

*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

May 12, 2013 Solemnity of the Ascension

(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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday thru Thursday 5-5:30pm

Fridays 6:30-7:30pm

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

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

Clergy:

Fr. Mark Wagner, Pastor

Fr. Francis Joseph, OCD, Assoc Pastor

Fr. Tony Chacko, Assoc Pastor

Fr. Larry Guerrero, Hospital Chaplain

Rev. Mr. Ken Ochineri, Deacon

Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarelli, Deacon

From the Pastor's Laptop

Today we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus into heaven: His last words to us before He left were basically a commissioning: He gave us a mission to be witnesses "to the ends of the earth." The Gospel of Luke says that after the Ascension the apostles returned to the city "filled with joy." Even though Jesus has left us by Ascending into heaven, nevertheless we are joyful because He remains with us in the Church, in the sacraments, and by means of the Holy Spirit who guides the Church to all truth and reminds us of all that He taught. We are also joyful because we realize that Jesus has confidence in us. He trusts us enough to entrust His church and His mission to us. He has departed. But we remain in the world. Jesus chooses to rely on us to continue His mission. This is the meaning of today's Feast of the Ascension: We are stewards of the mysteries, the teachings, the graces. That is why we say we are a "Stewardship Parish" here at St. Joseph's. Jesus needs each one of us to be His hands, His voice and His heart so that He can continue to save people through us. He needs us so that the blessings can continue!

Fr. Mark Wagner

Happy Mother's Day!

St. Joseph's wishes all mother's a very blessed and Happy Mother's Day. All mother's are invited to have a Mother's Day prayer card after Mass. On the card this year is St. Gianna Molla, who gave the world a holy witness of motherhood. To find out more on the life of St. Gianna Molla please visit:

www.stjmod.com/st-gianna-molla.html



Questions?

To make an appointment with a priest or deacon or to register at St. Joseph's please contact Lulu, Rosario, or Donna in our parish office at 551-4973.

Parish Office

(Lulu, Donna, & Rosario)

Sunday: 10am-3pm.

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday:
8:30am-noon and 1pm-6:30pm

Wednesday: 8:30am-11:15am and
1pm-6:30pm

Friday 8:30am-noon

Weekend Maintenance 568-7558

How can we help? 551-4973

Se Habla Español.....	Rosario 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 LIBRARY JUNE BOOK SALE!

We are collecting books for our June book sale: children's books, Catholic theology, spirituality, prayer, bibles, missals and books about saints. Any and all are welcome! Please drop off all donations to the library, located in JP11 rm. 10. Thanks for supporting this great ministry!

Library Hours:

Monday & Tuesday

10:30am-2:30pm

Wednesday 9:30am-11:30am

Thursday 10:30am-2:30pm & 5-7pm

**Friday 10:30am-12:30pm &
1:30-3:30pm**

Welcome to St. Joseph's

We're glad you're here!

Parish Life

Upcoming Events & Activities

ST. JOSEPH'S SENIOR LUNCHEON — MAY 15

Come and see your friends. At 10am we start with chips + dips and wine. The luncheon's menu is: Chicken Enchilada with Calico Corn, Taco Salad, Refried Beans & Dessert. We have another trip planned to Sedona, Sept.22-26. 5 days and 4 nights. One night in Palm Springs, two nights in Sedona and one night in Laughlin. Double Occ. \$699. Don't have a partner? I will find one for you. For further details call Chris Johnson 522-2694.

WHO ARE THE KNIGHTS? FAMILY DINNER

In honor of the 26 years since its founding, the St. Joseph's Council of the Knights of Columbus is holding a family dinner on Saturday, May 18th, in Father O'Hare Hall. It will include a delicious spaghetti dinner and a video highlighting the history of the Council and the Knights in general. Tickets can be obtained on the plaza or at the door.



MILITARY SUPPORT MINISTRY

Our Military Support Ministry will be on the Plaza after Mass on Sunday, May 26, in honor of Memorial Day weekend. Please stop by to pick up a flag and a brochure to learn how you can help our military members and families. Consider a donation to assist the mailing of our care boxes and to support the members of our armed services who are insuring we remain a free and independent nation. Thanks!

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

AA is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to achieve sobriety. If you want to stop drinking but don't know how, please join us on Wednesday evenings at 5:45pm in Room 5 of the JP11 building. This is a CLOSED meeting, for alcoholics only, and both men and women are welcome. For women only, please join us Saturday mornings at 9am in the Vatican Room in the JP11 Center.

