



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

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – NOVEMBER 7, 2021

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 7

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

MONDAY NOVEMBER 8

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

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 9

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 NOVEMBER 10

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
School Mass – Cathedral – 9:20 a.m.
Bible Study – PLC (Hope Rm) - 6:00 pm

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Golden Opportunities Luncheon – PLC-11:30 a.m.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12

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

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am
Sacred Linen Presentation – PLC – 900 a.m.
Confession - Cathedral -3:00 – 4:30 pm

PETER F. BESSONE FUND

~ALZHEIMER'S FUND~

The Peter F. Bessone Alzheimer's Fund was established at St. Eugene's in honor of Mr. Bessone, a former parishioner who suffered from this debilitating disease. Upon his death, the Bessone family set up the Fund to provide financial assistance to parishioners who also suffer from Alzheimer's or who provide care for family members who have been afflicted. This monetary assistance is to help cover respite care expenses that are not already covered by private or public insurance. If you find yourself in this position, please contact the parish office at 707-542-6984 to inquire about any assistance the Fund may be able to provide to you.

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of: 10/24/21

Sunday Donations Received:	\$12,309.
Collection Revenue Received for: World Missions	\$5,603.

~CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS~

November is the month of the holy souls in Purgatory. The mystery and beauty of the soul can be shrouded in silence and reverence, therefore, in honor of the reverence of November, our modest and beautiful veils are on sale at 25% off all month. 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. Call us at 542-0250.

~NEW TO THE PARISH?~

If you are new to St. Eugene's, *Welcome!* We hope you find a spiritual home here. Please formally register in the parish and be a part of our family. Come to the parish office Mon-Fri, 9-4 to register – a welcome packet awaits you there. Registration cards are also available in the front and east church vestibules.

~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 10.

SECOND COLLECTION

~THIS WEEKEND~

This weekend, November 6 & 7, there is no Second Collection. Next weekend, November 13 & 14, our Second Collection will be for our Tuition Assistance Program.

~LOOKING FOR TEACHERS~

Support our Catholic Schools! The Santa Rosa Diocese is looking for teachers, teacher aides, and substitutes. For more information, please call Lori at 707-566-3322 or email lnorcia@srdiocese.org

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	November 6
5:30 am (Sp.)	Juana Maldonado, deceased
8:00 am	In honor of and in reparation for the offenses against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus and for the living and deceased members of the Russell and Rinaldi Families.
4:30 pm	Meghan McCurry, living
6:30 (Sp)	Familia Jimenez & Garcia, living and deceased
Sunday	November 7
7:30 am	Stephanie Buettner, deceased
9:00 am	ICF Members, living & deceased
10:30 am	People of the Diocese
12:00 pm	People of St. Eugene's
1:30 pm (EF)	Romano Dragovina, deceased
5:30 pm	Deirdre McCormick & Brian Martin McCormick, deceased
6:00 pm (Newman Ctr.)	Brenda Condiotti, deceased
Monday	November 8
6:45 am	Michael J. Haberkorn, deceased
8:00 am	Randy Boyko, deceased
Tuesday	November 9
6:45 am	Hike Kazarian, deceased
8:00 am	Edgar Enrique Monterroso, living
5:30 pm (EF)	Michael Tran, living
Wednesday	November 10
6:45 am	Jacinto Gomez, deceased
8:00 am	Virginia Lopez, deceased
9:20 am (Sch)	Kitzia Leon Luna, living
Thursday	November 11
6:45 am	Mary Tran, living
8:00 am	Carmel Palanos, living
Friday	November 12
6:45 am	Dennis McKay & Carol Johnson, deceased
8:00 am	Special Intentions of Joe & Donna Hernandez, living
Saturday	November 13
8:00 am	Rosemary Lucha, deceased
4:30 pm	Olivia Marie Hernandez, living
6:30 pm (Sp.)	Familia Jimenez & Garcia, living & deceased

