

*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 27, 2012 Pentecost Sunday

(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, Assoc Pastor

Fr. Tony Chacko, Assoc Pastor

Fr. Larry Guerrero, Hospital Chaplain

Rev. Mr. Ken Ochinero, Deacon

Rev. Mr. Ernest Ciccarelli, Deacon

From the Pastor's Laptop

Don't be a pushover! More and more people are pushing Catholics, especially committed Catholics, harder and harder. Part of this is more aggressive attitudes in society across the board, but we Catholics are singled out for harsher treatment than most. It is time to push back—charitably but firmly. It is time to confidently but patiently respond to anti-Catholic bigotry and simple misinformation.

For example, when our Bishops resisted the Obama Administration's mandate to purchase contraception and abortion drugs, news stories falsely represented them as seeking to deny contraception to all Americans. No one was too concerned about correcting this flagrant misrepresentation as political cartoons lampooned them for something they never said. Catholic priests are singled out for sensationalized media stories if there is even a suspicion of wrongdoing, while journalists are silent about other, far graver scandals. In a recent letter to the *Modesto Bee*, a man described "Roman Catholics" as "religious fundamentalists ... whose archaic view of the world must be mollified in the 2012 election." It didn't used to be acceptable to make bigoted statements against Catholics without any factual evidence. A growing number of public voices demonize Catholics, blaming us for things like "overpopulation" and global poverty and social discrimination. In fact, the Catholic Church operates more hospitals, schools and aid organizations on a global scale even than the U.S. government.

It is time to push back, but to do so effectively, we must do two things. **First**, we must know our faith and the issues that touch it. Catholics are notoriously ignorant of the Catholic faith. We have our *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and now is the time to study it, if you haven't already. **Second**, we need to pray, because no good can come of anything unless it is guided by the Holy Spirit. Pray for charity and wisdom on how and when to respond to anti-Catholic bigotry.

It is not charitable to remain silent when ignorance attacks the Catholic Church. The Church is our best hope for a peaceful, ordered society.

Fr. Joseph



People lined up to receive Christmas baskets, (12/2011).

Questions?

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

Parish Office

(**Lulu, Donna, Alex, Brenda**)

Sunday: 10am-3pm.

Monday: 10am-7:30pm

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

Closed Wednesday from 11am-1pm

Friday 8:30am-12noon

Weekend Maintenance 568-7558

How can we help? 551-4973

<i>Se Habla Español</i>	Alex x103
Accounting	Barbara x108
Adult Ed & Bible Studies	Michael x203
Altar Servers.....	Svetlana x200
Audio / Video.....	Jeremy x213
Buildings & Grounds.....	Susie x201
Bulletin & Website.....	Jeremy x213
Child Ed & Sacraments	Debbie x205
Choirs & Cantors.....	Svetlana x200
Events & Activities.....	Susie x201
Faith & Life Magazine	Michael x203
Giving to St. Joseph's.....	Tammy x207
Parish Lending Library	x208
Parish Ministries	Tammy x207
Parish Registration.....	Donna x102
Room Reservations.....	Rosario x110
Volunteering.....	Tammy x207
Youth Ministry	Nathan x206

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

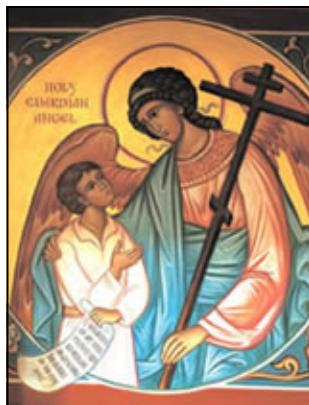
MILITARY SUPPORT MINISTRY

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



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 today, June 3 & 10 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.

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!*



Around the Area

MEMORIAL DAY MASS — MAY 28

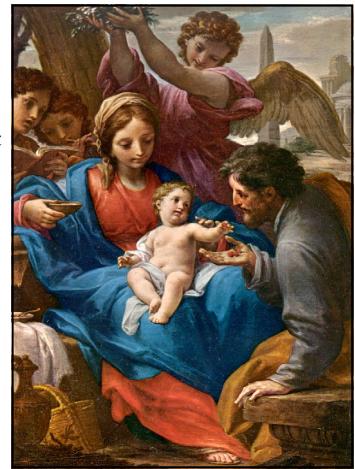
Everyone is invited to St. Stanislaus Catholic Cemetery for a Memorial Day Mass on May 28. Mass will be in English in the Chapel at 9am. We look forward to seeing you there.