ST. JOSEPH'S IMMEDIATE JOB OPENING

**Part-time IT System Manager and
Technical/AV Support**



This position is part time only and offers some flexibility with scheduling. Position description and application are available in the Parish office. Open until filled.

Religious Education

Documents of Vatican II... Lumen Gentium Part 1

By Gary Nelson

Continuing on with our series on the Documents of Vatican II, Gary Nelson gives us some insight on the document Lumen Gentium (will be continued next week).

If you were to ask me where you could find a beautifully-composed comprehensive statement on the nature and mystery of the Catholic Church, I would have to direct you to Lumen Gentium (Light of Humanity), the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church, published in November of 1964 by the Second Vatican Council.

In this, the largest of the Vatican II documents, the Church proposes to set forth her own nature and universal mission. The Church in Christ, we are told, is in the nature of a sacrament, that is, “a sign and an instrument of communion with God and of unity among all men.”

The Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, and this Body is animated by the Holy Spirit, who guides her into all truth, unifying her in communion and in the works of her ministries, bestowing upon her hierarchic and charismatic gifts. In this union, the members are directed and adorned with His fruits.

The Church is endowed with a hierarchy, from the Roman Pontiff, to the bishops, priests and deacons, who visibly display the apostolic succession that characterizes the Church. These men who have received Holy Orders offer themselves as “servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.”

The Roman Pontiff, as Peter’s successor, is the “perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and of the whole company of the faithful.” He enjoys the “privilege of infallibility” when teaching on matters of faith and morals. The bishops are authentic teachers “endowed with the authority of Christ.”

Priests are consecrated in order to “announce the word of God” but it is in the Eucharistic assembly of the faithful that “they exercise in a supreme degree their sacred functions; there, acting in the person of Christ and proclaiming his mystery, they unite the votive offerings of the faithful to the sacrifice of Christ their head, and in the sacrifice of the Mass they make present again and apply...the unique sacrifice... of Christ offering himself once for all a spotless victim to the Father.”



☪ Parish School of Religion ☪

Please pray for the children who will be receiving their first Holy Communion next Saturday.

Save the Date: PSR Registration June 1-3

All returning students must have parents reregister them. New students **MUST** have a baptismal certificate. Any students not baptized must have a birth certificate. All current C1 students must have sponsor paperwork turned in before registering for C2. If necessary paperwork is not received on the day of registration, students will not be allowed to register. Hours all three days are 10am-5pm. Cost: 1 child \$90, 2 children \$115, 3 or more children \$135. All families registering after June 3 will have a \$25 late fee assessed.

PSR students, please bring canned vegetables this month for St. Vincent de Paul. Thanks for your kindness and stewardship!

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

☪ RCIA ☪

Inquiry classes are for people who want to learn more about Catholicism, but aren't necessarily sure they want to become Catholic. The RCIA process is also for Catholics who have not yet completed their sacraments of Confirmation or Holy Communion. To start the process: **call John and Nichole Sablan (209)581-8477** to make an appointment.

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



Youth Ministry at

STJ

Did you know?

3 active young men from our youth group and Victory team have been accepted to serve with NET Ministries next year.

Confirmation 2 Students
Important info:

Your Confirmation Certificates and photo CD's are now available. Please stop by the PSR office during office hours to pick them up.



-Summer Events-

Be sure to read the bulletin and be up to date on youth events happening over the summer!



- Mass and Breakfast will be every Tuesday over the summer starting June 4. Join us for 8 am Mass, then visit the youth room and enjoy breakfast, games, and fellowship.
- Summer Sessions: LifeNights may be over but we will offer summer sessions discussing topics you have chosen to hear and learn more about. The sessions will be part of Mass and Breakfast on Tuesdays after fellowship. Stay connected over the summer and join us!
- Volunteer for VBR! Sign ups will be available soon to help lead small groups at Vacation Bible Retreat. If you are, or will be, in Confirmation class next year this is a great opportunity to fulfill all of your service hours before the school year even starts!



San Diego: Youth Conference

Less than 10 spots left and time is running out to sign up!

The Steubenville Conference: San Diego trip will be July 26-28. The cost of the trip \$200.

For those of you that have turned in permission slips, remember to turn your payments into the parish office or youth office. Forms will be available soon to let you know the schedule details and what to bring on this awesome youth conference. If you are interested in taking one of the last spots, please contact the youth office today!

Permission slips are due Friday, May 24.

Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Plaza Refreshments are being served this morning by St. Joseph's Plaza Refreshment Volunteers.

Parish Stewardship — a way of life

St. Martha was known for her hospitality

Hospitality is also one of the four pillars of a Stewardship Parish. The other three pillars are prayer, formation and service.



Our St. Joseph's "Martha's Meals" is a wonderful ministry of volunteers who either buy or prepare part of, or a complete meal for parishioners in our family who have lost a loved one. Not all of our parishioners have a lot of family nearby and the first week of grieving is difficult for many—sometimes they forget to eat or even shop for groceries. We are in need of several telephone coordinators who can call our volunteers when the parish office lets them know that a parish family has suffered a loss.

How can you help?

- Offer to be on the volunteer list of food preparers
- Offer to be on the volunteer list of food delivery—you will find no greater satisfaction, guaranteed
- Offer to be one of the telephone coordinators

Please call the Center for Lay Apostolates, 551-4973 and speak to either Bertha, x 202 or Tammy, 207. *Thank you.*

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

Profiles in Stewardship

by Michael Webster



Peter and Nadine Chacon

Peter and Nadine Chacon are long time parishioners at St. Joseph's. They have seen changes and have weathered through the various transitions. One thing that has remained constant has been their faith in God and His Church. Their ardent desire to grow in faith is evident because they always attend the various adult formation activities offered at St. Joseph's. They recognize the gift of our vibrant and faith-filled church and want to open that gift by participating in all that St. Joseph's has to offer. This is living a life of stewardship. They also know that stewardship begins with prayer and to pray gratefully. They are always at daily Mass and regularly in the adoration chapel praying before the Blessed Sacrament. Their life of prayer then brings forth the fruit of joy and love that they have for one another and everyone they meet. We are so blessed to have Peter and Nadine as parishioners at St. Joseph's. They give us all the beautiful witness of how God is working at St. Joseph's.

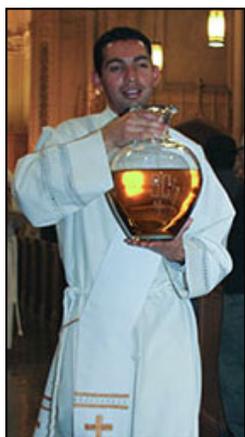
In the Diocese

CATHOLIC CHARITIES SUNDAY

On May 18-19 Catholics throughout the Stockton Diocese will have an opportunity to contribute to the important work of Catholic Charities on Catholic Charities Sunday. With these hard economic times and state budget cuts increasing needs of poor and individuals and families, the public's help is needed more than ever. Catholic Charities continues to strive to provide social services and advocacy for underserved groups such as immigrants, the poor, children and the frail elderly. 100% of Catholic Charities Sunday stay in our diocesan community. Catholic Charities urges all Catholics in the Stockton Diocese to please plan to give generously in their parishes on May 18-19.

ORDINATION MASS

Ernesto Madrigal will be ordained to the priesthood on May 18th at 10am in the Cathedral of the Annunciation, Stockton. Please join us for this joyous occasion in our local church.



COMMUNITY OF CARING

Spring Parenting Classes are available for pregnant teens (including expectant teen fathers). Classes will be held 3:30-5:00 pm on Wednesdays - May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29. Call now to register: 465-5433.

Sponsored by the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Stockton

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From our Holy Father in Rome

REGINA COELI

Fourth Sunday of Easter, 21 April 2013



Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!

The Fourth Sunday of the Season of Easter is characterized by the Gospel of the Good Shepherd in chapter ten of St John which is read every year. Today's passage records these words of Jesus: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one"(10:27-30). These four verses contain the whole of Jesus' message; it is the nucleus of his Gospel: he calls us to share in his relationship with the Father, and this is eternal life. Jesus wants to establish with his friends a relationship which mirrors his own relationship with the Father: a relationship of reciprocal belonging in full trust, in intimate communion. To express this profound understanding, this relationship of friendship, Jesus uses the image of the shepherd with his sheep: he calls them and they recognize his voice, they respond to his call and follow him. This parable is very beautiful! The mystery of his voice is evocative: only think that from our mother's womb we learn to recognize her voice and that of our father; it is from the tone of a voice that we perceive love or contempt, affection or coldness. Jesus' voice is unique! If we learn to distinguish it, he guides us on the path of life, a path that goes beyond even the abyss of death. However Jesus, at a certain point, said: "my Father, who has given them to me..."(Jn 10:29), referring to his sheep. This is very important, it is a profound mystery, far from easy to understand. If I feel drawn to Jesus, if his voice warms my heart, it is thanks to God the Father who has sown within me the desire for love, for truth, for life, for beauty... and Jesus is all this in fullness! This helps us understand the mystery of vocation and especially of the call to a special consecration. Sometimes Jesus calls us, he invites us to follow him, but perhaps we do not realize that it is he who is calling, like what happened to the young Samuel. There are many young people today, here in the Square. There are large numbers of you aren't there? It's clear.... Look! Here in the Square today there are so many of you! I would like to ask you: have you sometimes heard the Lord's voice, in a desire, in a worry, did he invite you to follow him more closely? Have you heard him? I can't hear you? There! Have you wanted to be apostles of Jesus? We must bet on youth for the great ideals. Do you think this? Do you agree? Ask Jesus what he wants of you and be brave! Be brave! Ask him this!



Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or to the consecrated life there is always the strong and intense prayer of someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community.... This is why Jesus said: "therefore the Lord of the harvest, that is, God the Father, " send out laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38). Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer; and only through prayer can they persevere and bear fruit. I am pleased to stress this today, which is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations... Today there were 10 young men who said "yes" to Jesus and they have been ordained priests this morning. This is beautiful! Let us invoke the intercession of Mary who is the Woman of the "yes".

Sacraments

Our Mass Intentions

This Week

Sunday, May 12 (Seventh Sunday of Easter) Mother's Day			
7:30a	Florence M. Rozelle	1:30p	Angela Dominguez and Catalina Ruiz
9:00a	Mother's Day Novena	5:30p	Catherine Feehan
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Irene Routson
12:00p	Manuel & Olivia Souza		
Monday, May 13			
8:00a	Mother's Day Novena	5:45p	Maria Natividad Rocha and John & Virginia Bairos
Tuesday, May 14			
8:00a	Mother's Day Novena	5:45p	Julie Rieker and Antonio Dominguez
Wednesday, May 15			
8:00a	Mother's Day Novena	5:45p	Joe Mendes and Manuel B. Victoria
Thursday, May 16			
8:00a	Mother's Day Novena	5:45p	John E. Peyton and Isabel Rodriguez
Friday, May 17			
8:00a	Mother's Day Novena	5:45p	Jim Trevillyan and Fr. Tony Chacko—Special Intention
Saturday, May 18			
8:00a	Mother's Day Novena and Fr. Tony Chacko—Special Intention	5:30p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
Sunday, May 19 (Pentecost Sunday)			
7:30a	Kay Baggett	1:30p	Candelario Tirado and David Jimenez
9:00a	Mother's Day Novena	3:30p	Dr. Daniel Florendo
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	5:30p	Fernanda Desantis
12:00p	Vito Baccellieri	7:30p	Norman Ringer

Sunday, May 12, 2013		
10:30A	Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)	JP6
Monday, May 13, 2013		
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer (English)	JP10
Tuesday, May 14, 2013		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	Hall
10:30A	Light Weigh	JP8
6:00P	ESL Classes - Intermediates	JP4
6:15P	Legion of Mary	JP4
6:30P	ESL Classes - Beginners	JP10
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer - Spanish	JP7
Wednesday, May 15, 2013		
9:00A	Seniors' Lunch	Hall
1:30P	Widows & Widowers Bible Study	JP5
5:45P	Priciple Study Group	JP5
5:45P	Path to Serenity - ALANON	JP10
5:45P	"Courage To Be Me" Alateen Grp	JP8
6:45P	On the Go Adults	JP4
7:00P	Baptism Class--Spanish	JP6
7:30P	Light Weigh - One King	JP8
Thursday, May 16, 2013		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	Hall
12:00P	Carmel Study Group	JP4
6:30P	Rosary Makers	JP5
6:30P	Compartiendo las Escrituras	JP4
7:00P	Filipino Liturgy Committee	JP4
Friday, May 17, 2013		
12:00P	Latin Mass	Chur
3:00P	Divine Mercy Prayer	Chap
7:00P	M.I. Prayer Village Leadership	JP4
Saturday, May 18, 2013		
9:00A	AA Language of the Heart	JP4
10:00A	Baptism Class-English	JP10
12:00P	Seniors' Board Meeting	JP5
1:00P	Marriage Prep Retreat	JP2
Sunday, May 19, 2013		
10:00A	Respect Life	JP4
10:30A	CLOW	JP6
12:00P	CFC-Kids Prayer Study Program	JP8
2:00P	Filipino Mass Fellowship	Hall
3:30P	Filipino Mass	Chur

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adorers welcome! Try a Holy Hour with Jesus once a week! Please contact David & Monica at 527-4920 if you can pick up an hour.



