

*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

August 26, 2012 Twenty-First 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. Benny Kottarathil, OSB, Assoc Pastor
Fr. Tony Chacko, Assoc Pastor
Fr. Larry Guerrero, Hospital Chaplain
Rev. Mr. Ken Ochinerro, Deacon
Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarelli, Deacon

From the Pastor's Laptop

In today's Gospel several different phrases show that not everyone accepted the teachings of Jesus: "This saying is hard, who can accept it?... His disciples were murmuring... Does this shock you?... Do you also want to leave?..." (John 6) It was hard for many of His disciples to accept that they must eat the "Body of Christ," and so they "no longer accompanied him." This still happens today as many people leave the church, which is the "Body of Christ." They don't see that Jesus only wants to love them, to nourish them, to give Himself completely to them as their food, to unite Himself to them in one body as their heavenly spouse.

Today's second reading refers to another teaching that is hard for some people to accept. And again it is something related to "the body." Not everyone today would accept what St. Paul says about marriage. He says that in marriage a man and a woman form "one body" as a symbol of the love between Christ and His church: "husbands should love their wives as their own bodies... even as Christ loved the church..." This means that marriage is a sacred sacrament of the love between Christ and His bride the church, and that consequently marriage can only be a permanent, faithful bond between one man and one woman. Not everyone nowadays believes this. Proponents of same-sex unions want to call these unions "marriage." But such unions cannot create a true union of bodies and cannot form a new family. St. Paul says that marriage is the "great mystery" by which a new family is created when a man "leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife... so that the two become one flesh." The child of one family leaves to start another family, where new children can be born. This is not what truly happens in same sex unions, and so they should never be called marriage. For those who experience same sex attraction, the church has a compassionate ministry which helps them to live pure lives (www.couragerc.org).

Someday soon it may be illegal to say the things that I have just written. People who, like St. Paul, wish to proclaim the truth about marriage are already being criticized. Institutions like the fast-food chain Chick Fil-A (and the Catholic Church herself!) are already being denied their right to free speech. We must work and pray and vote to defend marriage as a "sacred mystery" and the basis of our society!



Picture taken from the church of the sunset on the Feast of Maxmillian Kolbe (August 14). A rosary made of balloons was released.

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

Se Habla Español..... Alex x103
 AccountingBarbara 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 & SacramentsDebbie 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 RegistrationDonna x102
 Room Reservations.....Rosario x110
 Volunteering..... Tammy x207
 Youth MinistryNathan x206

ST. JOSEPH'S PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Try a Holy Hour with Jesus once a week! Please see the schedule outside the Chapel for hours needing adorers.



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



Would you like to have a closer relationship with Jesus? Our Blessed Mother is the best way! Through Mary to Jesus
Come Join us and learn about Militia Immaculata and how to consecrate yourself to Our Lady!

Sept 1: Monthly Meetings for the Prayer and Spanish Villages, following 8am Mass in Rm. 5, JP II bldg.

Sept 2: Family Village Monthly meeting after 9am Mass in the Hall.

THE LIGHT WEIGH- A Catholic Weight Loss Program

Tired of constantly struggling with your weight? Consider giving God a chance to touch your heart, your life and your eating. An information meeting for the Light Weigh Bible Study and Video Series will be held Tuesday, Sept 11, 10:30am, Rm. 8 JP II. For men, women, teens. Call Ann 522-0697 or Mary 551-2921 for more information.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND



Scripture says about married people that "Two shall live as one." How often do you find yourselves living as two? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you get back to basics in this complicated day and age. The next local weekend is October 19-21 in Salida. For more information or to register, call Barry * and Julia Reynolds 866-825-2046, or John and

Angelica Angarita 209-521-7973, or go to <http://sacramentowwme.org>.

ALATEEN GROUP HAS NOW STARTED

Alateen is a part of the Al-Anon family group. It is for young people who have been affected by someone else's drinking. It is not for young people seeking sobriety. We meet every Wednesday, 5:45-6:45pm in JP II Center, Rm 8. There is also an Al-Anon and AA meeting every Wednesday. If you have any questions, call Bev Sousa, 605-0001.