Religious Education

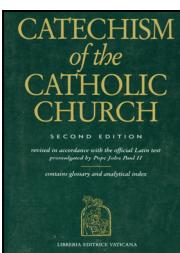
The Little Way... Family Prayer

By Michael Webster, Director of Religious Education

God in His great love made us all unique with different personalities and learning styles. Since we are different, there are many different ways to pray. Last week the focus was on praying the rosary as a family. Another way to do family prayer is by reading Sacred Scripture together. Each family should have a bible and it should be kept in a prominent place in the house (perhaps in your sacred space). Reading Sacred Scripture sometimes can seem intimidating but don't let it be! Gather your family and start by reading just a chapter a night and work your way through one book of the bible. The Gospels are a great place to start, since they are the stories and teaching of Jesus (the gospel of Mark is the shortest). We all know kids have great imaginations. We should utilize that gift and lead them in meditation of scripture. This can be done by simply taking a passage of scripture and reading it several times. Invite your children to join you in placing yourselves in the scripture passage. Imagine what it would be like in that situation; use that to lead you into meditation on what God is saying to you through this particular passage. Allow this to lead to contemplation of God's amazing love for you. Yes that's right, contemplation! We all are called to contemplation. In today's world, we are rarely truly quiet, whether it is music planning or talking/texting on our phones. It is important for us to make time to be quiet, God speaks to us in prayerful silence. God wants to share His very life, His love with us. If we open ourselves up to that gift and give ourselves back to Him we can enter into contemplation! A great habit to begin is to make an examination of conscience at the end of the day. Take just a couple of minutes before you start your family prayer in the evening to think about your day and how you loved God and how you failed to love God. As families, it is time to live out our vocations virtuously. We do this by walking "the little way," doing ordinary things with extraordinary charity!



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.

Parish School of Religion

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**



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

∞ 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

St. Joseph's youth ministry challenges young people to love Christ and embrace the life of the Catholic Church. We have High School Life Nights after the 5:30pm Sunday Mass in the hall. Also we have our Cl nights for 7th graders on Wednesdays at 7pm in the hall.

XLT

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



There will be no LifeNights 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 and help out, 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.



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.

Youth Music Ensemble

The Youth Music Ensemble, which sings at the 5:30pm Sunday Mass, will be taking a break over the summer.

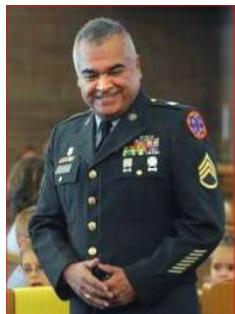


The choir will start again on Sunday, August 5. Auditions will be held on Wednesday, July 11, in the music room in the JPII center. Please contact Katie Steffanic for more information.

Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Plaza Refreshments are being served this weekend by our very active Military Support Ministry. Please stop by and visit with this patriotic group.

Parish Stewardship — a way of life



Veterans Salute

Joseph E. LeChuga



(by Leonard E. Churilla, Military Ministry Historian)

Army Staff Sergeant Joseph E. LeChuga, a St. Joseph parishioner for over a year, still is serving his country in uniform. The only son of Moses and Gloria LeChuga, Joe was born in Los Angeles on July 24, 1953. He has three sisters. He attended St. Helen's Elementary School and graduated from St. Pope Pius X High School in Downey. Thereafter he sought a degree in Mass Communications Broadcasting from Chico State University. "I was very successful in sales, management and making public service announcements," he said, "which inspired me to do volunteer work." This led to a decision to join the Army National Guard at age 36 in June 1989, just under the age cutoff. After basic training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, he was sent for Army medic training at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

