

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 3, 2012

## The Most Holy Trinity

(209) 551-4973

Fax: (209) 551-3213

Visit our website:

[www.stjmod.com](http://www.stjmod.com)

### Holy Eucharist

#### Sunday Mass:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30pm

Sundays: 7:30am,

9am (Traditional Latin), 10:30am,

12noon, 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 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



May First Communions

**Happy Trinity Sunday!** Pentecost (last Sunday), Trinity Sunday (today) and Corpus Christi (next Sunday) bring the entire three-month sweep of Lent-Easter to a grand finale. Trinity Sunday portrays the core of our faith: that God is a communion of persons, eternally giving and receiving love. *And it is the family that portrays the Trinity.*

The family essentially undergirds a peaceful social order, and so among the government's many roles, supporting families is paramount. The Romans knew this, for example, and in its apogee, the Empire exhorted her citizens to practice fidelity to their spouses, to beget many children and to educate them well. When the emperors and senators began cheating on their wives, aborting their children,

and practicing homosexuality, the empire began to weaken, and eventually collapsed.

Who or what can provide necessary family support in our day? Public education, the entertainment industry, and politics have all demonstrated their indifference to family life. Our government too is faltering in its essential duty — its promotion of same-sex “marriage” manifests even an *enmity* towards marriage and family life. The government needs a power greater than itself, a perspective broader than its own, to accomplish this task. Good religion, which is non-partisan and non-political, exercises an irreplaceable role in our Republic. George Washington wrote that “While just government protects all in their religious rights, true religion affords to government its *surest support*” (my italics).

I have been asked to deliver an address this Friday, June 8, at a Freedom Rally in San Francisco to protest the government's incursions on our First Right in the Bill of Rights — the right to Freedom of Religion (see back page). We must call the government back to our founders' respect for religion, to their acceptance of the support only religion can offer. We are preparing for the national **Fortnight of Freedom**, about which I will speak next week.

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

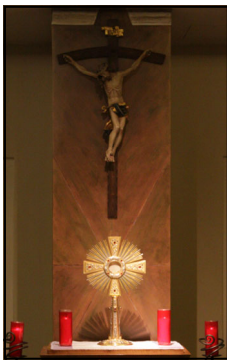
Friday 8:30am-12noon

**Weekend Maintenance 568-7558**

## How can we help? 551-4973

Se Habla Español.....	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

## 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.

# Welcome to St. Joseph's

We're glad you're here!

## Parish Life

### Upcoming Events & Activities

#### ST. JOSEPH'S FAMILY PROMISE

St. Joseph's Family Promise assists families experiencing temporary homelessness within our community. Volunteers are needed for our upcoming hosting week of **June 17th**. Please stop by the table today in the plaza to find out how you can help.

#### ST. JOSEPH'S SENIOR CLUB — JUNE ACTIVITIES

Please join St. Joseph's Seniors Club for their monthly luncheon on **June 20** (they meet every third Wednesday) in Fr. O'Hare Hall. Our social hour starts at 10am. The business hour starts at 11am and lunch is at 12noon. June is a time for picnics, and our menu consists of BBQ hamburger, beans, potato salad, chip & dips, wine & beer. Members are FREE; the cost for guests is \$3. There will be Bingo with prizes. **Reminder: The Yosemite trip is planned for June 13:** cost is \$80 via Amtrak. Please call Chris at 522-2694 for reservations for both the Yosemite trip and the luncheon.

#### VACATION BIBLE RETREAT (VBR)

**JUNE 25-29**

VBR is a treat for the children of St. Joseph's and always fills quickly. We will be on the plaza after Mass today and next week for your opportunity to sign up your child.



#### 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. Each night will consist of confessions at 5pm, rosary at 5:15pm, daily 5:45pm Mass, 6:30pm conference talk, 7:30pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

#### MILITARY SUPPORT MINISTRY

The Military Support Ministry would like to thank parishioners for sharing their gift of treasure and helping them to raise \$1,719 during their Memorial Day fundraiser on the plaza. All of these funds will be used for their next shipment, on June 8, of care boxes to our troops in Afghanistan. Also they are grateful to Centenary Methodist Church of Modesto for their support of \$776 and 45 more care boxes.

