

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

June 17, 2012 Eleventh 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. Joseph Illo, Pastor
Fr. Benny Kottathil, OSB, Assoc Pastor
Fr. Tony Chacko, Assoc Pastor
Fr. Larry Guerrero, Hospital Chaplain
Rev. Mr. Ken Ochiner, Deacon
Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarelli, Deacon

From the Pastor's Laptop



My Father in 1991

Happy Father's Day! A few weeks ago I visited my mother and father at the homestead in Pennsylvania. My father, Dr. John Illo, is 87 years old, and I thought I knew everything about him. But in talking to him last month, and in listening to my mother describe the early years of our family, I discovered a new respect and love for my father. He served in Manila during World War II (US Army), and now that I think of it, he used to tell us children stories about crossing the Pacific on troop ships and the liberation of Manila from the Japanese. He went on to earn his MA and PhD at Columbia University while supporting his young wife and family. We will never understand all there is to know about our fathers, but we love them and honor them.

Our spiritual fathers—the US Bishops— have called for a **“Fortnight for Freedom”** beginning this Thursday through July 4. They explain in their letter, entitled *“Our First, Most Cherished Freedom,”* how America founded its Republic on religious liberty (our founders, remember, were *religious pilgrims*).

“In 1634, a mix of Catholic and Protestant settlers arrived at St. Clement's Island in Southern Maryland from England aboard the Ark and the Dove. They had come at the invitation of the Catholic Lord Baltimore, who had been granted Maryland by the Protestant King Charles I of England. While Catholics and Protestants were killing each other in Europe, Lord Baltimore imagined Maryland as a society where people of different faiths could live together peacefully.”

Pennsylvania, too, was founded by William Penn, a Quaker, who respected all faiths. In 1760, for example, Pennsylvania was the only place in the British Empire that allowed Catholics to celebrate Mass.

Religious freedom—a hallmark of American culture—is quickly eroding. Our country is tipping, dangerously. Will we do nothing as it tips? The enemies of our Republic and our Church assume we will do nothing to stop them. Join me in a **Fortnight for Freedom!** On June 22, I will lead a holy hour at 6:30pm to pray for our country. On June 23 at 6:30pm, I will host a “God and Coffee” on religious freedom. Let us fast, too, on the Fridays of June 22 and June 29. Let us pray the rosary and St. Michael prayer with our families. See the insert of this bulletin for the full schedule of our **Fortnight**.

Fr. Joseph

Questions?

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

Parish Office

(Lulu, Donna, Alex, Brenda)

Sunday: 10am-3pm.

Monday: 10am-7:30pm

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

Closed Wednesday from 11am-1pm

Friday 8:30am-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

FR. JOSEPH'S FAREWELL DINNER JULY 21



Fr. Joseph's Farewell Dinner - share your favorite memories!

The planning Committee for the Dinner will be giving Fr. Joseph a Memory Album. Please share your favorite memories of Fr. Joseph and submit on 8-1/2" x 11" plain white paper (1 side, 1 page only) and bring to the parish office by June 30.

Welcome to St. Joseph's

We're glad you're here!

Parish Life

Upcoming Events & Activities

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Come help save lives by donating your blood at the Knights of Columbus annual blood drive at St. Joseph's tomorrow, Monday, June 18th. Please sign up ahead of time in the plaza.



ON THE GO ADULTS

Come join a group of active, fun adults 35 years and up who enjoy a variety of activities. We participate in many events including active 10k walks in places like Carmel or Lake Tahoe, or visits to the De Young Museum in San Francisco. We also have pot lucks and movie nights. Meetings 3rd Wednesday at 7pm in Room 4 JP II Center.

