

*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



December 23-25, 2012 Fourth Sunday of Advent & The Nativity of Our Lord



(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,
noon, 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

Friday 6:30pm-7:30pm

Saturday 8:30-9:30am, 4-5pm

*Homebound please call 551-4973 for
a priest to visit you by appointment.*

Clergy:

Fr. Mark Wagner, Pastor
Fr. Francis Joseph, OCD, Assoc Pastor
Fr. Tony Chacko, Assoc Pastor
Fr. Larry Guerrero, Hospital Chaplain
Rev. Mr. Ken Ochinerio, Deacon
Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarelli, Deacon

From the Pastor's Laptop

I want to wish everyone a very Mary Christmas! What I mean is that Christmas is not very merry without Mary! Perhaps that is why these two words are spelled almost the same. In Ireland these two words are also pronounced differently, so that when you say "Mary Christmas," people know that you are saying that Mary brings joy to Christmas! Jesus always comes to us through Mary, and if we go to her she helps us feel close to the Baby Jesus!

Mary always brings Jesus to us. Our Gospel reading for the 4th Sunday of Advent describes the visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. The very first thing that Mary did after Jesus was

conceived in her womb was to get up immediately and travel "in haste" to help her cousin Elizabeth. She put her faith into action. Elizabeth's reaction was to tell Mary: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Mary "believed." She is the perfect model for the "Year of Faith." But her faith was immediately turned into action. She "lived the faith" by giving love service. May Jesus, Mary and Joseph inspire us all to have a loving and joyful Christmas!



Fr. Mark Wagner

Questions?

To make an appointment with a priest or deacon or to register at St. Joseph's please contact Lulu, Rosario, or Donna in our parish office at 551-4973 or stop by during any of the 44 hours our office is open each week.

Parish Office

(Lulu, Donna, & Rosario)

Sunday: 10am-3pm.

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday:

8:30am-12noon and 1pm-6:30pm

Wednesday: 8:30am-11:30am and

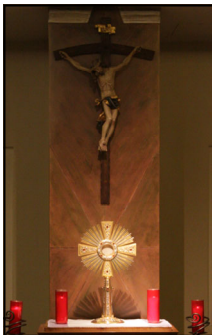
1pm-6:30pm

Friday 8:30am-12noon

Weekend Maintenance 568-7558

How can we help? 551-4973

Se Habla Español Rosario 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



PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Try a Holy Hour with Jesus once a week! Make it your New Year's resolution. We currently need adorers for Friday

mornings 2-3am and Sunday mornings 1-2am. Please contact David & Monica at 527-4920 if you can pick up one of these hours.

Welcome to St. Joseph's

We're glad you're here!

Parish Life

Upcoming Events & Activities

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve — December 24

4:30pm Children's Pageant and Mass in the Hall,

7:30pm in the church

10:30pm Christmas Caroling Concert in the church

12midnight Mass in the church

Christmas Day — December 25

7:30am, 9am (Latin), 10:30am, 12noon, 1:30pm (Spanish)

All Christmas Day Masses in the Church

MARY MOTHER OF GOD & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

(Obligation abrogated by Diocese)

New Year's Eve—December 31

5:45pm Vigil Mass in the church

11:30-12:30pm Holy Hour

New Year's Day—January 1

8am and 5:45pm Mass in the church

ST. THOMAS MORE CITIZEN & SAINT — JANUARY 9



We are faced with many challenges that test whether we will stand for our faith or not. Come and learn from the life and teachings of St. Thomas More. RoseMary Johnson, a parishioner and currently a student at the University of Dallas will be presenting. Refreshments will be provided.

FIRST RESPONDERS MASS — JANUARY 12

Pray with and for those who put their lives on the line every day
Please join St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus for Mass honoring all First Responders of Stanislaus County on Saturday, January 12, at 10am. Following the blessing of the emergency vehicles in the parking lot after Mass, everyone is invited to a lunch in Fr. O'Hare Hall.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

If you want to drink, that is your business. If you want to stop, and can't, that is OUR business. Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who come together in support of each other as they battle the disease of alcoholism. If you are in need of this support, please join us. Men and women are welcome on Wednesdays at 5:45pm in Room 5 of the JPII center. For women only, there is a meeting on SATURDAY MORNINGS at 9am in the Vatican Room in JPII. Come and experience freedom from the bondage of alcoholism.

