



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

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector
Fr. Gabriel Sanchez, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Bala Putchakayala, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Jeffrey Keyes, In Residence
Deacon Mike Heinzelman
Deacon Gary Moore
Deacon Russ Bowden

WEBSITES

Parish: www.steugenes.com
School: www.steugenesch.org
Email Comments/Suggestions to:
Office@steugenes.com

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office Phone	(707) 542-6984
Parish Office Fax	(707) 542-1621
Religious Education	(707) 326-3408
Finance Council – Marty McCormick	(707) 526-1700
Choir Directress – Pam Zieminski	(707) 578-8848
School Office	(707) 545-7252
Preschool Office – Tess Mellor	(707) 528-9133
Homeschool Academy– Jessica Warner	(707) 206-5579

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

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: (707)542-3635 or Maria Vega (Spanish) at: (707)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 7:25 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 am-4:30pm & Sun 8:30am-1:30pm, Closed Mon/Tues -
Phone: (707)542-0250

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JUNE 25, 2023

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY JUNE 25

Masses – Cathedral – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 noon,
1:30 pm (Latin) & 5:30 pm
Coffee Social – PLC – 8:00 am – 12:00 noon

MONDAY JUNE 26

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Respect Life Meeting – PLC – 3:30 pm

TUESDAY JUNE 27

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Women of the Word – PLC – 9:00 am
Latin Mass – Cathedral – 5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY JUNE 28

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Outdoor Rosary – Fatima Grotto – 6:00 pm
Baptism Class – PLC – 5:00 pm

THURSDAY JUNE 29

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

FRIDAY JUNE 30

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

SATURDAY JULY 1

Perpetual Profession of Vows – Cathedral – 10:30 am
Followed by a reception in the Becker Ctr.
Confession – Cathedral 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 pm & 6:30 pm
(Spanish)

~PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION~

Register your child now for the Parish School of Religion (PSR) 2023-2024 school year! The Parish School of Religion partners with the Cathedral of St. Eugene families to bring the youth of the parish to Christ through authentic catechesis in the Beauty, Goodness, and Truth of the Catholic Faith. We offer: Ongoing Catholic formation for students 1st grade through high school; preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confession, 1st Communion & Confirmation; dedicated teaching by the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa & lay catechists. **Where:** St. Eugene's School **When:** Tuesdays from 3:45 - 5:00pm; September through May. Pick up registration forms in the vestibules, at the parish office, or register online at our parish website (www.steugenes.com). ***Last day to register is Monday, July 31st.*** Contact Sr. Mary Emmanuel, MSSR with any questions at 707-326-3408 or srmaryemmanuel2@gmail.com

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of: 6/11//23

Sunday Donations Received:	\$12,837.
Second Collection: Building Maintenance	\$4,002.

~ CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS ~

June is the Month of the Sacred Heart. Our Special of the Month for June is 25% off all statues, pictures, holy cards, books, and jewelry of/regarding Our Lord. Stop in our gift shop during the month of June to get that item you've been wishing for and save a little money at the same time. Also, we are in need of volunteers to help out in our shop. If you can give at least 4 hours of week, we will gladly put you to work! Please call the number below if you'd like to help out. 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 707-542-0250.

SECOND COLLECTION INFORMATION

~TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM~

This weekend, June 24 & 25, our Second Collection is for our Tuition Assistance Program. Next weekend, July 1&2, our Second Collection will be for Peter's Pence. Thank you for your continued generosity!

SCHOOL NEWS

~VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL~

It is time to register for our Vacation Bible School! Kids, grades K-5, will meet M-F, from 9:00 AM -12:00 noon in the Becker Ctr. From July 17th to July 21st. Cost is \$20. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office. The theme is: "Leading Out loud -Leading others through biblical examples." Contact Anna deLaney at (707) 539-5185. Sign your kids up now! Deadline to Register is July 10th.

~REGISTRATION HAS STARTED~

St. Eugene's Cathedral School has started its registration process for the 2023-24 school year. We are proud of our students and our school. We offer an excellent academic education with a challenging curriculum integrated with gospel values. We are accepting applications for all grades. Come by the school office to pick up an application or call 545-7252, and we'll send an application to you. You can also go to: www.steugenesch.org -"Admissions".

