



The Cathedral of
ST. EUGENE

2323 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
(707) 542-6984

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector
Rev. Alan Acevedo, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Jeffrey Keyes, In Residence
Deacon Mike Heinzelman
Deacon Gary Moore
Deacon Russ Bowden

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Email Comments/Suggestions to:
cathedralresponse@gmail.com

Parish Office Phone	542-6984
Parish Office Fax	542-1621
Religious Education	326-3408
Finance Council – Marty McCormick	526-1700
Choir Directress – Pam Zieminski	578-8848
School Office – Sharon Jeffrey	545-7252
Preschool Office – Sharry Caesare	528-9133
Homeschool Academy– Jessica Warner	206-5579

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Entrance is located at SW corner of Rectory

WEBSITES

Parish: www.steugenes.com
School: www.steugenesch.org

REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH

Our warmest welcome to all who worship in our community. If you are not registered in the parish, please complete a registration card. Cards are available at church entrances or at the parish office.

MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS

Please contact the office at least 12 months in advance for weddings and 3 months in advance for baptisms. Check the parish website for more information.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office when a parishioner is home bound or hospitalized to arrange for Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick.



MASS TIMES

Daily Mass: 6:45 and 8:00 a.m.
Saturday: 8:00a.m; 4:30 p.m. & Sp.6:30 p. m.
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday Latin Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Latin Mass: 1:30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Saturday or by appointment

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Perpetual Adoration is in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To sign up for your hour with our Lord, call Annette (English) at: 542-3635 or Maria Vega (Spanish) at: 710-5094

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is held in the chapel every First Friday following 8:00 a.m. Mass. *During this time of Covid-19, Benediction is not being held.*

DEVOTIONS

Recitation of the Rosary is Monday – Saturday at 7:30 a.m. in the Cathedral

Chaplet of Divine Mercy is Saturday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral

CATHEDRAL SHOPS

Cathedral Thrift Shop Hours: Tues & Wed. 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Cathedral Books & Gifts Hours: Wed-Sat 8:30-4:30 & Sun 8:30-1:30, Closed Mon/Tues - Phone: 542-0250

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 23, 2022

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY JANUARY 23

Masses – Cathedral – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00, 1:30 pm (Latin) & 5:30 pm
RCIA & RCIF – School – 10:30 am

MONDAY JANUARY 24

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

TUESDAY JANUARY 25

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Women of the Word – PLC (Hope Rm) – 9:30 am
PSR – School – 3:45 pm
Latin Mass – Cathedral – 5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Bible Study – PLC Hope Room – 6:00 pm
Outdoor Rosary – Fatima Grotto – 6:00 pm

THURSDAY JANUARY 27

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

FRIDAY JANUARY 28

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

SATURDAY JANUARY 29

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am
Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
(Spanish)

SECOND COLLECTION

~THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA~

The Second Collection this weekend, January 22 & 23, is for the Church in Latin America. Help strengthen families, fund Catholic education, and foster priestly and religious vocations by giving to the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For over 50 years, Catholics in the United States have expressed solidarity with the Church from Mexico to the Caribbean, to the southern tip of South America by taking up this collection. Our Second Collection next weekend, January 29 & 30, is for our St. Vincent de Paul Society.

~BECKER CENTER UPDATE~

We are happy to report that we have reached the \$75,000 mark in our quest to raise \$100,000 for much needed upgrades and repairs to the Msgr. Becker Center kitchen and bathrooms. We are almost at our goal! Thank you so much for your generosity!

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of: 01/09/22

Sunday Donations Received:	\$13,529.
2nd Collection received for: <i>Homeless Assistance – Family Care Ctr.</i>	\$3,851.

~CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS~

Our Special of the Month for January is 25% off "Sleeping Saint Joseph" statues. Also, we will soon have a special clearance section set up with discounts from 25% to 50% off on selected items. There will also be a clearance sale on all Advent and Christmas merchandise during January. We are also seeking more volunteers to help us in this busy ministry. Please see paragraph below for more information and how to apply. Also, please tell your Spanish-speaking friends that we have a great selection of Spanish language books & cards! The shop hours are: Wed-Sat from 8:30 am-4:30 pm & Sun 8:30 am-1:30 pm. We are closed Mon./Tues. Please feel free to call us at: (707) 542-0250.

