

*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

**October 7, 2012
Twenty-Seventh
Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

(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

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. 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

In our first reading from the Book of Genesis it is obvious that the Biblical view of God's plan is that a man and a woman should join together as husband and wife to form a new family by bearing children. This is the only arrangement worthy of the name "marriage," because it is the very foundation of society. That's why our church believes that marriage can only be between one man and one woman!

We also see this same biblical vision of marriage in today's Gospel when Jesus says: *"So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate."* Then the passage immediately following, Jesus speaks of children, who are the natural fruit of marriage: *"Let the children come to me."* That's why our church believes in big families!

Our second reading today (Hebrews 2:9-11) should be very helpful for us as we begin the Year of Faith this week on October 11. Some people say they don't believe in God because they are scandalized when they hear scientists speak about evolution. Others are scandalized in their faith because of the existence of suffering. Today's short second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews sheds light on both of these problems. God created everything. He is the one *"for whom and through whom all things exist."* When the time was right, God entered his creation to *"bring many children to glory."* He did this by sharing our suffering. God *"made the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering."*

Some atheists say that human beings could not have been created by God because they are merely crude and insignificant products of blind forces of evolution. It is true that we have awkward, smelly, squishy bodies that seem imperfect. We seem to be part angel and part animal. The Letter to the Hebrews admits that humans are quite lowly, and even embarrassingly lowly! It says: *"He is not ashamed to call them 'brothers.'"* The Divine Son of God was not too embarrassed to become a member of the human species on this tiny planet lost in space! *"He, 'for a little while' was made 'lower than the angels.'"*

God's plan was to create the universe and to guide everything so that when the time was right He would take flesh in a virgin's womb. As St. Paul says: *"All was created through him, all was created for him."* (Col 1:16) Truth is stranger than fiction. But nothing could be more beautiful than our religion which contemplates Him who was born on that silent night in Bethlehem, and who was willing to be our *"leader in salvation through suffering."* We have an entire year to grow in faith. We can begin by meditating on the Letter to the Hebrews.

Fr. Mark Wagner

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-12noon

Weekend Maintenance 568-7558

How can we help? 551-4973

<i>Se Habla Español</i>	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

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.

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

Welcome to St. Joseph's

We're glad you're here!

Parish Life

Upcoming Events & Activities

YEAR OF FAITH SOLEMN MASS

This Thursday, **October 11**, marks the beginning of the Year of Faith. All are invited to attend a solemn Mass to commence the Year of Faith on Thursday at 5:45pm in the church.



LAY DOMINICAN MEETING

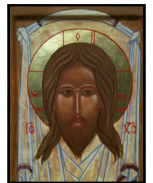
There will be a Lay Dominican (Third Order Dominican) meeting on Saturday, **October 13**, in the JP II building, Room 5 after the 8am Mass. If you would like to learn more about this vocation for the laity, feel free to drop in. For more information please call Sandy Uyeshiro at 209-577-1493 or email at sandyopl@gmail.com.

ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Sue Forrest will be leading workshops that you can write your own icons. There are two levels of workshops: Beginners will meet six weeks on Mondays 9am-12noon starting October 22.

Advanced (for those who attended the previous beginners workshop) will meet six weeks on Tuesdays 9am-12noon starting October 23.

Cost is \$40 for materials, please register by October 17 in the front office. For more info please call Maria 551-4973 ext 218 or email mbraun@stjmod.com.



RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE



The Respect Life Committee will be supporting the Modesto Pregnancy Center with its annual Baby Bottle Campaign. Baby Bottles can be picked up during the weekend of October 13 and be dropped off again, filled with donations for the Pregnancy Center after Masses on October 27. Please, help support our local pregnancy center in its efforts to help women with "problem" pregnancies to bring their child to a healthy life.

Around the Area

FEAST OF ST. LUKE WHITE MASS — OCTOBER 18

"Conscience, Contraception, and the Constitution: what every Catholic should know" is the topic for the 7th annual White Mass and dinner on Thursday, **October 18**. Bishop Thomas J. Curry from Santa Barbara joins the Central California Guild of the Catholic Medical Association and Bishop Blaire to address these timely issues. Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Fatima; dinner immediately follows in the OLF Hall. Dinner is \$50 per person payable at the door. To reserve your dinner seats in advance please call 549-1057 ext. 217.