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	June 24
8:00 am	George Skikos, deceased
4:30 pm	ICF Members, living & deceased
6:30 pm (Sp)	Juan Victor Jimenez, deceased
Sunday	June 25
7:30 am	Leo Pimentel, deceased
9:00 am	Robert cook, decesed
10:30 am	Reyna Mota, deceased
12:00 pm	People of St. Eugene's
1:30 pm (EF)	Cecilia Stamoulis, deceased
5:30 pm	Santa Rosa Fijian Catholic Community, living & deceased
6:00pm Newman Ctr.	John Vicini, deceased
Monday	June 26
6:45 am	Andrew Robles, deceased
8:00 am	Betty Bjornstrom, living & Jack Bjornstrom, deceased
Tuesday	June 27
6:45 am	Mary & Vince Buettner, living
8:00 am	Jack and Dora Gill, deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Josephine Stark, living
Wednesday	June 28
6:45 am	Souls in Purgatory
8:00 am	Andrew Robles, deceased
Thursday	June 29
6:45 am	Thomas Flanagan, deceased
8:00 am	Fr. Frank Epperson, living
Friday	June 30
6:45 am	William Avilla, deceased
8:00 am	Fr. Frank Epperson, living
12:00 pm (Hosp)	Emily Tran, living
Saturday	July 1
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	Eduardo Montiel, deceased
6:30 (Sp)	Maritza Reyes, living

~HAPPY ANNIVERSARY~

We would like to wish a happy and hearty congratulations to Fr. Epperson who will celebrate 22 years as a priest on Friday, June 30th. Deo Gratias! *'I have separated you from other people, that you should be Mine.'* - Leviticus 20:26

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~UPCOMING PROFESSION OF VOWS~

The Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa Cordially invite you to the Perpetual Profession of Vows of Sister Mary Emmanuel of Mary, Cause of our Joy, on the Feast of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus, **Saturday, July 1, at 10:30 a.m.** at the Cathedral of St. Eugene. Bishop Robert Vasa will be presiding. Refreshments will follow in the Becker Center. Please join us for this special occasion!

~ROSARY & BENEDICTION~

Please join us on **Friday, July 7th, at 6:30 pm**, in the Cathedral, for the recitation of the Holy **Rosary & Benediction** led by Fr. Epperson. Light refreshments will be offered in the Parish Life Center afterward. For more details go to: **www.soldiersofchrist.info** and click the "Rosary and Benediction" link.

~WOMEN OF THE WORD~

The Women of the Word are pleased to announce that they are able to once again offer child care for moms who would like to attend their meetings. Bring your little ones to the Becker Center Gym, 9:15 - 11 am for a play time with balls, books and a light snack. Moms can then join Women of the Word in the Hope Room (upstairs in the PLC) for a spiritually rich morning. For questions, call Jennifer 707-331-4717.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

~SINGLES POTLUCK~

We normally have our Singles Potluck on the first Saturday of each month. This month, however, it will take place on the second Saturday, July 8th. We open the doors of the Parish Life Center at 5:30 pm and begin our Potluck with prayer at 6:00 pm. Please join us! Call Deborah to RSVP or for more info at: 310-600-2359..

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

~TEACHERS NEEDED~

The Santa Rosa Diocese has openings for teachers in our Catholic Schools! Please see the employment page on the Diocesan website for more information: <https://www.srdiocese.org/employment-schools> or call 707-566-3322.

~PLEASE PRAY FOR~

Those who are ill need your support and prayers: Tristan Humble, Samuel Agius, 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 Martentes, Jesus Navarro, Michael Boland, Stephen Warner, Aida Catapang, Bob Goldman, Pat Davenport, Paulita Castro, Jean L. Alfano, Theresa Pham, Rainey Olson, Michele Otten, Pauline Goslovich, Mary Gonzales, Nick Sidjakov, Sandi Picconi, Joan Cosgrove, Denise Ealy, Becky Harber, Ernest Lanford, Daniel Bruce Moore, Megan Ingrassia and Art Haake.