Stewardship: A Way of Life

As humans with free will we are given the ability and the opportunity to make choices that affect every part of our lives. The readings today recount two times when people were offered a choice. Joshua instructs the Israelites in the law handed down through Moses and then asks the people to choose whether they will serve the Lord God or pagan gods. After Jesus gives His Bread of Life sermon, some of His followers choose to turn back and leave Him, but Simon Peter declares that the disciples believe that Jesus is the Son of God. May we accept the Word of Life and grow in wisdom day by day.

Religious Education

Saint Augustine and Saint Monica

By Maria F. Delgado-Braun



Saint Augustine—Augustine was born at Tagaste on 13 November 354, son of Patricius, a pagan, and Monica, a Christian and pious mother. He received a Christian education and his mother enrolled him in the catechumens, but he deferred receiving the sacrament and gave himself to the licentious life style of the time. Although he was immersed in a life filled with pleasure, Augustine had three ideas engraved in his soul; a Divine Providence, the future life with terrible sanctions and Christ the Savior. By the age of 18, he had a son resulting from a sinful union. He felt repentance, and from age 19 sought to break this chain. His search for the truth brought him to the study of philosophy, yet he embraced *Manicheanism* in the year 373, trying to find an explanation for the origin of evil. Augustine devoted his energy to this sect until he discovered that it did not afford explanations for his long-held questions. At the age of 29, he embarked for Milan to teach. He met St. Ambrose and was baptized in 387. Augustine, a brilliant philosopher and Doctor of the Church, wrote extensively on many topics. His defense on the truth of the Church and his doctrine on the free gift of grace from God, who is even responsible for our first desires for salvation, withstand the test of time. He is called the Doctor of grace.

St. Augustine, pray for us!

Saint Monica—Monica was born in 322 of a Christian family in Tagaste, North Africa. She married a pagan named Patricius. Patricius was an unfaithful and ill-tempered man, and his mother was not fond of Monica. Monica was a charitable and prayerful woman, who prayed constantly for her husband and three children, especially for her oldest son, Augustine, who had accepted the Manichean heresy and had a mistress. For a while, she did not allow him to sleep or eat at home, until she received a vision that assured her he would return to the faith. She continued to pray and fast. Her husband converted and was baptized a month before his death. Augustine left for Milan to teach rhetoric and Monica followed him there. Once in Milan, he was taught and guided by the bishop, St. Ambrose, who was also Monica's spiritual director. Monica followed the counsel of St. Ambrose and continued to pray for her son, who was baptized on Easter 387. She never gave up praying and fasting for his conversion. A few months before her death, she told him, "*Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled.*" She is the patroness of married women and as an example for Christian motherhood. *St. Monica, pray for us and our children!*



Prayer to St. Monica

Dear St. Monica, troubled wife and mother, many sorrows pierced your heart during your lifetime. Yet, you never despaired or lost faith. With confidence, persistence, and profound faith, you prayed daily for the conversion of your beloved husband, Patricius, and your beloved son, Augustine; your prayers were answered. Grant me that same fortitude, patience, and trust in the Lord. Intercede for me, dear St. Monica, that God may favorably hear my plea for (*Mention your intention here.*) and grant me the grace to accept His Will in all things, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Do your children need to receive their First Holy Communion, Reconciliation, or Confirmation?

Parish School of Religion is open for registration!

Office Hours:
Mondays & Tuesdays 10am-5pm
Wednesdays 1pm-7pm
Closed Thursdays & Fridays

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

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)765-8322** 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



High School Fall Retreat

St. Joseph's high school fall retreat will take place during the weekend of November 9-11. This annual trip takes place in Aptos, at Camp St. Francis retreat center on the beach. The cost is \$100. The weekend event includes Mass, adoration, confession, praise and worship, small groups, games, skits and time to meet new friends and enjoy fellowship!

Youth Mass Volunteers

Are you in high school and feel called to be more involved at Mass? The 5:30 pm Youth Mass on Sunday would be a great place to share your time, talent and treasure serving as a greeter, lector or server. Please contact the youth office for more information and to sign up.



