

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

February 12, 2012 Sixth 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,

12pm, 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

Holy Hour in the Church

Fridays 6:30pm-7:30pm

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 (Holy Hour)

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

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

Clergy:

Fr. Joseph Illo, Pastor

Fr. Benny Kottathil, Assoc Pastor

Fr. Larry Guerrero, Hospital Chaplain

Rev. Mr. Ken Ochiner, Deacon

Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarelli, Deacon

From the Pastor's Laptop

There is an accelerating "climate change" in our country. In particular, **Religious Freedom** in America is eroding faster than the glaciers in Greenland. The founders of our nation saw the need to immediately strengthen our Constitution with the "Bill of Rights." The first of those Bill of Rights is the *free exercise of religion*. This First Amendment guarantees citizens the free practice of the faith of their choice, without the interference of the U.S. Government.

Two weeks ago the U.S. Department of **Health and Human Services** mandated that all employers will purchase insurance that provides

sterilization and contraception, including abortion-causing drugs. That means that our parish, for example, will have to pay for the chemical abortions of our employees, should they request it. Catholic hospitals will have to provide for abortions. In a meeting with pastors last week, Bishop Blaire stated forcefully that the Obama Administration's decision is "an egregious—an *egregious*—violation of the Constitution and the First

Amendment." Archbishop Timothy Dolan, president of the U.S. Bishops' Conference, wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*: "Coercing religious ministries and citizens to pay directly for actions that violate their teaching is an unprecedented incursion into freedom of conscience.... This latest erosion of our first freedom should make all Americans pause. When the government tampers with a freedom so fundamental to the life of our nation, one shudders to think what lies ahead." As of this writing (February 1), 125 bishops and many other public figures of our nation have joined him in strong objection.

Which way America? What freedoms of conscience will the government still permit us in the years to come? How much more will the Church be singled out for persecution? In 2010, Cardinal George of Chicago spoke these prophetic words: "I expect to die in bed, my successor will die in prison, and his successor will die a martyr in the public square." *Which way, America?*



40 Days For Life: Many prayers, candles and signs outside of the abortion clinic in Modesto.

Fr. Joseph

☞ Staff Contacts ☞

Parish Office

(Lulu, Donna, Alex, Lauren)

Sunday: 10:00-3:00pm.

Monday: 10:00 to 7:30

Tuesday through Thursday 8:30 to 7:30

Closed Wednesday from 11-1pm

Friday 8:30 to Noon

Weekend Maintenance 568-7558

How can we help? 551-4973

- Se Habla Español* Alex x103
- Accounting Barbara x108
- Adult Ed & Bible Studies..... Michael x203
- Altar Servers Svetlana x200
- Audio / VideoJeremy x213
- Becoming Catholic, RCIA Stacy x211
- Buildings & Grounds..... Susie x201
- Bulletin & Website Jeremy x213
- Child Ed & Sacraments Debbie x205
- Choirs & CantorsSvetlana 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 ReservationsRosario x110
- Volunteering..... Tammy x207
- Youth Ministry..... Nathan x206

☞ Readings 02/13-02/19☞

Monday:

Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday:

Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13

Wednesday:

Jas 1:19-27; Mk 8:22-26

Thursday:

Jas 2:1-9; Mk 8:27-33

Friday:

Jas 2:14-24, 26; Mk 8:34 — 9:1

12pm Latin Mass:

1 Thes. 1:2-10; Mt. 13:31-35

Saturday:

Jas 3:1-10; Mk 9:2-13

Sunday:

Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25; Ps 41;
2 Cor 1:18-22; Mk 2:1-12

