

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 6, 2012 Fifth 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

Recently, and with great joy, I read Pope Benedict's Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei* ("Door of Faith"). It is not a long document, and we will print parts of it on our "Pope Page" (page 6) beginning today. Benedict wrote it last October to prepare the Church for the **Year of Faith**, which will begin October 2012.

We scarcely can imagine, the Pope writes, the inestimable treasure that is our Faith. Life without it would be hardly bearable. So much of our peacefully-ordered culture owes its prosperity to the Faith of our Fathers. Consider President Washington's words in 1789: "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, and humbly to implore His protection and favor." Our Founders' humble faith in a Power greater than themselves enabled them to build a prosperous America. Our prosperity recedes, however, as our Faith recedes. Movies, TV programs, political speeches — all manner of public discourse, arts and entertainment — used to speak openly about God. Compare yesterday's movies such as the *Sound of Music* and the *Ten Commandments* with today's movies that ignore or mock faith in God. The Pope, while pointing out how much society has lost its faith, urges us to celebrate the *Gift of Faith*, and to recover it: "The 'door of faith' (Acts 14:27) is always open for us.... To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime."

How will we celebrate this Year of Faith at St. Joseph's? We begin by *learning* our faith better, because no one can believe what he does not know. Most Catholics know very little, perhaps not even the essentials, of Catholic doctrine. We must learn our faith more clearly and then teach it to others, especially to our own children. "In order to arrive at a systematic knowledge of the content of the faith," writes Pope Benedict, "all can find in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* a precious and indispensable tool." We will celebrate this Year of Faith by studying our Catechism, like good boys and girls. I welcome you to our Catechism 101 Course, which begins June 18, and continues the third Monday of every month (see page 3).



One of our PSR students (2003)

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-12

Weekend Maintenance 568-7558

How can we help? 551-4973

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

ST. JOSEPH'S PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL



Try a Holy Hour with Jesus once a week! Please see the schedule outside the Chapel for hours needing adorers.

Contact David & Monica at 527-4920 if you can pick up one of these hours.

Welcome to St. Joseph's

We're glad you're here!

Parish Life

Upcoming Events & Activities

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICE GUILD — MAY 9

Catholic Social Service Guild is having its Celebration of Mothers Luncheon on Wednesday, May 9, from 10am-2pm, in Fr. O'Hare Hall. This "tablescape" event will include beautiful tables, delicious food, great vendors and wonderful musical entertainment. Tickets are \$40. All proceeds benefit the Seniors of Stanislaus County. For tickets call Patty at 529-2940.

LAY DOMINICANS — MAY 12

There will be a Lay Dominican (Third Order Dominican) meeting on Saturday, May 12, in JP II, Room 5 after the 8am Mass. If you would like to learn more about this vocation for the laity, feel free to drop in. For more information please call Sandy Uyeshiro at 209-577-1493 or email at sandyopl@gmail.com.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT — MAY 18

Take Friday off and join us on the links for a beautiful day of golf followed by a prime rib dinner in Fr. O'Hare Hall. Cost is \$85/women, \$100/men and includes greens fees, cart, lunch & dinner. Proceeds raised benefit scholarships and local charities. Contact Michael Loschke 572-2271 for more information. Deadline for registering is May 4.



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.

VACATION BIBLE RETREAT (VBR) JUNE 25-29



VBR is a treat for the children of St. Joseph's and always fills quickly. Be watching for upcoming announcements for opportunities to sign up your child and to volunteer.