## Religious Education

## Sacred Art... The Most Holy Trinity

By Michael Webster, Director of Religious Education

This Sunday we celebrate the incredible mystery of the Holy Trinity. The icon to the right is based on the story of “the hospitality of Abraham” where three visitors came to Abraham and his wife Sara, (*read Genesis 18:1-15*). However, this icon often is used in teaching about the mystery of the Trinity, which also is evident in the scripture passage.

First, look at the three figures in the icon, one can notice some similarities: they have the same face, are wearing blue (color symbolic for divinity in iconic writing), and are holding rods. These similarities are depicting both their divine authority and equality. There is some dispute among scholars about who each person is, but the most widely held opinion is that it goes in the doxological order: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (left to right). The Father is wearing a blue tunic with an almost opaque/transparent cloak to symbolize the hidden nature of God the creator. His right hand is in a blessing movement, He is the author of all blessings. His head is leaned toward the Son and the Spirit whereas their heads are leaned toward the Father to symbolize His role in the Trinity. Christ the Son, the central figure of the icon, wears a red-purple tunic with a blue cloak to symbolize His royal priesthood. The Holy Spirit wears a green cloak to symbolize that he is the giver of life and through His action we are transformed into new life, primarily through the grace of the sacraments. The focus of the three figures within the icon seems to be the altar. The Son is blessing the cup that contains the offering of Abraham, but it can also symbolically represent Christ as the sacrificial lamb and prefigure the Holy Eucharist. Also, the Holy Spirit is pointing to the square space in the altar that seems to be missing. In Catholic altars there is a relic of a saint. In the icon, we are being invited to sainthood, to give our lives and everything we are to God, to share in the communion of love and life that is the Most Holy Trinity.



St. Andrei Rublev's icon of the Holy Trinity ca. 1411

There is so much that can be written about this beautiful icon. Check out these books for further reading:

*Contemplating the Trinity*

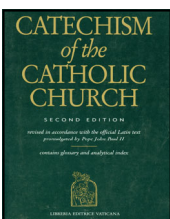
By Raniero Cantalamessa,

*Behold the Beauty of the Lord,  
Praying with Icons*

By Henri Nouwen

## 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 JP11 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!

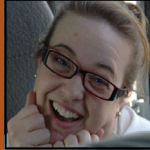


**Nathan Steingrebe**

C. 247-7863  
W. 551-4973, ext. 206  
Nathan@stjmod.com

**Katie Steffanic**

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



## 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 be taking a break over the summer. The choir will start again on Sunday, August 5. Please contact Katie Steffanic if you feel called to join and sing!

There will be no Life Nights over the summer, but there are still great youth events planned!

### 2012 Summer Events:

Tuesday Teen Day: Starting Tuesday, June 5, join us every Tuesday morning for 8 a.m. Mass. After Mass you are invited to hang out in the youth room and enjoy breakfast and games. You are welcome to bring friends!

St. Joseph's VBR: Vacation Bible Retreat will be held at St. Joseph's from June 25-29. If you would like to volunteer to help, go to the youth office for a form! (It will count towards Confirmation service hours)

NET Ministries D-Week: Discipleship Week is open to teens ages 13-18 and will take place at Stanislaus State in Turlock. The retreat is June 18-21 and cost is \$230 (includes food and lodging). Applications are available in the youth office.

Stuebenville San Diego: July-27-29. Spots are filling up! Contact Nathan or Katie for more info.



The youth group celebrated our last Life Night of the school year by going on a scavenger hunt. Each small group started with a penny and walked around the local neighborhoods asking families for something "bigger or better" than the penny.

People were very generous and we ended up with a variety of household items such as a broken vacuum, crutches, an old box fan, a birdhouse, a wheelbarrow, a patio umbrella and frozen chicken. Thanks to our teens for being such great sports!

# Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Plaza refreshments are being served this weekend by our Parish Council. Please stop by and let them know what you think about our parish.

Parish Stewardship — a way of life

## REMINDER Lay Apostolate Leader Meeting *Wednesday, June 13*

6:30-8PM,  
Room 7— JPII Building  
*Special Guest: Fr. Joseph Illo*

**Our parish bookstore welcomes  
new volunteers!!!**

Please call the Center for Lay Apostolates  
551-4973, ext. 207



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

## Profiles in Stewardship

by Katie Steffanic



**Gloria and Lili Ramos**

We read in the Bible that God loves a cheerful giver, and cheerful is what Gloria and Lili are! The sisters joined our “Victory Team” and youth group at the beginning of this year. Both are great examples of God’s love with their caring and generous personalities, and constant smiles on their faces, ready to help whenever possible. Gloria, 16, is a junior, and Lili, 18, is a senior. Both attend Waterford High School. Lili will be graduating and plans to continue her education at Stanislaus State University where she will study biology and then transfer to UCLA.