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~ALL SOULS REMEMBRANCE~

It's not too late to turn in your All Souls' Remembrance envelopes to either the collection plate or the Parish Office. All envelopes received are placed on the altar during the entire month of November. As Catholics, we know that our prayers help those in Purgatory and this belief is rooted in Scripture. The Holy Bible tells us: "It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins." 2 Maccabees 12:46

~ALTAR SOCIETY~

Our Altar Society "Linen Team" is looking for a few people who would be interested in helping with this ministry. The Marian Sisters and our current team members will be giving a demonstration on how to care for sacred linens on Nov. 13, at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Life Center, in the area to the right of the Gift Shop. This information will be beneficial for anyone involved in the care of the Church and sacristy — members of altar societies, sacristans, etc. The Demonstration will include: A brief instruction in the history and spirituality of Church Linens; The purification of linens; Treating of stains, tips on handling linen, etc.; Laundering (settings, tips); Ironing and folding; Purificators, Finger towels, Corporals and Amices. Please **RSVP**: Andy Skrypka at (707) 758-5882.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

~KNIGHTS FUNDRAISER~

The Knights Of Columbus are having a Calamari fundraiser dinner on Friday, November 12. The dinner will be for drive through (to-go) only, in front of the Monsignor Becker Center from 4pm till 7pm. Tickets are on sale for \$25.00. The dinner also includes a Baked Potato and Salad. Tickets must be purchased in advance from either the Parish Office or the Bookstore/Gift Shop, located in the Parish Life Center. Please, support the Knights of Columbus!

~GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES~

Golden Opportunities is a St. Eugene's parish social group for seniors 50 and up that meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 11:30 am in the Parish Life Center. The meeting generally lasts about two hours and consists of socializing over lunch and then either a guest speaker, games, or entertainment. Lunch is provided or sometimes a potluck is provided by members. Please join u!

~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 Marentes, 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.

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

THE PERPETUAL PROBLEM

~FROM THE PASTOR~

In the course of His teaching, Jesus said to the crowds, *“Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes and accept greetings in the marketplaces, seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets. They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext recite lengthy prayers. They will receive a very severe condemnation.”*

This quote from today’s Gospel reading most likely strikes a note with many of us. Jesus is obviously condemning the haughtiness and hypocrisy of those in power and he underscores this condemnation with a very dire warning at the end. It’s ironic how little human nature changes. The same observations made two thousand years ago can be made today. One would have to be blind to say that there is no corruption, no arrogance, in the Church hierarchy of today. As we will see from some of the selections being shared below, many of our greatest saints spoke out against corruption in the Church over the ages. They spoke out not to cause scandal or to breed contempt for those in positions of authority, but to call them back to the holiness that God expected of them. True sons and daughters of the Church do not bury their heads in the sand and pretend that all is well when it obviously isn’t. They respectfully offer fraternal correction as well as prayers and acts of penance for their Fathers in Christ. Religious syncretism, sexual immorality, heretical actions and remarks all infect our hierarchy today, just as they did in times past. Rather than become discouraged and leave the Church, we must stay and fight for the Bride of Christ! St. Catherine of Siena is one of two saints who come to mind who was courageous and relentless in calling religious leaders, even the Pope, to repentance. (Yes, Popes can and do sin.) The excerpt that follows, shows that courage and persistence. The second saint is St. Peter Damian, who spoke against a sin that infects the Church to this very day. In the two excerpts that I offer, the saints address just a couple of points that needed correcting, but as we know, there are other sins especially prevalent today that beg for correction. So, some quick corrections are: **Pachamama is a pagan idol. Do not allow false idols in a sacred**

place or pay them homage. Allowing the Latin Mass to be celebrated does not breed disunity. Vaccines are not a moral obligation. There is no salvation outside of the Catholic Church. Truth is not relative. Men are not women. Women are not men. That being said, let’s read on ...