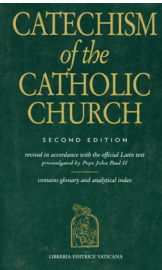
Religious Education

Sacred Art... The Catechism of Catholic Church

By Michael Webster, Director of Religious Education



This week we begin the Year of Faith (October 11), which is the 20th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. On the front cover of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is a beautiful image that often goes unnoticed. This image (left) is adapted from a Christian tombstone in the catacombs of Domitilla in Rome, which dates back to the late third century. In this image there is a shepherd seated upon a rock while holding a staff to protect his sheep. By the shepherd's side is a lamb who is gazing intently at the him while he plays his panpipes. They both sit under the shade of a fruitful tree. The symbolism is rich in this sacred image. Christ is the Good Shepherd who sits upon the rock of the Church while guiding and protecting his sheep with the staff of his authority. The lamb is gazing at his Shepherd and is led by Him, who plays the beautiful symphony of Truth (which is contained in the Catechism). They both sit under the tree of life, Christ's cross which bears the fruit of eternal life. As we begin this Year of Faith and when ever we open the Catechism let us reflect upon this image. May we gaze upon the face of Christ and ask Him to be our shepherd guiding and protecting us in understanding the teachings of His Church. May we, instead of being lukewarm, grow steadfast in our faith so we can be with our Shepherd for eternity.



Have you ever wanted to read the whole Catechism? Do it during the Year of Faith, subscribe to this link to receive a daily email containing a reading from the Catechism.

www.flocknote.com/catechism



THE BUSY WOMAN'S BIBLE STUDY: *Simply the Psalms*

Wednesdays during the month of October (10, 17, 24, 31) 6:30-8:00pm JP II room 6
Bring your bible and invite a friend! For questions and more information please contact: Donna Roeck 863-2944. The Busy Woman's Bible Study welcomes women of all ages who seek a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through the study of Sacred Scripture.

Parish School of Religion Update

School of Faith Classes have begun, please refer to the October calendar.

Parish School of Religion
psr@stjmod.com
PSR is now on Facebook...
search St Joseph PSR & like us!

October			God's	Plan
M	T	W	T	F
1 4pm	2	3 4pm	4	5
8	9 3:30pm	10 7pm	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25 7pm	26
29	30	31		



MILITIA IMMACULATA MEN'S RETREAT

Fr. Francis & Fr. Mark will be leading the retreat at St. Joseph's. The retreat starts Friday, October 12 at 5:45pm Mass-8:30pm, then Saturday, October 13 8am Mass-5pm. All men are invited and the cost is \$25. If you are interested please contact Bob Shannon at 484-8743.



PSR students, please bring canned fruit (preferred flip top) this month for St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you for your kindness and stewardship!

∞ Youth Ministry ∞

Contact Us!

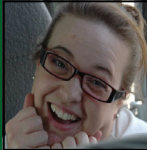


Nathan Steingrebe

C. 247-7863
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Nathan@stjmod.com

Katie Steffanic

W. 551-4973, ext.223
Ksteffanic@stjmod.com



LifeNight line-up:

10/7: God's plan of Salvation

10/14: The Holy Prophet Moses

10/21: God's special spokesmen: The Prophets

10/28: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

All high school teens are invited to join us in the Fr. O'Hare hall every Sunday evening from 7-8:30 p.m.

We *mustache* you a question:
Will YOU be at LifeNight this week?!

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, and help with preparation for the fall retreat in Aptos. If you feel called to help in any way please contact Nathan today.



Fall Retreat: November 9-11

Aptos, CA

We have started accepting permission slips for the high school fall retreat in Aptos that will take place November 9-11. This annual retreat is open to all students in 9th-12th grade. If you are in the high school Confirmation class, this retreat is mandatory! Permission slips can be found in the front office or youth room and can be turned in at the same place. Cost is \$100. Come and enjoy great fellowship, talks, games, Adoration, and a beautiful beach view!

Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Thank you to our parish Legion of Mary Group for serving us coffee and donuts after our morning Masses.

Parish Stewardship — a way of life

St. Joseph's Bread:

Preparing and serving meals for the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter throughout the year



Annual Sign Up for the
2012-2013 year & meeting:
Thursday, October 18, 2012

6:45-8pm
JP II Building, Room 6

MANY HANDS, MANY HEARTS,
ONE MISSION.



