

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 20, 2012 Seventh Sunday of Easter

(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,

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 Ochinerio, Deacon

Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarelli, Deacon

From the Pastor's Laptop

On May 8, North Carolina defined **marriage** as between one man and one woman. On May 9, our President "evolved" on this issue and affirmed his support for so-called same-sex "marriage." Let's be quite clear: for *Christians*, there is no such thing as marriage between anything other than one man and one woman. Jesus defines marriage repeatedly in the Bible (for example, in Matthew 19:5: "a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"). President Obama affiliates with the Church of Christ, which is confused on this issue. Vice President Joseph Biden, who affiliates with the Catholic Church, but explicitly rejects the teaching of his own Church, is confused as well.

Let us not be confused. Let us be intelligent and informed. If we are Christian, if we accept the Bible, then we can never pretend that homosexual activity is harmless. It can only debilitate those who engage in it, and debilitate society. Those who suffer from same-sex attraction are good people, deserving of our love and respect. If they give in to destructive tendencies, they should be helped to develop good habits and overcome bad impulses. All of us suffer from destructive impulses of one kind or another, and we need to support each other for the *good*.

Cardinal Dolan, president of the Bishops' Conference, stated that President Obama's support for same sex "marriage" was **a sad day for America**. It is sad because our leaders have decided that America no longer needs Christian principles. Pope Benedict wrote in January of this year that "policies which undermine the family threaten human dignity and the future of humanity itself." Throughout history, non-Christian cultures have accepted unnatural sexual arrangements (although none to my knowledge have ever called it "marriage"). Our great Republic grew strong precisely because it built a society in accord with the Natural Law and Christian principles. Natural families,

naturally-born children, and spouses that work hard to be faithful and loving make us all strong. Are we willing to fight for marriage itself?



Roberto and Ana Gutierrez
and their daughter Maria Pia (2002)

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 ServersSvetlana x200
 Audio / Video.....Jeremy x213
 Buildings & GroundsSusie x201
 Bulletin & Website..... Jeremy x213
 Child Ed & SacramentsDebbie x205
 Choirs & CantorsSvetlana x200
 Events & ActivitiesSusie x201
 Faith & Life Magazine..... Michael x203
 Giving to St. Joseph's Tammy x207
 Parish Lending Library x208
 Parish Ministries Tammy x207
 Parish RegistrationDonna x102
 Room Reservations Rosario x110
 Volunteering..... Tammy x207
 Youth 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

FILIPINO BREAKFAST — TODAY!



Filipino American Liturgy Council will be serving a "Longsilog" breakfast. Everyone is invited! Today in Fr. O'Hare Hall from 7:30am-12noon! Price is \$6/person and tickets will be sold at the door. The breakfast includes Filipino pork sausages, garlic fried rice and scrambled eggs. Take-out is available and fresh sausages will be available for \$5/package.

MILITARY SUPPORT MINISTRY

Our Military Support Ministry fundraiser will be May 26-27 on the plaza. Please come and show your support for our men and women in the military. Fundraiser proceeds are used to send much-needed care packages.



AA MEETINGS

If you want to keep drinking, that's your business. If you want to stop drinking, and can't, that's our business. Please join us on Wednesday nights at 5:45pm in room 5 in the JP II Center for an hour of fellowship and sobriety. Saturday mornings, 9am, there is an AA meeting for Women ONLY in the Vatican Room.

PRAY TO END ABORTION

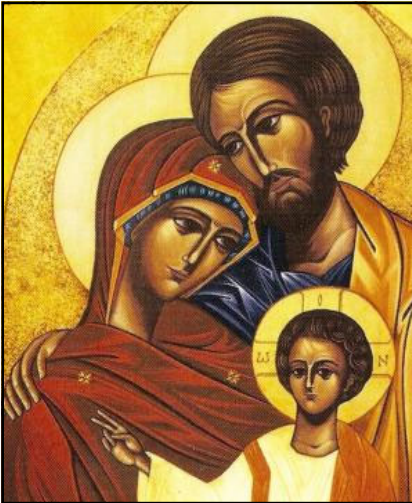


Please join us to pray the rosary to end abortion. We meet every Tuesday & Wednesday morning around 9:15am in front of the abortion clinic at 2030 Coffee Road, Modesto. *Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for Us!*

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 the May 27, June 3 & 10 for your opportunity to sign up your child.