~VOLUNTEERS NEEDED~

Our Bookstore/Gift Shop is looking for a few volunteers with retail experience, who are customer-service oriented, self-starters (but willing to take direction) and able to work a minimum of 4 hours/week. We are a ministry as well as a retail store, so compassion and the ability to listen are highly recommended. Interested? Stop in the bookstore during business hours (see hours above) and an interview will be scheduled.

~CHARITABLE DONATIONS & TAX STATEMENTS~

"St. Eugene's greatly appreciates your generous donations. A year end list of your donations suitable for tax purposes is available to **registered** parishioners upon request. If you wish to receive a tax statement, e-mail office@steugenes.com or call 707-542-6984 ext. 100. Mention your envelope number if you have one. Indicate how you want to receive your statement: mail, email or pick up."

~UPDATE YOUR RECORDS ~

Have you changed your address? Phone number? Email address? Have new family members since you registered in the parish? Have your children grown up and left home? If so, please contact the parish office and let us know your changes so that we can update your parishioner record. Email changes to maria@steugenes.com or call her at 542-6984, extension 100.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	January 22
8:00 am	For Unborn Children
4:30 pm	For the protection of Unborn Children
6:30 (Sp)	In Thanksgiving & Reparation for the life of Mariela Martinez, living
Sunday	January 23
7:30 am	Adoracion Lucañas, deceased
9:00 am	Hugo Ramirez, deceased
10:30 am	Antonio Carrera, deceased
12:00 pm	Mark Gwin, deceased
1:30 pm (EF)	Michael Hart, deceased
5:30 pm	Norma & Frank Fitzpatrick, deceased
6:00 pm (Newman Ctr.)	Dennis McKay, deceased
Monday	January 24
6:45 am	Peter & Theresa Pham, living
8:00 am	Roberto Gomez, deceased
Tuesday	January 25
6:45 am	Melvin Arnerich, living
8:00 am	George Skikos, deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Michael Tran, living
Wednesday	January 26
6:45 am	Chris & Preetha Conley, living
8:00 am	Reilly Family, living & deceased
9:20 am (Sch)	Anna Magdalena Arnerich, living
Thursday	January 27
6:45 am	People of St. Eugene's
8:00 am	Frederick Harold Wallace, Jr., deceased
Friday	January 28
6:45 am	Gary Stephens, deceased
8:00 am	Alice Arnerich, living
Saturday	January 29
8:00 am	Charles Guenza, deceased
4:30 pm	Lydia Masi, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp)	In Thanksgiving & Reparation for the life of Sara Guido, living

IN NEED OF PRAYER

~PLEASE PRAY FOR~

Those who are ill need your support and prayers: Tristan Humble, Samuel Agius, Sandy Torti Wilcox, Marjorie Miles, Amelia Lansangan, Gail Brown, Leo Del Santo, Emeline Jane Smith, Rosalind Britto, Ken Davis, Rita Wyatt, Karen Mills, Eileen Carol, Nancy Amador, Patrick Welter, Cristeta Marrentes, Jesus Navarro, Michael Boland, Stephen Warner, Thomas Patrick, Aida Catapang, Bob Goldman, Pat Davenport, Joan Cosgrove, Paulita Castro, Jean L. Alfano, Theresa Pham, Rainey Olson, Michele Otten, Pauline Goslovich, Mary Gonzales and Nick Sidjakov.

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~INTERNATIONAL ROSARY CRUSADE~

Join us in solidarity with an international prayer effort begging the Mother of God for help in this unprecedented, global crisis of division and strife brought on by a two-year pandemic. Social, political and economic instability has been the result of lockdowns, shutdowns and mandates. A Rosary campaign began in Austria in November of last year, and has since spread to thousands of groups in France, Italy, Belgium, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany and many others. Groups are just starting in the United States. What is involved? People around the world are praying the Rosary in a public place every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Join us at the Fatima Statue and grotto outside the east entrance of the Cathedral on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. for the Rosary. On February 2, we will meet at 6:45 pm for those who would like to attend the Candlemas Mass (See Below).