From there Joe found himself at a National Guard unit in Stockton, where he spent 20 years with Army Aviation. As he progressed in the medical field, working part-time in the ER at Memorial Hospital in Modesto, he went back to school to pursue a license as a registered nurse (RN). One of the officers he worked with convinced him to consider going for a physician's assistant license instead, which he obtained through the University of California at Davis. He now reports to the 297th Area Support Medical Company in San Mateo once a month for his National Guard duty. Asked what his most memorable experience was while wearing the uniform, Joe replied, "Well, there were three events that will definitely stand out. The first was when I was assigned as a Team Leader to guard the Stockton Airport after the 9/11 tragedy. Then, in 2003 some of us were sent on a NATO peace-keeping mission to Ukraine. We worked for two weeks with soldiers from former Warsaw Pact countries, teaching them the NATO way of doing things, which were quite different from the old Soviet system, like suppressing a civilian crowd. It was fun meeting people from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, etc. The Ukrainians were especially friendly and helpful. Another memorable event was spending two weeks with the Alaska National Guard at a very remote tiny island in the Aleutian chain of Alaska. There were 500 medical personnel from every branch of the service helping the native healthcare workers, seeing patients." Joe also teaches part-time at Heald College in Stockton as he begins "to wind down my 22 years in uniform." Joe lives in Riverbank, but found St. Joseph parishioners to be so warm and caring with so many ministries that he prefers to attend Mass here. He usually attends the 10:30 am Mass on Sundays.

New to the Parish? Wondering where to start??

Call the Center for Lay Apostolates

551-4973, ext. 207

Profiles in Stewardship

by Tammy Menezes



Patricia "Pixie" Kinser

It is never hard to find good Stewards for our "Stewardship Profile". Much of the time, they are right outside my door, offering their talents for the benefit of those in our parish and our greater community. Pixie Kinser has been an active parishioner, along with her late husband, Larry, for many years. Like many of us, she juggles family (one of the best grandmothers I have ever seen!), faith and friends. Her faith time is always a priority and what she offers to our parish community isamazing. She currently serves as Chair of our Health Ministry Team, volunteers as a Children's Liturgy of the Word Leader, serves as a much beloved Catechist and is a vice-chair in the Catholic Social Services Guild, which raises funds for senior services in Stanislaus County. Her energy, enthusiasm and passion for modeling Catholic Stewardship are inspiring and help others to grow in their faith. During this month, Pixie chaired the table setting fund raiser for the CSSG, led the effort to create and sell Mother's Day corsages to raise funds for health career scholarships, and then helped to host the award reception for the recipients. Most people would look forward to a rest, but Pixie is busy planning for the First Aid Tent at our September Festival, and an October visit to our parish by the Lions Eye Van. God Bless you,

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/cxv9r7>

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 IV*)



Only through believing, then, does faith grow and become stronger; there is no other possibility for possessing certitude with regard to one's life apart from self-abandonment, in a continuous crescendo, into the hands of a love that seems to grow constantly because it has its origin in God.

8. On this happy occasion, I wish to invite my brother bishops from all over the world to join the Successor of Peter, during this time of spiritual grace that the Lord offers us, in recalling the precious gift of faith. We want to celebrate this Year in a worthy and fruitful manner. Reflection on the faith will have to be intensified, so as to help all believers in Christ to acquire a more conscious and vigorous adherence to the Gospel, especially at a time of profound change such as humanity is currently experiencing. We will have the opportunity to profess our faith in the Risen Lord in our cathedrals and in the churches of the whole world; in our homes and among our families, so that everyone may feel a strong need to know better and to transmit to future generations the faith of all times. Religious communities as well as parish communities, and all ecclesial bodies old and new, are to find a way, during this Year, to make a public profession of the *Credo*.

9. We want this Year to arouse in every believer the aspiration to *profess* the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope. It will also be a good opportunity to intensify the *celebration* of the faith in the liturgy, especially in the Eucharist, which is "the summit towards which the activity of the Church is directed; ... and also the source from which all its power flows." At the same time, we make it our prayer that believers' witness of life may grow in credibility. To rediscover the content of the faith that is professed, celebrated, lived and prayed, and to reflect on the act of faith, is a task that every believer must make his own, especially in the course of this Year.

Not without reason, Christians in the early centuries were required to learn the creed from memory. It served them as a daily prayer not to forget the commitment they had undertaken in baptism. With words rich in meaning, Saint Augustine speaks of this in a homily on the *reddito symboli*, the handing over of the creed: "the symbol of the holy mystery that you have all received together and that today you have recited one by one, are the words on which the faith of Mother Church is firmly built above the stable foundation that is Christ the Lord. You have received it and recited it, but in your minds and hearts you must keep it ever present, you must repeat it in your beds, recall it in the public squares and not forget it during meals: even when your body is asleep, you must watch over it with your hearts."