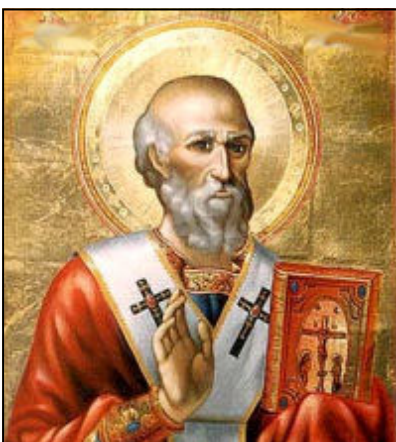
Religious Education *The Incarnation—God Enters Human History*

By Maria F. Delgado-Braun, Religious Education

The prophet Isaiah is the most prolific in prophesying about the coming Messiah, the prophet refers to him as the Suffering Servant, the Son of God and the Son of Man, He is Immanuel “God amongst us.” God proves wrong all our expectation and enters human history not as a mighty king, but a lowly child. Yes, a member of the Davidic line, yet the son of the humble Virgin Mary and Joseph, a carpenter. His birth fulfills all prophecies about the Messiah that was to come to establish the kingdom of heaven on earth. *“A child is born for us, a son given to us; a dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counselor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince of Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end” (Is 9:5).*

God chose a human form in its entirety except for sin; He did not choose to become a higher creature such as the angels, but to have body and soul like us. By taking our form He is able to set an example for us to follow in our pursuit for His beatitude for all eternity.

The western Church contemplates the humanity of Christ and the mystery of the Word Incarnate, realities that are opened to us through the eyes of faith. It is Jesus who has taught us the importance of having the virtue of humility, for it was through this virtue that the Holy Virgin Mary was the only woman worthy of becoming His Mother, the tabernacle of the Most High God. In the words of St. Leo the Great, Church Father: *“...unless He were true God, He would not bring us a remedy, unless He were true man, He would not give us an example...”* It was necessary that God save us for our nature is incapable of climbing the heights of heaven. By condescending to our nature, God shows us that humanity can ascend to live in union with Him.



St. Athanasius,
Doctor of the Church

The Mystery of the Incarnation of God is intimately connected to the creation of man --St. Athanasius. We were created in the image and likeness of God, created for heaven and eternal joy with Him. It was due to original sin, and thus our separation from the Lord, that He decided to bring us back through His Son. *“And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's Only Son, full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1:9-14).* The humanity of Christ reminds us of the dignity that we have as sons and daughters of God, to live a life worthy of our creation and our ultimate destiny. Let us kiss the feet of the baby Jesus as He lays in the manger, and ponder in our hearts the mystery of His love and mercy for us. God is with us, He comes to us, so we can come to Him. *Hosanna in the Highest, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the Highest!*



Parish School of Religion Update

Parish School of Religion

psr@stjmod.com

209-551-4973 ext. 217

PSR is now on

Facebook... search

St Joseph PSR & like us!

The PSR Office wishes you a blessed and merry Christmas!

**NO PSR CLASSES
DECEMBER 24
TO JANUARY 3
CLASSES RESUME
JANUARY 7**

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 **Michael Webster (209)581-8477** 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
Ksteffanic@stjmod.com



Life Support:

A ministry for parents

The youth ministry department is looking for parent volunteers or coordinators for *Life Support*. This is an excellent opportunity to serve the youth of our parish alongside other parents while enjoying fellowship, support and encouragement. This adult ministry will help serve food at the Sunday youth group meetings once a month. If you feel called to help in any way please contact Nathan today.

Community Service Hours

If you are enrolled in the Confirmation program, remember that 10 service hours are due in **December**. A total of 20 are required for the year. You can turn in your hour sheets to your catechist during your regular class. We will always let you know of any opportunities to serve when they become known.

LifeNight Line-Up

12/23 & 30: NO Youth Group Meetings! Enjoy your Christmas Break!

1/3-4: High School Lock-In-Fr. O'Hare hall.

1/6: Epiphany party

Dress to impress for this special family dinner in the hall. See you there!

High School Lock-In

All high school teens are invited to join us for our annual 'Lock-In'. This overnight retreat will be located in the Fr. O'Hare hall, beginning in the evening of Thursday, **January 3**, and ending with daily 8 a.m. Mass on Friday, January 4. The night will include games, movies, snacks, a holy hour, and Mass. Dress comfortably and rest up before the night begins so you can stay awake!

Permission slips are available in the youth room and parish office. Cost is \$20.00.