*Happy Belated Father's Day to all of our Fathers
We honor these fathers, living & deceased.*

<i>Martin Fridley</i>	<i>John Fridley</i>	<i>Daniel Fridley</i>	<i>Brian Mickelson</i>	<i>Ralph Fridley</i>
<i>Paul Rubattino</i>	<i>Ivan Roberto Aviles</i>	<i>Vicente Aviles</i>	<i>Alberto Aviles</i>	<i>Rolando Aviles</i>
<i>Chin Chang</i>	<i>Domingo Postigo</i>	<i>Reny & Jesus Postigo</i>	<i>Volodya Skrypka</i>	<i>Walter Cotton</i>
<i>Walter Miller</i>	<i>Ivan Roberto Aviles</i>	<i>Vicente Aviles</i>	<i>Alberto Aviles</i>	<i>Rolando Aviles</i>
<i>Jose Maria Ruiz Cabrera</i>	<i>Gustavo Aceves Zuniga</i>	<i>Francisco Javier Aceves Orozco</i>	<i>Alfonso Ruiz Gonzalez</i>	<i>Cayetano Garcia Madrigal</i>
<i>Dennis Plagge</i>	<i>Steve A. Doctorchik</i>	<i>Joe Doctorchik, Sr.</i>	<i>S. W. Kilgore</i>	<i>William Madden, Sr.</i>
<i>John R. Fechko</i>	<i>Gabriel Herrera</i>	<i>Israel Guido</i>	<i>Ray M. Shordon</i>	<i>Robert Graffio</i>
<i>Michael O'Brien, Sr.</i>	<i>Folger Athearn, Jr.</i>	<i>Joe Cerri</i>	<i>Daniel Munive Miranda</i>	<i>Victor Munive</i>
<i>Jose Currillo Sanchez</i>	<i>Richard T. Nakamura</i>	<i>Anthony Tran</i>	<i>Paul Duong</i>	<i>Art Garcia</i>
<i>Andre Maurits</i>	<i>Barry Viles</i>	<i>Don Kobrin</i>	<i>Bienvenido, Bernardino</i>	<i>Faith Jaime</i>

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

WOKENESS

~FROM THE PASTOR~

Our first reading today really grabbed my attention. In it, Jeremiah said: "I hear the whisperings of many: 'Terror on every side! Denounce! let us denounce him!' All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine." Why did it grab my attention? Because it speaks about a terror that is currently gripping our society, namely, "wokeness". Wokeness is simply another name for Marxism, whereby the great lie is pushed and enabled by a privileged few whose agenda is complete and total social upheaval as a means to gain control. You may have noticed how there are certain words, phrases, ideas or opinions that are met with furious retribution if uttered publicly because they go against the current narrative. Usually described as a phobia, if one utters an imprecation against the current woke ideology, that person is cancelled. We are going to take a look at the article that follows as to what it means to be cancelled and what this new wokeness leads to. It actually brings to mind something I read from Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who spent many years of his life imprisoned because of this Communist ideology, which at its core is anti-Christian. He said, "The simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie. One word of truth outweighs the world." We live in perilous times, my friends. Let's read on.

CANCEL CULTURE

~A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE~

Q) I have noticed something happening in our society that people have called "cancel culture." How are we supposed to respond to this as Christians?

A) "This is quite the timely (and potentially volatile) question! Over the course of the past few years, the prevalence and power of social media has given rise to this reality. For those who are unfamiliar with the term, "cancel culture" refers to a kind of "boycotting or shunning of an individual or group who is deemed to have acted or spoken in a questionable or controversial manner." (Thank you for the definition, Wikipedia.) This kind of response to unwanted speech or behavior is nothing new. All cultures throughout the world have had a standard of behavior that gets reinforced through the way people respond to each other. In fact, there have been many societies that are identified as "honor-based" or "shame-based" cultures. In many of these cases, there is a clear delineation between what kinds of actions are acceptable and which are not. To violate cultural norms is to risk being ostracized (or "canceled"). Not only that, but an argument can be made for the value of being able to make people experience consequences for bad behavior when the systems that are set up for those consequences fail