Religious Education

Sacred Art... A Window Into Heaven

Often in sacred art, Our Lady is depicted as a humble Jewish girl for obvious reasons, yet many pieces show us a deeper meaning to her image. This particular piece presents Mary, Mother of Christ, seated on a throne, resembling an altar, with the interior of a church as its backdrop. On the altar at each side, sit two small angels holding incense, with their heads turned toward Our Lady and the Child in adoration, showing the viewer the supernatural and divine reality before Him. Mary is the focus of the painting, her eyes are lowered while she reads to the child Jesus what we can assume to be Sacred Scripture, covered in a golden fabric. She is regally dressed, whereas Jesus' body is bare, having only a white cloth around His back, signifying the purity of the God man, "He became poor so that we become rich," (2 Cor. 8:9). God made flesh, condescends to our human level as a child to clothe us with His grace, thereby giving us the dignity of being His children. Mary's posture is one of royalty, wearing a bright golden halo framing her virginal hair, and thus showing the viewer that she is the Queen of Heaven. She wears a blue dress, the color representing heaven, and a red cape covering almost half of the painting. This piece not only speaks about the motherhood of Mary, her tender love for the Child Jesus, her teaching and nurturing of the God man, but delves deeper into our Catholic faith; it points to the central theme of the Paschal Mystery. The cape flows into a puddle of red all the way to the ground, symbolizing the blood shed by the Lord on the Cross for our redemption. Mary is the center of the Church, she is the tabernacle that carries the Holy of Holies, God Himself. She, like Mother Church has been entrusted with making present to humanity the Sacrifice of the Mass. She holds Christ in the flesh while reading Sacred Scripture, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Mary and the Child hold rosary beads reminding us through faith and prayer we are united to the Divine. *Mary Mother of God and Mother of the Church, pray for us!*



Virgin and Child Enthroned
by Hendrick Van Wueluwe—16th century

MASS 101 — MAY 12

9am-2pm in Fr. O'Hare Hall

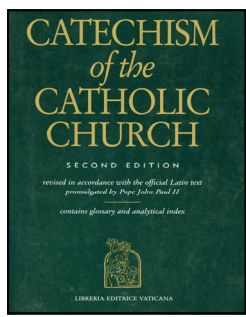


Do you want to enter more deeply into the Holy Mass? Did you know that most of the words we hear and say at Mass come from the bible?

Join us for Mass 101, A Biblical Walk Through the Mass. This workshop will consist of watching a series of DVD's created by renowned biblical scholar, Dr. Edward Sri. A free lunch will be provided. Please RSVP before May 10 by calling 551-4973 ext. 218 or email mbraun@stjmod.com.

CATECHISM 101 — JUNE 18

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Pope Benedict has declared October 2012 to November 2013 the Year of Faith. All adult Catholics are invited to discover the richness of our Catholic faith. On the third Monday of every month, (from this June to November 2013) we will have a workshop on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We will meet at 7pm in JP11 room 8.



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!

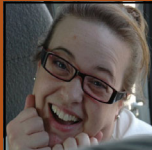


Nathan Steingrebe

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Katie Steffanic

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Upcoming Life Nights:
5/6: Protect this House: Dignity, Rights and Responsibilities
5/13: Our Blessed Mother
5/20: Last Life Night

All high school teens are invited to join us for Youth Group!

Come and enjoy prayer, games and fellowship.
Every Sunday from 7-8:30 in the Hall.



Steubenville San Diego
July 27-29

Congratulations to all those that received the Sacrament of Confirmation over the weekend!!

We enjoyed spending time with all of you on retreats and hope to see you all soon!

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.

World Youth Day Cookbooks

Looking for some great food recipes? These books have 200 pages full of favorite recipes and ideas from parishioners here at St. Joseph's. Contents include appetizers, salads, breads, candies, cookies to beverages. The books are available in our bookstore and the cost is \$15. Proceeds go toward WYD Rio 2013.



Parish School of Religion

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

PSR students, please bring boxed goods (potatoes, pasta, rice, or beans) this month for St. Vincent de Paul. Thanks for your kindness and stewardship!



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

Upcoming First Holy Communion Masses:
Saturday, May 19 at 10am & 1pm. Please pray for all the children receiving this beautiful Sacrament.

Center for Lay Apostolates

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP: Plaza Refreshments are being served this morning by St. Joseph's Filipino Parishioner Ministries, who welcome new participants. Visit them and find out more!