10. At this point I would like to sketch a path intended to help us understand more profoundly not only the content of the faith, but also the act by which we choose to entrust ourselves fully to God, in complete freedom. In fact, there exists a profound unity between the act by which we believe and the content to which we give our assent. Saint Paul helps us to enter into this reality when he writes: "Man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved" (*Rom 10:10*). The heart indicates that the first act by which one comes to faith is God's gift and the action of grace which acts and transforms the person deep within.

Sacraments

Our Mass Intentions

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		

Monday, May 28

8:00a	Danny Vele and Connie McKillop	5:45p	John Walter Cant and Elizabeth Morotti
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Tuesday, May 29

8:00a	Ligaya Bautista and Connie Rozal	5:45p	Dr. Heinz Von Hugen and Charles Aguilar
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Wednesday, May 30

8:00a	Paul Cusenza and Antonia Isabel Antonio	5:45p	Susan Wells and Elizabeth Van Duyn
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Thursday, May 31

8:00a	Margarita Garnica and Mary Jer Lucey	5:45p	Paul Tehero and Dwaine Stephan
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Friday, June 1

8:00a	Rosanna Hollander and John Caratti	5:45p	Rosita De La Cruz and Geronimo Quadra
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Saturday, June 2

8:00a	Daniel Lee Ashton, Sr. and Frank Carbone	5:45p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
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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

Baptisms

Uriel Matadamas	Benjamin Friedland	Kassandra Arceo	Eden Morton
Jagger Morton	Alex Huerta	Alisa Dinottia	Kwei-Cee Chu
Isabella Vazquez	Marisela Jones	Jessie Torres	Constance Govea
Andres Zavala	Zoe Morton	Gabriel Torres	James Mc Gurrin
Brian Bockert	Daisy Palominos	Sally Torres	Steven Tubbs
Lukas Dompeling	Gloria Romero	Edward Vargas	Donald Vierra

Offertory and Expense Report for April 2012

Estimated Offertory Income for April 2012:	\$ 168,160
Actual Offertory Income for April 2012:	\$ 174,830
Over Estimate:	\$6,670
Average monthly gift per household:	\$29

Operating Income and Expense, July 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012

Actual Operating Income for the Parish:	\$1,448,000
Actual Operating Expense for the Parish:	\$1,440,000
Surplus from July through December of this year:	\$8,000

See our website (www.stjmod.com) for a full financial report

Parish Facts:

- Our annual parish property taxes are \$15,000
- Our Adult Choir members each practice more than 100 hours each year
- Over 400 guests attended the free "Responding to God's Blessings Breakfast!"

Thank you for your careful and generous stewardship of treasure!

This Week

Sunday, May 27, 2012

10:00A	Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)	JP6
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7

Monday, May 28, 2012

	Memorial Day (Office Closed) Sun & Mon	
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer Grp	JP10

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP6
10:30A	Light Weigh	JP8
5:30P	ESL Classes	JP4
6:15P	Legion of Mary	JP4
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer	JP7

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

1:30P	Widows and Widowers	JP5
5:30P	AA Principle Study Group	JP5
5:45P	AI Anon Group	JP10

Thursday, May 31, 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 1, 2012

12:00P	Latin Mass	Chur
3:00P	Divine Mercy Prayer	Chap
6:30P	Children's Adoration	Chur

Saturday, June 2, 2012

8:45A	Militia Immaculata-Adult	JP5
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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

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.

Bienvenido a St. Joseph's

CEMENTERIO DE SAN STANISLAO

"El 28 de mayo se celebrará una Misa de Memorial Day en Ingles en la Capilla del cementerio a las 9:00am.



"Los esperamos!"

Escuela Parroquial de Religión

Catecismo para Niños

(Registraciones 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.

LLEVA A TU PAPA AL JUEGO

CON EL OBISPO BLAIRE

Junio 16, 2012, 7:05 pm

Disfruta de una noche de Baseball en el

Puerto con tu papá, abuelito, tío, párroco, sacerdote, ministro de jóvenes - itrae a toda la familia!