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

~FIRMNESS & CHARITY~

“If you’ve ever dipped into the letters of St. Catherine of Siena, you know she is forever encouraging holiness. She wants people inflamed with “blazing charity” and bathing “in the blood of Christ crucified.” She wants to see people be who God made them to be and she wants his Church seeking to be worthy of her identity as the bride of Christ. So, she would urge sisters and cardinals and the pope and lay people alike to “keep living in God’s holy and tender love” and go on in some detail about how that might look in their specific lives. Her letters were written during a time when the Church was in serious trouble. While the Black Death ravaged Europe, the papacy had relocated to Avignon, France, and several of the republics and principalities of Italy, including the Papal States, were at war with one another. Many clergy had fallen into corruption. But Catherine’s letters are as relevant today as ever, exuding universally applicable wisdom that makes it easy to see why she is recognized as a Doctor of the Church ... Scandals in the Church have everything to do with succumbing to evil, taking up the temptations of the world and forgetting the way of the Lord. And it’s no wonder that our culture today has not found the way of the cross – or the Catholic moral teaching – compelling when a culture within some of the Church’s highest ranks wasn’t buying into it. Those making war against the tyrants in this way are not as liable to make the news, no doubt. But it is becoming increasingly and brutally clear that an evil rot needs to be rooted out of the life of the Church today. Writing in 1380 to Pope Urban VI, Catherine says: *“You cannot with a single stroke wipe out all of the sins people in general are committing within the Christian religion, especially within the clerical order, over whom you should be even more watchful. But you certainly can and are obligated to do it, and if you don’t, you would have it on your conscience. At least do what you can.*

You must cleanse the Church's womb – that is, see to it that those who surround you closely are wiped clean of filth, and put people there who are attentive to God's honor and your welfare and the good of holy Church. ..."
And she warns: *"Do you know what will happen to you if you don't set things right by doing what you can? God wants you to reform his bride completely; he doesn't want her to be leprous any longer. If your holiness does not do all you can about this – because God has appointed you and given you such dignity for no other purposes – God will do it himself by using all sorts of troubles."*
By: Kathryn Jean Lopez. For complete article, go to: <https://angelusnews.com/voices/what-st-catherine-of-siena-would-say-to-todays-bishops/> "Reprinted with permission from AngelusNews.com."

ST. PETER DAMIAN

~CLERICAL VICE & DOCTRINAL INFIDELITY~
"Much of St. Peter Damian's reform struggle seems strikingly relevant to the modern situation of the Church, offering an incisive and useful critique of sexual immorality and laxism among the clergy. When the eremitic monk and reformer Peter Damian cast his critical gaze upon the Catholic Church of the mid-eleventh century, he encountered a panorama of corruption that would have appeared daunting even to the most hardened observer of the modern ecclesiastical scene. The "household of God" was in a catastrophic state of moral disorder, admitting of no easy remedy. The crisis of the period, and Damian's heroic response, offers much of historical value to us as we confront our own explosion of clerical vice and doctrinal infidelity. The Church of Damian's time had been rocked by almost two centuries of political and social chaos, and the doctrinal ignorance, scandalous personal behavior, and petty venality of the clergy had reached intolerable levels. Bishops and priests were involved in every kind of immorality, publicly living with concubines or illicit wives, or furtively engaging in homosexual practices. Many had purchased their ordinations and the lucrative benefices that accompanied them, and spent their free time in scandalous secular amusements. An outraged laity was beginning to rise up against ecclesiastical authority, sometimes in riotous outbursts of violence that threatened the civil order. The pinnacle of the crisis was reached in the year 1032 with the election of Pope Benedict IX, a raucous and libertine youth of no more than twenty-two years of age, and the latest and worst in a long succession of compromised popes who served wealthy and powerful

secular patrons. Mercifully, few details of Benedict's personal behavior have been preserved in historical accounts, but the pope's "vile and contemptible life," his "rapine, murders, and other nefarious deeds," and his "depraved and perverse acts," in the words of the future Pope Victor III, were widely known in his day."