Parish Stewardship—a way of life

2012—42nd Annual Parish Festival

September 7-9, 2012

Join the fun as we plan!
Open Committee Positions:

- Food Booths Supervising Coordinator
- Marketing/Promotions Coordinator
- Decorations Coordinator

(Call 551-4973, ext. 207 for these and other Festival planning opportunities)

“Faith In Action”

New:

Old Time Country Live Auction
Pie Baking Contest

Next Festival Committee Meeting: Tuesday, May 8
6:30-7:30pm-Room 10, John Paul II Building



Bringing Families Together

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

Profiles in Stewardship

by Debbie Greco



Stephanie Gomez

Stephy smiling at her birthday celebration

Tuesday is a doubly busy day in our Parish School of Religion because we have two sessions with a total of 24 grade 1-6 classes with 250 students. Stephy Gomez knows what it is like to be busy. A biology major at Stan State and a job at Bleachers keeps her life very full, but she still finds time to enthusiastically share her love of the Catholic faith with her very large grade 4 First Reconciliation students every Tuesday. With only 26 one-hour classes each year, our catechists have what amounts to a little over a day with their young charges. As a good steward Stephy, with the help of Barbara Whitler, uses this time to help her students understand sin, how to examine their conscience, make good confessions and instill in them a love for the healing that Jesus waits to give them in this sacrament. Stephy comes well prepared, not only from our catechist materials but from her experiences of faith at World Youth Day in Madrid. As a young person she knows the dangers her students face in this increasingly dark world and is, by her own light, mentoring them to live in the light, face the future with the courage and joy of disciples of Christ. Our Parish is very blessed to have Stephy mentoring and forming the faith of our children.

In the Diocese

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Search for Roman Catholic Diocese of Stockton and 'like' us!

Here is the address:

www.facebook.com/pages/Roman-Catholic-Diocese-of-Stockton/116581805032720

TAKE YOUR DAD TO THE GAME WITH BISHOP BLAIRE

June 16, 2012, 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 \$9.00

50th ANNIVERSARY MAGAZINE

Read the third issue of the 50th Anniversary Magazine. Scan the QR code below to download the magazine.

If you would like to receive this and future diocesan eNewsletters issues, please send a first/last name to:

editor@stocktondiocese.org.



From our Holy Father in Rome

APOSTOLIC LETTER "MOTU PROPRIO DATA"

PORTA FIDEI

FOR THE INDICATION OF THE YEAR OF FAITH (Part I)



1. The "door of faith" (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church. It is possible to cross that threshold when the word of God is proclaimed and the heart allows itself to be shaped by transforming grace. To enter through that door is to set out on a journey that lasts a lifetime. It begins with baptism (Rom 6:4), through which we can address God as Father, and it ends with the passage through death to eternal life, fruit of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, whose will it was, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, to draw those who believe in him into his own glory (Jn 17:22). To profess faith in the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is to believe in one God who is Love (1 Jn 4:8): the Father, who in the fullness of time sent his Son for our salvation; Jesus Christ, who in the mystery of his death and resurrection redeemed the world; the Holy Spirit, who leads the Church across the centuries as we await the Lord's glorious return.



2. Ever since the start of my ministry as Successor of Peter, I have spoken of the need to rediscover the journey of faith so as to shed ever clearer light on the joy and renewed enthusiasm of the encounter with Christ. During the homily at the Mass marking the inauguration of my pontificate I said: "The Church as a whole and all her Pastors, like Christ, must set out to lead people out of the desert, towards the place of life, towards friendship with the Son of God, towards the One who gives us life, and life in abundance." It often happens that Christians are more concerned for the social, cultural and political consequences of their commitment, continuing to think of the faith as a self-evident presupposition for life in society. In reality, not only can this presupposition no longer be taken for granted, but it is often openly denied. Whereas in the past it was possible to recognize a unitary cultural matrix, broadly accepted in its appeal to the content of the faith and the values inspired by it, today this no longer seems to be the case in large swathes of society, because of a profound crisis of faith that has affected many people.

3. We cannot accept that salt should become tasteless or the light be kept hidden (Mt 5:13-16). The people of today can still experience the need to go to the well, like the Samaritan woman, in order to hear Jesus, who invites us to believe in him and to draw upon the source of living water welling up within him (Jn 4:14). We must rediscover a taste for feeding ourselves on the word of God, faithfully handed down by the Church, and on the bread of life, offered as sustenance for his disciples (Jn 6:51). Indeed, the teaching of Jesus still resounds in our day with the same power: "Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life" (Jn 6:27). The question posed by his listeners is the same that we ask today: "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" (Jn 6:28). We know Jesus' reply: "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent" (Jn 6:29). Belief in Jesus Christ, then, is the way to arrive definitively at salvation.