~CANDLEMAS~

Please join us on Wednesday, February 2, at 5:30 pm for a special Candlemas Sung Mass (Missa Cantata) celebrated in the Extraordinary Form (Latin). On this day, the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord which occurs forty days after the birth of Jesus and is also known as Candlemas day, since the blessing and procession of candles is included in the liturgy. According to the 1962 Missal (the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite), this day is referred to as the "Purification of Mary." It is also known as a "Christmas feast" since it points back to the Solemnity of Christmas. Many Catholics practice the tradition of keeping out the Nativity creche until this feast. A special table will be set up for you to bring your own candles to be blessed.

~WORLD MARRIAGE DAY~

SAVE THE DATE! Bishop Robert Vasa has announced that the 3rd Annual Diocesan "Celebrate Marriage Mass" will be held on Sunday, February 13th, at 10:30 a.m. here at the Cathedral. All married couples within the diocese are invited to attend, especially those celebrating "milestone" anniversaries (e.g., 5, 10, 20, 25, etc.)

RESPECT LIFE

~RALLY FOR LIFE~

This Sunday, January 23, starting at 2:00 pm, please join other pro-lifers for the "Rally for Life" at Santa Rosa Christian Church located at 1315 Pacific Avenue. Hear great speakers, enjoy music and fellowship and most importantly, pray with others as we seek an end to the legal slaughter of the innocents. You can drive directly to the location or join a group of us at St. Eugene's at 1:00 pm and walk to the rally (about 1.2 miles). Let's stand up and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves!

The bulletin item deadline is Thursday @ 3:00pm for the Sunday after next bulletin. E-mail items to: office@steugenes.com. We reserve the right to edit or omit items.

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

FROM THE PASTOR

~ON ABORTION & THE WORD OF GOD~

This weekend, we mourn the tragedy of 49 years of legalized abortion in this country, for on January 22, 1973, 7 Supreme Court justices sealed the agonizing fate of tens of millions of unborn babies. Legalized murder on such a scale is something that modern man will be held accountable for! To make manifest the horror of this action, I will share an article that proposes an interesting angle on the topic of abortion, namely, that of abortion as human sacrifice. We no longer, in a blatant sense, worship pagan gods that demand human blood, but in a more sublime way, don't we often worship the god of self? The article below will explore that. Also, in our first reading, we see the priest, Ezra, reading the word of God and explaining it to the people and in our gospel reading we see our high priest, Jesus, doing the same. I share an inspiring sermon with you on the great gift we have in the inspired word of God – the Holy Bible. Let us read on ...

BLOOD SACRIFICE

~ABORTION AS CHILD SACRIFICE~

"We are seeing a new level of child sacrifice like no other culture has ever experienced. For decades archaeologists and historians have uncovered evidence of child sacrifice rituals within various cultures throughout the history of the world. Those cultures all had something in common as far as researchers and experts could understand. They all sacrificed children to please a god or deity of some kind."

~THE AZTECS~

"The Aztec culture sacrificed children to the gods Tlaloc, Ehecatl, Huitzilopochtli, and Quetzalcoatl in order to please the gods who, they believed, had flooded specific areas or had become upset about something. It was also to gain favor from the gods. In fact, the Aztecs, according to Franciscan friar and missionary priest Bernardino de Sahagun, had the belief that if child sacrifices were not performed then the rain would not be given by the gods for their crops and then the crops would die. Additionally, researchers have uncovered the remains of 42 children who were sacrificed to the Aztec gods and all were determined to have been suffering from some kind of medical issue such as

bone infections that would have made them be in pain all the time and cry constantly. One of the requirements of the Tlaloc god in the Aztec culture was that a child must cry before the sacrifice. The Aztecs believed that Tlaloc required the tears of the child sacrifice to wet the earth before the sacrifice took place in order for the god to accept their sacrifice. Therefore, if the child did not cry then the Aztecs would tear off the children's nails or harm the children in some way to get them to cry before the ritual sacrifice was offered."