to bring about justice. So, if this is nothing new, then is it nothing big? If this is common in many cultures, are those who are concerned about cancel culture making a fuss over nothing? While canceling might not be novel to our culture, I do not believe that our current society is well-equipped to deal with this question, for at least two reasons: We lack truth and grace. Relativism and subjectivism are a part of our societal landscape. The affirmation that there is no real right and no real wrong is one of the beliefs that has been broadly accepted by our culture. I remember hearing a priest once say something along the lines of, "We live in a culture that claims that there is no such thing as right and wrong, yet everyone is desperately afraid of being judged." That has been my experience. When there is no real sense of right and wrong, all we are left with is utility and preference. "Does it work?" or "Do I like it?" are all we are left with."

~OBJECTIVE TRUTH~

"With no objective standard, there are no external guiding principles for behaviors. And with no guiding principles, there is no limit to what can be a "cancelable offense" except a person's own willingness (or unwillingness) to tolerate an opinion or behavior they don't like. Without objective truth, the only two options this kind of culture has are to either tolerate and celebrate all behavior or to condemn behaviors that we dislike. Even more, cancel culture doesn't merely condemn behaviors, it condemns people. And this is possibly the heart of what is wrong with cancellations. They do not stop at pointing out evil (or even merely unpopular) ideas and behaviors. They target people. As Catholic Christians, we do condemn certain ideas or behaviors as wrong or evil. We do hold up certain behaviors as good and virtuous. But we are prohibited from condemning individuals. Further, when we Christians encounter our own (or another's) failings, we have recourse. We can acknowledge our sins and ask for forgiveness. There is a remedy to our brokenness and failure, and it is called mercy — it is called "grace." But a world without God cannot offer what it does not have. And our world has chosen to fashion itself as a world without God, which has led to a world without grace. In the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, St. Paul describes the situation of a member of the Church who was living in a romantic relationship with his father's wife. Paul was shocked that his fellow Christians knew about this and tolerated

this scandalous behavior. What the man and woman were doing was clearly wrong, yet no one in the community was doing or saying anything about it. Because of this, St. Paul instructed the local Church to treat the man "as an unbeliever" so that he would realize his sin, repent of his choice, and be reconciled with the Church. This is the first description of something like "excommunication" in the life of the Church. We need to pay attention to at least two aspects of this action. First, Paul instructed the community to "treat him as an unbeliever." This didn't mean preventing the man from going about his work or slandering him in the larger community. It simply meant that he was not to participate in the life of the community. For example, he would not be free to receive holy Communion since he was in a state of sin. This "cancellation" was limited in scope to this particular community. Second, it is misleading to even call this situation "cancellation." The man was not merely being punished; he was being taught. The goal of treating him this way was so that he would turn from an evil action and return to the community. The early Christian community could do this because it was appealing to an objective standard (and not merely their own preference) and were offering a mercy that could fully restore the man to grace. This isn't totally foreign to us. Most of us have experienced this in how we were raised. At some point, I imagine that we have heard the words, "You can come back to the dinner table when you are ready to sit still and behave." This is necessary for socialization and for teaching children how to behave on a basic level. Parents make it clear that there is an objective standard and offer the opportunity for participation in the life of the family without restriction once the child has returned. The man in First Corinthians (and children in their families) are not being "canceled," they are being corrected. We all give off subtle "corrections" to the people around us. And we all receive countless such corrections. Every time we pleasantly acknowledge someone who smiles at us, we are affirming a particular behavior. Every time we roll our eyes in annoyance, we are expressing displeasure. But this is "correction," not "cancellation." And there is a difference. As Christians, we can offer correction based on an objective standard that transcends mere preference or utility. And we must continue to extend the offer of grace and restoration to all who are willing to accept it." By: Fr. Michael Schmitz, <https://thecatholicspirit.com/faith/focus-on-faith/ask-father-mike/what-should-a-catholic-make-of-cancel-culture/>

CATEDRAL DE ST. EUGENE'S — 25 de Junio del 2023
12° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