ST. JOSEPH'S SENIOR CLUB — JUNE 20

Please join St. Joseph's Seniors Club for its monthly luncheon on **June 20** (members meet every third Wednesday) in Fr. O'Hare Hall. Social hour starts at 10am; business hour starts at 11am; and lunch is at noon. June is a time for picnics, and our menu consists of BBQ hamburgers, beans, potato salad, chips & dips, wine & beer. Members FREE; the cost for guests is \$3. There will be Bingo with prizes. Please call Chris at 522-2694 for luncheon reservations.

CATHOLIC LEGISLATIVE NETWORK

Free Pocket Constitutions for each family! Prepare for your family's 4th of July celebration with these wonderful "pocket" constitutions, provided for each family the weekend of June 23/24 after all Masses. Thanks to our Catholic Legislative Network, Military Support Ministry and Knights of Columbus for sharing in the cost. God Bless America!



OPUS ANGELORUM — JUNE 25-27



Opus Angelorum means "Work of the Angels." Fr. Wolfgang Seitz of the Order of the Holy Cross will preach a mission on learning more and growing in your relationship with the Holy Angels, especially your Guardian Angel.

PERPETUAL HELP ANNUAL FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Annual Feast Day Celebration and Pot Luck will be held on Wednesday, June 27. A private 9-day novena will start Monday, June 18, through Tuesday, June 26. The celebration begins with a rosary at 5:20pm, Mass at 5:45pm, followed by procession around the church and pot luck on the plaza. For more info, call Imelda Miranda 529-0422 or Myrna Dirige 631-3589.

Religious Education

Fatherhood... a Divine Calling

By Maria F. Delgado-Braun—Religious Education



Today we celebrate Father's Day, not only a secular feast, but a day when we reflect on our filial relationship with God, and the high calling to fatherhood. A father is called to be the spiritual head of the family; he, like the good shepherd, is to protect, teach and guide his family to sanctity. Sacred Scripture is filled with references to Fatherhood; it speaks of God the Father, and also when referring to Abraham and David, our fathers in faith. In Genesis, God makes a covenant with Abraham and tells him that he will be the father of many nations. Abraham immediately prostrates himself before God and goes on to be circumcised as commanded. As a result of his obedience and trust, he becomes the father of our faith. St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, like Abraham, is one of the best models of fatherhood. Joseph, chaste spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary is entrusted with providing and

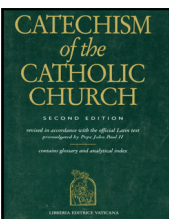
raising the Son of God, the Word Incarnate. One might conclude from Scripture, that there is not much to say about Joseph, but we can infer from his response to God's angel. When the angel of the Lord appears to him and tells him not to fear, that Mary is to bear the Son of God. Joseph immediately does as the angel tells him, without questioning the will of God. He receives the message in the silence of prayer and acts immediately in obedience and trust in God. Joseph is the protector of the Holy Family and the Church. When he is asked again by the angel to journey to Egypt where the infant Jesus will be safe, Joseph is again obedient and goes in haste. His silence is a mark of a prayerful person, for it is in silence that one can hear God. What are fathers to learn from men such as Abraham and Joseph? How can this be applied to everyday life? Both Abraham and Joseph were men that put all their trust in God, their wills and desires were set aside as they listened intently to His commands. When they heard from God, they acted with zeal not thinking about the ramifications, nor the details of what was asked of them, sacrificing all. Both worked to provide for their families, and were the spiritual heads of their households. Fathers, like Abraham and Joseph, are to provide for their families and give themselves in sacrifice; they are to teach the faith to their children through word and example and to trust fully in God. Fathers are not only called to be providers, but defenders of the faith, men who obey God above all and who, after knowing the will of God, are eager to fulfill it. As spiritual heads of the family, they are called to bring their children and spouses to sanctity.



The MI Villages invite you to our Annual Picnic at the Park on Saturday, July 8th, at 11:00 am. Come and join us at Downey Park. All are invited to our potluck celebration! For more information, call 551-4973 ext. 218.