Sacraments

Our Mass Intentions

This Week

Sunday, May 6 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

7:30a	Irene Routson	1:30p	Beatriz Valencia, George Medina and Alejandro Garibay
9:00a	Albert Mendonca	3:00p	Indu Samson Kurusinkal
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	5:30p	Richard Martin
12:00p	Marianne Lugue	7:30p	Jose Scoto

Monday, May 7

8:00a	Laura Ruelas and Alfredo Antonio	5:45p	Catherine Freehan and Apollonia LaForges
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Tuesday, May 8

8:00a	Thelma Coelho and Maria Gutierrez	5:45p	Juan Andres and Mary Margaret Ridge
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Wednesday, May 9

8:00a	Marianne Lugue and Kurtis Kraft	5:45p	Nawarat Photikoe and Susan Wells
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Thursday, May 10

8:00a	Elizabeth Machado and Teresa Parodi	5:45p	Ricardo Balauag and Sarah B. Rodrigues
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Friday, May 11

8:00a	Rosanna Hollander and O'anh Vu	5:45p	Don Cleary and Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus
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Saturday, May 12

8:00a	Antonio Dominguez and Bill Vermillion	5:45p	St. Joseph's Memorial Mass
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Sunday, May 13 (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

7:30a	Alzira Victoria	1:30p	Catalina and Rosa Maria Ruiz and Jose Ramirez
9:00a	Mother's Day Novena	5:30p	Vito Baccellieri
10:30a	All St. Joseph's Parishioners	7:30p	Connie Ortez and Elena Gutierrez
12:00p	Angela Dominguez		

Sunday, May 6, 2012		
7:00A	Blessings in Plaza	Plaza
10:00A	Children's Liturgy of the	JP6
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7
3:00P	Indian Mass	Chur
5:30P	Development-	Chur

Monday, May 7, 2012		
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer	JP10

Tuesday, May 8, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP7
10:30A	Light Weigh	JP8
5:30P	ESL Classes	JP4
6:15P	Legion of Mary	JP4
6:30P	Festival Committee	JP10

Wednesday, May 9, 2012		
7:00P	Charismatic Prayer	JP7

Wednesday, May 9, 2012		
1:30P	Widows and Widowers	JP5
5:30P	AA Principle Study	JP5
5:45P	Al Anon Group	JP10

Thursday, May 10, 2012		
9:00A	Senior Strength Training	JP7
6:30P	Rosary Makers	JP5
6:30P	Compartiendo la Biblia	JP4
7:00P	Spanish Young Adults	JP2

Friday, May 11, 2012		
12:00P	Latin Mass	Chur
3:00P	Divine Mercy Prayer	Chap
6:00P	Indian Prayer Group	JP6

Saturday, May 12, 2012		
8:00A	Lay Dominicans	JP5

Sunday, May 13, 2012		
10:00A	CLOW	JP6
1:00P	Youth for Family & Life	JP7

Thank you

St. Joseph's Family Promise gives a big THANK YOU to all who offered their assistance and kind donations for our recent hosting week of April 8-15. Our guests arrived on Easter Sunday to a welcoming area set up for their needs. We hosted 4 families (6 adults and 8 children) and shared a wonderful week with our guests. May God Bless all of you for your assistance.

Thank you to all who donated and purchased books for the parish library sale. We were able to raise \$1200, to get new books, DVD's, and other resources to help parishioners draw closer to God. Come check our parish library.

Readings 5/7-5/13

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:
Wis. 5:1-5; Jn. 14:1-13

Saturday:
Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21

Sunday:
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98:1 Jn 4:7-10 or 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 15:9-17 or Jn 17:11b-19

Latin Mass:
Jas. 1:22-27; Jn. 16:23-30

Pay your bills online?
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

Bienvenido a St. Joseph's



INTRODUCCION A LA BIBLIA

14 de mayo -18 de junio

¿Desea aprender mas sobre la Sagrada Escritura pero no sabe como comenzar? Venga y disfrute de esta clase todos los lunes de 7pm-8:30pm en el salón "All Saints" #4 del edificio JP II.

