



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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JULY 30, 2023

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY JULY 30

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 JULY 31

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

TUESDAY AUGUST 1

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

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 2

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

THURSDAY AUGUST 3

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

FRIDAY AUGUST 4

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Bible Study – Parish Life Center (Hope Rm) - 9:00 am

SATURDAY AUGUST 5

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am
Confession – Cathedral 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 pm & 6:30 pm
(Spanish)
Singles' Potluck – Parish Life Center – 5:30 pm

~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: 7/16/23

Sunday Donations Received:	\$10,850.
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Second Collection:	\$2,787.
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~ CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS ~

August is still the prime of summer, and what better time is there to catch up on reading than during the warm summer evenings? During August, all in-stock books (excluding booklets, special orders, and a small number of isolated books that cannot be discounted) are 25% off! Have you been waiting to buy that beautiful Bible as a gift (or for yourself) but it seemed too expensive? Not during August! Liturgy of the Hours sets, all prayer books, children's books, Spanish books, and our solid, trustworthy Catholic books are 25% all month. We only do this once a year, so now is the time to save money and invest in reliable Catholic reading. Ask our friendly, knowledgeable staff to guide you in choosing the best books for your needs. Then, turn off that TV, and open a good Catholic book! 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.

2nd COLLECTION INFORMATION

~ST. VINCENT DE PAUL~

This weekend, July 29 & 30, our Second Collection will be for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Next weekend, August 5 & 6, our Second Collection will be for Black and Indian Missions. This collection is a national collection and serves as the embodiment of the Church's concern for evangelizing the Black and Indian peoples of the United States. The funds are distributed as grants to dioceses throughout the United States, supporting and strengthening evangelization programs which otherwise would cease.

SCHOOL NEWS

~REGISTER NOW~

St. Eugene's Cathedral School is well into 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	July 29
8:00 am	Ronald Paul Lacasse & Family, living & deceased
4:30 pm	Aceves-Ruiz Family, living
6:30 pm (Sp)	Melissa Morales & Gerardo de Leon, deceased
Sunday	July 30
7:30 am	Ivett Poisson, deceased
9:00 am	Antonio H. Ordonez, living
10:30 am	Manuel B. Carrera, deceased & family, living and deceased
12:00 pm	People of St. Eugene's
1:30 pm (EF)	Stanley Wynn Hayes, deceased
5:30 pm	Thomas Jack Wise, deceased
6:00pm Newman Ctr.	Mary O'Donnell, living
Monday	July 31
6:45 am	Lisa Tran, living
8:00 am	Mariano Huerta, living
Tuesday	August 1
6:45 am	Barbara McCall, living
8:00 am	Leo Pimentel, deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Barbara McCall, living
Wednesday	August 2
6:45 am	Ruiz-Gonzalez Family, living & deceased
8:00 am	Nancy Reilly, deceased
Thursday	August 3
6:45 am	Garcia-Torres Family, living & deceased
8:00 am	Nancy Reilly, deceased
Friday	August 4
6:45 am	Fr. Alan Acevedo, living
8:00 am	Alma Janus, deceased
12:00 pm (Hosp)	Mary Tran, living
Saturday	August 5
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	Carol Green, living
6:30 (Sp)	Familia Cervantes Pantoja, living

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

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY~

Join us for a new daytime Bible Study Class beginning on Friday, August 4th. We will meet in the Parish Life Center (Hope Room) every Friday from 9:00 am until 12:00 Noon. We will read sections of the Bible at each meeting along with watching an accompanying video for instruction on what we just read and discussion. The only requirement is that you bring your own Catholic Bible. To sign-up or get more information, please call Andy Skrypka at 707-758-5882.

~RCIA CLASSES TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER~

Our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) classes will begin on September 10th. Classes will be held on Sundays, from 10:30 - 11:50 am until mid-May in the Parish Life Center Hope Room. RCIA mainly serves those who have a desire to enter the church or baptized Catholics who desire the sacrament of Confirmation. However, anyone who wishes to learn more about the Catholic faith is welcome to attend. Information/schedule/application "packets" will be available in the church vestibules, the Parish Office, and the St. Eugene's Gift Shop/Bookstores soon. Stay tuned for further updates!

~ROSARY & BENEDICTION~

Please join us **Friday, August 4th**, at **6:30 pm**, for the recitation of the **Holy Rosary & Benediction** at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 150 St Joseph Way, Cotati, CA. Light refreshments will be offered afterward. For more details go to: www.soldiersofchrist.info

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

~SINGLES' POTLUCK~

Please join us for our Singles Potluck on Saturday, August 5. We start gathering at 5:30 pm and start our meeting at 6:00 pm in the Parish Life Center. Join us for prayer, conversation and good food! *Call Deborah at: 310-600-2359 & let her know what dish you will bring!*

IN NEED OF PRAYER

~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 Marentes, 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, Art Haake and Rosalie Elliott.