~A NEW GENERATION OF REFORMERS~
"However, by 1049 a new generation of reformers was on the rise, beginning with the pontificate of Pope St. Leo IX, and running through the pontificate of Hildebrand (St. Gregory VII), in 1073. Peter Damian, who was famous for his life of austerity and penance, would act as the principal theorist of the counter-revolutionaries against the Church's corrupt establishment. Damian provided the rhetorical firepower for their reform projects, publishing a constant stream of open letters that often took on the dimension of pamphlets or small books on every conceivable theological and disciplinary controversy. When it was necessary, he showed up in person to confront corrupt actors and to stand them down – including the Holy Roman Emperor himself. In many ways the crisis of Damian's day seems foreign to our own; thankfully, we seem not to be suffering from a plague of illicit clerical marriages, nor do we find ourselves in a crisis of nepotism and simony, even if such problems continue to exist in isolation. However, much of St. Peter Damian's eleventh century reform struggle seems strikingly relevant to the modern situation of the Church, offering us an incisive and useful critique of sexual immorality and laxism among the clergy, as well as an inspiring example of a reformer of immense personal integrity, whose courage never seemed to waver, even in the darkest of moments."
By: Mathew Cullinan Hoffman. For complete article go to: www.catholicworldreport.com/2019/02/21/st-peter-damians-battle-against-clerical-homosexuality-offers-useful-lessons-for-today/

~POPE BENEDICT XVI~
"Many people have no stable points of reference on which to build their lives, and so they end up deeply insecure. There is a growing mentality of relativism, which holds that everything is equally valid, that truth and absolute points of reference do not exist. But this way of thinking does not lead to true freedom, but rather to instability, confusion and blind conformity to the fads of the moment. "

MI FE CATOLICA

EL PROBLEMA PERPETUO

~ DEL PASTOR ~

En el curso de su enseñanza, Jesús dijo a la multitud: *"Cúidense de los escribas, a quienes les gusta andar con largas túnicas y recibir saludos en las plazas, asientos de honor en las sinagogas, y lugares de honor en banquetes. Devoran las casas de las viudas y, como pretexto, recitan largas oraciones. Recibirán una condena muy severa"*. Esta cita de la lectura del Evangelio de hoy probablemente nos suene a muchos de nosotros. Jesús obviamente está condenando la altivez y la hipocresía de los que están en el poder y subraya esta condena con una advertencia muy terrible al final. Es irónico lo poco que cambia la naturaleza humana. Las mismas observaciones que se hicieron hace dos mil años se pueden hacer hoy. Habría que estar ciego para decir que no hay corrupción, ni arrogancia, en la jerarquía de la Iglesia de hoy. Como veremos en algunas de las selecciones que se comparten a continuación, muchos de nuestros más grandes santos hablaron en contra de la corrupción en la Iglesia a lo largo de los siglos. Hablaron no para causar escándalo o para generar desprecio por aquellos en posiciones de autoridad, sino para llamarlos de regreso a la santidad que Dios esperaba de ellos. Los verdaderos hijos e hijas de la Iglesia no entierran la cabeza en la arena y fingen que todo está bien cuando obviamente no es así. Ofrecen respetuosamente corrección fraterna, así como oraciones y actos de penitencia por sus Padres en Cristo. El sincretismo religioso, la inmoralidad sexual, las acciones y los comentarios heréticos, todos infectan nuestra jerarquía hoy, tal como lo hicieron en el pasado. En lugar de desanimarnos y dejar la Iglesia, ¡debemos quedarnos y luchar por la Novia de Cristo! Santa Catalina de Siena es una de las dos santas que me vienen a la mente y que fue valiente e implacable al llamar a los líderes religiosos, incluso al Papa, al arrepentimiento. (Sí, los Papas pueden pecar y pecan). El extracto que sigue muestra ese coraje y perseverancia. El segundo santo es San Pedro Damián, quien habló en contra de un pecado que contagia a la Iglesia hasta el día de hoy. En los dos extractos que ofrezco, los santos abordan solo un par de puntos que necesitaban ser corregidos, pero como sabemos, hay otros pecados que prevalecen especialmente en la actualidad y que piden corrección. Entonces, algunas correcciones rápidas son: **Pachamama es un ídolo** →