They don’t just share their talents here at St. Joseph’s. They are very involved in the Christian club, Generation Faith, at school and play baseball. They also attend St. Anthony’s in Hughson, where they altar serve.

Lili and Gloria are part of a family of six. They have two older siblings in the family that attended WYD and sparked their interest in getting more involved in their parishes. They both enjoyed helping with the C-1 students and attending youth group because “Our relationship with the Lord grew stronger, and we got to share that and witness the students’ faith grow as well.”

Lili and Gloria plan to continue serving in our parish next year and hope to attend WYD 2013.

## In the Diocese

California Primary Election  
Tuesday, June 5, 2012



"In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation."

- U.S. Bishops' Statement on Faithful Citizenship, 2011.

For more information about Catholics' role in Political life:

From the United States Catholic Bishops:  
<http://tinyurl.com/cvx9kr7>

From the California Catholic Conference:  
<http://tinyurl.com/85hy5ku>

A Pastoral letter from Bishop Blaire to the Diocese of Stockton is available by going to the Diocesan website:  
[www.stocktondiocese.org](http://www.stocktondiocese.org).



If you want a copy to download and view or print, look here:  
<http://db.tt/L3jnIPfb>



TAKE YOUR DAD TO THE  
GAME WITH BISHOP BLAIRE  
June 16, 7:05 pm

Watch Bishop Blaire  
throw the first pitch!



Enjoy a night of  
Ports baseball with your dad,  
grandfather, uncle, pastor,  
priest, youth minister - bring  
the entire family!

Call for your tickets  
209-546-7633 or  
[youth@stocktondiocese.org](mailto:youth@stocktondiocese.org)  
Tickets are \$9

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## From our Holy Father in Rome

APOSTOLIC LETTER "MOTU PROPRIO DATA"  
PORTA FIDEI

FOR THE INDICTION OF THE YEAR OF FAITH (Part V)



The example of Lydia is particularly eloquent in this regard. Saint Luke recounts that, while he was at Philippi, Paul went on the Sabbath to proclaim the Gospel to some women; among them was Lydia and "the Lord opened her heart to give heed to what was said by Paul" (Acts 16:14). There is an important meaning contained within this expression. Saint Luke teaches that knowing the content to be believed is not sufficient unless the heart, the authentic sacred space within the person, is opened by grace that allows the eyes to see below the surface and to understand that what has been proclaimed is the word of God.

Confessing with the lips indicates in turn that faith implies public testimony and commitment. A Christian may never think of belief as a private act. Faith is choosing to stand with the Lord so as to live with him. This "standing with him" points towards an understanding of the reasons for believing. Faith, precisely because it is a free act, also demands social responsibility for what one believes. The Church on the day of Pentecost demonstrates with utter clarity this public dimension of believing and proclaiming one's faith fearlessly to every person. It is the gift of the Holy Spirit that makes us fit for mission and strengthens our witness, making it frank and courageous.

Profession of faith is an act both personal and communitarian. It is the Church that is the primary subject of faith. In the faith of the Christian community, each individual receives baptism, an effective sign of entry into the people of believers in order to obtain salvation. As we read in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: " 'I believe' is the faith of the Church professed personally by each believer, principally during baptism. 'We believe' is the faith of the Church confessed by the bishops assembled in council or more generally by the liturgical assembly of believers. 'I believe' is also the Church, our mother, responding to God by faith as she teaches us to say both 'I believe' and 'we believe'."

Evidently, knowledge of the content of faith is essential for giving one's own assent, that is to say for adhering fully with intellect and will to what the Church proposes. Knowledge of faith opens a door into the fullness of the saving mystery revealed by God.

The giving of assent implies that, when we believe, we freely accept the whole mystery of faith, because the guarantor of its truth is God who reveals himself and allows us to know his mystery of love.

On the other hand, we must not forget that in our cultural context, very many people, while not claiming to have the gift of faith, are nevertheless sincerely searching for the ultimate meaning and definitive truth of their lives and of the world. This search is an authentic "preamble" to the faith, because it guides people onto the path that leads to the mystery of God. Human reason, in fact, bears within itself a demand for "what is perennially valid and lasting". This demand constitutes a permanent summons, indelibly written into the human heart, to set out to find the One whom we would not be seeking had he not already set out to meet us. To this encounter, faith invites us and it opens us in fullness.