CATECHISM 101 — JUNE 18

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Pope Benedict has declared October 2012 to November 2013 the Year of Faith. All adult Catholics are invited to discover the richness of our Catholic faith. On the third Monday of every month, (from this June to November 2013) we will have a workshop on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We will meet at 7pm in JP II room 5.



RCIA

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

☯ Youth Ministry ☯

Contact Us!

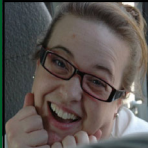


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XLT

XLT is a night of charismatic prayer, adoration, praise and worship. All families are invited to attend. Summer dates are coming soon!



Youth Music Ensemble

The Youth Music Ensemble, at the 5:30 p.m. Sunday youth Mass, will take a break over the summer. The choir will start again on Sunday, Aug. 5. Please contact Katie Steffanic if you feel called to join and sing!



2012 Summer Events:



Tuesday Teen Day: Starting this Tuesday we will have Mass and Breakfast every week. Teens and young adults are invited to join us on Tuesdays for 8 a.m. Mass followed by donuts and games in the youth room. Hope to see you there!



St. Joseph's VBR: Vacation Bible Retreat will be held here at St. Joseph's from June 25-29. If you are a **Confirmation student**, this is a great way to fulfill your 20 hours of community service. Come fill out a volunteer form in the youth room or front office!



Steubenville San Diego July 27-29

We are now accepting permission slips! This conference is open to all high school teens, graduating 8th grade through 12th grade in high school. Guest speakers and musicians this year include Ike Ndolo, Fr. Michael Schmitz, Matt Smith and Jackie Francois. Righteous B will be the host. We will be taking a bus to and from the conference and spots are filling up! Space is limited. Cost is \$150. Payment options are available.

High School Fall Retreat

Mark your calendars! St. Joseph's high school fall retreat will take place November 9-11. This annual trip takes place in Aptos, and the cost is \$100. Get ready to grow in faith and fellowship through Mass, adoration, praise and worship, confession, small groups, and games!



Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Plaza refreshments are being served this weekend by our Plaza Refreshment Volunteers. Please stop by and thank them when you get your coffee and donuts.

Parish Stewardship—a way of life



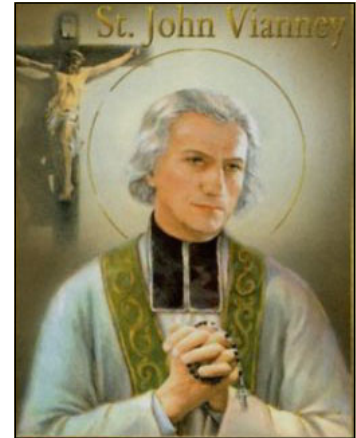
It's not easy being a dad, but on this day when we honor fathers.....we salute *all the fathers* of our parish and thank you for the sacrifices you have provided and continue to provide, both for your families and our parish.



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

Profiles in Stewardship

by Fr. Joseph Illo



This will be my last “Stewardship Profile.” I began writing these in 2002 and for many years wrote one each week. Since 2008 our parish staff have been writing them as well. Over the last ten years I’ve profiled hundreds of parishioners who model Christian Stewardship, and for my last column I want to thank all of you. You have built up St. Joseph’s into a beautiful parish.

For my last profile, and on this Father’s Day, I wish to profile **St. John Vianney**. This parish priest served the Universal Church as a spiritual father of a small parish in Southern France, from 1818 to 1859. He gave not 10% of himself nor merely 50% but just about 100% of himself to the Good God and his parish. On any given day, 300 people from all over France would visit the parish to make their confession to their spiritual father, who spent up to 15 hours a day in the confessional. While still a seminarian, I read a large biography of St. John Vianney and was swept away by his life. Here was a man who died absolutely spent, having spent everything he had been given for others. What a precious life, received from God and returned to Him. I decided then and there to become a parish priest.