Adult and Youth Volunteers welcomed for the
Parish Gala on
Friday, November 2
Auction Runners, Decorations, Cleanup
Call 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 Maria Delgado-Braun



Patricia Alves

For the past two years, Patricia has been teaching the Baptism Preparation Classes in Spanish. This ministry plays a very important part in the evangelization of new families. Many couples come to the parish seeking to baptize their children merely as a tradition that they must adhere to without knowing the great meaning of this Sacrament. Welcoming these couples and teaching them about our beautiful faith, requires the skills of a very kind and loving person: Patricia is such a person. When I first asked her to teach she was ambivalent, but after praying, she agreed and has done an excellent job, giving witness by her life and suffering. Although she lost her wonderful husband Nick to cancer a few months ago, she has continued to teach and lately has accepted becoming the leader for the Spanish MI. Patricia is a living testament of the beauty that God can do with all of us if we just entrust our lives to Him. After all, in the words of St. Francis of Assisi, *“our greatest joy is to be able to offer our suffering to God, for everything else is a gift from Him.”* Thank you, Patricia for sharing your talents with God's people and for your “yes” to God!

In the Diocese

ORDINATION NEWS

Congratulations to Rev. Mr. Ernesto Madrigal who was ordained a transitional deacon in September. Congratulations to Oscar Cervantes (St. Stanislaus), Ed Formosa (St. Michael) and Ben Joe (Church of the Presentation) now officially candidates for holy orders. Please pray for them as they prepare for ordination to the permanent diaconate in the Fall of 2013.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October is Respect Life Month and this year's theme is "*Faith opens our eyes to human life in all its grandeur and beauty.*" Resources are available to promote dignity and respect for life at all its stages at www.usccb.org/respectlife. A second collection to support the Diocesan Respect Life Office will be this weekend *October 7, 2012*. See www.stocktondiocese.org/Respect-Life for information about our ministry.

MINISTRY DAY 2012 ON A NEW DAY, IN A NEW LOCATION!

October 27,

at the Modesto Centre Plaza
Ministry Day is approaching fast! Have you registered yet? Don't miss out on the opportunity to hear some great speakers, like Bishop Stephen Blaire, Rev. Tony Ricard, Vallimar Jansen and more. Registration packets are here at the Parish Office or visit www.stocktondiocese.org/ministryday12

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From our Holy Father in Rome

GENERAL AUDIENCE — Wednesday, 5 September 2012
Prayer in the first part of the Book of Revelation (Rev. 1:4-3: 22)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, after the holiday break, we resume the Audiences at the Vatican, continuing with the "school of prayer", which I am sharing with you in these Wednesday Catechesis.



Today I would like to talk to you about a prayer in the Book of Revelation, which, as you know, is the last one in the New Testament. It is a complex book, but one containing great richness. It puts us in touch with the vital, vibrant prayer of the Christian assembly, gathered "on the Lord's day" (Rev 1:10): indeed, the text unfolds into this basic premise.

A speaker presents to the assembly a message which the Lord has entrusted to the Evangelist John. The reader and the assembly are, so to speak, the two protagonists of the book's development; right from the start a festive greeting is addressed to them: "blessed is he who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear" (1:3). A symphony of prayer wells up from the ongoing dialogue between them and develops with a great variety of forms until it reaches its conclusion. On hearing the speaker deliver the message, on hearing and observing the assembly's reaction, their prayer tends to become our own.

The first part of Revelation (1:4-3: 22), presents three successive stages in the attitude of the assembly which is praying. The first stage (1:4-8) consists of a dialogue which — the only one in the New Testament — takes place between the assembly that has just gathered and the reader, who greets it with a blessing: "Grace to you and peace" (1:4). The speaker continues, emphasizing the provenance of this greeting: it comes from the Trinity: from the Father, from the Holy Spirit, from Jesus Christ, involved together in carrying ahead the creative and saving plan for humanity. The assembly listens and when it hears Jesus Christ named it jumps for joy, as it were, and responds enthusiastically, raising the following prayer of praise: "To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (1:5b-6). The assembly, steeped in Christ's love, feels set free from the bonds of sin and proclaims itself the "kingdom" of Jesus Christ, which belongs totally to him.