~THE CANAANITES~

"Sound familiar? The Aztecs were not the only culture to offer child sacrifices to please a god. The Incas, Mayas, Moche, and Timoto-Cuica cultures all have evidence and documentation of offering child sacrifices to please a god. The Bible even references cultures and nations offering child sacrifices to foreign gods. *"They sacrificed to the gods their own sons and daughters, shedding innocent blood, the blood of their own sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, desecrating the land with bloodshed."* (Psalm 106:37-39) The Torah contains many laws that forbid child sacrifice of any form. In Leviticus 18, Leviticus 20, and Deuteronomy 12 and 18 all contain laws forbidding child sacrifices. *"You shall not offer any of your offspring to be immolated to Molech, thus profaning the name of your God, I am the Lord."* (Leviticus 18:21) *"I myself will turn against such a man and cut him off from the body of his people; for in giving his offspring to Molech, he has defiled my sanctuary and profaned my holy name."* (Leviticus 20:3)

~MOLECH~

"Molech was a Canaanite god that required child sacrifices. The children would be killed and then cremated during the sacrifice to Molech. ... [W]hat about today? Perhaps we do not have a Molech or a Baal god that we are sacrificing children to in the United States but that does not mean we are not participating in one of the worst human sacrifice cultures ever seen. We are sacrificing children to the god of ourselves. We have made a god out of careers, success, our own desires, and our "choice" and therefore even children must be sacrificed in order to reach success. ... Healthcare or child sacrifice? By Amelia Monroe Carlson. For the entire article, please go to: <https://www.catholic365.com/article/11390/abortion-child-sacrifice-to-the-god-of-ourselves.htm> Used with permission.

THE WORD OF GOD

~NOURISH YOUR MIND~

“What do you read every day to nourish your mind and feed your mind? What do you refrain from reading because it would not uplift or delight you or would corrupt your mind? What TV programs do you watch because they are helpful and what TV programs do you not watch because they are not uplifting you? We decide how to nourish our minds and feed our minds by choosing what to read and watch, and we decide how to protect our minds by not reading or watching what does not uplift us.”

~THE BIBLE~

“What would feed our minds and uplift our minds most of all? The Bible, because it is the Word of God. That is why in the first reading (Neh 8) Ezra the priest read the Law, which is the Torah or first five books of Old Testament, to the Jews in Jerusalem, and why in the Gospel (Luke 4:14-21) Jesus read from the Scriptures in the synagogue in Nazareth. That is why we read Sacred Scripture every time we assemble here for Mass or some other liturgy. That is why we are encouraged to read our Bibles at home every day. The Bible is the Word of God and is therefore the most nourishing food for our mind each day.”

~VENERATE THE HOLY BOOK~

“Sometimes we forget how precious the Word of God is but think of this example. In 1964 the Romanian government released religious and political prisoners. One of them, Richard Wurmbrand, had spent nearly three of his fourteen years in prison in solitary confinement. In his book entitled *In God's Underground* (pages 106-107) Wurmbrand describes how one day a new prisoner named Avram arrived in the prison. The upper part of his body was in a plaster cast. When the guards left him, he drew out a small, tattered book from behind the plaster cast. None of the other prisoners had seen a book for years. They asked him what the book was. It was the Gospel of John. Wurmbrand wrote that he took the book in his hand and no life-saving drug could have been more precious to him. From that day the tattered little book went from hand to hand, many learned it by heart and each day they would discuss it among themselves. That reminds us that sometimes we forget the importance of the Word of God in our lives. In fact, the Bible is so important that Vatican II tells us that the Church has always

venerated the Scriptures as she venerated the Lord's Body (*Dei Verbum* §11), though of course not with the same worship. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (§103) repeats the same point. Do you venerate the presence of Jesus in the Bible? A famous preacher in the third century, Origen, expressed it like this: *You receive the body of the Lord with special care and reverence lest the smallest crumb of the consecrated gift fall to the floor. You should receive the word of God with equal care and reverence lest the smallest word of it fall to the floor and be lost.*”