Escuela Parroquial de Religión

Registro para el PSR

(Catecismo para Niños)

Junio 9-11

Necesita su niño recibir la Primera Comunión o la Confirmación? Aparte la fecha para nuestro fin de semana de registración. Detalles sobre el horario y el costo se darán pronto.

RETIRO DE BIBLIA EN VACACIONES - JUNIO 25-29



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

Ministerio Juvenil

¡Dele a sus hijos la oportunidad de conocer buenos amigos!

¡Todo adolescente de high school está invitado a asistir al Grupo Juvenil!

Ven y disfruta de la oración, juegos, y compañerismo.
Cada domingo de 7-8:30pm
en el Salón Parroquial.

Juntas Sigüientes:

5/6: Protege esta Casa: Dignidad, Derechos, y Responsabilidades
5/13 Ultima LifeNight

¡Boletín Parroquial en Español!

DEL LAPTOP DEL PÁRROCO, Padre Joseph Illo

Hace poco, y con gran gozo, leí la Carta Apostólica del Santo Padre Benedicto, *Porta Fidei* ("La Puerta de la Fe"). No es un documento muy extenso, y estaremos publicándolo por partes en nuestra "Página del Papa" (pagina 6) comenzando el día de hoy. Benedicto redactó esta carta el pasado octubre para preparar a la Iglesia para el **Año de Fe**, el cual comenzará en octubre 2012.

Casi no nos podemos imaginar, escribe el Papa, el inestimable tesoro que es nuestra Fe. La vida sin ella seria inaguantable. Tanto de nuestra pacifica y ordenada cultura debe su prosperidad a la Fe de nuestros Padres. Considere las palabras del Presidente Washington en 1789: "Es el deber de cada nación reconocer la providencia de Dios Omnipotente, obedecer Su voluntad, y humildemente implorar Su favor y protección." La humilde fe de nuestros Fundadores en un Poder mas grande que nosotros les dio la habilidad de construir una próspera América. Nuestra prosperidad retrocede a medida que nuestra Fe retrocede. Las películas, programas de TV, discursos políticos— toda clase de discursos públicos, el arte, y el entretenimiento— antes hablaban abiertamente de Dios. Compare las películas de antaño tales como *Sound of Music* y *Ten Commandments* (*Los Diez Mandamientos*) con las películas de hoy, las cuales ignoran o hacen mofa de la fe en Dios. El Papa, al señalar cuanto ha perdido su fe nuestra sociedad, nos urge a celebrar el "Regalo de Fe", y recobrarlo: "La 'puerta de la fe' (Hechos 14:27) siempre se encuentra abierta para nosotros... El entrar por esta puerta es el dirigirnos por un camino que dura toda la vida."

¿Cómo celebraremos este Año de Fe en St. Joseph's? Comenzaremos por *aprender* mejor nuestra Fe, ya que nadie puede creer lo que no conoce. La mayoría de los Católicos saben muy poco, tal vez ni siquiera lo esencial de la doctrina Católica. Debemos de aprender nuestra fe mas claramente y enseñarla a otros, especialmente a nuestros hijos. "Para acceder a un conocimiento sistemático del contenido de la fe," escribe el Papa Benedicto, "todos pueden encontrar en el *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica* un subsidio precioso e indispensable." Celebraremos este Año de Fe estudiando nuestro catecismo, como buenos niños y niñas. Les doy la bienvenida a nuestro curso de Catecismo 101, el cual comienza el 18 de junio, y continua el tercer Lunes de cada mes (vea la página 3).



Una de nuestros estudiantes de catecismo (2003)

Fr. Joseph

Nuestro Santo Padre en Roma

CARTA APOSTÓLICA EN FORMA DE MOTU PROPRIO
PORTA FIDEI

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



1. «La puerta de la fe» (Hch 14, 27), que introduce en la vida de comunión con Dios y permite la entrada en su Iglesia, está siempre abierta para nosotros. Se cruza ese umbral cuando la Palabra de Dios se anuncia y el corazón se deja plasmar por la gracia que transforma. Atravesar esa puerta supone emprender un camino que dura toda la vida. Éste empieza con el bautismo (Rm 6, 4), con el que podemos llamar a Dios con el nombre de Padre, y se concluye con el paso de la muerte a la vida eterna, fruto de la resurrección del Señor Jesús que, con el don del Espíritu Santo, ha querido unir en su misma gloria a cuantos creen en él (Jn 17, 22). Profesar la fe en la Trinidad –Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo– equivale a creer en un solo Dios que es Amor (1 Jn 4, 8): el Padre, que en la plenitud de los tiempos envió a su Hijo para nuestra salvación; Jesucristo, que en el misterio de su muerte y resurrección redimió al mundo; el Espíritu Santo, que guía a la Iglesia a través de los siglos en la espera del retorno glorioso del Señor.