Stewardship

“Stewardship: Sharing These Gifts in Love of God and Neighbor”

June 17 — Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The natural growth of living things is an awe-inspiring phenomenon. The readings today compare the growth of God’s kingdom to the growth of trees and the mustard plant. From a small shoot or a tiny seed, the plant grows large enough to provide food and shelter for other creatures. When we understand the love God has for us, we share that love with others and so it grows and spreads, producing good fruit in the world. May we take the seed of faith delivered to us by the Church and use it to grow the kingdom of God.

In the Diocese

PRIESTS vs. SEMINARIANS

June 29, 7:00 pm

Presentation Community Center, 1515 Benjamin Holt Drive in Stockton

Help promote vocations by attending this basketball game, rooting for your favorite team and bringing young people to meet our priests and seminarians. This event is free.

From The US Conference of Catholic Bishops

Our First, Most Cherished Liberty A Statement on Religious Liberty

...In particular, we recommend to our brother bishops that we focus “all the energies the Catholic community can muster” in a special way this coming summer. As pastors of the flock, our privileged task is to lead the Christian faithful in prayer.

Both our civil year and liturgical year point us on various occasions to our heritage of freedom. This year, we propose a special “fortnight for freedom,” in which bishops in their own dioceses might arrange special events to highlight the importance of defending our first freedom. Our Catholic institutions also could be encouraged to do the same, especially in cooperation with other Christians, Jews, people of other faiths, and indeed, all who wish to defend our most cherished freedom.

We suggest that the fourteen days from June 21—the vigil of the Feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More—to July 4, Independence Day, be dedicated to this “fortnight for freedom”—a great hymn of prayer for our country. Our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political

power—St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome.

Culminating on Independence Day, this special period of prayer, study, catechesis, and public action would emphasize both our Christian and American heritage of liberty. Dioceses and parishes around the country could choose a date in that period for special events that would constitute a great national campaign of teaching and witness for religious liberty.

In addition to this summer’s observance, we also urge that the Solemnity of Christ the King—a feast born out of resistance to totalitarian incursions against religious liberty—be a day specifically employed by bishops and priests to preach about religious liberty, both here and abroad.

To all our fellow Catholics, we urge an intensification of your prayers and fasting for a new birth of freedom in our beloved country. We invite you to join us in an urgent prayer for religious liberty.



*Almighty God, Father of all nations,
For freedom you have set us free in Christ Jesus (Gal 5:1).
We praise and bless you for the gift of religious liberty,
the foundation of human rights, justice, and the common good.
Grant to our leaders the wisdom to protect and promote our liberties;
By your grace may we have the courage to defend them, for ourselves
and for all those who live in this blessed land.
We ask this through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, our
patroness, and in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

Sacraments

Our Mass Intentions

Sunday, June 17 (Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time) Father's Day			
7:30a	Rusty Boyle	1:30p	Antonio Dominguez, Luis Ruiz and George Medina
9:00a	Father's Day Novena	3:00p	Rudy Taa & Manuel Vaso
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	5:30p	Rafael Vasquez
12:00p	Joe Mendes	7:20p	Jose Scoto
Monday, June 18			
8:00a	Father's Day Novena	5:45p	Coralynn Lootens and Perfecto Valdez
Tuesday, June 19			
8:00a	Father's Day Novena	5:45p	Fernando Camaya and Gabriel Ruiz
Wednesday, June 20			
8:00a	Father's Day Novena	5:45p	Fernanda Bezzi and John & Ellen Peyton
Thursday, June 21			
8:00a	Father's Day Novena	5:45p	John & Virginia Bairos and Agostino Cira
Friday, June 22			
8:00a	Father's Day Novena	5:45p	Rosanna Hollander and Herbert Roeck
Saturday, June 23			
8:00a	Father's Day Novena	5:45p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
Sunday, June 24 (Nativity of St. John the Baptist)			
7:30a	Albert Scuitto	1:30p	Antonio Alvarez
9:00a	Father's Day Novena	5:30p	Rudy Taa
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Charles Aguilar
12:00p	Christopher John Perino		

Pastoral Council

We welcome Suzanne Flint and David Loucks to our Pastoral Council for the 2012-2015 term! Donna Roeck was voted to remain on the council for another term in this time of pastor transition, and Michelle Frey was re-appointed to serve out the remainder of Karin Hennings' term who resigned last month.