It recognizes the great mission which has been entrusted to it through Baptism: to bring God's presence to the world. And, looking once again directly at Jesus and with mounting enthusiasm, it ends this celebration of praise, recognizing his "glory and dominion" that will save humanity. The final "amen" concludes the hymn of praise to Christ. These first four verses are already full of instructions for us; they tell us that our prayer must first and foremost consist in listening to God who speaks to us. Submerged by torrents of words, we are not very used to listening, or, especially, being receptive by creating silence, either within ourselves or Outside us, so as to be able to pay attention to what God wants to tell us. These verses also teach us that our prayers, especially if they are only prayers of petition, must first of all praise God for his love, for the gift of Jesus Christ who brought us strength, hope and salvation.



Sacraments

Our Mass Intentions

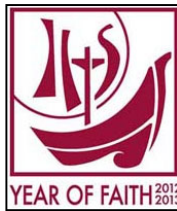
This Week

Sunday, October 7 (Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time)			
7:30a	Mark Kummerle	1:30p	Antonio Dominguez and George Medina
9:00a	Charles Aguilar	3:30p	Thomas Mathai and Jovena Thomas
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	5:30p	Tom Alhadate
12:00p	Ronilo Mahayag	7:30p	Teresa Presto
Monday, October 8			
8:00a	Les Andress and Josepino Piamonte	5:45p	Joe Evangelho and Neil Phillips, Jr.
Tuesday, October 9			
8:00a	Venancio Bautista and Josephine Corbeil	5:45p	Manuel Nunes and Salvador Ramirez
Wednesday, October 10			
8:00a	Natividad Raneses and Mark Kummerle	5:45p	Antonio Lopez and Frank & Isabell Bavaro
Thursday, October 11			
8:00a	Nicole Luderman and Joseph Patrick Mendes	5:45p	Alfonso Ramos and Michael Baccellieri
Friday, October 12			
8:00a	Nicole Luderman and Rodolfo Peña	5:45p	Christopher John Perino and Deceased Members of St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus
12:00p	Fr. Joseph O'Hare		
Saturday, October 13			
8:00a	Erlinda Ursua and Neil Phillips, Jr.	5:45p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
Sunday, October 14 (Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time)			
7:30a	Francisco Castellanos	1:30p	Catalina & Luis Ruiz and Martin Salgado
9:00a	Albert Mendonca	5:30p	Nivea Ferreira
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Teresa Presto
12:00p	Manuel III and John Souza		

Sunday, October 7, 2012		
10:00A	Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)	JP6
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7
3:30P	Indian Mass	Chur
Monday, October 8, 2012		
9:00A	Iconography 1	JP5
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer Group	JP10
Tuesday, October 9, 2012		
8:00A	Iconography 2	JP7
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
10:30A	Light Weigh	JP8
6:00P	ESL Classes	JP4
6:15P	Legion of Mary	JP4
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer Spanish	JP7
Wednesday, October 10, 2012		
5:30P	AA Principle Study Group	JP5
5:30P	Alateen	JP8
5:45P	Al Anon Group	JP10
Thursday, October 11, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
5:45P	Year of Faith Opening Mass	Chur
6:30P	Confirmation Sponsor Class	Chur
7:00P	Spanish Young Adults	JP2
Friday, October 12, 2012		
12:00P	Latin Mass	Chur
3:00P	Divine Mercy Prayer	Chap
6:00P	Indian Prayer Group	JP6
6:00P	MI - Men's Retreat	JP7
Saturday, October 13, 2012		
8:00A	Lay Dominicans	JP5
8:30A	University of Faith - Year of Faith Kick-Off	Hall
9:00A	AA Language of the Heart (Women)	JP4
Sunday, October 14, 2012		
10:00A	CLOW	JP6
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7

The Year of Faith

Pope Benedict has proclaimed a "Year of Faith" that begins this month. The Vatican website can be located here:



www.annusfidei.va/content/novaevangelizatio/en.html
Videos are also available: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/year-of-faith/videos.cfm

Readings 10/08-10/14

Monday:	Gal 1:6-12; Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday:	Gal 1:13-24; Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday:	Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Lk 11:1-4
Thursday:	Gal 3:1-5; Lk 11:5-13
Friday:	Gal 3:7-14; Lk 11:15-26
12pm Latin Mass:	Eph. 4:23-28; Mt. 22:1-14
Saturday:	Gal 3:22-29; Lk 11:27-28
Sunday:	Wis 7:7-11; Ps 90; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30 [17-27]
Latin Mass	Eph. 5:15-21; Jn. 4:36-53

Remember a special day or person.