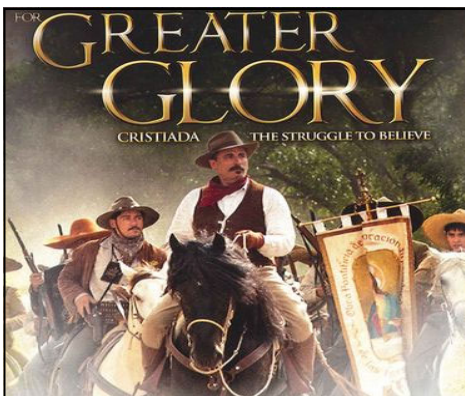
# Sacraments

## Our Mass Intentions

Sunday, June 3 (The Most Holy Trinity)			
7:30a	John & Mae Noxon	1:30p	Jose J. Gonzalez and Esteban Martinez
9:00a	Juan Antonio Sanchez	3:00p	Indian Mass
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	5:30p	Richard Hernandez
12:00p	Thelma Coelho	7:30p	Rudolf Mendibill
Monday, June 4			
8:00a	Edward Bell and Anacita Bacugan	5:45p	Marilyn Cajaton and Christine Marin
Tuesday, June 5			
8:00a	Julia Rieker and Phyllis B. Bellaconis	5:45p	Jim Trevillyan and Penny Lane-Wahl
Wednesday, June 6			
8:00a	Judith Gomez and Minor & Geri Johannsen	5:45p	Ethel Terra and Manuel Borges Victoria
Thursday, June 7			
8:00a	Gerardo Rodriguez and Elisa Kennedy	5:45p	Nawarat Photikoe and Joseph Marchano
Friday, June 8			
8:00a	Rosanna Hollander and Gail Friedrich	5:45p	Charles Sivley and Deceased Members of St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus
Saturday, June 9			
8:00a	Elena Franzia and Arturo Hernandez	5:45p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
Sunday, June 10 (The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ)			
7:30a	Myrtle Osberg	1:30p	Felix Oliveros and Jacoba Andres
9:00a	Albert Mendonca	5:30p	Leonard Ratto
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Jerome Ignash
12:00p	Tony Espinoza		

## Around the Area

What price would you pay for freedom? In the 1920s, thousands of Catholics in Mexico paid with their lives – martyred during the Cristero War against the government's attempts to eliminate Catholicism. You can see the true story of the Cristero martyrs in the epic film *For Greater Glory* in theaters now. A story about the fight for religious freedom – a fight that continues today.



## Readings 6/04-6/11

<b>Monday:</b>	2 Pt 1:2-7; Mk 12:1-12
<b>Tuesday:</b>	2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18; Mk 12:13-17
<b>Wednesday:</b>	2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12; Mk 12:18-27
<b>Thursday:</b>	2 Tm 2:8-15; Mk 12:28-34
<b>Friday:</b>	2 Tm 3:10-17; Mk 12:35-37
<b>12pm Latin Mass:</b>	Joel 2:23, 24,26,27; Lk. 5:17-26
<b>Saturday:</b>	2 Tm 4:1-8; Mk 12:38-44
<b>Sunday:</b>	Ex 24:3-8; Ps 116; Heb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-16, 22-26
<b>Latin Mass</b>	Rom. 11:33-36; Mt. 28:18-20

*This film is rated R for wartime violence & scenes of martyrdom.*

## This Week

Sunday, June 3, 2012		
10:00A	CLOW	JP5
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7
1:30P	CLOW (Spanish)	JP10
3:00P	Indian Mass	Chur
Monday, June 4, 2012		
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer Grp	JP10
Tuesday, June 5, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
5:30P	ESL Classes	JP4
6:15P	Knights of Columbus	Hall
6:15P	Legion of Mary	JP4
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer	JP7
Wednesday, June 6, 2012		
1:30P	Widows and Widowers	JP5
5:30P	AA Principle Study	JP5
5:45P	AI Anon Group	JP10
Thursday, June 7, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
6:30P	Rosary Makers	JP5
6:30P	Compartiendo la Biblia	JP4
7:00P	Spanish Young Adults	JP2
Friday, June 8, 2012		
12:00P	Latin Mass	Chur
3:00P	Divine Mercy Prayer	Chap
6:00P	Indian Prayer Group	JP6
Saturday, June 9, 2012		
8:00A	Lay Dominicans	JP5
Sunday, June 10, 2012		
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7