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

KING SOLOMON, & JUDGEMENT

~FROM THE PASTOR~

In our first reading today, we read about King Solomon asking the Lord for the gift of Wisdom rather than for worldly riches. The Lord was greatly pleased by this request and Solomon became the wisest man that the world has ever known. I think it is worth it to let you know a little more about this man, so we will read a good article about him. Our second reading taken from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, talks about things like "predestination" and "justification". These are sometimes confusing topics to grapple with. We will take a look at a good commentary expounding upon what St. Paul meant by these words. Also, our Gospel reading gives us a taste of the what the Last Judgement will be like when we read, "The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth." The Last Day will indeed be a fearful day but also a jubilant day for those who will be ushered, body and soul, into the Kingdom of Heaven. We will read an excerpt about what this day will entail.

KING SOLOMON

~WISDOM~

"The first and highest gifts of the Holy Spirit. It makes the soul responsive to God in the contemplation of divine things. Where faith is a simple knowledge of the articles of Christian belief, wisdom goes on to a certain divine penetration of the truths themselves. Built into wisdom is the element of love, which inspires contemplative reflection on these divine mysteries, rejoices dwelling on them, and directs the mind to judge all things according to their principles." — Fr. John Hardon's Modern Catholic Dictionary

~SOLOMON~

"King Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived and also one of the most foolish. God gifted him with unsurpassed wisdom, which Solomon squandered by disobeying God's commandments. Some of Solomon's most famous achievements were his building projects, particularly the temple in Jerusalem. Solomon was the second son of King David and Bathsheba. His name means "peaceable." His alternative name was Jedidiah, meaning "beloved of

the Lord." Even as a baby, Solomon was loved by God. A conspiracy by Solomon's half-brother Adonijah tried to rob Solomon of the throne. To take the kingship, Solomon had to kill Adonijah and Joab, David's general. Once Solomon's kingship was firmly established, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and promised him anything he asked. Solomon chose understanding and discernment, asking God to help him govern his people well and wisely. God was so pleased with the request that he granted it, along with great riches, honor, and longevity.

~HIS DOWNFALL~

Solomon's downfall began when he married the daughter of the Egyptian Pharaoh to seal a political alliance. He could not control his lust. Among Solomon's 700 wives and 300 concubines were many foreigners, which angered God. The inevitable happened: They lured King Solomon away from Yahweh into the worship of false gods and idols. Over his 40-year reign, Solomon did many great things, but he succumbed to the temptations of lesser men. The peace a united Israel enjoyed, the massive building projects he headed, and the successful commerce he developed became meaningless when Solomon stopped pursuing God.

~HIS GREATEST STRENGTHS~

"King Solomon's greatest strength was his unsurpassed wisdom, granted to him by God. In one biblical episode, two women came to him with a dispute. Both lived in the same house and had recently delivered newborns, but one of the infants had died. The mother of the dead baby tried to take the living child from the other mother. Because no other witnesses lived in the house, the women were left to dispute who the living child belonged to and who was the true mother. Both claimed to have given birth to the baby. They asked Solomon to determine which of the two of them should keep the newborn. With astonishing wisdom, Solomon suggested that the boy be cut in half with a sword and split between the two women. Deeply moved by love for her son, the first woman whose baby was alive said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!" But the other woman said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!" Solomon ruled that the first woman was the real mother

because she preferred giving up her child to seeing him harmed. King Solomon's skills in architecture and management turned Israel into the showplace of the Middle East. As a diplomat, he made treaties and alliances that brought peace to his kingdom."

~HIS GREATEST WEAKNESSES~

To satisfy his curious mind, Solomon turned to worldly pleasures instead of the pursuit of God. He collected all sorts of treasures and surrounded himself with luxury. In the case of his non-Jewish wives and concubines, Solomon allowed lust to rule his heart instead of obedience to God. Apparently, he let his foreign wives worship their native gods and even had altars to those gods built in Jerusalem (1 Kings 11:7-8). Solomon taxed his subjects heavily, conscripted them into his army and into slave-like labor for his building projects."

By Jack Zevada, excerpted from : <https://www.learnreligions.com/king-solomon-wisest-man-who-ever-lived-701168>

ON PREDESTINATION

~WHAT IS PREDESTINATION?~

For whom he foreknew, he also predestinated to be made conformable to the image of his Son; that he might be the firstborn amongst many brethren.