The need to pray as a family cannot be emphasized enough. Today, families spend most of the day attending school, work, sports and extra-curricular activities to the extent that children and adults often end up exhausted and spend very little time talking and being with each other. One way to rekindle family time in our society is through family prayer. We should set aside a time slot of 15-20 minutes every night to talk and pray as a family. Granted, this endeavor, will prove to be a challenge. As I often tell my students, the first times are going to be chaotic, and will most likely feel like a declaration of war, rather than a spiritual exercise. You probably will be confronted even by your husband or wife, not to mention the children. Why? Because the first thing that you will ask them to do is to turn off all the screens. This, in itself, is a revolutionary idea! No cell phones, TVs, games, laptops, etc. Then you will ask them to join you at your sacred space to share and pray for 15-20 minutes. Mind you, if you were to ask them to view something on TV or the computer for the same amount of time, they would all happily come and even complain that it was short lived! **Do not give up!** You can start with a shorter time, it is ok (don't forget to say a Hail Mary and ask the Blessed Mother for strength and help). Once the family has gathered, begin by asking God to be with all of you and to make these few minutes a sacred time together. Ask the children about their day, was there something that made them happy, sad, angry? Remember to use this time to share, and be ready to talk about your day, if they don't feel like sharing. Once these 5-10 minutes are up, ease into praying the Rosary. Don't forget to teach your children about intercessory prayer (praying for someone else's needs, including the souls in purgatory). Why pray the Rosary? Pope Paul VI called it "*the epitome of the whole gospel,*" the summary of the Christian faith. You see, when we pray the Rosary, we walk through the life of Jesus; His infancy (Joyous Mysteries), His public life (Luminous), His Passion and Death (Sorrowful), and His Resurrection (Glorious). If you have never prayed the Rosary, you will be learning to do it as a family, and this is a beautiful thing (if you need a pamphlet, you can get one at the Parish office). If your children are very young, or they are resisting the idea to pray, plan to pray a decade. As you introduce each Mystery, say a couple of lines about it, so the children imagine what is happening in the life of Jesus and they can meditate as well as pray vocally. Family prayer is not only a great way to grow closer as a family, but to develop a relationship with God; it is a school of love and virtue for all, as we learn to imitate the Holy Family and grow in sanctity... in the Little Way.

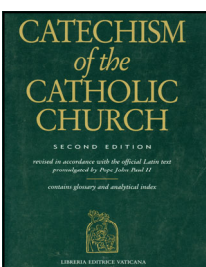
What the Catechism says...

Paragraph 2685: *The Christian Family is the first place of education in prayer. Based on the sacrament of marriage, the family is the "domestic church" where God's children learn to pray "as the Church" and to persevere in prayer. For young children in particular, daily family prayer is the first witness of the Church's living memory as awakened patiently by the Holy Spirit.*

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 JPII 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!

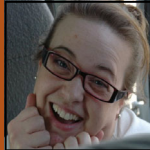


Nathan Steingrebe

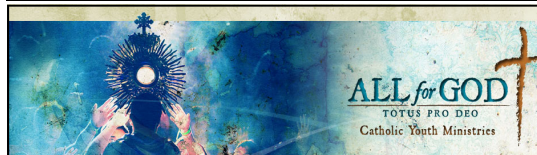
C. 247-7863
W. 551-4973, ext. 206
Nathan@stjmod.com

Katie Steffanic

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



Tonight, May 20,
is our last Life Night!!
Please join us after the 5:30 p.m.
Youth Mass in the Fr. O'Hare hall
as we close this year with a great
night! Happy Summer to you all!