Readings 05/13-05/19

Monday:	Acts 19: 1-8; Jn. 16:29-33
Tuesday:	Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn. 15:9-17
Wednesday:	Acts 20:28-38; Jn. 17:11b-19
Thursday:	Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn. 17:20-26
Friday:	Acts 25:13b-21; Jn. 21:15-19
12pm Latin Mass:	Ecclus. 31:8-11; Lk. 12:35-40
Saturday:	Acts. 28:16-20, 20-31; Jn. 21:20-25
Sunday:	Acts 2: 1-11; 1 Cor. 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom. 8:8-17; Jn. 20:19-23 or Jn. 14:15-16, 23b-26
Latin Mass	Acts 2:1-11; Jn. 14:23-31

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

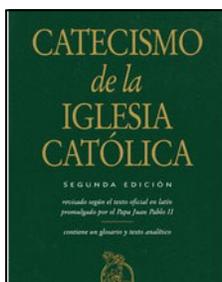


Las inscripciones para recibir la Primera Comunión y Confirmación para niños y adolescentes de 6-

17 años serán del 1-3 de junio, en el Edificio Juan Pablo II. Favor de traer el certificado de Bautismo de cada niño. Las clases comienzan en septiembre.

Catecismo para Adultos

Las inscripciones para las clases de catecismo para adultos que no han recibido la Primera Comunión o Confirmación serán del 3 de junio al 26 de julio. Favor de traer el certificado de Bautismo. Las clases comienzan el viernes, 9 de agosto a las 7:00pm. Para más información llamar a Rosario al 551-4973.



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

Hoy celebramos la Ascensión de Jesús al cielo: Sus ultimas palabras fueron básicamente un mandato: Nos dio la misión de ser testigos “hasta el fin de la tierra.” El Evangelio de Lucas dice que después de la Ascensión los Apóstoles volvieron a la ciudad “llenos de gozo.” Aunque Jesús nos ha dejado para Ascender al cielo, todavía sentimos gozo porque El se queda con nosotros en la Iglesia, en los sacramentos, y por medio del Espíritu santo que guía a la Iglesia hacia la verdad y nos recuerda todo lo que El ha enseñado. También estamos gozosos porque nos damos cuenta que Jesús confía en nosotros. El confía en nosotros lo suficiente para encargarnos de su Iglesia y de su misión a nosotros. El ha partido. Pero se queda en el mundo. Jesús escoge valerse de nosotros para continuar su misión. Este es el significado de la Fiesta de la Ascensión. Estamos encargados de los misterios, las enseñanzas, y la gracia. Por esto decimos que somos aquí en St. Joseph's una “Parroquia Co-responsable”. Jesús nos necesita a cada uno de nosotros para ser sus manos, su voz y su corazón y así poder continuar salvando a la gente por medio de nosotros. ¡El nos necesita para que las bendiciones puedan continuar!

Fa. Mark Wagner

Feliz Día de las Madres

St. Joseph's les desea a todas las madres un feliz día de las madres. Todas las madres están invitadas a tomar una tarjeta de oración después de la Misa. En la tarjeta este año se encuentra Santa Gianna Molla, quien dio al mundo un santo testimonio de la maternidad.



Fortaleciendo Mi Matrimonio

Fortaleciendo Mi Matrimonio es un programa diocesano, una LUZ de esperanza para matrimonios en crisis. El próximo fin de semana será el 25 y 26 de Mayo en la Iglesia Santa Francisca de Roma en Riverbank. Para registrarse llamar a David y Lupe Aguilar al 622-6083 o 622-8064.



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



CLASES DE INGLES
Clases de Ingles como segunda lengua los martes. Para intermediarios de 6-7pm en el cuarto JP 4 All Saints Room. Para comenzantes de 6:30-7:30pm, cuarto 10. Regístrese en la oficina e invite a las personas interesadas en asistir a las clases.

Horario de la Librería:

- Lunes & Martes 10:30am-2:30pm
- Miércoles 9:30am-11:30am
- Jueves 10:30am-2:30pm & 5-7pm
- Viernes 10:30am-12:30pm & 1:30-3:30pm

Nuestro Santo Padre en México

REGINA COELI

IV Domingo de Pascua, 21 de abril de 2013



Queridos hermanos y hermanas, ¡buenos días!