San Diego:
Youth Conference
The Steubenville
Conference: San Diego
trip will be July
26-28, 2013. Permis-

sion slips are available now in the youth center, and you can reserve your spot with a \$20.00 deposit. Join 5,000 other teens in Adoration, Mass, praise and worship, men's and women's sessions, and confession. More info to come.

Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Please enjoy this weekend with your family, as will our Plaza Refreshment volunteers.

Parish Stewardship — a way of life

St. Joseph's Central Catholic High School and College Scholarship students give back!

FREE MATH TUTORING

for St. Joseph's students
DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK

Thursday, Dec. 27 — 5:45-6:45pm

To RSVP: 551-4973, ext. 207

(junior high and high school students
25 maximum per day- must RSVP)

Parish college tutors from:

Stanford University

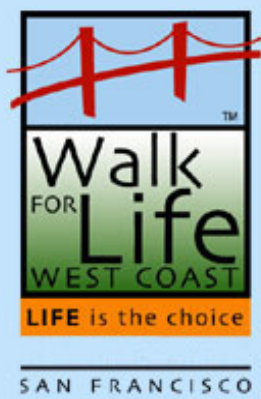
UC San Diego

UC Davis

UC Berkeley

Ave Maria University

Santa Clara University



Save the Date:
Saturday
January 26

For more information about
how to volunteer, travel or
sponsor a seat, Please call
(209) 551-4973, ext. 207

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

Profiles in Stewardship

by Katie Steffanic



Angelique and Jordan Salinas

'Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.'-Mother Teresa.

Angelique and Jordan Salinas live this out each day. Their constant joy is infectious to everyone they encounter at church, at school, at sporting events, and especially in their home. The siblings attend Enochs high school and are both very involved in sports. Jordan plays football and baseball, and Angelique plays softball and basketball.

They started attending St. Joseph's youth group last year as part of Confirmation class where they quickly formed friendships with teens and bonded with CORE team members. Since then they have grown spiritually and have become more involved in the youth program attending several retreats, the Steubenville youth conference, and now the peer ministry team. Even though they are busy with school and extra-curricular activities, their Catholic faith comes first. Their parents, Kim and Rick, have set a great example for their 5 children, placing God in the center of their family. We are blessed to see Jordan and Angelique grow in their faith and experience Christ through them.

In the Diocese

LITURGICAL TRAINING CELEBRATING THE TRIDUUM

Msgr. John Armistead, Deacon Tom Ciccarelli and Virginia Meagher will lead a day of experiencing and breaking open the Triduum liturgies. This event is for Priests, Deacons, Music Ministers, RCIA Teams and Liturgical Ministers to aid in your planning and preparation of our High Holy Days. (English only)

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday, January 26, 2013

St. Edward Parish, Stockton

Cost is \$10 per person.

Register with the Office for Worship at (209) 466-0636 or liturgy@stocktondiocese.org.



WALK FOR LIFE 9th Annual Walk for Life West Coast

January 26,
12:30 pm

Civic Center Plaza, San Francisco
Please join us to hear an inspiring series of speeches centering around the theme of abortion's damage to women, to children – unborn and born – and to families. After the rally we will be walking to Justin Herman Plaza to challenge the belief that abortion is a good choice for women.

www.stocktondiocese.org/2013-walk-for-life for a list of parishes who are sending buses or www.walkforlifewc.com/index.htm for driving or public transportation options.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
“Catholic Schools Raise the Standards”
January 27 to February 2

From our Holy Father in Rome

*GENERAL AUDIENCE — Wednesday, 28 November 2012
Year of Faith. How to speak about God? Part II*



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In his First Letter to the Corinthians he writes: “When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified” (2:1-2).

The first real fact, therefore, is that Paul does not speak of a philosophy that he developed, he does not speak of ideas that he found elsewhere or invented, but of a reality of his life, he speaks of the God who entered his life, he speaks of a real God who is alive, who spoke with him and will

speak with us, he speaks of the Crucified and Risen Christ.