pagano. No permitas falsos ídolos en un lugar sagrado o homenajearlos. Permitir que se celebre la Misa en Latín no genera desunión. Las vacunas no son una obligación moral. No hay salvación fuera de la Iglesia Católica. La verdad no es relativa. Los hombres no son mujeres. Las mujeres no son hombres. Ya está dicho.

SANTA CATALINA DE SIENA

~FIRMEZA Y CARIDAD~

"Si alguna vez has meditado en las cartas de Santa Catalina de Siena, sabes que ella siempre está alentando la santidad. Quiere que la gente se enardezca de "caridad ardiente" y se bañe "en la sangre de Cristo crucificado". Ella quiere que las personas sean quienes Dios las creó y quiere que su Iglesia busque ser digna de su identidad como la esposa de Cristo. Por lo tanto, instaba a las hermanas y cardenales, al Papa y a los laicos por igual a "seguir viviendo en el amor santo y tierno de Dios" y continuar con algunos detalles sobre cómo podría verse eso en sus vidas específicas. Sus cartas fueron escritas durante un tiempo en que la Iglesia estaba en serios problemas. Mientras la peste negra assolaba Europa, el papado se había trasladado a Aviñón, Francia, y varias de las repúblicas y principados de Italia, incluidos los Estados Pontificios, estaban en guerra entre sí. Muchos clérigos habían caído en la corrupción. Pero las cartas de Catalina son tan relevantes hoy como siempre, exudando sabiduría universalmente aplicable que hace que sea fácil ver por qué es reconocida como Doctora de la Iglesia ... Los escándalos en la Iglesia tienen todo que ver con sucumbir al mal, aceptar las tentaciones del mundo y olvidando el camino del Señor. Y no es de extrañar que nuestra cultura actual no haya encontrado el camino de la cruz, o la enseñanza moral católica, convincente cuando una cultura dentro de algunos de los rangos más altos de la Iglesia no se lo estaba aceptando. Aquellos que hacen la guerra contra los tiranos de esta manera no son tan propensos a ser noticia, sin duda. Pero se está volviendo cada vez más y brutalmente claro que una podredumbre maligna necesita ser desarraigada de la vida de la Iglesia hoy. Escribiendo en 1380 al Papa Urbano VI, Catalina dice: *"No se puede borrar de un solo golpe todos los pecados que la gente en general está cometiendo dentro de la religión cristiana, especialmente dentro del orden clerical, sobre el cual debe estar aún más atento. Pero ciertamente puede y está obligado a hacerlo, y si no lo hace, lo tendrá en su conciencia. Al menos haz lo que puedas.*

Debes limpiar el vientre de la Iglesia, es decir, velar por que quienes te rodean de cerca sean limpiados de suciedad y poner allí a personas que estén atentas al honor de Dios, tu bienestar y el bien de la santa Iglesia. ...”Y advierte: “¿Sabes lo que te pasará si no arreglas las cosas haciendo lo que puedes? Dios quiere que reforme a su novia por completo; él ya no quiere que ella sea leprosa. Si tu santidad no hace todo lo que puedes al respecto, porque Dios te ha designado y te ha dado tal dignidad para ningún otro propósito, Dios lo hará él mismo usando todo tipo de problemas ”.