Victory Team

Weekly meetings will start on Monday, September 10, in the youth and family center in the JP II building! Victory is open to high school students and young adults who lead small groups and minister to the youth in first year Confirmation. The C1 class meets on Wednesday nights from 7-8:30 pm. We look forward to seeing all returning students and excited to meet anyone that is interested in joining the team!

CORE Team

Weekly meetings for CORE team will begin on Monday, September 10, in the youth room of the JP II center. The CORE team works together to plan LifeNights and lead small groups for St. Joseph's high school youth group on Sunday evenings from 7-8:30 pm. CORE is open to adults and young adults. Please contact Nathan to schedule a meeting if you are interested in more information.



High School Kick-Off

St. Joseph's annual high school kick-off will be Sunday, September 16 from 7-8:30 pm in Fr. O'Hare Hall. This is a great opportunity to meet other teens from our parish and our CORE team. Back by popular demand, there will be all-you-can-eat taco truck again! Last year we had a great turnout with 130 teens! Come again and bring a friend to join in the fun and fellowship! We invite you to join us in the 'teen section' at the 5:30 pm Youth Mass before our kick-off begins.

Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Plaza Refreshments are being served this morning by our Plaza Refreshment Volunteers.

Parish Stewardship — a way of life

Recognizing the gift of financial stewardship.....

We will periodically THANK some of our bulletin advertisers. These businesses (many of them our parishioners) allow our parish to enjoy this full-color bulletin at no cost to us. The next time you visit:

- John L. Gorman, Attorney at Law
- Efraim Florendo, DDS
- Nicholas Poblete, DDS
- O'Brien's Markets
- Gloria Vasquez, CSAA Sales Representative
-

Thank them for their support of our parish!

Thank you for the Festival Live Country Auction Items! Please bring small items to the Volunteer Center in JP11.
THANK YOU

Summer is over and Classes resume:

English as a Second Language Classes
(for all non-native English speakers, regardless of native language)
will resume Sept. 4, every Tuesday at
5:30 in Rm. 4, JP11 bldg.

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

Profiles in Stewardship

by Stacy Phillips



Susan Castanada and the ARISE Group

It takes the support of an entire Parish to have RCIA be successful. There are many of you who are behind the scenes helping those coming to faith. Last year we were helped by one of the ARISE Groups. Early in the Lenten season I received a call from Susan Castanada. The Arise group she was in wanted to pray for those that would be receiving Sacraments at Easter. I gave her a list and a few days later, she returned with a stack of personalized letters...1 for each person. Each card was written by the member that was praying for that specific person. As Easter approached, another stack appeared. This act of prayerful kindness was so touching and I know that those receiving the cards felt they were important to our Parish. In addition to Arise, Susan is a PSR Catechist. Maybe you invite a friend to Mass or to one of our wonderful events. Maybe you pray in the Chapel. Maybe you are a Catholic that lives your life in a way that makes someone want to look into our faith. Whether we know about your efforts or not, I want to thank you. The RCIA Team can't do this alone. It takes a parish!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Modesto Pregnancy Center Board of Directors would like to announce that after blessing the Center as its Executive Director for eight years, Delores Wolterstorff has decided to retire. Please pray with us for the Lord's guidance as we search for a new director to continue in this vital mission. Applications are available now and interested applicants may call Delores at 209-550-5923, or e-mail her at mpc@modestopc.org.

CO-COORDINATOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Sacred Heart Parish seeks to hire a part-time Co-Coordinator of Youth Ministry to assist with both Middle and High School Youth Programs. The candidate must be high energy, passionate about serving youth, and have excellent relational skills with teens as well as strong communication, leadership and organizational skills. This position involves working with a Core Team, coordination and leading weekly catechetical Youth Nights, assisting in the facilitating retreats, training and developing teen leaders and practicing consistent relational ministry. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church with knowledge of the commitment to Gospel values, and Catholic moral and social teachings. Candidate must also have the ability to organize and work well with volunteers. Spanish language skills are helpful. Please submit resume, and brief letter of intent to the parish office. For more information call the parish office (209) 634-8578.