9am Mass Latin Mass: 7th Sunday after Epiphany

1 Cor. 9:24-27; 10:1-5; Mt. 20:1-16

Sacraments

☞ Our Mass Intentions ☞

| Sunday, February 12 (Sixth Sunday on Ordinary Time) | | | |
|--|---|-------|--|
| 7:30a | Myrtle Osberg | 1:30p | Florentino Galvez and Joe Filice |
| 9:00a | Albert Mendonca | 5:30p | Leona Delos Reyes |
| 10:30a | All St. Joseph's Parishioners | 7:30p | John Valdez |
| 12:00p | Thelma Coelho | | |
| Monday, February 13 | | | |
| 8:00a | Pacita Malinao and Giovanna Cusenza | 5:45p | Agapito Morales and Andriel Reynosa-Russ |
| Tuesday, February 14 | | | |
| 8:00a | Florentino Rodrigo and Imogene & Quentin Stoeckel | 5:45p | Elsie Gallardo and Beryl Cardenas |
| Wednesday, February 15 | | | |
| 8:00a | Teresa Presto and William C. Armell | 5:45p | Kurtis Kraft and Jovita M. Cervantes |
| Thursday, February 16 | | | |
| 8:00a | Crisologo R. Cabacungan and Maxine Taylor | 5:45p | Joe Mendes and Paul & Margaret Bavaro |
| Friday, February 17 | | | |
| 8:00a | Rosanna Hollander and Marlene F. Martus | 5:45p | Cefus Willian and Areceli Leon |
| Saturday, February 18 | | | |
| 8:00a | Flora Bravo and Jim Radcliffe | 5:30p | St. Joseph's Memorial Mass |
| Sunday, February 19 (Seventh Sunday on Ordinary Time) | | | |
| 7:30a | Rusty Boyle | 1:30p | Rodolfo & Amalia Moreno |
| 9:00a | William Armell | 3:00p | Filipino Mass |
| 10:30a | All St. Joseph's Parishioners | 5:30p | Rose Quintana |
| 12:00p | Anastacia Mahayag | 7:30p | Joe Scoto |

☞ Prayer & Interior Life ☞

Stewardship: "Sharing These Gifts in Love of God and Neighbor"
February 12, 2012: The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In Moses' time the importance of protecting good health was apparent, especially in the rules that were put in place concerning leprosy. Infected persons were to separate themselves from the community and warn others to not approach them. Jesus brings a new outlook and teaches that compassion and care are more important and heals those with leprosy and other illnesses. The Mosaic laws concerning leprosy were for the good of the community but Jesus' message was for the good of the individual. May we be open to God's mercy to heal and cleanse the pain in our lives.

PRAY TO END ABORTION


Please join us to pray the rosary to end abortion. We meet every Tuesday & Wednesday morning around 9:15am in front of the abortion clinic at 2030 Coffee Road, Modesto. *Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for Us!*



ST. JOSEPH'S PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

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.

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



PANCAKE BREAKFAST — THIS MORNING!

Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast in the hall after 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30am Masses. Menu will be: Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, Orange Juice and Coffee. Cost will be \$5.00 per person at the door. Please come and join us this morning!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Wondering what to give God for Lent this year? How about participating in the “40 Days for Life” effort? Modesto is joining with approximately 422 cities across the globe in synchronized prayer vigils, outside abortion clinics from 8am to 8pm, Monday thru Friday and on Saturday and Sunday, 2pm to 4pm, every week during Lent. Please consider joining our Life Saving Vigil, at the clinic on 2030 Coffee Road for an hour or more during Lent. 5045 children have been saved from abortion, and these are the ones we know about. For more information, please contact Stephanie Pizzirulli, DC. (209) 484-7233 or molthenchiro@gmail.com.

LIGHT WEIGH

Lose unwanted pounds and GAIN a deeper relationship with God. LIGHT WEIGH is a Catholic weight loss/spiritual growth program that has helped many find peace with food. Join us in JP11, Room 8, for a 12-week course beginning Feb. 21. at 10:30am, For information or questions, please call Ann at 522-0697.

2012-2013 ST. JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

A limited amount of scholarships are available for children of active, registered St. Joseph’s parishioners at either Our Lady of Fatima or St. Stanislaus Parish Schools. Scholarship applicants must either be current students or enrolled for the 2012-2013 school year. Application forms and information are available in the parish office and are due by April 30. St. Joseph’s supports Catholic School Education and welcomes donations of support to help fund scholarships.

2012-2013 ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

A limited amount of scholarships are available for children of active, registered St. Joseph’s parishioners who will attend or are attending a four-year college or university as undergraduates. Prospective applicants must be enrolled for the 2012-2013 school year as full-time students. Application forms and information are available in the parish office and are due by April 30. St. Joseph’s supports our college-age parishioners and welcomes donations of support to help fund scholarships.