**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. Guest speakers and musicians this year include Ike Ndolo, Fr. Michael Schmitz, Matt Smith, Jackie Francois. Righteous B will be the host. Space is limited. Cost is \$150. Payment options are available. Please contact the youth office for a permission slip and more information.

XLT

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



2012 Summer Events:

Tuesdays in the Youth Room: 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!

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 \$230.00 (includes food and lodging). Applications are available in the Youth Office.

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

Parish School of Religion

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

PSR Registration June 9-11
Does your child need their First Holy Communion or Confirmation? Save the date for our Parish School of Religion registration weekend. Hours of Registration will be:

Saturday, June 9: 10am-5pm

Sunday, June 10: 10am-7pm

Monday, June 11: 10am-4pm

**Cost: \$90/student, \$115/two students,
\$135/three or more**



Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Plaza Refreshments are not being served this morning. Consider supporting our delicious Filipino Ministry breakfast in the Hall.

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 family nearby and the first week of grieving is difficult for many — sometimes they forget to eat or even to shop for groceries. We are in need of several telephone coordinators who can call our volunteers to let 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, ext. 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 Rosario Hernandez



Norma Rodriguez

Norma Rodriguez and her family have been serving at St. Joseph's for several years. She first became a member of our Grupo Guadalupano where she helped organize and decorate the Our Lady of Guadalupe float for the diocesan procession, and a week later our hall and the church for Our Lady's feast day, December 12. During Lent, Norma always has been one of the first parishioners to volunteer as a leader for our Watch & Pray and ARISE Spanish groups.

Attending Mass, Norma yearned to be able to actively participate and became a lector for our 1:30 Sunday Mass. She always is ready to serve if one of the scheduled lectors cannot make it on any particular day. To help us all get into a prayerful mode before Mass, she leads us in praying the Rosary at least once a month. Norma loves serving during Mass. As a back up sacristan, she helps Daniel Hernandez set up and clean up every Sunday to make sure she is ready if he is unable to serve. Her two older children, Verenise and Ivan, also have learned to love the Mass. They both have been altar servers for several years, and their little sister, Itzell, most likely soon will be serving with them. Last year Norma also accompanied Verenise to WYD in Madrid. Norma has a great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Here at St. Joseph's we are blessed with many stewardship families who know that stewardship is a family affair when serving God.

In the Diocese



Join Bishop Blaire
in honoring the

Permanent Deacons and their wives

5:30 pm Mass
Saturday, June 2, 2012

Cathedral of the
Annunciation

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/cxv9kr7>

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

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
Tickets are \$9

From our Holy Father in Rome

APOSTOLIC LETTER "MOTU PROPRIO DATA" PORTA FIDEI

FOR THE INDICTION OF THE YEAR OF FAITH (*Part III*)



...6. The renewal of the Church is also achieved through the witness offered by the lives of believers: by their very existence in the world, Christians are called to radiate the word of truth that the Lord Jesus has left us. The Council itself, in the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium*, said this: While "Christ, 'holy, innocent and undefiled' (*Heb 7:26*) knew nothing of sin (*2 Cor 5:21*), but came only to expiate the sins of the people (*Heb 2:17*)... the Church ... clasping sinners to its bosom, at once holy and always in need of purification, follows constantly the path of penance and renewal. The Church, 'like a stranger in a foreign land, presses forward amid the persecutions of the world and the consolations of God', announcing the cross and death of the Lord until he comes (*1 Cor 11:26*). But by the power of the risen Lord it is given strength to overcome, in patience and in love, its sorrow and its difficulties, both those that are from within and those that are from without, so that it may reveal in the world, faithfully, although with shadows, the mystery of its Lord until, in the end, it shall be manifested in full light."