SAN PEDRO DAMIAN

~VICE CLÉRICO E INFIDELIDAD DOCTRINAL~

“Gran parte de la lucha por la reforma de San Pedro Damían parece sorprendentemente relevante para la situación moderna de la Iglesia, ofreciendo una crítica incisiva y útil de la inmoralidad sexual y el laxismo entre el clero. Cuando el monje y reformador ermitaño Pedro Damían dirigió su mirada crítica a la Iglesia Católica de mediados del siglo XI, se encontró con un panorama de corrupción que habría parecido abrumador incluso para el observador más endurecido de la escena eclesiástica moderna. La "casa de Dios" se encontraba en un estado catastrófico de desorden moral, sin admitir un remedio fácil. La crisis del período y la heroica respuesta de Damían nos ofrecen mucho valor histórico al enfrentarnos a nuestra propia explosión de vicio clerical e infidelidad doctrinal. El tiempo de la Iglesia de Damían había sido sacudido por casi dos siglos de caos político y social, y la ignorancia doctrinal, el comportamiento personal escandaloso y la mezquina venalidad del clero habían alcanzado niveles intolerables. Los Obispos y Sacerdotes estaban involucrados en todo tipo de inmoralidad, viviendo públicamente con concubinas o esposas ilícitas, o participando furtivamente en prácticas homosexuales. Muchos habían comprado sus ordenaciones y los lucrativos beneficios que los acompañaban, y pasaban su tiempo libre en escandalosas diversiones seculares. Un laicado indignado comenzaba a levantarse contra la autoridad eclesiástica, a veces en desenfundadas explosiones de violencia que amenazaban el orden civil. El pináculo de la crisis se alcanzó en el año 1032 con la elección del Papa Benedicto IX, un joven estridente y libertino de no más de veintidós años de edad, y el último y peor de una larga sucesión de papas comprometidos que sirvieron a ricos y poderoso patrones seculares. Afortunadamente, se han conservado pocos detalles del comportamiento personal de Benedicto en los relatos históricos, pero la "vida vil y despreciable" del Papa, su "rapiña, asesinatos y otros hechos nefastos" y sus "actos depravados y perversos", en palabras de el futuro Papa Víctor III, fueron ampliamente conocidos en su día”.

~UNA NUEVA GENERACIÓN DE REFORMADORES~

“Sin embargo, en 1049 una nueva generación de reformadores estaba en ascenso, comenzando con el pontificado del Papa San León IX y continuando con el pontificado de Hildebrando (San Gregorio VII), en 1073. Pedro Damían, quien era famoso por su vida de austeridad y penitencia, actuaría como el principal teórico de los contrarrevolucionarios contra el establecimiento corrupto de la Iglesia. Damían proporcionó el poder de fuego retórico para sus proyectos de reforma, publicando un flujo constante de cartas abiertas que a menudo tomaban la dimensión de folletos o pequeños libros sobre todas las controversias teológicas y disciplinarias concebibles. Cuando fue necesario, se presentó en persona para confrontar a los actores corruptos y rechazarlos, incluido el propio emperador del Sacro Imperio Romano Germánico. En muchos sentidos, la crisis de la época de Damían parece ajena a la nuestra; afortunadamente, parece que no estamos sufriendo una plaga de matrimonios clericales ilícitos, ni nos encontramos en una crisis de nepotismo y simonía, incluso si tales problemas continúan existiendo de forma aislada. Sin embargo, gran parte de la lucha por la reforma de San Pedro Damían en el siglo XI parece sorprendentemente relevante para la situación moderna de la Iglesia, ofreciéndonos una crítica incisiva y útil de la inmoralidad sexual y el laxismo entre el clero, así como un ejemplo inspirador de un reformador inmenso integridad personal, cuyo coraje nunca pareció vacilar, ni siquiera en los momentos más oscuros”.

~ PAPA BENEDICTO XVI ~

“Muchas personas no tienen puntos de referencia estables sobre los que construir su vida, por lo que terminan profundamente inseguros. Hay una mentalidad creciente de relativismo, que sostiene que todo es igualmente válido, que la verdad y los puntos de referencia absolutos no existen. Pero esta forma de pensar no conduce a la verdadera libertad, sino a la inestabilidad, la confusión y la conformidad ciega con las modas del momento. ”

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