From our Holy Father in Rome

HOLY MASS HOMILY — *Sunday, 15 July 2012*



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

...In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus takes the initiative of sending the Twelve Apostles out on mission (Mk 6:7-13). In fact the term "apostles" means, precisely, "messengers" or "envoys". Their vocation was to be fully achieved only after Christ's Resurrection with the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Yet it is very significant that Jesus wants to involve the Twelve in his action from the outset: it is a sort of "apprenticeship" with a view to the great responsibility that awaited them. The fact that Jesus calls certain disciples to collaborate directly in his mission demonstrates one aspect of his love, namely, he does not spurn the help that other people can contribute to his work; he knows their limitations, their weaknesses, but bears no contempt for them. On the contrary Jesus confers on them the dignity of being his envoys. He sends them out two by two and gives them instructions which the Evangelist sums up in a few sentences. The first concerns the spirit of detachment: the Apostles must not be attached to money or to other comforts. Then Jesus warns the disciples that they will not always receive a favourable welcome. Sometimes they will be rejected; they might even be persecuted. However this must not frighten them: they must speak in Jesus' name and preach the Kingdom of God without being worried about whether or not they will succeed. Succeed — its success must be left to God.

The First Reading presents us with the same perspective, showing us that all too often God's messengers are not well received. This is the case of the Prophet Amos whom God sent to prophesy in the Sanctuary at Bethel, a sanctuary of the Kingdom of Israel (cf. Amos 7:12-15). Amos preached very energetically against injustices, denouncing in particular the abuses of kings and notables, abuses of power that offend the Lord and nullify acts of worship. Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, therefore ordered Amos to leave. Amos answered that it was not he who chose this mission but that the Lord had made him a prophet and sent him to this very place in the Kingdom of Israel. Therefore, whether he was accepted or rejected, he would continue to prophesy, preaching whatever God told him and not what men wished to hear. And this has continued to be the Church's mandate: she does not preach what the powerful wish to hear. Her criterion is truth and justice even if it is unpopular and against human power.

Likewise in the Gospel Jesus warns the Twelve that in some places they may be rejected. Should this be the case, they are to go elsewhere, having shaken the dust from their feet in public. This sign expresses detachment in two senses: moral detachment — as if to say it is you who have refused the proclamation offered to you — and material detachment. We did not seek and do not want anything for ourselves (cf. Mk 6:11).

The other very important instruction in the Gospel passage is that the Twelve must not be content with preaching conversion. They must accompany their preaching, in accordance with Jesus' instructions and example, with care for the sick, with caring for those who are sick in body and in spirit. It speaks of the healing of illnesses and also of driving out demons, that is, of purifying the human mind, cleansing, cleansing the eyes of the soul that are clouded by ideologies and hence cannot see God, cannot see truth and justice. This twofold corporal and spiritual healing is always the mandate of Christ's disciples. Hence the apostolic mission must always include the two aspects of preaching God's word and of showing his goodness in gestures of charity, service and dedication.

Sacraments

Our Mass Intentions

This Week

Sunday, August 26 (Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:30a	Mark Kummerly	1:30p	Eufrosina Ley and Anita Garcia
9:00a	Rafael Perez	5:30p	Michael Pitts
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Betty Casale
12:00p	Joel Pimentel		

Monday, August 27

8:00a	Jose Flores and Federico Aguada	5:45p	Manuel Bairos and Helen Denny
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Tuesday, August 28

8:00a	Maria Guadalupe Castellanos and Roldan Delos Reyes	5:45p	Al Bender and Jovencio Sanchez
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Wednesday, August 29

8:00a	Margarita Toves and Frances Gannon	5:45p	Nick Alves and Helen Denny
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Thursday, August 30

8:00a	Theresa Schaufel and Josephine Coreil	5:45p	Everett Souza and Tommy Perez
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Friday, August 31

8:00a	Michael Dimapilis and Paulino Costa	5:45p	Marie Pesonen
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Saturday, September 1