The second real fact is that Paul does not seek himself, he does not want to make a fan club for himself, he does not wish to go down in history as the head of a school of great knowledge, he is not self-seeking; rather, St Paul proclaims Christ and wants to gain people for the true and real God. Paul's wish is to speak of and preach the One who entered his life and who is true life, who won him over on the road to Damascus. Therefore, talking about God means making room for the One who enables us to know him, who reveals his



face of love to us; it means emptying ourselves of our own ego, offering it to Christ, in the awareness that it is not we who can win over others for God, but that we must expect God to send them, we must entreat God for them. Talking about God therefore stems from listening, from our knowledge of God which is brought about through familiarity with him, through the life of prayer and in accordance with the Commandments. Communicating faith, for St Paul, did not mean putting himself forward, but rather saying openly and publicly what he had seen and heard in his encounter with Christ, what he had experienced in his life that was transformed by that encounter: it meant putting forward Jesus whom he felt present within him and who became the true orientation of his existence, to make it clear to all that Jesus is necessary to the world and crucial to every person's freedom. The Apostle is not satisfied with proclaiming words but expends his whole life in the great work of faith. To speak of God, we must leave him room, trusting that he will act in our weakness: we must make room for him without fear but with simplicity and joy, in the deep conviction that the more we put him at the centre rather than ourselves, the more fruitful our communication will be. And this is also true for Christian communities: they are called to show the transforming action of God's grace, by overcoming individualism, closure, selfishness, indifference, by living out God's love in their daily relations. Let us ask ourselves whether our communities really are like this. To be so, we must, always and truly proclaim Christ and not ourselves.

Sacraments

Our Mass Intentions

This Week

Sunday, December 23 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)			
7:30a	Rusty Boyle and Fr. Francis Joseph—Special Intention	1:30p	Rafael and Elias Ochoa and Catalina, Luis and Antonio Ruiz and Jacoba Coria
9:00a	Albert Mendonca	5:30p	Dan Martin
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Kristen Machado
12:00p	George Cant		
Monday, December 24 (Christmas Vigil)			
8:00a	Walsh Baby and Primo & Lula Manrique	7:30p	Jose Scoto
4:30p	Jessica and Yvonne Solis	12am	All St. Joseph's Parishioners
Tuesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)			
7:30a	Rusty Boyle	12pm	Angela & Antonio Dominguez
9:00a	Christopher John Perino	1:30p	Joaquin & Maria Rocha and Nick Alves
10:30a	Fr. Joseph O'Hare		No Evening Mass
Wednesday, December 26			
8:00a	Bill Rife and Clara George	5:45p	Tommaso Alfonsi and Clara George
Thursday, December 27			
8:00a	Kristen Machado and Hawaii Auriliano	5:45p	Elizabeth Cant and Dolores Torres
Friday, December 28			
8:00a	Kristen Machado and Hawaii Auriliano	5:45p	John & Cecelia Clark and Rosario Obregon
12:00p	Fr. Joseph O'Hare		
Saturday, December 29			
8:00a	Florence Rozelle and Hawaii Auriliano	5:45p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
Sunday, December 30 (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph)			
7:30a	Doris Yago	1:30p	Conchita Velasquez and Maria Velasquez Vega
9:00a	Leonard Ratto	5:30p	Kristen Machado
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Betty Fenton
12:00p	Leonard Ratto		

Sunday, December 23, 2012		
10:00A	Children's Liturgy of the Word	JP6
Monday, December 24, 2012		
See Christmas Eve Mass Schedule page 2		
Tuesday, December 25, 2012		
See Christmas Day Mass Schedule page 2		
Wednesday, December 26, 2012		
1:30PM	Widows & Widowers Bible Study	JP5
5:30PM	AA Principle Study Group	JP5
5:30PM	Alateen	JP8
5:45PM	Al Anon Group	JP10
Thursday, December 27, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
12:00P	Carmel Study Group	JP4
5:45P	Math Tutors	JP6
6:30P	Rosary Makers	JP5
7:00P	Spanish Young Adults	JP2
Friday, December 28, 2012		
12:00P	Latin Mass	Chur
3:00P	Divine Mercy Prayer	Chap
Saturday, December 29, 2012		
9:00A	AA Language of the Heart (Women)	JP4

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

Tuesday: The Nativity of the Lord
solemnity Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
 Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Readings 12/24-12/30
Monday:
 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16; Lk 1:67-79
Wednesday:
 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Thursday:
 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Friday:
 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Latin Mass
 Jn. 14:1-5; Mt. 2:13-18
Saturday:
 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Sunday:
 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52
Latin Mass
 Gal. 4:1-7; Lk. 2:33-40

NOTICE
 There will be NO Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) December 30th

PARISH LIBRARY
 Our parish library will be closed for Christmas 12/24-1/2

ESL Classes will resume January 8, every Tuesday at 5:30pm in Rm. 4, JP11 bldg.