Remember a special day or person  
~Altar Flower Donation~

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



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

## Catecismo para Niños Junio 9-11

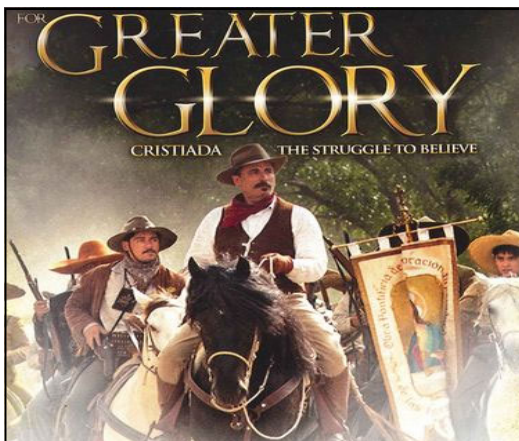
Necesita su niño recibir la Primera Comunión o la Confirmación? Regístrelos el fin de semana de inscripciones.

### 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.

¿Qué precio pagaría usted por la libertad? En los 1920, miles de Católicos en México pagaron con sus vidas—como mártires en la Guerra de los Cristeros en contra de los esfuerzos del gobierno por querer eliminar el Catolicismo. Usted puede ver la verdadera historia de los mártires Cristerios en la película *For Greater Glory* en los teatros. Una historia sobre la lucha por la libertad de la religion—la lucha que hoy continua.



*Esta película es designada R por escenas de violencia y martirio*

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



*Primeras Comuniones de mayo*

**¡Feliz Día de la Santísima Trinidad!** Pentecostés (el domingo pasado). La Santísima Trinidad (hoy) y el Sagrado Corazón de Jesús (el próximo domingo), nos llevan al gran final de los últimos tres meses de Cuaresma y Pascua. El Domingo de la Santísima Trinidad señala la base de nuestra fe: que Dios es la comunión de personas, las cuales dan y reciben amor eternamente. *Y la familia es el retrato de la Trinidad.*

La familia esencialmente forma un orden social pacífico, entonces entre los muchos papeles del gobierno, el apoyar a la familia es importante. Los Romanos sabían esto, por

ejemplo, y en su apojeeo, el Imperio exhortaba a sus ciudadanos a practicar fidelidad a sus conyugues, a engendrar muchos hijos y ofrecerles una buena educación. Cuando los emperadores y los senadores comenzaron a engañar a sus esposas, abortar a sus hijos, y practicar homosexualidad, el imperio comenzó a debilitarse y eventualmente se desplomó. ¿Quién o que puede hoy dar el apoyo necesario a la familia? La educación pública, la industria de entretenimiento y la política han demostrado un indiferencia a la vida de familia. Nuestro gobierno también a faltado a esta esencial responsabilidad— la promoción del “matrimonio” entre dos personas del mismo sexo manifiesta hasta una *enemistad* hacia el matrimonio y la vida de familia. El gobierno necesita un poder mas grande que si mismo, una perspectiva mayor que la suya, para así completar ese trabajo. La buena religion, la cual no tiene un partido político, desempeña este papel irremplazable en la Republica. George Washington escribió “Mientras que el gobierno protege a todos en sus derechos religiosos, la verdadera religion le da al gobierno su *mayor apoyo*.” (lo que yo he resaltado)

Este viernes me han pedido que hable en una Demostración por la Libertad en San Francisco para proteger la incursión del gobierno sobre nuestro Primer Derecho en la Declaración de los Derechos— el derecho de la Libertad de Religion (vea la pagina al reverso). Debemos de volver al gobierno al respeto por la religion de nuestros fundadores, a su aceptación del apoyo que solo la religion puede ofrecer. Estamos preparándonos para la **Fortnight por la Libertad** nacional, de la cual hablare la próxima semana.

*Fr. Joseph*

## Nuestro Santo Padre en Roma

CARTA APOSTÓLICA *PORTA FIDEI*  
CON LA QUE SE CONVOCA EL AÑO DE LA FE (Parte V)



A este propósito, el ejemplo de Lidia es muy elocuente. Cuenta san Lucas que Pablo, mientras se encontraba en Filipos, fue un sábado a anunciar el Evangelio a algunas mujeres; entre estas estaba Lidia y el «Señor le abrió el corazón para que aceptara lo que decía Pablo» (Hch 16, 14). El sentido que encierra la expresión es importante. San Lucas enseña que el conocimiento de los contenidos que se han de creer no es suficiente si después el corazón, auténtico sagrario de la persona, no está abierto por la gracia que permite tener ojos para mirar en profundidad y comprender que lo que se ha anunciado es la Palabra de Dios.