8:00a	Hazel Call and Don Cleary	5:45p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
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Sunday, September 2 (Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time)

7:30a	Sheila Lal	1:30p	Maximino Lucatero and Yosymar Mosqueda
9:00a	Albert Memdonca	3:30p	Indian Mass
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	5:30p	Charles Aguilar
12:00p	Louise Bettencourt	7:30p	Teresa Presto

Sunday, August 26, 2012

10:00A	Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)	JP6
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7

Monday, August 27, 2012

7:00P	Charismatic Prayer Grp	JP10
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Tuesday, August 28, 2012

9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
5:30P	ESL Classes	JP4
6:15P	Legion of Mary	JP4
6:30P	Stewardship Committee	JP4
6:30P	Festival Committee	JP10
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer Group Spanish	JP7

Wednesday, August 29, 2012

1:30P	Widows and Widowers Bible Study	JP5
5:30P	AA Principle Study Group	JP5
5:45P	Al Anon Group	JP10

Thursday, August 30, 2012

9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
6:30P	Rosary Makers	JP5
6:30P	Compartiendo la Biblia	JP4
7:00P	Spanish Young Adults	JP2
7:00P	Introduccion a la Biblia	JP10

Friday, August 31, 2012

12:00P	Latin Mass	Chur
3:00P	Divine Mercy Prayer	Chap

Saturday, September 1, 2012

8:30A	Spanish Militia Immaculata	JP7
8:45A	Militia Immaculata - Adult	JP5

Sunday, September 2, 2012

10:00A	CLOW	JP6
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7
3:00P	Indian Mass	Chur

In the Diocese

SAVE THE DATE: DIOCESE OF STOCKTON MINISTRY DAY OCTOBER 27

Theme for this year's Ministry Day is "Ever Young in Christ," because the diocese is celebrating its 50th anniversary. This year's event will take place at the Modesto Centre Plaza. Packets with more info can be picked up from St. Joseph's parish office or are available on the diocesan website.

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

Readings 8/27-9/02

Monday:

2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12; Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday:

2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday:

2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Mk 6:17-29

Thursday:

1 Cor 1:1-9; Mt 24:42-51

Friday:

1 Cor 1:17-25; Mt 25:1-13

12pm Latin Mass:

Ecclus. 31:8-11; Lk. 12:35-40

Saturday:

1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 25:14-30

Sunday:

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Latin Mass

Gal. 5:16-22; Mt. 6:24-33

-Altar Flower Donation-
**In loving memory of
Rose Quintana and her
birthday August 12,
from her sister
Amelia De Voe**

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



Bienvenido a St. Joseph's

RETIRO ESPIRITUAL
Adolescentes (14-17) años
Septiembre 7-9

Retiro para adolescentes. Para inscribirse contacte a José López en la oficina de la juventud hispana de la diócesis de Stockton (209) 546-7632 o por email: jlopez@stocktondiocese.org



INTRODUCCION A LA BIBLIA

¿Desea aprender mas sobre la Palabra de Dios y profundizar mas su fe? Nos reunimos todos los jueves, comenzando el 16 de agosto, en el salón # 10 de JP II de 7-8:30pm.



PEREGRINACION A TIERRA SANTA, ROMA Y GRECIA

Peregrinación con el padre Jairo del 8 al 19 de octubre. Costo: \$4795 por persona. Para mas información, por favor llame a Gisele Navas @ 632-4932 o 968-1095.

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



VIDA PARROQUIAL

Martes: Oración Carismática, 7-9pm
Edificio JP II, salón #7.

Martes: Clases de Inglés, 5:30pm,
Edificio JP II, salón #6.

Miércoles: Hora Santa, 7-8pm, Capilla

Jueves: Compartiendo la Biblia, 6:30,
Edificio JP II, salón #4 All Saints

Jueves: Grupo de Jóvenes Adultos,
7-9pm, Edificio JP II, salón #2.