Llama para boletos 209-546-7633 o youth@stocktondiocese.org

Sólo cuestan \$9.00.



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 y ayudar como voluntario.

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

¡No deje que lo maltraten! Más y más personas están maltratando a los Católicos, y mas todavía, especialmente a los Católicos fieles. Parte de esto se debe a que nuestra sociedad se ha vuelto más agresiva, pero nosotros los Católicos recibimos más maltrato. Es tiempo de defendernos—con caridad pero firmemente. Es hora de responder con confidencia pero pacientemente contra el prejuicio y la falta de información en contra de los Católicos.

Por ejemplo, cuando los Obispos resistieron el mandato de la Administración de Obama de tener que pagar por anticonceptivos y drogas abortíferas, recibieron mofa en las caricaturas políticas. Las noticias representaron falsamente a la Iglesia Católica queriendo negar los anticonceptivos a todos los americanos, y nadie en los medios de comunicación se interesó por corregir esta flagrante difamación. Los sacerdotes católicos son señalados para todas aquellas historias sensacionales, aunque tan solo haya una sospecha de alguna falta, mientras que los periodistas guardan silencio con respecto a otros mayores escándalos. En una carta reciente al Modesto Bee, un hombre describió a los "Católicos Romanos" como "fundamentalistas religiosos...cuyo arcaico punto de vista sobre el mundo debe de ser aplacado en las elecciones del 2012." Está haciéndose aceptable el hacer esta clase de declaraciones con prejuicio, en contra de los Católicos sin tener ninguna verdadera evidencia. Un numero de voces aceptadas por el publico están demonizándonos a los Católicos, acusándonos de cosas tales como la "sobre población" y la pobreza global y los asaltos a los derechos de las mujeres. De hecho, la Iglesia Católica es la organización caritativa mas grande del mundo, mucho más grande en la escala global que el Gobierno de los EEUU.

Ya es hora de defendernos, pero para hacerlo efectivamente, debemos de hacer dos cosas. Primero, debemos de conocer nuestra fe y los asuntos que trata. Los Católicos son notorios por su ignorancia sobre la fe Católica. Tenemos nuestro Catecismos de la Iglesia Católica, y ahora es tiempo de estudiarlo, si todavía no lo hemos hecho. Segundo, necesitamos rezar, porque nada bueno vendrá de lo que hacemos al menos de que esté guiado por el Espíritu Santo. Recen

por la caridad y la sabiduría de como y cuando responder al prejuicio en contra de los Católicos.

No es caritativo quedarse callado cuando otros atacan bobamente a la Iglesia Católica, la cual es nuestra mejor esperanza para una sociedad pacífica y ordenada. Tenemos el deber en caridad a todos, de defender la Iglesia de Dios.



Personas en fila para recibir Canastas Navideñas, (12/2011). Fr. Joseph

Nuestro Santo Padre en Roma

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



CORRESPONSABILIDAD
(STEWARDSHIP)

Por Tammy Menezes



Patricia "Pixie" Kinser

No nos cuesta trabajo encontrar buenas personas para nuestro "Perfil de Corresponsabilidad". Muchas veces, se encuentran tras la puerta, ofreciendo sus talentos en beneficio de nuestra parroquia y el resto de la comunidad. Pixie Kinser ha sido una feligrés activa, junto con Larry, su difunto esposo por muchos años. Ella comparte su tiempo entre la familia (una de las mejores abuelas que he conocido!) su fe y amigos. El tiempo para su fe es siempre una prioridad y lo que ella le ofrece a nuestra comunidad parroquial es... asombroso. Sirve como presidente de nuestro Ministerio de la Salud, es líder de la Liturgia de la Palabra para Niños, catequista, y vicepresidente de los Servicios Católicos Sociales, el cual reúne fondos para servicios a los ancianos en el condado de Stanislaw. Su energía, entusiasmo y pasión, modelo de la corresponsabilidad Católica son inspirantes y ayuda a los demás a crecer en su fe. En mayo, Pixie presidió la recaudación de fondos para el CSSG, dirigió el esfuerzo de hacer y vender las orquídeas para el Día de las Madres y recaudar fondos para becas en la carrera de la salud, y después ayudó en la recepción y entrega de las becas. La mayoría de las personas desearían un descanso, pero Pixie ya está ocupada planeando el trabajo de la Carpa de Primeros Auxilios en nuestro festival de septiembre, y una visita a nuestra parroquia por el Lions Eye Van.