El cuarto domingo del tiempo de Pascua se caracteriza por el Evangelio del Buen Pastor, que se lee cada año. El pasaje de hoy refiere estas palabras de Jesús: «Mis ovejas escuchan mi voz, y yo las conozco, y ellas me siguen, y yo les doy la vida eterna; no perecerán para siempre, y nadie las arrebatará de mi mano. Mi Padre, lo que me ha dado, es mayor que todo, y nadie puede arrebatarlas de la mano de mi Padre. Yo y el Padre somos uno» (Jn 10, 27-30). En estos cuatro versículos está todo el mensaje de Jesús, está el núcleo central de su Evangelio: Él nos llama a participar en su relación con el Padre, y ésta es la vida eterna.



Jesús quiere entablar con sus amigos una relación que sea el reflejo de la relación que Él mismo tiene con el Padre: una relación de pertenencia recíproca en la confianza plena, en la íntima comunión. Para expresar este entendimiento profundo, esta relación de amistad, Jesús usa la imagen del pastor con sus ovejas: Él las llama y ellas reconocen su voz, responden a su llamada y le siguen. Es bellísima esta parábola. El misterio de la voz es sugestivo: pensemos que desde el seno de nuestra madre aprendemos a reconocer su voz y la del papá; por el tono de una voz percibimos el amor o el desprecio, el afecto o la frialdad. La voz de Jesús es única. Si aprendemos a distinguirla, Él nos guía por el camino de la vida, un camino que supera también el abismo de la muerte.

Pero, en un momento determinado, Jesús dijo, refiriéndose a sus ovejas: «Mi Padre, que me las ha dado...» (cf. 10, 29). Esto es muy importante, es un misterio profundo, no fácil de comprender: si yo me siento atraído por Jesús, si su voz templea mi corazón, es gracias a Dios Padre, que ha puesto dentro de mí el deseo del amor, de la verdad, de la vida, de la belleza... y Jesús es todo esto en plenitud. Esto nos ayuda a comprender el misterio de la vocación, especialmente las llamadas a una especial consagración. A veces Jesús nos llama, nos invita a seguirle, pero tal vez sucede que no nos damos cuenta de que es Él, precisamente como le sucedió al joven Samuel. Hay muchos jóvenes hoy, aquí en la plaza. Sois muchos vosotros, ¿no? Se ve... Eso. Sois muchos jóvenes hoy aquí en la plaza. Quisiera preguntaros: ¿habéis sentido alguna vez la voz del Señor que, a través de un deseo, una inquietud, os invitaba a seguirle más de cerca? ¿Le habéis oído? No os oigo. Eso... ¿Habéis tenido el deseo de ser apóstoles de Jesús? Es necesario jugarse la juventud por los grandes ideales. Vosotros, ¿pensáis en esto? ¿Estáis de acuerdo? Pregunta a Jesús qué quiere de ti y sé valiente. ¡Pregúntaselo! Detrás y antes de toda vocación al sacerdocio o a la vida consagrada, está siempre la oración fuerte e intensa de alguien: de una abuela, de un abuelo, de una madre, de un padre, de una comunidad... He aquí porqué Jesús dijo: «Rogad, pues, al Señor de la mies —es decir, a Dios Padre— para que mande trabajadores a su mies» (Mt 9, 38). Las vocaciones nacen en la oración y de la oración; y sólo en la oración pueden perseverar y dar fruto. Me complace ponerlo de relieve hoy, que es la «Jornada mundial de oración por las vocaciones». Hoy hubo diez jóvenes que dijeron «sí» a Jesús y fueron ordenados sacerdotes esta mañana... Es bonito esto. Invoquemos la intercesión de María que es la Mujer del «sí».

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Por Michael Webster



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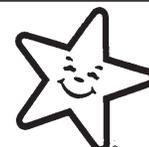
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Thank you



Children's Art and Poetry Winners:

Lucas Richardson—1st Place
Emma Lopez—2nd Place
(right with Fr. Mark)
Ariana Prado—3rd Place

A special thanks to our Knights of Columbus, Parish Leadership, our local Catholic-owned McDonald's, el Rio Landscaping, Blancarte's and Office Max for their help with the free breakfast. Over 800 pancakes served!

St. Joseph's Confirmations 2013

Please pray for the 148 youth and adults who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from our Bishop Stephen Blaire last Saturday as they continue to embark on this journey of faith. Here are just a few photos from the Confirmation Masses.