The Year of Faith, from this perspective, is a summons to an authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord, the one Saviour of the world. In the mystery of his death and resurrection, God has revealed in its fullness the Love that saves and calls us to conversion of life through the forgiveness of sins (*Acts 5:31*). For Saint Paul, this Love ushers us into a new life: "We were buried ... with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (*Rom 6:4*). Through faith, this new life shapes the whole of human existence according to the radical new reality of the resurrection. To the extent that he freely cooperates, man's thoughts and affections, mentality and conduct are slowly purified and transformed, on a journey that is never completely finished in this life. "Faith working through love" (*Gal 5:6*) becomes a new criterion of understanding and action that changes the whole of man's life (*Rom 12:2; Col 3:9-10; Eph 4:20-29; 2 Cor 5:17*).

7. "Caritas Christi urget nos" (*2 Cor 5:14*): it is the love of Christ that fills our hearts and impels us to evangelize. Today as in the past, he sends us through the highways of the world to proclaim his Gospel to all the peoples of the earth (*Mt 28:19*). Through his love, Jesus Christ attracts to himself the people of every generation: in every age he convokes the Church, entrusting her with the proclamation of the Gospel by a mandate that is ever new. Today too, there is a need for stronger ecclesial commitment to new evangelization in order to rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith. In rediscovering his love day by day, the missionary commitment of believers attains force and vigour that can never fade away. Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy. It makes us fruitful, because it expands our hearts in hope and enables us to bear life-giving witness: indeed, it opens the hearts and minds of those who listen to respond to the Lord's invitation to adhere to his word and become his disciples. Believers, so Saint Augustine tells us, "strengthen themselves by believing". The saintly Bishop of Hippo had good reason to express himself in this way. As we know, his life was a continual search for the beauty of the faith until such time as his heart would find rest in God. His extensive writings, in which he explains the importance of believing and the truth of the faith, continue even now to form a heritage of incomparable riches, and they still help many people in search of God to find the right path towards the "door of faith".

Sacraments

Our Mass Intentions

This Week

Sunday, May 20 (Seventh Sunday of Easter)			
7:30a	Mary & Matt Basan	1:30p	Candelario Tirado and Eliezel Martinez
9:00a	Mother's Day Novena	3:00p	Vernon & Liza De Peralta
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	5:30p	Diego Resendiz
12:00p	Joe R. Fernandes	7:30p	Karen Shatto
Monday, May 21			
8:00a	Mother's Day Novena	5:45p	Virginia Fester and John Peyton, Jr.
Tuesday, May 22			
8:00a	Imogene & Quentin Stoeckel and Joe Vultaggio	5:45p	Juan Ramirez and Juan Andres
Wednesday, May 23			
8:00a	Rudolf Mendibil and Dorothy Lane	5:45p	Joe Mendes and Manuel B. Victoria
Thursday, May 24			
8:00a	Cora Roberts and Richard Scott	5:45p	David Terra and Oscar Lopez
Friday, May 25			
8:00a	Rosanna Hollander and Melito Retanan	5:45p	Sara and David Terra and Jesse and Jason Woodson
Saturday, May 26			
8:00a	Serafino Bertolotti and Juan Andres	5:45p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
Sunday, May 27 (Pentecost Sunday)			
7:30a	Emil & Anna Carney	1:30p	Soledad Hernandez and Diego Zendejas
9:00a	Josephine Paluzzi	5:30p	Charlene Martin
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Joseph Cusenza
12:00p	Manuel and Olivia Souza		