DESPERTAR

~DEL PASTOR~

Nuestra primera lectura de hoy me ha llamado mucho la atención. En ella, Jeremías dice: "Oigo los murmullos de muchos: '¡Terror por todas partes! Denunciémoslo'. Todos los que fueron mis amigos están atentos a cualquier paso en falso mío". ¿Por qué me llamó la atención? Porque habla de un terror que se apodera actualmente de nuestra sociedad, a saber, la "wokeness". Wokeness es simplemente otro nombre para el marxismo, por el cual la gran mentira es impulsada y permitida por unos pocos privilegiados cuya agenda es la agitación social completa y total como medio para obtener el control. Puede que te hayas dado cuenta de que hay ciertas palabras, frases, ideas u opiniones que son recibidas con furiosas represalias si se pronuncian públicamente porque van en contra de la narrativa actual. Normalmente descrito como una fobia, si uno pronuncia una opinión contra la ideología woke actual, esa persona es cancelada. Vamos a echar un vistazo al artículo que sigue en cuanto a lo que significa ser cancelado y a lo que conduce esta nueva wokeness. En realidad me recuerda algo que leí de Alexander Solzhenitsyn, que pasó muchos años de su vida encarcelado a causa de esta ideología comunista, que en su esencia es anticristiana. Dijo: "El simple paso de un individuo valiente es no participar en la mentira. Una palabra de verdad pesa más que el mundo". Vivimos tiempos peligrosos, amigos míos. Sigamos leyendo.

CANCELAR LA CULTURA

~UNA RESPUESTA CRISTIANA~

P) He notado algo que está sucediendo en nuestra sociedad que la gente ha llamado "cultura de la cancelación". ¿Cómo debemos responder a esto como cristianos?

R) "¡Esta es una pregunta muy oportuna (y potencialmente volátil)! En el transcurso de los últimos años, la prevalencia y el poder de los medios sociales han dado lugar a esta realidad. Para quienes no estén familiarizados con el término, la "cultura de la cancelación" se refiere a una especie de "boicot o rechazo de un individuo o grupo que se considera que ha actuado o hablado de forma cuestionable o controvertida". (Gracias por la definición, Wikipedia.) Este tipo de respuesta a un discurso o comportamiento no deseado no es nada nuevo. Todas las →

culturas del mundo han tenido una norma de comportamiento que se refuerza a través de la forma en que la gente responde a los demás. De hecho, ha habido muchas sociedades que se identifican como culturas "basadas en el honor" o "basadas en la vergüenza". En muchos de estos casos, existe una clara delimitación entre qué tipo de acciones son aceptables y cuáles no. Violar las normas culturales es arriesgarse a ser condenado al ostracismo (o "cancelado"). No sólo eso, sino que se puede argumentar a favor del valor de poder hacer que la gente experimente las consecuencias del mal comportamiento cuando los sistemas establecidos para esas consecuencias fallan para hacer justicia. Entonces, si esto no es nada nuevo, ¿no es nada del otro mundo? Si esto es común en muchas culturas, ¿los que se preocupan por cancelar la cultura están armando un escándalo por nada? Aunque puede que cancelar no sea algo nuevo en nuestra cultura, no creo que nuestra sociedad actual esté bien preparada para tratar esta cuestión, al menos por dos razones: Nos falta verdad y gracia. El relativismo y el subjetivismo forman parte del paisaje de nuestra sociedad. La afirmación de que no hay verdadero bien ni verdadero mal es una de las creencias que ha sido ampliamente aceptada por nuestra cultura. Recuerdo haber oído una vez a un sacerdote decir algo parecido a: "Vivimos en una cultura que afirma que no existe el bien y el mal, y sin embargo todo el mundo teme desesperadamente ser juzgado". Esa ha sido mi experiencia. Cuando no existe un verdadero sentido del bien y del mal, lo único que nos queda es la utilidad y la preferencia. "¿Funciona?" o "¿Me gusta?" es todo lo que nos queda".