~WHAT IS THE LORD SAYING TO ME?~

“That reminds us that in every celebration of the Eucharist there is both a Liturgy of the Word and a Liturgy of the Eucharist. How do we hear the Word of God? We have an opportunity to hear the Word of God each time we come here. Try to go home after each Mass with some idea from the Scripture readings or their explanation in the homily in your mind. Ask yourself, “What is the Lord saying to me?” when you hear these readings from Scripture proclaimed and explained. If we don't ask ourselves “What is the Lord saying to us?” it is no surprise if we do not hear the Lord. Those of you who proclaim the Word of God in the Scripture readings have a privileged duty. The Church teaches that when Sacred Scripture is proclaimed in the liturgy it is Christ himself who is speaking (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* §7). So readers, prepare well. Allow Christ to speak through you to all of us. Remember that Jesus is using your voice to talk to all of us. You have a privileged responsibility.”

~GOD'S WORD IS A LAMP~

“Jesus uses your voice to talk to all of us because when you proclaim the Scriptures Jesus talks to us. St. Gregory wrote, “The Bible is a love letter sent by God to his people in which we can perceive the heart of God.” Read and listen to God's love letter to you every day. St. Jerome said, “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” The Word of God in the Bible brings us healing and helps us cope with life's problems. We may not find an answer to every problem but it will certainly broaden our vision. So Ezra read the Law, the Torah or first five books of Old Testament, for the Jews in Jerusalem and Jesus read the Scriptures in the synagogue in Nazareth. It is no wonder that Ps 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp for my steps and a light for my path.” By Fr. Tommy Lane, for entire homily go to: www.frtoommylane.com/homilies/year_c/03.htm Used with Permission.

MI FE CATOLICA

DEL PASTOR

~SOBRE EL ABORTO Y LA PALABRA DE DIOS~

Este fin de semana, lamentamos la tragedia de 49 años de aborto legalizado en este país, pues el 22 de enero de 1973, 7 jueces de la Corte Suprema sellaron el destino agonizante de decenas de millones de bebés por nacer. ¡El asesinato legalizado a tal escala es algo por lo que el hombre moderno tendrá que rendir cuentas! Para poner de manifiesto el horror de esta acción, compartiré un artículo que propone un ángulo interesante sobre el tema del aborto, a saber, el del aborto como sacrificio humano. Ya no adoramos, en un sentido descarado, a dioses paganos que demandan sangre humana, pero de una manera más sublime, ¿no adoramos a menudo al dios del yo? El siguiente artículo explorará eso. También, en nuestra primera lectura, vemos al sacerdote, Esdras, leyendo la palabra de Dios y explicándola a la gente y en nuestra lectura del evangelio vemos a nuestro sumo sacerdote, Jesús, haciendo lo mismo. Comparto con ustedes un sermón inspirador sobre el gran don que tenemos en la palabra inspirada de Dios: la Santa Biblia. Sigamos leyendo...

SACRIFICIOS DE SANGRE

~ABORTO COMO SACRIFICIO INFANTIL~

“Estamos viendo un nuevo nivel de sacrificio de niños como ninguna otra cultura ha experimentado jamás. Durante décadas, los arqueólogos e historiadores han descubierto evidencia de rituales de sacrificio de niños dentro de varias culturas a lo largo de la historia del mundo. Todas esas culturas tenían algo en común hasta donde los investigadores y expertos podían entender. Todos sacrificaron niños para complacer a un dios o deidad de algún tipo”.