"This verse is explanatory of the preceding one. The Apostle tells the Christians that efficacious divine assistance is assured them, because they are predestined to be participants in the glory of Christ. ...**He foreknew.** For St. Chrysostom and other Greek Fathers, who understand "purpose", of the preceding verse, to mean only the good disposition on the part of Christians which makes their call to the faith efficacious, "foreknew" of this verse does not include the idea of choice, but simply means the foreknowledge by which God understood those who would respond to His call, and whom He, therefore, predestined. For those who regard the call as efficacious and the *purpose* a divine decree, "foreknew" means: (a) knowledge accompanied by a choice or preference on the part of the divine will (b) the knowledge which God has from eternity of the perseverance of some in faith and love (c) foreknowledge, as distinguished from predestination, and yet accompanied by a predilection of which St. Paul does not here assign the cause. Those, therefore, whom God has known and loved from all eternity, He has **predestinated** (verse 29) **to be made conformable**, etc. This conformity is not the motive or cause, but rather the effect or consequence of

predestination; and it will consist finally, in the resurrection, in our complete and perfect adoption as sons, in our transformation and glorification of body and soul, so as to share in the glory of Christ's risen, glorified body. God, then, has predestined Christians to be conformable to His Son, and the Son has taken our body, in order that we might share in the glory of His risen body, in order that we might be His adopted brethren and He the **firstborn** among His **many brethren**. St. Paul is here telling the Christians that the call to the faith, to which they have responded, is, in the divine plan, the pledge of their eternal glory. Doubtless a conformity to Christ here below through grace is presupposed to our final and glorious conformity to Him in the resurrection, but it is only this latter that is under consideration now.

Excerpted from : <https://thedinelamp.wordpress.com/2011/07/21/sunday-july-24-father-callans-commentary-on-todays-second-reading-rom-828-30/>

~THE FINAL JUDGEMENT~

"Why must this reckoning be public? When we confess all the details of our lives before Christ and the rest of the human race, and when others do the same in our presence, we will all be forced to recognize and admit the full effects on others of what we have done and what we have failed to do. Justice requires such recognition and admission." "Yet mercy plays a role here as well. To face the truth and confess it, drinking the cup of shame all the way to its dregs before a watching world, will be a painful reckoning. But for the friends of God, it can serve as part of the purging process necessary to prepare them for heaven. At the same time, on that day God's friends will find it easier to forgive. As the full picture of their lives is unveiled, they will finally come to appreciate the struggles of those who offended them: the burdens they had to carry, the wounds they suffered from the sins of others and the limitations placed on them by circumstances hidden to view." Another important consequence of this public judgment is that it will reveal to everyone the love and wisdom of God's providence in all things. How many times in this life, when adversity tests us, are we tempted to wonder whether God really cares for us, or whether He truly knows what He's doing? In the Last Judgment, we will be able to see all the factors in God's determinations, all the aspects of His plan. On that day we will be able to say to Him: "At last I understand; Your dealings with me finally make sense to me. When bad things happened, I needed faith to trust that You had not abandoned me. But now my faith has become sight." Justice demands that divine Providence be vindicated. The general judgment provides such vindication." By Paul Thigpen. For complete article, please go to: <https://www.simplycatholic.com/after-death-two-judgments/>

CATEDRAL DE ST. EUGENE'S — 30 de Julio del 2023
17º Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

EL REY SALOMÓN Y EL JUICIO
~DEL PÁRROCO~

En nuestra primera lectura de hoy, leemos que el rey Salomón le pidió al Señor el don de la Sabiduría en lugar de las riquezas mundanas. Al Señor le agradó mucho esta petición y Salomón se convirtió en el hombre más sabio que el mundo jamás haya conocido. Creo que vale la pena dejarles saber un poco más sobre este hombre, así que leeremos un buen artículo sobre él. Nuestra segunda lectura, tomada de la carta de San Pablo a los Romanos, habla de cosas como "predestinación" y "justificación". Estos son a veces temas confusos con los que lidiar. Echaremos un vistazo a un buen comentario que expone lo que San Pablo quiso decir con estas palabras. Además, nuestra lectura del Evangelio nos da una idea de cómo será el Juicio Final cuando leamos: "Saldrán los ángeles y separarán a los malos de los justos, y los echarán en el horno de fuego, donde habrá llanto y rugir de dientes." El Último Día será ciertamente un día temible pero también un día de júbilo para aquellos que serán conducidos, en cuerpo y alma, al Reino de los Cielos. Leeremos un extracto sobre lo que implicará este día...