Profesar con la boca indica, a su vez, que la fe implica un testimonio y un compromiso público. El cristiano no puede pensar nunca que creer es un hecho privado. La fe es decidirse a estar con el Señor para vivir con él. Y este «estar con él» nos lleva a comprender las razones por las que se cree. La fe,

precisamente porque es un acto de la libertad, exige también la responsabilidad social de lo que se cree. La Iglesia en el día de Pentecostés muestra con toda evidencia esta dimensión pública del creer y del anunciar a todos sin temor la propia fe. Es el don del Espíritu Santo el que capacita para la misión y fortalece nuestro testimonio, haciéndolo franco y valeroso.

La misma profesión de fe es un acto personal y al mismo tiempo comunitario. En efecto, el primer sujeto de la fe es la Iglesia. En la fe de la comunidad cristiana cada uno recibe el bautismo, signo eficaz de la entrada en el pueblo de los creyentes para alcanzar la salvación. Como afirma el *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*: «“Creo”: Es la fe de la Iglesia profesada personalmente por cada creyente, principalmente en su bautismo. “Creemos”: Es la fe de la Iglesia confesada por los obispos reunidos en Concilio o, más generalmente, por la asamblea litúrgica de los creyentes. “Creo”, es también la Iglesia, nuestra Madre, que responde a Dios por su fe y que nos enseña a decir: “creo”, “creemos”».

Como se puede ver, el conocimiento de los contenidos de la fe es esencial para dar el propio *asentimiento*, es decir, para adherirse plenamente con la inteligencia y la voluntad a lo que propone la Iglesia. El conocimiento de la fe introduce en la totalidad del misterio salvífico revelado por Dios. El asentimiento que se presta implica por tanto que, cuando se cree, se acepta libremente todo el misterio de la fe, ya que quien garantiza su verdad es Dios mismo que se revela y da a conocer su misterio de amor. Por otra parte, no podemos olvidar que muchas personas en nuestro contexto cultural, aún no reconociendo en ellos el don de la fe, buscan con sinceridad el sentido último y la verdad definitiva de su existencia y del mundo. Esta búsqueda es un auténtico «preámbulo» de la fe, porque lleva a las personas por el camino que conduce al misterio de Dios. La misma razón del hombre, en efecto, lleva inscrita la exigencia de «lo que vale y permanece siempre». Esta exigencia constituye una invitación permanente, inscrita indeleblemente en el corazón humano, a ponerse en camino para encontrar a Aquel que no buscaríamos si no hubiera ya venido. La fe nos invita y nos abre totalmente a este encuentro.

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### Gloria and Lili Ramos

Leemos en la Biblia que Dios ama al que da con alegría, y alegría es lo que Gloria y Lili son. Las hermanas se unieron a nuestro 'Victory Team' y grupo juvenil al comienzo de este año. Con sus amorosas personalidades y constante sonrisa, las dos son un gran ejemplo del amor de Dios, listas para ayudar en los que puedan. Gloria, de 16 años es junio de high school, y Lili de 18 es senior. Las dos asisten a la Waterford High School. Los planes de Lili son de seguir sus estudios en la universidad de Stanislaus State donde estudiará biología para después transferirse a UCLA. Ellas no solo comparten sus talentos aquí en St. Joseph's. Están también activas en el club cristiano Generation Faith en la escuela, y juegan baseball. También asisten a la Iglesia de San Antonio en Hughson, donde sirven como monaguillos.

Lili y Gloria pertenecen a una familia de 6. Tienen dos hermanos mayores que asistieron a la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud que sembró en ellas el interés de ser más activas en su parroquia. A las dos les agradó ayudar con los niños del primer año de Confirmación y asistir al grupo juvenil porque 'Nuestra relación con el Señor se hizo más fuerte, y pudimos compartir y también fuimos testigos del crecimiento de la fe de los estudiantes'.

Lili y Gloria planean continuar sirviendo en nuestra parroquia el año que viene y esperan poder asistir a la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud 2013.



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