ST. JOSEPH'S JOB OPENING
 Adult choir conductor position (10:30am Mass) at St. Joseph's. Must have music education and experience. Please call 551-4973, ext. 207 for more information.

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

Bienvenido a St. Joseph's

Misas de Navidad

Diciembre 24, Víspera
4:30pm Misa para niños, en
el Salón

Diciembre 25, Navidad
7:30, 9 Latín, 10:30, 12, 1:30
Español

Diciembre 31, Víspera
Misas: 8:00am y 5:45pm
Hora Santa 11:30pm—
12:30am

Enero 1, Año Nuevo
Misas: 8:00am y 5:45pm
Enero 12, Misa Azul
En honor de Policías,
Bomberos y
Paramédicos, 10:00am



Caminata por
la Vida
En San Francisco
Sábado, Enero 26,
a las 12:30pm
Civic Center Plaza

Acompañenos a escuchar una serie de discursos centrados en el tema del daño del aborto a la mujer, los niños-nacidos o no nacidos-y las familias. Después de la manifestación caminaremos hasta la Plaza Justin Herman para retar la creencia que el aborto es una buena decisión para la mujer.

www.stocktondiocese.org/2013-walk-for-life para una lista de parroquias que irán en camiones o www.walkforlifewc.com/index.htm para opciones de manejar o transporte publico.

¡Boletín Parroquial en Español! DEL LAPTOP DEL PÁRROCO, Padre Mark Wagner

Queridos Feligreses,

¡Quiero desearles a todos una Feliz Navidad! ¡Lo que quiero decir es que la Navidad no es tan feliz sin la presencia de la Virgen Maria! Tal vez es por esto que en ingles estas dos palabras se parecen mucho (Merry y Mary). En Irlanda estas dos palabras se pronuncian diferente, o sea que cuando uno dice “Mary Christmas”, ¡la gente sabe que uno está diciendo que Maria trae el gozo a la Navidad! Jesús siempre viene a nosotros por medio de Maria, y si nosotros vamos a ella, ¡ella nos ayuda a sentirnos más cerca del Niño Jesús!

Maria siempre nos trae a Jesús. En nuestra lectura del Evangelio para el cuarto domingo de Adviento describe la visitación de Maria a su prima Isabel. La primera cosa que Maria hizo después de concebir en su seno a Jesús, fue ir inmediatamente y viajar “con prisa” a ayudar a su prima Isabel. Ella puso la fe en acción.



La reacción de Isabel fue de decirle a Maria: “Bendita seas tú que creíste que las palabras recibidas del Señor se cumplirían.” Maria “creyó.” Pero su fe se convirtió inmediatamente en acción. Ella “vivió su fe” dando amor en servicio. ¡Que Jesús, Maria y José nos inspiren a que todos tengamos una amorosa y gozosa Navidad!

Fr. Mark

Nuestro Santo Padre en Roma

AUDIENCIA GENERAL

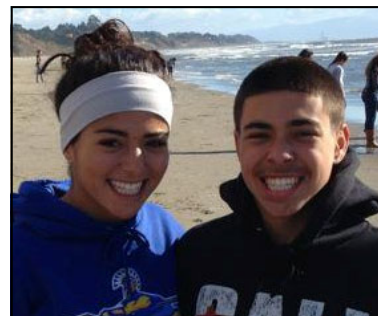
Miércoles 28 de noviembre de 2012

El Año de la fe. ¿Cómo hablar de Dios? Parte II



CORRESPONSABILIDAD (STEWARDSHIP)

Por Katie Steffanic



Angelique and Jordan Salinas

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

En la *Primera Carta a los Corintios* escribe: «Cuando vine a vosotros a anunciaros el misterio de Dios, no lo hice con sublime elocuencia o sabiduría, pues nunca entre vosotros me precié de saber cosa alguna, sino a Jesucristo, y éste crucificado» (2, 1-2). Por lo tanto, la primera realidad es que Pablo no habla de una filosofía que él ha desarrollado, no habla de ideas que ha encontrado o inventado, sino que habla de una realidad de su vida, habla del