~VERDAD OBJETIVA~

"Sin una norma objetiva, no hay principios rectores externos para los comportamientos. Y sin principios rectores, no hay límite para lo que puede ser una "ofensa cancelable", excepto la propia voluntad (o falta de voluntad) de una persona para tolerar una opinión o un comportamiento que no le gusta. Sin una verdad objetiva, las dos únicas opciones que tiene este tipo de cultura son tolerar y celebrar todos los comportamientos o condenar los comportamientos que no nos gustan. Es más, la cultura de la cancelación no sólo condena los comportamientos, sino también a las personas. Y esto es posiblemente el núcleo de lo que está mal con las cancelaciones. No se limitan a señalar ideas y comportamientos →

malvados (o incluso meramente impopulares). Apuntan a las personas. Como cristianos católicos, condenamos ciertas ideas o comportamientos como erróneos o malos. Defendemos ciertos comportamientos como buenos y virtuosos. Pero tenemos prohibido condenar a las personas. Además, cuando los cristianos nos enfrentamos a nuestros propios fallos (o a los de otros), podemos recurrir. Podemos reconocer nuestros pecados y pedir perdón. Hay un remedio para nuestro quebrantamiento y fracaso, y se llama misericordia - se llama "gracia". Pero un mundo sin Dios no puede ofrecer lo que no tiene. Y nuestro mundo ha elegido configurarse como un mundo sin Dios, lo que ha conducido a un mundo sin gracia. En la Primera Carta de San Pablo a los Corintios, San Pablo describe la situación de un miembro de la Iglesia que mantenía una relación sentimental con la mujer de su padre. Pablo se escandaliza de que sus compañeros cristianos lo sepan y lo toleren este comportamiento escandaloso. Lo que el hombre y la mujer estaban haciendo estaba claramente mal, pero nadie en la comunidad hacía o decía nada al respecto. Por ello, San Pablo ordenó a la Iglesia local que tratara al hombre "como a un infiel", para que se diera cuenta de su pecado, se arrepintiera de su elección y se reconciliara con la Iglesia. Esta es la primera descripción de algo parecido a la "excomunicación" en la vida de la Iglesia. Debemos prestar atención al menos a dos aspectos de esta acción. Primero, Pablo instruyó a la comunidad a "tratarlo como a un incrédulo". Esto no significaba impedir que el hombre siguiera con su trabajo o calumniarlo en la comunidad en general. Simplemente significaba que no debía participar en la vida de la comunidad. Por ejemplo, no sería libre de recibir la Sagrada Comunión, ya que se encontraba en estado de pecado. Esta "cancelación" se limitaba a esta comunidad en particular. En segundo lugar, es engañoso incluso llamar a esta situación "cancelación". El hombre no estaba siendo simplemente castigado; estaba siendo enseñado. El objetivo de tratarle así era que se apartara de una mala acción y volviera a la comunidad. La comunidad cristiana primitiva podía hacer esto porque apelaba a una norma objetiva (y no meramente a su propia preferencia) y ofrecía una misericordia que podía restaurar plenamente al hombre a la gracia. Esto no nos es totalmente ajeno. La mayoría de nosotros lo hemos experimentado en la forma en que fuimos educados. En algún momento, imagino que hemos escuchado las palabras: "Puedes volver a la mesa cuando estés listo para sentarte quieto y comportarte". Esto es necesario para

Esto es necesario para la socialización y para enseñar a los niños a comportarse a un nivel básico. Los padres dejan claro que existe una norma objetiva y ofrecen la oportunidad de participar en la vida de la familia sin restricciones una vez que el niño ha vuelto. El hombre de Primera de Corintios (y los niños de sus familias) no están siendo "cancelados", están siendo corregidos. Todos emitimos sutiles "correcciones" a las personas que nos rodean. Y todos recibimos innumerables correcciones. Cada vez que saludamos agradablemente a alguien que nos sonríe, estamos afirmando un determinado comportamiento. Cada vez que ponemos los ojos en blanco, estamos expresando desagrado. Pero esto es "corrección", no "cancelación". Y hay una diferencia. Como cristianos, podemos ofrecer corrección basada en una norma objetiva que trasciende la mera preferencia o utilidad. Y debemos seguir extendiendo la oferta de gracia y restauración a todos los que estén dispuestos a aceptarla."

~ESCUELA PARROQUIAL DE RELIGIÓN~
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