A heartfelt thank you to outgoing member, Gary Nelson, who faithfully served the parish with his spiritual and professional leadership on this council.

Readings 6/18-6/24

Monday:	1 Kgs 21:1-16; Mt 5:38-42
Tuesday:	1 Kgs 21:17-29; Mt 5:43-48
Wednesday:	2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Sir 48:1-14; Mt 6:7-15
Friday:	2 Kgs 11:1-4, 9-18, 20; Mt 6:19-23
12pm Latin Mass:	II. Cor. 8:9-15; Lk. 12:32-34
Saturday:	2 Chr 24:17-25; Mt 6:24-34
Sunday:	<u>Vigil:</u> Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71; 1 Pt 1:8-12; Lk 1:5-17 <u>Day:</u> Is 49:1-6; Ps 139; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80
Latin Mass	Is. 49:1-3,5,6,7; Lk. 1:57-68

This Week

Sunday, June 17, 2012		
10:00A	Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)	JP6
10:30A	Respect Life	JP4
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7
Monday, June 18, 2012		
8:00A	Knights of Columbus Blood Drive	Hall
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer Grp	JP10
Tuesday, June 19, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
5:30P	Development Committee	Confr
5:30P	ESL Classes	JP4
6:15P	Legion of Mary	JP4
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer Group Spanish	JP7
Wednesday, June 20, 2012		
10:00A	Seniors' Lunch	Hall
1:30P	Widows and Widowers Bible Study	JP5
5:30P	AA Principle Study Grp	JP5
5:45P	AI Anon Group	JP10
6:30P	Health Ministry	JP4
7:00P	On the Go Adults	JP4
Thursday, June 21, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
12:00P	Lunch Bible Study	JP5
6:30P	Rosary Makers	JP5
6:30P	Compartiendo la Biblia	JP4
7:00P	Spanish Young Adults	JP2
Friday, June 22, 2012		
12:00P	Latin Mass	Chur
3:00P	Divine Mercy Prayer	Chap
Saturday, June 23, 2012		
12:00P	New Altar Servers Training	Chur
Sunday, June 24, 2012		
8:00A	Catholic Legislative Network in Plaza	Plaza
10:00A	CLOW	JP6
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7

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

Remember a special day or person -Altar Flower Donation-

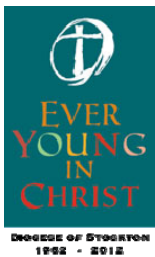


Call the Development Office for info. 551-4973, x207

RETIRO DE BIBLIA EN
VACACIONES - JUNIO 25-29



Retiro para niños de St. Joseph's. ¡Regístrelos ya! en la plaza o en la oficina o ayude como voluntario.



ENTRENAMIENTO PARA
LIDERES DE JUVENTUD

Las Diócesis de Stockton y San José patrocinan tres días de entrenamiento para jóvenes de secundaria que quieran ser líderes de juventud en sus comunidades. \$ 150 Por participante. Junio 22-24, Camp Campbell, Boulder Creek, CA.

CONGRESO JUVENIL
INTERCULTURAL

Los jóvenes aprenderán la manera de ser líderes en sus parroquias, mientras tienen la oportunidad de compartir diversas experiencias culturales, religiosas, de alimentación, danza, etc. Costo \$ 295, Julio 19-22, Universidad de Santa Clara.