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

Querida Familia Parroquial,

El Evangelio de hoy nos muestra en varias y diferentes frases que no todos aceptaron las enseñanzas de Jesús: “¡este lenguaje es muy duro! ¿Quién querrá escucharlo? ...Sus discípulos estaban murmurando... ¿Les desconcierta lo que he dicho?...¿Quieren también marcharse ustedes?” (Juan 6) Para muchos de sus discípulos era difícil aceptar que debían de comer el “Cuerpo de Cristo,” entonces “dejaron de seguirle.” Esto todavía acontece hoy cuando muchos dejan a la Iglesia, la cual es el “Cuerpo de Cristo.” Ellos no ven que Jesús solo quiere amarlos, nutrirlos, darse por completo a ellos como su alimento, para unirse a ellos en un solo cuerpo como su esposo celestial.

La segunda lectura se refiere a otra enseñanza que es difícil de aceptar para algunos. Y de nuevo es algo relacionado “al cuerpo.” No todos aceptan hoy lo que San Pablo dice sobre el matrimonio. El dice que el matrimonio de un hombre y una mujer forma “un cuerpo” como el símbolo del amor entre Cristo y Su Iglesia: “Los esposos deben de amar a sus esposas como a su propio cuerpo... así como Jesús amó a la Iglesia...” Esto quiere decir que el matrimonio es un sacramento sagrado del amor entre Cristo y Su esposa la Iglesia, y que consecuentemente el matrimonio solo puede ser una unión permanente y fiel entre un hombre y una mujer. No todos creen esto hoy. Los que proponen las uniones del mismo sexo desean llamar estas uniones “matrimonios.” Pero aquellas estas no pueden crear verdaderas uniones corporales y no pueden formar una nueva familia. San Pablo dice que el matrimonio es un “gran misterio” por el cual una nueva familia es creada cuando un hombre “deja a su padre y a su madre y se une con su esposa... para los dos volversen un solo cuerpo.” El hijo de una familia la deja para comenzar otra familia, donde nacen nuevos hijos.

Esto no es lo que realmente acontece en las uniones del mismo sexo, por esto nunca deben de ser llamadas matrimonios. Para aquellos que sienten atracción por alguien del mismo sexo, la Iglesia tiene un ministerio de compasión el cual les ayuda a vivir vidas puras (www.courage.or).

Algún día en el futuro puede que lo que haya escrito se haga ilegal escribirlo. Las personas que quieren proclamar la verdad como San Pablo ya son criticadas. Las instituciones tales como la cadena de



Foto del atardecer en la iglesia durante la Fiesta de San Maximiliano Kolbe (14 de agosto). Un Rosario hecho de bombas fue elevado.

comida rápida Chick Fil-A (¡y la misma Iglesia Católica!) ya se les ha negado el derecho a la libertad de expresión. ¡Debemos trabajar y rezar y votar para defender el matrimonio como un “misterio sagrado” y la base de nuestra sociedad!

Fa. Mark Wagner

Nuestro Santo Padre en Roma

HOMILÍA SANTA MISA — Domingo 15 de julio de 2012



CORRESPONSABILIDAD
(STEWARDSHIP)

Por Stacy Phillips

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

...En el Evangelio de este domingo, Jesús toma la iniciativa de enviar a los doce apóstoles en misión (Mc 6, 7-13). En efecto, el término «apóstoles» significa precisamente «enviados, mandados». Su vocación se realizará plenamente después de la resurrección de Cristo, con el don del Espíritu Santo en Pentecostés. Sin embargo, es muy importante que desde el principio Jesús quiere involucrar a los Doce en su acción: es una especie de «aprendizaje» en vista de la gran responsabilidad que les espera. El hecho de que Jesús llame a algunos discípulos a colaborar directamente en su misión, manifiesta un aspecto de su amor: esto es, Él no desdeña la ayuda que otros hombres pueden dar a su obra; conoce sus límites, sus debilidades, pero no los desprecia; es más, les confiere la dignidad de ser sus enviados. Jesús los manda de dos en dos y les da instrucciones, que el evangelista resume en pocas frases. La primera se refiere al espíritu de desprendimiento: los apóstoles no deben estar apegados al dinero ni a la comodidad. Jesús además advierte a los discípulos de que no recibirán siempre una acogida favorable: a veces serán rechazados; incluso puede que hasta sean perseguidos. Pero esto no les tiene que impresionar: deben hablar en nombre de Jesús y predicar el Reino de Dios, sin preocuparse de tener éxito. El éxito se lo dejan a Dios.