¡Que Dios de bendiga, Pixie!

Así, la fe sólo crece y se fortalece creyendo; no hay otra posibilidad para poseer la certeza sobre la propia vida que abandonarse, en un *in crescendo* continuo, en las manos de un amor que se experimenta siempre como más grande porque tiene su origen en Dios.

8. En esta *feliz* conmemoración, deseo invitar a los hermanos Obispos de todo el Orbe a que se unan al Sucesor de Pedro en el tiempo de gracia espiritual que el Señor nos ofrece para rememorar el don precioso de la fe. Queremos celebrar este *Año* de manera digna y fecunda. Habrá que intensificar la reflexión sobre la fe para ayudar a todos los creyentes en Cristo a que su adhesión al Evangelio sea más consciente y vigorosa, sobre todo en un momento de profundo cambio como el que la humanidad está viviendo. Tendremos la oportunidad de confesar la fe en el Señor Resucitado en nuestras catedrales e iglesias de todo el mundo; en nuestras casas y con nuestras familias, para que cada uno sienta con fuerza la exigencia de conocer y transmitir mejor a las generaciones futuras la fe de siempre. En este *Año*, las comunidades religiosas, así como las parroquiales, y todas las realidades eclesiales antiguas y nuevas, encontrarán la manera de profesar públicamente el *Credo*.

9. Deseamos que este *Año* suscite en todo creyente la aspiración a *confesar* la fe con plenitud y renovada convicción, con confianza y esperanza. Será también una ocasión propicia para intensificar la *celebración* de la fe en la liturgia, y de modo particular en la Eucaristía, que es «la cumbre a la que tiende la acción de la Iglesia y también la fuente de donde mana toda su fuerza». Al mismo tiempo, esperamos que el *testimonio* de vida de los creyentes sea cada vez más creíble. Redescubrir los contenidos de la fe profesada, celebrada, vivida y rezada, y reflexionar sobre el mismo acto con el que se cree, es un compromiso que todo creyente debe de hacer propio, sobre todo en este *Año*.

No por casualidad, los cristianos en los primeros siglos estaban obligados a aprender de memoria el *Credo*. Esto les servía como oración cotidiana para no olvidar el compromiso asumido con el bautismo. San Agustín lo recuerda con unas palabras de profundo significado, cuando en un *sermón* sobre la *redditio symboli*, la entrega del *Credo*, dice: «El símbolo del sacrosanto misterio que recibisteis todos a la vez y que hoy habéis recitado uno a uno, no es otra cosa que las palabras en las que se apoya sólidamente la fe de la Iglesia, nuestra madre, sobre la base incombustible que es Cristo el Señor.

Recibisteis y recitasteis algo que debéis retener siempre en vuestra mente y corazón y repetir en vuestro lecho; algo sobre lo que tenéis que pensar cuando estáis en la calle y que no debéis olvidar ni cuando coméis, de forma que, incluso cuando dormís corporalmente, vigiléis con el corazón».

10. En este sentido, quisiera esbozar un camino que sea útil para comprender de manera más profunda no sólo los contenidos de la fe sino, juntamente también con eso, el acto con el que decidimos de entregarnos totalmente y con plena libertad a Dios. En efecto, existe una unidad profunda entre el acto con el que se cree y los contenidos a los que prestamos nuestro asentimiento. El apóstol Pablo nos ayuda a entrar dentro de esta realidad cuando escribe: «con el corazón se cree y con los labios se profesa» (cf. Rm 10, 10). El corazón indica que el primer acto con el que se llega a la fe es don de Dios y acción de la gracia que actúa y transforma a la persona hasta en lo más íntimo.



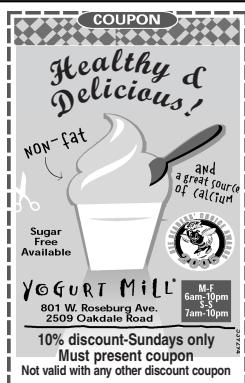
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