St. Joseph’s Seniors Lunch and Day Trip

Lunch: Wednesday, February 15: Lunch, wine and snacks!
 Day Trip: February 29—Chuckchansi : 522-2694 or 480-2693

Sunday, February 12, 2012

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|------|
| 6:15 A | In Pew BMA Appeal | Chur |
| 10:00 A | Children’s Liturgy of the Word | JP6 |
| 1:00 P | Youth for Family & Life | JP7 |

Monday, February 13, 2012

| | | |
|--------|--------------------------|------|
| 7:00 P | Charismatic Prayer Group | JP10 |
|--------|--------------------------|------|

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|-----|
| 9:00 A | Senior Strength Training | JP7 |
| 10:30 A | Light Weigh | JP8 |
| 5:30 P | ESL Classes | JP4 |
| 6:15 P | Legion of Mary | JP4 |
| 6:30 P | Light Weigh | JP8 |
| 7:00 P | Charismatic Prayer Group Spanish | JP7 |

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

| | | |
|---------|--|------|
| 10:00 A | Seniors’ Lunch | Hall |
| 1:30 P | Widows and Widowers | JP5 |
| 5:30 P | AA Principle Study Group | JP5 |
| 5:45 P | Al Anon Group | JP10 |
| 6:30 P | Health Ministry | JP4 |
| 6:30 P | Lay Apostolates Leaders Meeting in JP7 | JP7 |
| 7:00 P | On the Go Adults | JP4 |

Thursday, February 16, 2012

| | | |
|--------|--|------|
| 9:00 A | Senior Strength Training | JP7 |
| 6:30 P | Rosary Makers | JP5 |
| 6:30 P | Compartiendo la Biblia (Sharing the Bible) | JP4 |
| 6:30 P | Men’s Group | JP10 |
| 7:00 P | Spanish Young Adults | JP2 |

Friday, February 17, 2012

| | | |
|---------|---------------------|------|
| 12:00 P | TLF Mass | Chur |
| 3:00 P | Divine Mercy Prayer | Chap |

Saturday, February 18, 2012

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|------|
| 8:00 A | Stewardship 101 | Hall |
|--------|-----------------|------|

Sunday, February 19, 2012

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|------|
| 6:00 A | In Pew BMA Appeal | Chur |
| 10:00 A | Children’s Liturgy of the Word | JP6 |
| 10:30 A | Respect Life | JP4 |
| 1:00 P | Youth for Family & Life | JP7 |

Scan this image with your smart phone and go directly to St. Joseph’s webpage to view upcoming events and latest blogs.



☞ PSR Update ☞

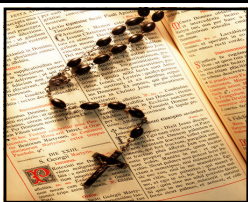
Parish School of Religion
551-4973, ext. 217
E-mail: psr@stjmod.com

The PSR classes and office hours
WILL resume this week:
February 13-16.

SCHOOL OF FAITH
CHANGE:

The School of Faith Spanish
classes will be held on Feb. 1 at
4pm and Feb. 29 at 7pm. In the
JP II building in room 7. We
apologize for the inconvenience.

☞ BIBLE STUDIES ☞



LUNCH BIBLE STUDY

Join the Bible Study on campus
every Thursday at noon in the
Vatican Room. Bring your Bible
and enthusiasm!
All are welcome!

For information call 551-4973 ext.218



Faith Sharing and Bible Study
Groups are forming, sign up in the
Plaza after Mass this weekend or
by calling 551-4973 ext. 218.

☞ RCIA ☞

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

Religious Education

On Our Way to Heaven

We have all heard it before, “we are all called to be saints” (*Lumen Gentium*), but just how do we realize such a high expectation? Is there a thermometer that we can check to measure our degree of holiness, or wretchedness? One thing is certain, the holier we become, the more apparent all our sins and failures are to us; for you see, as one directs one’s life toward God and His light penetrates our innermost soul, all the smudges and cobwebs come into view. Many of the saints and doctors of the Church have written treatises delineating different ways to grow in holiness. Writers such as John Climacus in his *Ladder of Divine Ascent* describes the monk’s journey from renunciation of the world to the perfection of love, as well as St. John of the Cross in his *Ascent of Mount Carmel*. St. Therese’s “Little Way” has also provided an “easier” way for us to grow closer to God in our every day life. But I think that our modern mind is always craving a step by step simple way of doing things, even if they are part of the spiritual realm. God calls all of us to radically change our lives, to leave our worldly desires, and at the same time, live in the world and help change it. Father John McCloskey has written a booklet entitled the *Seven Daily Habits for Faithful Catholics*, where he explains each of these and how we can slowly integrate them into our daily life. The following are the first three:



Steps up Mt. Carmel

1. **The Morning Offering**—This is offering the day for God’s glory and more than that, having the habit of getting up at a certain time, rather than giving in to laziness.
2. **Fifteen Minutes of Silent Prayer**—Spending time with the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel, is a perfect way to have silent prayer. Your prayer can be a conversation with God, where you get to tell Him about your desires, challenges, failures and moments of joy, and of course a time to listen to Him. It is in silence that we hear God. He doesn’t speak to us through thunder and screaming, but in the silence of our souls. “Be Still and know that I am God” (Ps. 46). This time can be increased as we acquire the habit of praying.
3. **Receiving Holy Communion**— The Holy Eucharist, Holy Mass has to be the center of our life. We must nourish our soul in the same way that we nourish our body, so as not to risk spiritual death. Attending daily Mass gives us the strength that we need to walk in faith toward Heaven. Receiving the Body and Blood of the Lord in the Holy Eucharist fills us with divine grace and gives us the fortitude to resist sin.

Here we have the first three simple steps in our journey back to Heaven. We can start by practicing one of them and slowly following each of the rest. Remember that we have this life to grow in holiness and to be ready to meet the Lord when He calls us!

∞ Youth Ministry ∞

Upcoming LifeNights:

2/12: **Kingdom Come** – Miracles and the Kingdom of God/ the Gospels of Luke and Matthew.

2/19: **Follow the Recipe** – The visible and invisible reality of the Sacraments.

2/26: **Retro** – Original Glory and Original Sin.

3/4: **Heart of Mystery** – Paschal Mystery Explained.

All high school teens are invited to join us every Sunday evening from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Bring a friend! See you there!

Life Support-A Place for Parents

We are looking for parent **volunteers** and **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. Parents have the option to plan meetings at their homes or the church. 'Life Support' can provide food for High School LifeNights on Sundays and help chaperone at youth events. If you feel called to this ministry or have any questions, please contact the youth office. Thank you.

Victory Team!

Our parish has been blessed with faithful teens and young adults who are always ready to serve. The "Victory" team is made up of teens and young adults who help serve our Confirmation 1 7th-8th graders. Meetings are held in the JP II center, Room 2, every Monday from 4:30-5:30 pm. Come check it out!

A "Victory" pyramid after a successful C1 class!!



Contact Us!

Nathan Steingrebe

C. 209.247.7863

W. 551-4973, ext. 206

Nathan@stjmod.com

Katie Steffanic

W. 551-4973, ext.223

Ksteffanic@stjmod.com

Save the Date:

Steubenville San Diego

July 27-29

Open to all high school teens, graduating 8th grade through 12th grade in high school. Guest speakers and musicians this year include

Ike Ndolo,

Fr. Michael Schmitz,

Matt Smith, Jackie

Francois and

Righteous B!!

More details to come!

"But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, and formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name:

You are mine."

Isaiah 43:1



Janet Santana

Profiles in Stewardship

by Stacy Phillips

We have a treasure here at St. Joseph's Church, and this treasure is more precious than gold. It is Janet Santana. Janet has been active in so many Ministries that it would be difficult to name them all. She is a Sponsor for RCIA and her dedication to help goes beyond just attending the sessions. She has even attended when her participant couldn't be there so she could share about the presentation later. She has a genuine desire to be there for another who is coming to the Catholic faith.

Janet has also served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EM for short), is a member of the MI Prayer Village (she has served as a past officer), led a "Watch and Pray" Group, helps with Family Promise and is a regular in the Adoration Chapel. This sharing of her time is such a wonderful example of faith lived through service to others and her Church.

Janet loves to travel and is (appropriately) a member of our "On the Go" Adults group. She has traveled near (seeing all the California Missions) and far (making a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land). Janet's smile is contagious. She shines with a love of God and she shares this love with others.

Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: *Please thank the Plaza Refreshment Volunteers for serving your coffee and donuts after Mass today.*

Parish Stewardship—a way of life

Want to get more out of the Mass?
Just going through the motions?
Get plugged into our parish community:

STEWARDSHIP 101

Saturday, February 18
9am–1pm (8:30am check in)
FREE—Light Breakfast Included—
Completion Certificate—
Location: Fr. O'Hare Hall
RSVP: 551-4973, ext. 207
tmenezes@stjmod.com
Sponsored By: St. Joseph's Stewardship Committee

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

In the Diocese

Operation Rice Bowl

Operation Rice Bowl is a wonderful way for families to practice fasting and almsgiving during Lent. The electronic edition of the 2012 media kit includes two photo albums of high resolution photos, simple meals and the beneficiaries from the countries in this year's Lenten reflections and learning. Look here: <http://newswire.crs.org/operation-rice-bowl-media-kit-2012/>

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CALFRESH & CHILD HEALTH INITIATIVE

If you have a limited income, you may be eligible for CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps)—even if you have been denied in the past. CalFresh helps low-income, U.S. Citizens purchase healthy food. Catholic Charities can help you apply! We provide free, confidential application assistance and are committed to reach every eligible individual, families, and seniors! For more information, call Catholic Charities at 593-6124.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

All Saints Catholic Campus Ministry in Turlock is offering \$500 scholarships for students currently enrolled or planning to enroll at CSU Stanislaus. Scholarships are for the 2012-2013 school year. Application forms are available online (CSUS website) or contact Carol Parks (209) 634-1142. The applicants need and potential for success in a given field are taken into consideration when choosing a recipient; religious affiliation is not a factor. Application forms must be returned to All Saints parish office, 4040 McKenna Dr., Turlock, by **March 17, 2012**.

February 1, 2012

Dear People of the Diocese of Stockton,

On Friday, January 20, 2012, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) ruled that virtually all private health plans will be required to include sterilization and contraceptives, including abortion inducing drugs. A very restricted "religious exemption" is granted to religious groups only if they are serving people of the same belief in a very narrow setting such as a parish and employ people of their own faith. However, the Catholic Church in her health and social services reaches out to all those in need. In effect, the HHS ruling is presuming to define how the Catholic Church, or any religious institution, is to carry out its ministry as an expression of its faith. Essentially it is saying that freedom of religion pertains only to freedom of worship and religious teaching but not to the practice of religious faith in the charitable, social and health institutions of the Church. Some have pointed out the irony that under this definition, Jesus' miracles and care for those around him would not qualify as religious.

This ruling represents an alarming intrusion of government into the affairs of the Catholic Church and other faith communities. It would require us to pay for and provide in our insurance coverage what the Church teaches to be morally wrong and a violation of Catholic teaching. This ruling, left unchanged, would put the Church into the untenable position of being required to violate her conscientious beliefs when she provides needed health insurance for her employees.

The conditions of the mandate are unconstitutional and violate the First Amendment because the government is overreaching its power in legislating which Church ministries will be exempted and which ones will not. It is outside the power of government to define religion in any way whatsoever. It also sets up a religious test to see whether our ministries are serving Catholics or non-Catholics. If the government can intrude into the workings of the Catholic Church it can intrude into any religious organization in matters that are internal to the religious organization.

The Administration considers the mandate to be final. We have been given until August 1, 2013 to comply. **WHAT CAN WE DO?**

We must explore and pursue every option to repeal or reverse this unjust mandate through persuasion, advocacy, litigation and other means to protect religious liberty for all. We must especially convince Congress of the need for legislative action to overturn this injustice. You can do your part by contacting your federal legislators to begin this essential process.

I ask you to keep informed by visiting www.usccb.org/conscience. I ask you to pray that wisdom and justice prevail in our "one nation under God with liberty and justice for all."

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Stephen E. Blaire
Bishop of Stockton

Por Stacy Phillips



Janet Santana

Aquí en St. Joseph's tenemos un tesoro más valioso que el oro. Este tesoro es Janet Santana. Ella ha ayudado en tantos ministerios que daría trabajo nombrarlos todos. Nos ayuda como sponsor en el RCIA (Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos) y su dedicación va más allá de sólo asistir a las sesiones. Ella ha asistido hasta cuando su participante no lo ha podido hacer para después compartir con ella la presentación. Ella tiene un deseo genuino de estar presente para otra persona en su camino a la fe Católica.

Janet también ha servido como Ministro Extraordinario de la Santa Comunión, es miembro del grupo de oración de la Milicia Inmaculada, ha sido líder de un grupo de "Oren y Velen", ayuda con el ministerio de Family Promise y regularmente ora en la Capilla de Adoración al Santísimo. Su forma de compartir su tiempo es un ejemplo maravilloso de una fe vivida por medio del servicio a los demás y para su Iglesia.