Sunday, May 20, 2012		
10:00A	Children's Liturgy of the	JP6
10:30A	Respect Life	JP4
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7
Monday, May 21, 2012		
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer Grp.	JP10
7:00P	Bible Study--Spanish	JP4
Tuesday, May 22, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
10:30A	Light Weigh	JP8
5:30P	ESL Classes	JP4
6:15P	Legion of Mary	JP4
6:30P	Festival Committee	JP10
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer	JP7
Wednesday, May 23, 2012		
1:30P	Widows and Widowers	JP5
5:30P	AA Principle Study	JP5
5:45P	AI Anon Group	JP10
Thursday, May 24, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
11:00A	Development-Legacy	JP7
6:30P	Rosary Makers	JP5
6:30P	Compartiendo la Biblia	JP4
7:00P	Spanish Young Adults	JP2
Friday, May 25, 2012		
12:00P	Latin Mass	Chur
3:00P	Divine Mercy Prayer	Chap
Sunday, May 27, 2012		
10:00A	CLOW	JP6
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7

Invitation

The Missionaries of Charity (Sisters of Bl. Teresa of Calcutta) invite you to the profession of first vows of four of their novices on Wednesday, May 23, at St. Paul's Church (221 Valley and Church Streets). The Most Reverend James Wall, Bishop of Gallup, New Mexico, will be the main celebrant for the Holy Mass, which will begin at 4pm. All are most welcome! Please keep the sisters in your prayers.

Readings 5/21-5/27

Monday:	Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday:	Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday:	Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday:	Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11
Friday:	Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17
12pm Latin Mass:	I Pt. 5:1-4, 10-11; Mt. 16: 13-19
Saturday:	Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21
Sunday:	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98; I Jn 4:7-10 or I Jn 4:11-16; Jn 15:9-17 or Jn 17:11b-19
Latin Mass	Acts 2:1-11; Jn. 14:23-31

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





INTRODUCCION A LA BIBLIA

14 de mayo -18 de junio

Esta Clase ha sido cancelada debido a una emergencia familiar, por favor disculpen por la inconveniencia. En los próximos boletines anunciaremos las nuevas fechas.

Escuela Parroquial de Religión

Catecismo para Niños

(Registros para el PSR)

Junio 9-11

Necesita su niño recibir la Primera Comunión o la Confirmación? Aparte la fecha para nuestro fin de semana de registración.

RETIRO DE BIBLIA EN VACACIONES - JUNIO 25-29



Este retiro es para los niños de St. Joseph's y se llena rápido. Esté listo para los anuncios sobre las oportunidades para registrar a su niño

Fortaleciendo Mi Matrimonio

Sábado, 16-17 de Junio
Iglesia Santa Francisca de
Roma en Riverbank

Fortaleciendo Mi Matrimonio es un programa diocesano, una LUZ de esperanza para matrimonios en crisis. Este programa aunque es Católico, no es un programa de evangelización, está mas bien diseñado para ayudar a matrimonios reconstruir su relación sin importar su religión o credo. Para registrarse llamar a David y Lupe Aguilar al (209) 622-6083 o 622-8064.



¡Boletín Parroquial en Español!

DEL LAPTOP DEL PÁRROCO, Padre Joseph Illo

El 8 de mayo, Carolina del Norte definió el **matrimonio** como la unión entre un hombre y una mujer. El 9 de mayo, nuestro presidente “desarrolló” su pensamiento sobre este tema y afirmó su apoyo por lo llamado “matrimonio” entre el mismo sexo. Seamos claros: para los *Cristianos*, no hay tal cosa como el matrimonio fuera de la unión entre un hombre y una mujer. Jesús definió el matrimonio repetidamente en la Biblia (por ejemplo, en Mateo 19:5: “un hombre deja a su padre y a su madre y se une a su esposa, y los dos forman una sola carne”). El Presidente Obama está afiliado con la Iglesia de Cristo, la cual está confundida con respecto a este tema. El Vicepresidente Joseph Biden, quien está afiliado con la Iglesia Católica, pero explícitamente rechaza la enseñanza de su propia Iglesia, también está confundido.

No nos confundamos. Seamos inteligentes y estemos informados. Si somos Cristianos, y aceptamos la Biblia, entonces nunca podemos pretender que la actividad homosexual no causa daño. Solo puede debilitar a aquellos que la practican, y debilita a la sociedad. Los que sufren esta atracción son buenas personas, y merecen nuestro amor y respeto. Si ellos se dan a esta tendencia destructiva, debemos ayudarlos a tener buenos hábitos y ayudarlos a vencer los malos impulsos. Todos sufrimos por impulsos destructivos de una clase u otra, y necesitamos apoyarnos los unos a los otros para el *bien*.