Ambas sesiones de entrenamiento son para líderes jóvenes católicos. Para información escriba a youth@stocktondiocese.org o llame al 209-546-7633. Es necesaria la inscripción previa. Hay becas disponibles para ambos eventos.

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



Mi papá en 1991

¡Feliz Día del Padre! Hace algunas semanas visité a mis padres en su casa en Pennsylvania. Mi papa, el Dr. John Illo, tiene 87 años y pensé que sabia todo acerca de él. Pero al hablar con él la semana pasada, y escuchar a mi mamá describir los primeros años de nuestra familia, descubrí un nuevo respeto y amor por mi papá. El sirvió en Manila durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial (en el Ejército de los EEUU) y ahora que lo pienso, solía contarnos historias sobre el paso del Pacifico en barco y la liberación de Manila de manos de los Japoneses. Después completó su Masters y Doctorado en la Universidad de Columbia mientras que sostenía a su esposa y familia. Nunca podremos

comprender todo sobre nuestros padres, pero los amamos y honramos.

Nuestros padres espirituales—los Obispos de EU— han proclamado “Una Quincena por la Libertad” (dos semanas por la Libertad) comenzando este jueves hasta el 4 de julio. Ellos lo explican en su carta titulada “La Primera y Mas Preciada de Nuestras Libertades,” como América fundó su Republica basada en la libertad religiosa (nuestros fundadores, si se acuerdan, eran *peregrinos religiosos*).

“En 1634 un grupo de colonos católicos y protestantes llegaron de Inglaterra a la isla de St. Clement, en el sur de Maryland, a bordo de los buques Ark y Dove. Habían venido invitados por el católico Lord Baltimore a quien el rey protestante, Charles I de Inglaterra, le había entregado Maryland con el fin de que allí se estableciera una sociedad donde personas de diferentes credos pudieran convivir en paz.”

Pennsylvania, también fue fundada por William Penn, un Quaker con respeto por todas las fes. En 1760, por ejemplo, Pennsylvania fue el único lugar del Imperio Británico que dejo que los Católicos celebrasen la Misa.

La libertad religiosa—una marca de la cultura Americana— se está desmoronando rápidamente. Nuestro país se balancea peligrosamente. ¿Haremos algo antes de que caiga? Los enemigos de la Republica y de nuestra Iglesia asumen que no haremos nada para pararlos. ¡Únase conmigo en **Una Quincena por la Libertad** ! El 22 de junio celebraré la hora santa a las 6:30pm para rezar por nuestro país. El 23 de junio a las 6:30 daré una charla “Dios y Café” sobre la libertad de religión. Ayunemos también, en los viernes del 22 de junio y el 29 de junio. Recemos el rosario y la oración a San Miguel con nuestras familias. Vea el reverso del boletín para el calendario completo de nuestra **Quincena**.

Fr. Joseph

Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los EEUU

La Primera y Más Preciada de Nuestras Libertades Declaración Sobre la Libertad Religiosa

...En particular, recomendamos a nuestros hermanos obispos que enfoquemos “todas las energías que la comunidad católica pueda manifestar”, y de forma especial este próximo verano. Como pastores del rebaño, nuestra privilegiada tarea es la de dirigir a nuestros fieles cristianos en oración.

Tanto nuestro año civil como el litúrgico nos señalan en varias ocasiones la herencia de libertad. Este año proponemos una especial “quincena por la libertad” en la cual los obispos en sus diócesis puedan preparar eventos especiales para dar relieve a la importancia de defender nuestra primera libertad. Nuestras instituciones católicas también pueden ser alentadas a hacer lo mismo, especialmente en cooperación con otros cristianos, con judíos, y con gentes de otros credos, y por supuesto, con todos los que deseen defender nuestra preciada libertad.