A Janet le gusta viajar y es miembro de nuestro grupo "On the Go Adults" (Adultos Activos). Ella ha viajado cerca (ha visitado todas las Misiones de California) y lejos (fue en peregrinación a la Tierra Santa). La sonrisa de Janet es contagiosa. Ella resplandece con amor a Dios y comparte su vida con amor a los demás.

¡Boletín Parroquial en Español! DEL LAPTOP DEL PÁRROCO, Padre Joseph Illo

Existe un "cambio de clima" acelerado en nuestro país. En particular, la **Libertad Religiosa** en América se está erosionando mas rápido que cualquier glaciar en Oceanía. Los fundadores de nuestra nación vieron la necesidad inmediata de fortalecer nuestra Constitución con la "Ley de los Derechos." La primera de aquella ley de los Derechos es la *libertad de practicar nuestra religión*. Esta Primera Enmienda garantiza a los ciudadanos la libertad de practicar la religión que escojan, sin interferencia gubernamental.

Hace dos semanas el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los EEUU mandó que todos los empresarios tendrán de comprar seguros que provean esterilización y anticonceptivos, incluyendo drogas que induzcan abortos. Esto quiere decir que nuestra parroquia, por ejemplo, tendrá que pagar por los abortos químicos de nuestros empleados, si ellos así lo escogen. Los hospitales Católicos tendrán que proveer abortos. En una reunión con los pastores la semana pasada, el Obispo Blaire declaró con fuerza que la decisión de la Administración de Obama es "una *ofensiva* violación de la Constitución y la Primera Enmienda." El Arzobispo Timothy Dolan, presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos, escribió en el *Wall Street Journal*:

"el obligar a los ministerios religiosos y a los ciudadanos a pagar directamente por acciones que violan sus enseñanzas, es una incursión en la libertad de consciencia sin precedente...Esta ultima erosión de nuestra primera libertad debe de causar que todos los Americanos hagamos una pausa.

Cuando nuestro gobierno altera una libertad tan fundamental como lo es

para la vida de nuestra nación, causa que temblemos al solo imaginarlos lo que puede seguir." Hasta este escrito (1 de febrero), 125 obispos y muchas otras figuras publicas de nuestra nación se han unido a él en fuerte objeción.

¿Por qué lado América? ¿Cuáles libertades de consciencia nos serán todavía permitidas en los años que vienen? ¿Cuánto mas será la Iglesia designada para la persecución? En el 2010, el Cardenal George de Chicago pronunció las siguientes palabras proféticas: "Yo espero morir en mi cama, mi sucesor morirá en una prisión, y su sucesor morirá un mártir en la plaza publica." ¿Por qué lado América?



40 Días por la Vida: la oración, las velas y los signos externos de la clínica de aborto en Modesto.

Fr. Joseph

Carta del Obispo Stephen Blaire

1 de febrero, 2012

Estimado Pueblo de la Diócesis de Stockton,
El viernes, 20 de enero, 2012, el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los Estados Unidos (HHS) tomó la decisión que casi todos los planes de salud privados tendrán que incluir esterilización y anticonceptivos, incluyendo drogas que causen el aborto. Una muy restringida "excepción religiosa" se le ha otorgado a algunos grupos si ellos sirven solo a personas con las mismas creencias en un lugar pequeño tal como una parroquia que emplee solo a personas de la misma fe. Sin embargo, la Iglesia Católica ofrece sus servicios sociales y de salud a todos aquellos con necesidad. En efecto, la decisión de la HHS presume definir como la Iglesia Católica o cualquier otra institución religiosa, debe de desempeñar su ministerio como expresión de fe. Esencialmente dice que la libertad de religión solo pertenece a la libertad de culto y enseñanza religiosa y no a la práctica de la libertad de religión en las instituciones de caridad sociales y de salud de la Iglesia. Algunos han indicado la ironía que según esta definición, los milagros realizados por Jesús y su cuidado por todos aquellos que lo rodearon, no calificarían como algo religioso.

Esta decisión representa una intrusión alarmante de parte del gobierno en los asuntos de la Iglesia Católica y de otras comunidades religiosas. Esto requeriría que tuviésemos que pagar y proveer por medio de nuestra cobertura de seguro, por algo que la Iglesia enseña que es moralmente erróneo y que viola la enseñanza Católica. Si esta decisión, no cambia, dejará a la Iglesia en una débil posición de requerir que viole su creencia de consciencia cada vez que provea el seguro de salud necesario para sus empleados.