~Altar Flower Donation~
Call the Development Office for info. 551-4973, x207

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

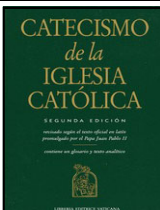
Bienvenido a St. Joseph's

**Clases de Escuela de FE
Comenzaran este mes de octubre,
por favor vea el calendario.**

Octubre			El Plan de Dios	
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

Catecismo 101

¡Preparémonos para el Año de Fe! El Papa Benedicto XVI nos pide estudiar el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica durante el Año de Fe, y nos invita a recitar el Credo juntos, a la misma hora, en unión de toda la Iglesia Católica en el mundo al terminar el año. **En el Credo se resume nuestra Fe.** Nos reuniremos cada primer jueves del mes, comenzando el 4 de octubre de 7-8:30pm, en el salón JP 6.



¡Sintonice el
1360 AM

los miércoles de 7:30-8:30pm
y escuche la Clase de Biblia
en la comodidad de su casa!



ESTUDIO BIBLICO

La última etapa de LEVANTATE, comenzará la semana del 7 de octubre. Registros para líderes y participantes este fin de semana y el próximo en la plaza. ¡No se requiere experiencia!

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

En nuestra primera lectura del Libro de Génesis es obvio que el punto de vista Bíblico del Plan de Dios es que el hombre y la mujer deben de unirse como esposo y esposa y formar una nueva familia y engendrar hijos. Esta es la única unión digna de llamarse "matrimonio" porque es el fundamento de la sociedad. ¡Por esto la Iglesia cree que el matrimonio solamente puede ser entre un hombre y una mujer!

En el Evangelio de hoy también vemos esta visión bíblica. Jesús habla del matrimonio: *"Ya no son dos pero una carne, entonces lo que Dios ha unido, ninguno podrá separar."* Y en el verso que sigue de inmediato, Jesús habla sobre los niños que son el fruto natural del matrimonio: *"dejen que los niños vengan a mí."* ¡Por esto la Iglesia cree en las familias grandes!

La segunda lectura de hoy (Hebreos 2:9-11) nos puede ayudar a comenzar bien el Año de Fe que debe empezar durante esta semana en el día 11 de Octubre. Hay personas que dicen que no creen en Dios porque se escandalizan al oír a los científicos hablar de la evolución. Otros se escandalizan y pierden su fe a causa del sufrimiento. La segunda lectura de hoy de la Carta a los Hebreos puede iluminar a ambos problemas. Dios creó todo. Él es *"El que para todo y por El que todo existe."* Cuando era hora, Dios entró en su creación para *"traer a muchos de sus hijos a la gloria."* El hizo esto compartiendo nuestro sufrimiento. Dios *"hizo al líder de su salvación perfecto por medio del sufrimiento."*

Algunos ateos dicen que los seres humanos no pueden haber sido creados por Dios porque no somos nada sino meros productos de la evolución. Dicen que somos insignificantes e imperfectos. Es verdad que tenemos cuerpos que son crudos, olorosos y medio chistosos. Parece que somos medio ángeles y medio animales. La Carta a los Hebreos admite que los seres humanos somos bastante inferiores. ¡Casi es una vergüenza ser humano! Dice: *"No se avergüenza de llamar hermanos a los hombres."* El Hijo Divino de Dios no se avergonzó al tomar la condición humana! No le dio pena rebajarse y hacerse miembro de la familia humana en este pequeño planeta perdido en el espacio del universo! *"Por un momento Dios se hizo inferior a los ángeles."*

El Plan de Dios era crear el universo y guiar todo para que cuando fuese el tiempo correcto El se encarnaría en el seno de la una virgen. Como dice San Pablo: *"Todo fue creado por medio de El, todo fue creado para El."* (Col. 1:16) La verdad es mas extraña que la ficción. Pero nada es tan hermoso como nuestra religión, que contempla a aquel que nació en una noche silenciosa en Belén y que estuvo dispuesto a ser nuestro *"líder en la salvación por medio del sufrimiento."* Tenemos todo un año para crecer en la fe. Podemos comenzar meditando usando la Carta a los Hebreos.

Fr. Mark Wagner

Nuestro Santo Padre en Roma

AUDIENCIA GENERAL — Miércoles 5 de septiembre de 2012



Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

Hoy después de la interrupción de las vacaciones, reanudamos las audiencias en el Vaticano, continuando en la «escuela de oración» que estoy viviendo juntamente con vosotros en estas catequesis de los miércoles.