El Cardenal Dolan, presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos, declaró que el apoyo del Presidente Obama por el “matrimonio” entre el mismo sexo era **un día triste para América**. Triste porque nuestros líderes han decidido que América ya no necesita los principios Cristianos. El Papa Benedicto escribió en enero de este año que “las leyes que oprimen a la familia son una amenaza para la dignidad humana y la humanidad.” Por toda la historia, las culturas no-Cristianas han aceptado acuerdos sexuales no naturales (aunque ninguno que yo sepa, los ha llamado “matrimonio”). Nuestra gran Republica creció fuerte precisamente porque fundó una sociedad de acuerdo con la Ley Natural y los principios Cristianos. Familias Naturales, niños nacidos naturalmente y esposos que trabajan fuertemente por ser fieles y amorosos, hacen que todos seamos fuertes. ¿Estamos listos para luchar por el matrimonio?



Roberto y Ana Gutierrez y su hija Maria Pia (2002)

Fr. Joseph

Nuestro Santo Padre en Roma



CARTA APOSTÓLICA *PORTA FIDEI*

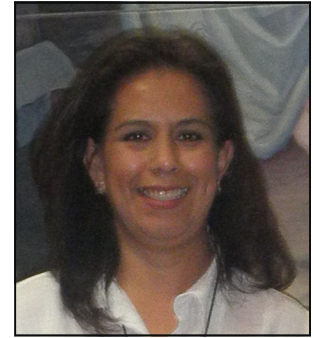
CON LA QUE SE CONVOCA EL *AÑO DE LA FE (Parte III)*

...6. La renovación de la Iglesia pasa también a través del testimonio ofrecido por la vida de los creyentes: con su misma existencia en el mundo, los cristianos están llamados efectivamente a hacer resplandecer la Palabra de verdad que el Señor Jesús nos dejó. Precisamente el Concilio, en la Constitución dogmática *Lumen gentium*, afirmaba: «Mientras que Cristo, “santo, inocente, sin mancha” (*Hb* 7, 26), no conoció el pecado (cf. *2 Co* 5, 21), sino que vino solamente a expiar los pecados del pueblo (*Hb* 2, 17), la Iglesia, abrazando en su seno a los pecadores, es a la vez santa y siempre necesitada de purificación, y busca sin cesar la conversión y la renovación. La Iglesia continúa su peregrinación “en medio de las persecuciones del mundo y de los consuelos de Dios”, anunciando la cruz y la muerte del Señor hasta que vuelva (*1 Co* II, 26). Se siente fortalecida con la fuerza del Señor resucitado para poder superar con paciencia y amor todos los sufrimientos y dificultades, tanto interiores como exteriores, y revelar en el mundo el misterio de Cristo, aunque bajo sombras, sin embargo, con fidelidad hasta que al final se manifieste a plena luz». En esta perspectiva, el *Año de la fe* es una invitación a una auténtica y renovada conversión al Señor, único Salvador del mundo. Dios, en el misterio de su muerte y resurrección, ha revelado en plenitud el Amor que salva y llama a los hombres a la conversión de vida mediante la remisión de los pecados (*Hch* 5, 31). Para el apóstol Pablo, este Amor lleva al hombre a una nueva vida: «Por el bautismo fuimos sepultados con él en la muerte, para que, lo mismo que Cristo resucitó de entre los muertos por la gloria del Padre, así también nosotros andemos en una vida nueva» (*Rm* 6, 4). Gracias a la fe, esta vida nueva plasma toda la existencia humana en la novedad radical de la resurrección. En la medida de su disponibilidad libre, los pensamientos y los afectos, la mentalidad y el comportamiento del hombre se purifican y transforman lentamente, en un proceso que no termina de cumplirse totalmente en esta vida. La «fe que actúa por el amor» (*Ga* 5, 6) se convierte en un nuevo criterio de pensamiento y de acción que cambia toda la vida del hombre (*Rm* 12, 2; *Col* 3, 9-10; *Ef* 4, 20-29; *2 Co* 5, 17).