~LOS AZTECAS~

“La cultura azteca sacrificaba niños a los dioses Tlaloc, Ehecatl, Huitzilopochtli y Quetzalcóatl para complacer a los dioses que, según creían, habían inundado áreas específicas o se habían enojado por algo. También era para ganar el favor de los dioses. De hecho, los aztecas, según el fraile franciscano y sacerdote misionero Bernardino de Sahagún, tenían la creencia de que si no se realizaban sacrificios de niños, los dioses mandarían la lluvia para sus cultivos y luego los cultivos morirían. Además, los investigadores han descubierto los restos de 42 niños →

que fueron sacrificados a los dioses aztecas y se determinó que todos sufrían algún tipo de problema médico como infecciones en los huesos que les habrían hecho sentir dolor todo el tiempo y llorar constantemente. Uno de los requisitos del dios Tlaloc en la cultura azteca era que un niño debe llorar antes del sacrificio. Los aztecas creían que Tlaloc requería que las lágrimas del niño sacrificado mojaran la tierra antes de que se llevara a cabo el sacrificio para que el dios aceptara su sacrificio. Por lo tanto, si el niño no lloraba, los aztecas les arrancaban las uñas o les hacían daño de alguna manera para que lloraran antes de que se ofreciera el sacrificio ritual”.

~LOS CANANITAS~

“¿Suena familiar? Los aztecas no fueron la única cultura que ofreció sacrificios de niños para complacer a un dios. Las culturas Incas, Mayas, Moche y Timoto-Cuica tienen evidencia y documentación de ofrecer sacrificios de niños para complacer a un dios. La Biblia incluso hace referencia a culturas y naciones que ofrecen sacrificios de niños a dioses extranjeros. “Sacrificaron a los dioses sus propios hijos e hijas, derramando sangre inocente, la sangre de sus propios hijos e hijas, a quienes sacrificaron a los ídolos de Canaán, profanando la tierra con derramamiento de sangre”. (Salmo 106:37-39) La Torá contiene muchas leyes que prohíben el sacrificio de niños de cualquier forma. En Levítico 18, Levítico 20 y Deuteronomio 12 y 18, todos contienen leyes que prohíben los sacrificios de niños. “No ofrecerás ninguno de tus descendientes para ser inmolido a Moloc, profanando así el nombre de tu Dios, Yo soy el Señor”. (Levítico 18:21) “Yo mismo me volveré contra tal hombre y lo cortaré del cuerpo de su pueblo; porque al dar su descendencia a Moloc, ha profanado mi santuario y profanado mi santo nombre.” (Levítico 20:3)

~MOLECH~

“Molech era un dios cananeo que requería sacrificios de niños. Los niños serían asesinados y luego incinerados durante el sacrificio a Moloc. ... [¿Qué tal hoy? Tal vez no tengamos un Molech o un dios Baal al que estemos sacrificando niños en los Estados Unidos, pero eso no significa que no estemos participando en una de las peores culturas de sacrificio humano jamás vistas. Estamos sacrificando niños al dios de nosotros mismos. Hemos hecho un dios de las carreras, el éxito, nuestros propios deseos y nuestra "elección" y, por lo tanto, incluso los niños deben ser sacrificados para alcanzar el éxito. ¿Sanidad o sacrificio de niños? Por Amelia Monroe Carlson.

LA PALABRA DE DIOS

~NUTRE TU MENTE~

“¿Qué lees todos los días para nutrir y alimentar tu mente? ¿Qué te abstienes de leer porque no te animaría o deleitaría o corrompería tu mente? ¿Qué programas de televisión ve porque son útiles y qué programas de televisión no ve porque no lo animan? Decidimos cómo nutrir nuestras mentes y alimentar nuestras mentes eligiendo qué leer y mirar, y decidimos cómo proteger nuestras mentes al no leer o mirar lo que no nos anima”.

~LA BIBLIA~

“¿Qué alimentaría nuestras mentes y las elevaría más que nada? La Biblia, porque es la Palabra de Dios. Por eso en la primera lectura (Neh 8) Esdras el sacerdote leyó la Ley, que es la Torá o primeros cinco libros del Antiguo Testamento, a los judíos en Jerusalén, y por qué en el Evangelio (Lucas 4:14-21) Jesús leído de las Escrituras en la sinagoga de Nazaret. Por eso leemos la Sagrada Escritura cada vez que nos reunimos aquí para Misa o alguna otra liturgia. Es por eso que se nos anima a leer nuestra Biblia en casa todos los días. La Biblia es la Palabra de Dios y por lo tanto es el alimento más nutritivo para nuestra mente cada día”.