Hoy quiero hablar de la oración en el *Libro del Apocalipsis*, que, como sabéis, es el último del Nuevo Testamento. Es un libro difícil, pero contiene una gran riqueza. Nos pone en contacto con la oración viva y palpitante de



la asamblea cristiana, reunida en «el día del Señor» (Ap 1, 10): esta es, en efecto, la línea de fondo en la que se mueve el texto.

Un lector presenta a la asamblea un mensaje encomendado por el Señor al evangelista san Juan. El lector y la asamblea constituyen, por decirlo así, los dos protagonistas del desarrollo del libro; a ellos, desde el inicio, se

dirige un augurio festivo: «Bienaventurado el que lee, y los que escuchan las palabras de esta profecía» (1, 3). Del diálogo constante entre ellos brota una sinfonía de oración, que se desarrolla con gran variedad de formas hasta la conclusión. Escuchando al lector que presenta el mensaje, escuchando y observando a la asamblea que reacciona, su oración tiende a convertirse en nuestra oración.

La primera parte del *Apocalipsis* (1, 4-3, 22) presenta, en la actitud de la asamblea que reza, tres fases sucesivas. La primera (1, 4-8) es un diálogo que —caso único en el Nuevo Testamento— se entabla entre la asamblea recién congregada y el lector, el cual le dirige un augurio de bendición: «Gracia y paz a vosotros» (1, 4). El lector prosigue subrayando la procedencia de este augurio: deriva de la Trinidad: del Padre, del Espíritu Santo, de Jesucristo, unidos en la realización del proyecto creativo y salvífico para la humanidad. La asamblea escucha y, cuando oye que se nombra a Jesucristo, exulta de júbilo y responde con entusiasmo, elevando la siguiente oración de alabanza: «Al que nos ama, y nos ha librado de nuestros pecados con su sangre, y nos ha hecho reino y sacerdotes para Dios, su Padre. A él la gloria y el poder por los siglos de los siglos. Amén» (1, 5b-6). La asamblea, impulsada por el amor de Cristo, se siente liberada de los lazos del pecado y se proclama «reino» de Jesucristo, que pertenece totalmente a él. Reconoce la gran misión que con el Bautismo le ha sido encomendada: llevar al mundo la presencia de Dios. Y concluye su celebración de alabanza mirando de nuevo directamente a Jesús y, con entusiasmo creciente, reconoce su «gloria y poder» para salvar a la humanidad. El «amén» final concluye el himno de alabanza a Cristo. Ya estos primeros cuatro versículos contienen una gran riqueza de indicaciones para nosotros; nos dicen que nuestra oración debe ser ante todo escucha de Dios que nos habla. Agobiados por tantas palabras, estamos poco acostumbrados a escuchar, sobre todo a ponernos en la actitud interior y exterior de silencio para estar atentos a lo que Dios quiere decirnos. Esos versículos nos enseñan, además, que nuestra oración, con frecuencia sólo de petición, en cambio debe ser ante todo de alabanza a Dios por su amor, por el don de Jesucristo, que nos ha traído fuerza, esperanza y salvación.

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Por Maria Delgado-Braun



**Patricia
Alves**

Patricia ha estado enseñando las Clases de Preparación para el Bautismo en español por los últimos dos años. Este ministerio es muy importante en la evangelización de las nuevas familias. Muchas de las parejas vienen a la parroquia buscando bautizar a sus niños como una tradición que deben de cumplir sin saber el gran significado de este Sacramento de Iniciación. El darle la bienvenida a estas parejas y enseñándoles sobre nuestra hermosa fe, requiere la habilidad de una persona amable y cariñosa, y Patricia es esta clase de persona. Cuando le pedí que enseñara se sintió un poco indecisa, pero después de rezar, se comprometió y ha efectuado una labor excelente dando testimonio con su vida y sufrimiento. Aunque ella perdió a su magnífico esposo de cáncer hace pocos meses, ha continuado enseñando y hace poco aceptó el cargo de líder de la MI en español. Patricia es un testimonio viviente de las bellezas que Dios puede hacer con todos nosotros si le entregamos nuestras vidas. Después de todo, en las palabras de San Francisco de Asís, “*nuestro gozo más grande es el poder ofrecerle nuestro sufrimiento a Dios, pues todo lo demás es un don de El.*” ¡Gracias Patricia por compartir tus talentos con el pueblo de Dios y por tu “sí” a Dios!



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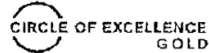
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