Les sugerimos que por catorce días, comenzando el 21 de junio —vigilia de las Fiestas de san Juan Fisher y santo Tomás Moro— hasta el 4 de julio, día de la Independencia, sean dedicados a esta “quincena por la libertad” como un gran himno de oración por nuestro país. Nuestro calendario litúrgico conmemora una serie de mártires importantes quienes se mantuvieron fieles frente a la persecución del poder político: San Juan Fisher y Santo Tomás Moro, San Juan Bautista, los Santos Pedro y Pablo, y los primeros mártires de la Iglesia de Roma. Este período especial de oración, estudio, catequesis y acción pública que culmina con el día de la Independencia, podría hacer énfasis en nuestra herencia cristiana y americana por la libertad. Las diócesis y parroquias de todo el país podrían escoger una fecha durante ese tiempo para desarrollar eventos especiales que podrían convertirse en una campaña nacional de enseñanza y testimonio por la libertad religiosa.

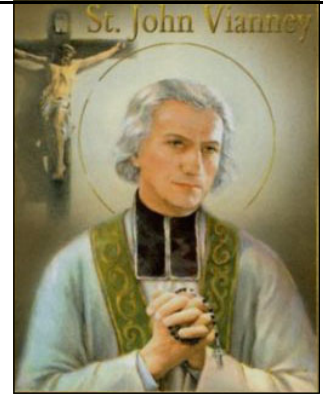
Además de esta celebración en el verano, también los instamos a que la Solemnidad de Cristo Rey, una fiesta que nació por la resistencia a las incursiones del totalitarismo contra la libertad religiosa, sea un día específicamente dedicado por obispos y sacerdotes, tanto aquí en el país como en el extranjero, a predicar sobre la libertad religiosa.

Urgimos a todos nuestros amigos católicos a intensificar las oraciones y el ayuno para que haya un renacer de la libertad en nuestro amado país. Los invitamos a que se unan a nosotros en una plegaria urgente por la libertad religiosa:

*Dios Todopoderoso, Padre de todas las naciones,
Para la libertad nos has hecho libres en Jesucristo (Gal. 5:1).
Te alabamos y bendecimos por el regalo de la libertad religiosa,
la institución de los derechos humanos, la justicia y el bien común.
Concede a nuestros dirigentes la sabiduría para proteger
y promover nuestras libertades;
que por Tu gracia tengamos el valor de defenderlas,
tanto para nosotros como para todos los que viven en esta bendita tierra.
Te lo pedimos por la intersección de María Inmaculada, nuestra Patrona,
Y en el nombre de su Hijo, Nuestro Señor Jesucristo,
en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, con quien vives y reinas, un solo Dios,
por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.*

Corresponsabilidad (Stewardship)

Por el Padre Joseph Illo



Este será mi último escrito sobre la “Corresponsabilidad.” Comencé a escribir estos en el 2002 y por muchos años escribí uno semanalmente. Desde el 2008, el personal de la parroquia los han estado escribiendo también. En los últimos diez años he escrito sobre cientos de feligreses que son modelos de la Corresponsabilidad Cristiana, y para mi última columna quiero agradecerles a todos ustedes.

Ustedes han edificado a St. Joseph’s y la han convertido en una hermosa parroquia.

Para mi último artículo, en este Día del Padre, quiero dedicarlo a **San Juan Vianney**. Quien sirvió a la Iglesia Universal como padre espiritual en una pequeña parroquia en el Sur de Francia, de 1818 a 1859. El no dió su 10% solamente, ni tampoco el 50%, pero 100% de su persona, por Nuestro Señor y su parroquia. Durante cualquier día, 300 personas de toda Francia visitaban a su parroquia para recibir confesión de su padre espiritual, quien solía pasar hasta 15 horas al día en el confesional. Mientras que todavía era un seminarista, leí una larga biografía de San Juan Vianney y su vida me envolvió. Aquí se encontraba un hombre que murió habiendo gastado todo lo que poseía por otros. Que vida más preciosa recibida de Dios y devuelta a El. Decidí allí entonces el volverme un sacerdote parroquiano.



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