Las condiciones de este mandato son inconstitucionales y violan la Primera Enmienda, ya que el gobierno está mostrando su poder en legislar cuales ministerios Eclesiásticos son exentos y cuales no lo son. El definir la religión de cualquier manera se encuentra fuera del poder gubernamental. También instituye una prueba religiosa que determina cuales de nuestros ministerios proveen servicios a personas católicas y no católicas. Si el gobierno puede interferir en el trabajo de la Iglesia Católica, entonces puede interferir en cualquier organización religiosa y hasta en cualquier asunto interno de una organización religiosa.

La Administración considera este mandato final. Nos han dado hasta el 1 de agosto de 2013 para seguirlo. ¿QUÉ PODEMOS HACER? Debemos explorar y seguir cada opción para repelar o dar reverso a este mandato injusto por medio de persuadir, abdicar, litigación y otros medios para proteger la libertad religiosa para todos. Debemos especialmente convencer al Congreso de la necesidad de una acción legislativa que suspenda esta injusticia. Usted puede hacer su parte haciendo contacto con sus legisladores federales para comenzar este proceso esencial.

Les pido que se mantengan informados visitando este sitio www.usccb.org/conscience. Les pido que recen para que la sabiduría y la justicia triunfen en nuestra "nación bajo Dios con libertad y justicia para todos."

Sinceramente en Cristo,
Reverendo Stephen E. Blaire
Obispo de Stockton



Congreso Católico Juvenil 2012

18 y 19 de febrero, 8:30a-4:30p
Modesto Center Plaza, 1000 L Street
Donación \$5 por día

"En Cristo Siempre Joven" una maravillosa experiencia con conferencias inspiradoras, música y testimonios por Tony Meléndez y "El Padrecito" y su grupo de Rap católico. Dos módulos de conferencias: para adolescentes (bilingüe), para jóvenes adultos



(español). Nuestro Obispo Stephen E. Blaire, oficiará la Celebración Eucarística el domingo.

Concierto con Tony Meléndez

Sábado, 18 de febrero, 7:30-9:30pm
Modesto Center Plaza, 1000 L Street
\$10 por persona

BECAS para el COLEGIO

St. Joseph's está ofreciendo becas para el año escolar 2012-2013 para hijos de feligreses registrados y activos que asistirán o están asistiendo un colegio o universidad de 4 años. Las formas para aplicar están disponibles en la oficina parroquial y deben de ser entregadas antes del 30 de abril del 2012. St. Joseph's apoya a nuestros feligreses en su educación y agradece donaciones para el fondo de las becas.



VIDA PARROQUIAL

Martes: Oración

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

Martes: Clases de Inglés, 5:30-6:30pm, 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.

2012 Bishop's Ministry Appeal

St. Joseph's Goal is \$193,031

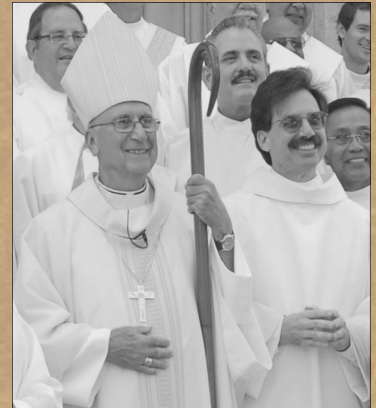
Diocese Goal: \$2,100,000



Fr. Sam West



Fr. Camilo Garcia, Fr. Larry Guerrero, Fr. Joseph Illo



Bishop Stephen Blaire
Dec. Ernest Ciccarelli

*The annual appeal to help our
Bishop with seminarian education.*

Why is it important that we support the Diocese goal with our share? Bishop Blaire faces many of the same challenges we face in our own personal lives: growing expenses, reduced income andincreased need. Our church is growing. Our own St. Joseph's RCIA program is one of the largest in the Diocese. These new Catholics are eager to serve Our Lord. Our Bishop must provide for this ever-growing population by providing more priests and deacons. Let us help our Bishop continue to pay for our seminarians (we need more priests!), train new religious education teachers, and grow our Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

Please complete your BMA Pledge today, or bring to next weekend's Mass.

Thank you to our 2012 BMA St. Joseph's Co-Chairs:

Ron Cook,

Norma Rodriguez and John Gorman

They will speak at all Masses on Feb. 19



**Go deeper this Lent, join an
ARISE group!**

**Sign up on the plaza today or next
week after all Masses!**

ARISE is a bible study that promotes faith sharing in a small group community.