2. Desde el comienzo de mi ministerio como Sucesor de Pedro, he recordado la exigencia de redescubrir el camino de la fe para iluminar de manera cada vez más clara la alegría y el entusiasmo renovado del encuentro con Cristo. En la homilía de la santa Misa de inicio del Pontificado decía: «La Iglesia en su conjunto, y en ella sus pastores, como Cristo han de ponerse en camino para rescatar a los hombres del desierto y conducirlos al lugar de la vida, hacia la amistad con el Hijo de Dios, hacia Aquel que nos da la vida, y la vida en plenitud». Sucede hoy con frecuencia que los cristianos se preocupan mucho por las consecuencias sociales, culturales y políticas de su compromiso, al mismo tiempo que siguen considerando la fe como un presupuesto obvio de la vida común. De hecho, este presupuesto no sólo no aparece como tal, sino que incluso con frecuencia es negado. Mientras que en el pasado era posible reconocer un tejido cultural unitario, ampliamente aceptado en su referencia al contenido de la fe y a los valores inspirados por ella, hoy no parece que sea ya así en vastos sectores de la sociedad, a causa de una profunda crisis de fe que afecta a muchas personas.

3. No podemos dejar que la sal se vuelva sosa y la luz permanezca oculta (Mt 5, 13-16). Como la samaritana, también el hombre actual puede sentir de nuevo la necesidad de acercarse al pozo para escuchar a Jesús, que invita a creer en él y a extraer el agua viva que mana de su fuente (cf. Jn 4, 14). Debemos descubrir de nuevo el gusto de alimentarnos con la Palabra de Dios, transmitida fielmente por la Iglesia, y el Pan de la vida, ofrecido como sustento a todos los que son sus discípulos (Jn 6, 51). En efecto, la enseñanza de Jesús resuena todavía hoy con la misma fuerza: «Trabajad no por el alimento que perece, sino por el alimento que perdura para la vida eterna» (Jn 6, 27). La pregunta planteada por los que lo escuchaban es también hoy la misma para nosotros: «¿Qué tenemos que hacer para realizar las obras de Dios?» (Jn 6, 28). Sabemos la respuesta de Jesús: «La obra de Dios es ésta: que creáis en el que él ha enviado» (Jn 6, 29). Creer en Jesucristo es, por tanto, el camino para poder llegar de modo definitivo a la salvación.

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El martes es un día muy ocupado en nuestra Escuela Parroquial de Religión porque tenemos dos sesiones con un total de 24 clases entre los grados 1-6 con 250 estudiantes. Stephy Gómez sabe lo que es estar ocupada. Los estudios de biología en la universidad Stan State, y trabajando en Bleachers la mantienen muy ocupada, pero aun así, cada martes encuentra tiempo para compartir su amor por la fe católica con su numerosa clase del 4 grado de en preparación para la Reconciliación. Con solo 26 clases de una hora cada año nuestras catequistas pasan lo que viene siendo un poco más de un día con sus estudiantes. Como buena corresponsal Stephy, con la ayuda de Barbara Whitler, usa este tiempo para ayudar a sus estudiantes a entender el pecado, examinar su conciencia, hacer buenas confesiones y fomentar en ellos amor por la sanación que Jesús espera darles en este sacramento. Stephy viene muy bien preparada, no sólo con el material sino que también con su experiencia de fe como peregrina de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud en Madrid. Como persona joven, ella conoce los peligros que sus estudiantes encaran en este creciente mundo oscuro y los está instruyendo a vivir en la luz y a encarar al futuro con la valentía y alegría de un discípulo de Cristo. Nuestra parroquia está bendecida de tener a Stephy instruyendo y formando la fe en nuestros niños.



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