7. «*Caritas Christi urget nos*» (*2 Co* 5, 14): es el amor de Cristo el que llena nuestros corazones y nos impulsa a evangelizar. Hoy como ayer, él nos envía por los caminos del mundo para proclamar su Evangelio a todos los pueblos de la tierra (*Mt* 28, 19). Con su amor, Jesucristo atrae hacia sí a los hombres de cada generación: en todo tiempo, convoca a la Iglesia y le confía el anuncio del Evangelio, con un mandato que es siempre nuevo. Por eso, también hoy es necesario un compromiso eclesial más convencido en favor de una nueva evangelización para redescubrir la alegría de creer y volver a encontrar el entusiasmo de comunicar la fe. El compromiso misionero de los creyentes saca fuerza y vigor del descubrimiento cotidiano de su amor, que nunca puede faltar. La fe, en efecto, crece cuando se vive como experiencia de un amor que se recibe y se comunica como experiencia de gracia y gozo. Nos hace fecundos, porque ensancha el corazón en la esperanza y permite dar un testimonio fecundo: en efecto, abre el corazón y la mente de los que escuchan para acoger la invitación del Señor a aceptar su Palabra para ser sus discípulos. Como afirma san Agustín, los creyentes «se fortalecen creyendo». El santo Obispo de Hipona tenía buenos motivos para expresarse de esta manera. Como sabemos, su vida fue una búsqueda continua de la belleza de la fe hasta que su corazón encontró descanso en Dios. Sus numerosos escritos, en los que explica la importancia de creer y la verdad de la fe, permanecen aún hoy como un patrimonio de riqueza sin igual, consintiendo todavía a tantas personas que buscan a Dios encontrar el sendero justo para acceder a la «puerta de la fe».

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Norma Rodríguez

Norma Rodríguez y su familia han estado sirviendo a St. Joseph's por bastantes años. Ella Comenzó como miembro del Grupo Guadalupano, ayudando a decorar la carrosa de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe para la procesión diocesana, y el salón parroquial y la Iglesia, una semana mas tarde el 12 de diciembre para la fiesta de la Virgen de Guadalupe. Norma siempre ha sido una de los primeros feligreses en hacerse voluntario como líder de los grupos de *Oren* y *Velen* y *Adelántate*.

Durante la Misa, Norma deseaba participar más y comenzó a ser Lectora durante la Misa Dominical de la 1:30. Ella siempre está lista para servir cuando falta uno de los lectores. Para ayudarnos a entrar mas en oración antes de la Misa, ella dirige el Rosario una vez por mes. A Norma le encanta servir en la Misa. Como asistente Sacristán, ella ayuda a Daniel Hernández, a preparar y limpiar todo cada Domingo. Sus dos hijos mayores, Verneise e Ivan también les encanta servir en la Misa. Los dos han sido monaguillos por varios años, y su hermana pequeña, Itzell, probablemente seguirá sus pasos. El año pasado, Norma acompañó a Verneise a la Jornada Mundial en Madrid. Norma tiene una gran devoción por el Santísimo y por la Virgen de Guadalupe. Aquí en St. Joseph's estamos bendecidos con tantas familias corresponsables, quienes saben que la corresponsabilidad es una cuestión familiar cuando se sirve a Dios.



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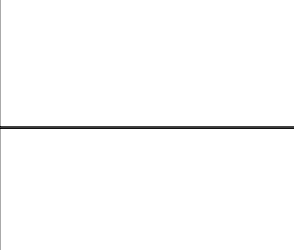
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