté satisfecho con su sacerdote si él predica homilias dinámicas y llenas de ánimo pero no predica verdades difíciles. No esté satisfecho si él le muestra el mundo pero no le muestra a Cristo. No esté satisfecho si él le enseña a jugar futbol a sus hijos, pero no les enseña el evangelio. Muchas veces escucho a los feligreses decir que *hombre* tan maravilloso es el Padre fulano. No parece que les importa que él no sea muy *sacerdotal*-que no usa el collar clérigo, o coquetea con mujeres, o le falta al respeto a su Obispo, o casi nunca reza. La erosión de las virtudes sacerdotales es el real escándalo en nuestra Iglesia, la fuente de todos los escándalos particulares del clero.



Yo no quiero ser solo un hombre maravilloso. Deseo ser un fiel sacerdote. Por favor ayúdenme a ser un santo. La Iglesia, la novia de Jesucristo, no debe de conformarse con nada menos en sus sacerdotes.

Fr. Joseph

Nuestro Santo Padre en México

VIAJE APOSTÓLICO A MÉXICO Y CUBA
Celebración de las Vísperas con los Obispos- 25 de marzo, 2012



CORRESPONSABILIDAD (STEWARDSHIP)

Por el Padre Joseph Illo

Queridos hermanos en el Episcopado:

Es un gran gozo rezar con todos ustedes en esta Basílica-Catedral de León, dedicada a Nuestra Señora de la Luz. En la bella imagen que se venera en este templo, la Santísima Virgen tiene en una mano a su Hijo con gran ternura, y



extiende la otra para socorrer a los pecadores. Así ve a María la Iglesia de todos los tiempos, que la alaba por habernos dado al Redentor, y se confía a ella por ser la Madre que su divino Hijo nos dejó desde la cruz. Por eso, nosotros la imploramos

frecuentemente como «esperanza nuestra», porque nos ha mostrado a Jesús y transmitido las grandezas que Dios ha hecho y hace con la humanidad, de una manera sencilla, como explicándolas a los pequeños de la casa.

Un signo decisivo de estas grandezas nos la ofrece la lectura breve que hemos proclamado en estas Vísperas. Los habitantes de Jerusalén y sus jefes no reconocieron a Cristo, pero, al condenarlo a muerte,

dieron cumplimiento de hecho a las palabras de los profetas (*Hch 13,27*). Si, la maldad y la ignorancia de los hombres no es capaz de frenar el plan divino de salvación, la redención. El mal no puede tanto. Otra maravilla de Dios nos la recuerda el segundo salmo que acabamos de recitar: Las «peñas» se transforman «en estanques, el pedernal en manantiales de agua» (*Sal 113,8*). Lo que podría ser piedra de tropiezo y de escándalo, con el triunfo de Jesús sobre la muerte se convierte en piedra angular: «Es el Señor quien lo ha hecho, ha sido un milagro patente» (*Sal 117,23*). No hay motivos, pues, para rendirse al despotismo del mal. Y pidamos al Señor Resucitado que manifieste su fuerza en nuestras debilidades y penurias.

Esperaba con gran ilusión este encuentro con ustedes, Pastores de la Iglesia de Cristo que peregrina en México y en los diversos países de este gran Continente, como una ocasión para mirar juntos a Cristo que les ha encomendado la hermosa tarea de anunciar el evangelio en estos pueblos de recia raigambre católica. La situación actual de sus diócesis plantea ciertamente retos y dificultades de muy diversa índole. Pero, sabiendo que el Señor ha resucitado, podemos proseguir confiados, con la convicción de que el mal no tiene la última palabra de la historia, y que Dios es capaz de abrir nuevos espacios a una esperanza que no defrauda (*Rm 5,5*).

Las iniciativas que se realicen con motivo del *Año de la fe* deben estar encaminadas a conducir a los hombres hacia Cristo, cuya gracia les permitirá dejar las cadenas del pecado que los esclaviza y avanzar hacia la libertad auténtica y responsable. A esto está ayudando también la *Misión continental* promovida en Aparecida, que tantos frutos de renovación eclesial está ya cosechando en las Iglesias particulares de América Latina y el Caribe. Entre ellos, el estudio, la difusión y meditación de la Sagrada Escritura, que anuncia el amor de Dios y nuestra salvación. En este sentido, los exhorto a seguir abriendo los tesoros del evangelio, a fin de que se conviertan en potencia de esperanza, libertad y salvación para todos los hombres (*Rm 1,16*). Y sean también fieles testigos e intérpretes de la palabra del Hijo encarnado, que vivió para cumplir la voluntad del Padre y, siendo hombre con los hombres, se desvivió por ellos hasta la muerte.

... les invito a ser vigías que proclamen día y noche la gloria de Dios, que es la vida del hombre.



Tom y Wendy Morton se convirtieron al catolicismo en esta Pascua. ¡Y no sólo ellos, sino que también toda su familia! Me recuerda al desafortunado carcelero en Hechos 16, quien pidió que toda su familia fuera bautizada después de encontrar a un ángel con Pablo y Silas en la cárcel. ¿Pero cómo fue que Tom y Wendy llegaron a la Iglesia Católica? Es una historia de “corresponsabilidad juvenil...” Una pequeña llamada **Mary English** era amiga en la escuela de la hija de los Morton, Zoe. Mary invitó a Zoe a asistir con ellos a misa, y Zoe invitó a sus papás. Al poco tiempo los papás de Mary, **John y Francine English**, conocieron a los papás de Zoe, y una pequeña comunidad de base se comenzó a edificar. En cierto sentido, la pequeña Mary trajo a la pequeña Zoe y a toda la familia Morton a la Iglesia. Lo hizo por medio de simple amistad. Ella dijo, “¡Ven a mi casa! ¡Ven a nuestra iglesia!” Ella invitó a sus amigos a conocer a Jesús. Me recuerda sobre Juan 1,42—“Y Andrés llevó a Pedro con Jesús.” Le damos la bienvenida a Tom y Wendy, y a sus hijos, Zoe, Jagger, y Eden, a la Iglesia, y le damos las gracias a Mary English por traerlos a casa.



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Sunday, May 6: Our PSR student art and poetry entries will be on display on the Plaza. Fr. Illo will talk about the importance of reflecting on our blessings at all Masses. “I Love Blessings” stickers for all!

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