La primera lectura proclamada nos presenta la misma perspectiva, mostrándonos que los enviados de Dios a menudo no son bien recibidos. Este es el caso del profeta Amós, enviado por Dios a profetizar en el santuario de Betel, un santuario del reino de Israel (cf. Am 7, 12-15). Amós predica con gran energía contra las injusticias, denunciando sobre todo los abusos del rey y de los notables, abusos que ofenden al Señor y hacen vanos los actos de culto. Por ello Amasías, sacerdote de Betel, ordena a Amós que se marche. Él responde que no ha sido él quien ha elegido esta misión, sino que el Señor ha hecho de él un profeta y le ha enviado precisamente allí, al reino de Israel. Por lo tanto, ya se le acepte o rechace, seguirá profetizando, predicando lo que Dios dice y no lo que los hombres quieren oír decir. Y esto sigue siendo el mandato de la Iglesia: no predica lo que quieren oír decir los poderosos. Y su criterio es la verdad y la justicia aunque esté contra los aplausos y contra el poder humano.

Igualmente, en el Evangelio Jesús advierte a los Doce que podrá ocurrir que en alguna localidad sean rechazados. En tal caso deberán irse a otro lugar, tras haber realizado ante la gente el gesto de sacudir el polvo de los pies, signo que expresa el desprendimiento en dos sentidos: desprendimiento moral —como decir: el anuncio os ha sido hecho, vosotros sois quienes lo rechazáis— y desprendimiento material —no hemos querido y nada queremos para nosotros (cf. Mc 6, 11). La otra indicación muy importante del pasaje evangélico es que los Doce no pueden conformarse con predicar la conversión: a la predicación se debe acompañar, según las instrucciones y el ejemplo de Jesús, la curación de los enfermos; curación corporal y espiritual. Habla de las sanaciones concretas de las enfermedades, habla también de expulsar los demonios, o sea, purificar la mente humana, limpiar, limpiar los ojos del alma que están oscurecidos por las ideologías y por ello no pueden ver a Dios, no pueden ver la verdad y la justicia. Esta doble curación corporal y espiritual es siempre el mandato de los discípulos de Cristo. Por lo tanto la misión apostólica debe siempre comprender los dos aspectos de predicación de la Palabra de Dios y de manifestación de su bondad con gestos de caridad, de servicio y de entrega.



**Susan
Castaneda
y el grupo
LEVANTATE**

Se necesita el apoyo de la parroquia entera para que el programa de RCIA tenga éxito. Muchos de ustedes, con su oración, ayudan a los que están entrando en la fe. El año pasado, al comenzar la Cuaresma, recibí una llamada de Susan Castañeda. El grupo de LEVANTATE al que ella pertenecía quería rezar por los que iban a recibir los sacramentos en la Pascua. Le di la lista y unas semanas después, regresó con un montón de cartas escritas para cada persona. Cada carta escrita por la persona que estaba orando específicamente por esa otra persona. Al acercarse la Pascua, otro montón de cartas apareció. Este acto de amor en la oración fue tan conmovedor. Yo sé que los que las recibieron sintieron lo importante que ellos son para nuestra parroquia. Aparte de dirigir al grupo de LEVANTATE, Susan es catequista en nuestra PSR (Escuela Parroquial de Religión).

Tal vez usted invita a un amigo a asistir a Misa o a uno de nuestros fabulosos eventos. Tal vez usted hace oración en la Capilla. Tal vez es usted un católico que vive su vida de tal manera que le hace a otra persona querer conocer más sobre nuestra fe. Ya sea que nos demos cuenta de sus esfuerzos o no, se lo quiero agradecer. El equipo de RCIA no puede hacer su trabajo sin su ayuda. ¡Es trabajo de la parroquia entera!



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