Dios que ha entrado en su vida, habla de un Dios real que vive, que ha hablado con él y que hablará con nosotros, habla del Cristo crucificado y resucitado. La segunda realidad es que Pablo no se busca a sí mismo, no quiere crearse un grupo de admiradores, no quiere entrar en la historia como cabeza de una escuela de grandes conocimientos, no se busca a sí mismo, sino que san Pablo anuncia a Cristo y quiere ganar a las personas para el Dios verdadero y real. Pablo habla sólo con el deseo de querer predicar aquello que ha entrado en su vida y que es la verdadera vida, que le ha conquistado en el camino de Damasco. Así que hablar de Dios quiere decir dar espacio a Aquel

que nos lo da a conocer, que nos revela su rostro de amor; quiere decir expropiar el propio yo ofreciéndolo a Cristo, sabiendo que no somos nosotros los que podemos ganar a los otros para Dios, sino que debemos esperarlos de Dios mismo, invocarlos de Él. Hablar de Dios nace, por ello, de la escucha, de nuestro conocimiento de Dios que se realiza en la familiaridad con Él, en la vida de oración y según los Mandamientos.

Comunicar la fe, para san Pablo, no significa llevarse a sí mismo, sino decir abierta y públicamente lo que ha visto y oído en el encuentro con Cristo, lo que ha experimentado en su existencia ya transformada por ese encuentro: es llevar a ese Jesús que siente presente en sí y se ha convertido en la verdadera orientación de su vida, para que todos comprendan que Él es necesario para el mundo y decisivo para la libertad de cada hombre. El Apóstol no se conforma con proclamar palabras, sino que involucra toda su existencia en la gran obra de la fe. Para hablar de Dios es necesario darle espacio, en la confianza de que es Él quien actúa en nuestra debilidad: hacerle espacio sin miedo, con sencillez y alegría, en la convicción profunda de que cuánto más le situemos a Él en el centro, y no a nosotros, más fructífera será nuestra comunicación. Y esto vale también para las comunidades cristianas: están llamadas a mostrar la acción transformadora de la gracia de Dios, superando individualismos, cerrazones, egoísmos, indiferencia, y viviendo el amor de Dios en las relaciones cotidianas. Preguntémonos si de verdad nuestras comunidades son así. Debemos ponernos en marcha para llegar a ser siempre y realmente así: anunciadores de Cristo y no de nosotros mismos.

“Cada vez que uno le sonríe a alguien es una acción de amor, un regalo para esa persona, algo hermoso”- Madre Teresa.

Angelique y Jordan Salinas viven esto cada día. Su constante gozo infecta a todos aquellos que se encuentran con ellos en la iglesia, en la escuela, en eventos deportivos y especialmente en la casa. Los dos hermanos van a la escuela secundaria de Enochs y toman parte en los deportes. Jordan juega fútbol y beisbol, y Angelique juega softball y baloncesto. Comenzaron a venir al grupo juvenil de St. Joseph's el año pasado como parte de la clase de Confirmación donde formaron amistades rápidamente con otros adolescentes y con miembros del grupo de CORE. Desde esto, han crecido espiritualmente y han tomado parte en el programa juvenil atendiendo a varios retiros, la conferencia juvenil de Steubenville, y ahora son parte del ministerio de equipo de compañeros. Aunque estén ocupados con sus estudios y actividades extracurriculares, su fe Católica viene primero. Sus padres, Kim y Rick, han dado un buen ejemplo a sus 5 hijos, poniendo a Dios en el centro de su familia. Estamos bendecidos de ver a Jordan y a Angelique creciendo en su fe y experimentando a Cristo por medio de ellos.



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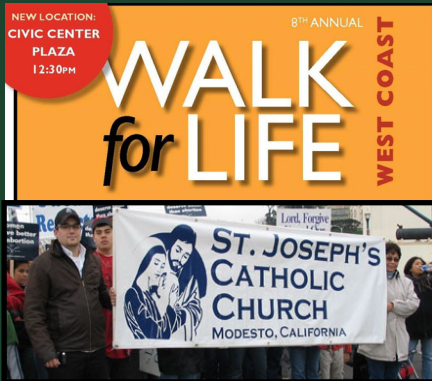
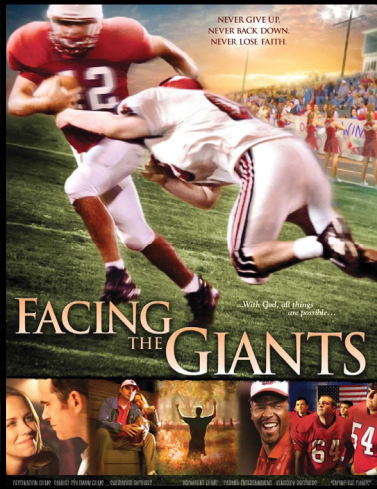
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