~VENERAR EL LIBRO SAGRADO~

“A veces olvidamos lo preciosa que es la Palabra de Dios, pero pensemos en este ejemplo. En 1964, el gobierno de Rumania liberó a los presos políticos y religiosos. Uno de ellos, Richard Wurmbrand, había pasado casi tres de sus catorce años en prisión en confinamiento solitario. En su libro titulado *In God's Underground* (páginas 106-107), Wurmbrand describe cómo un día llegó a la prisión un nuevo prisionero llamado Abram. La parte superior de su cuerpo estaba enyesada. Cuando los guardias lo dejaron, sacó un pequeño libro andrajoso de detrás del yeso. Ninguno de los otros presos había visto un libro durante años. Le preguntaron qué libro era. Era el Evangelio de Juan. Wurmbrand escribió que tomó el libro en su mano y que ninguna droga para salvar vidas podría haber sido más valiosa para él. Desde ese día el andrajoso librito pasó de mano en mano, muchos lo aprendieron de memoria y cada día lo discutían entre ellos. Eso nos recuerda que a veces olvidamos la importancia de la Palabra de Dios en nuestras vidas. De hecho, la Biblia es tan importante que el Vaticano II nos dice que la Iglesia siempre ha venerado las Escrituras como veneraba el Cuerpo del Señor (Dei Verbum §11), →

aunque, por supuesto, no con el mismo culto. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica (§103) repite el mismo punto. ¿Veneráis la presencia de Jesús en la Biblia? Un célebre predicador del siglo III, Orígenes, lo expresaba así: Recibes el cuerpo del Señor con especial cuidado y reverencia para que no caiga al suelo la más pequeña miga de la ofrenda consagrada. Debéis recibir la palabra de Dios con igual cuidado y reverencia, no sea que la palabra más pequeña caiga al suelo y se pierda”.

~¿QUÉ ME DICE EL SEÑOR?~

“Eso nos recuerda que en cada celebración de la Eucaristía hay tanto una Liturgia de la Palabra como una Liturgia de la Eucaristía. ¿Cómo escuchamos la Palabra de Dios? Tenemos la oportunidad de escuchar la Palabra de Dios cada vez que venimos aquí. Trate de ir a casa después de cada Misa con alguna idea de las lecturas de las Escrituras o su explicación en la homilía en su mente. Pregúntese: “¿Qué me está diciendo el Señor?” cuando escuchas estas lecturas de las Escrituras proclamadas y explicadas. Si no nos preguntamos “¿Qué nos está diciendo el Señor?” no es sorpresa si no escuchamos al Señor. Aquellos de ustedes que proclaman la Palabra de Dios en las lecturas de las Escrituras tienen un deber privilegiado. La Iglesia enseña que cuando se proclama la Sagrada Escritura en la liturgia, es Cristo mismo quien habla (Sacrosanctum Concilium §7). Así que lectores, prepárense bien. Permita que Cristo hable a través de usted a todos nosotros. Recuerda que Jesús está usando tu voz para hablarnos a todos. Tienes una responsabilidad privilegiada.

~LA PALABRA DE DIOS ES UNA LÁMPARA~

“Jesús usa tu voz para hablarnos a todos porque cuando proclamas las Escrituras Jesús nos habla. San Gregorio escribió: “La Biblia es una carta de amor enviada por Dios a su pueblo en la que podemos percibir el corazón de Dios”. Lea y escuche la carta de amor de Dios para usted todos los días. San Jerónimo dijo: “La ignorancia de las Escrituras es ignorancia de Cristo”. La Palabra de Dios en la Biblia nos trae sanidad y nos ayuda a enfrentar los problemas de la vida. Puede que no encontremos una respuesta a todos los problemas, pero sin duda ampliará nuestra visión. Entonces Esdras leyó la Ley, la Torá o los primeros cinco libros del Antiguo Testamento, para los judíos en Jerusalén y Jesús leyó las Escrituras en la sinagoga de Nazaret. No es de extrañar que el Salmo 119:105 diga: “Lámpara es a mis pasos tu palabra y lumbrera a mi camino”. por el padre Tommy Lane.

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