EL REY SALOMÓN

~SABIDURIA~

"Los primeros y más altos dones del Espíritu Santo. Hace que el alma responda a Dios en la contemplación de las cosas divinas. Donde la fe es un simple conocimiento de los artículos de la fe cristiana, la sabiduría pasa a una cierta penetración divina de las verdades mismas. Construido en la sabiduría está el elemento del amor, que inspira la reflexión contemplativa sobre estos misterios divinos, se regocija al morar en ellos y dirige la mente a juzgar todas las cosas de acuerdo con sus principios". — Padre Diccionario católico moderno de John Hardon

~SOLOMON~

"El rey Salomón fue el hombre más sabio que jamás haya existido y también uno de los más necios. Dios lo dotó de una sabiduría insuperable, que Salomón desperdió al desobedecer los mandamientos de Dios. Algunos de los logros más famosos de Salomón fueron sus proyectos de construcción, particularmente el templo de Jerusalén. Salomón fue el segundo hijo del rey David y Betsabé.

Su nombre significa "pacífico". Su nombre alternativo era Jedidiah, que significa "amado de Dios a Salomón incluso cuando era un bebé. Una conspiración del medio hermano de Salomón, Adonías, trató de robarle el trono a Salomón. Para tomar el trono, Salomón tuvo que matar a Adonías y a Joab, el general de David. Dios se apareció a Salomón en un sueño y le prometió todo lo que le pidiera. Salomón optó por la inteligencia y el discernimiento, pidiéndole a Dios que lo ayudara a gobernar bien y sabiamente a su pueblo. Dios quedó tan complacido con la petición que se la concedió, junto con grandes riquezas, honor y longevidad.

~SU CAÍDA~

La caída de Salomón comenzó cuando se casó con la hija del faraón egipcio para sellar una alianza política. No podía controlar su lujuria. Entre las 700 esposas y 300 concubinas de Salomón había muchas extranjeras, lo que enfureció a Dios. Ocurrió lo inevitable: alejaron al rey Salomón de Yahvé para que adorara dioses e ídolos falsos. Durante su reinado de 40 años, Salomón hizo muchas cosas grandes, pero sucumbió a las tentaciones de los hombres inferiores. La paz que disfrutó un Israel unido, los proyectos de construcción masivos que encabezó y el comercio exitoso que desarrolló dejaron de tener sentido cuando Salomón dejó de buscar a Dios.

~SU MAYOR FORTALEZA~

"La mayor fortaleza del rey Salomón fue su sabiduría insuperable, concedida a él por Dios. En un episodio bíblico, dos mujeres se acercaron a él con una disputa. Ambos vivían en la misma casa y recientemente habían dado a luz, pero uno de los bebés había muerto. La madre del bebé muerto trató de quitarle el niño vivo a la otra madre. Debido a que no vivían otros testigos en la casa, las mujeres tuvieron que disputar a quién pertenecía el niño vivo y quién era la verdadera madre. Ambos afirmaron haber dado a luz al bebé. Le pidieron a Salomón que determinara cuál de los dos debería quedarse con el recién nacido. Con asombrosa sabiduría, Salomón sugirió que el niño fuera cortado por la mitad con una espada y dividido entre las dos mujeres. Profundamente conmovida por el amor por su hijo, la primera mujer cuyo bebé estaba vivo le dijo al rey: "¡Por favor, mi señor, dale el bebé vivo! ¡No lo mates!" Pero la otra mujer dijo: "Ni yo ni tú lo tendremos.

¡Córtalo en dos!" Salomón dictaminó que la primera mujer era la verdadera madre porque prefirió entregar a su hijo a verlo dañado. Las habilidades del rey Salomón en arquitectura y gestión convirtieron a Israel en el escaparate de Oriente Medio. Como diplomático, hizo tratados y alianzas que trajeron la paz a su reino".

~SU MAYOR DEBILIDAD~

Para satisfacer su mente curiosa, Salomón se volvió hacia los placeres mundanos en lugar de la búsqueda de Dios. Coleccionaba todo tipo de tesoros y se rodeaba de lujo. En el caso de sus esposas y concubinas no judías, Salomón permitió que la lujuria gobernara su corazón en lugar de la obediencia a Dios. Aparentemente, permitió que sus esposas extranjeras adoraran a sus dioses nativos e incluso mandó construir altares a esos dioses en Jerusalén (1 Reyes 11:7-8). Salomón impuso fuertes impuestos a sus súbditos, los reclutó en su ejército y en trabajos similares a esclavos para sus proyectos de construcción".

SOBRE LA PREDESTINACIÓN

~¿QUÉ ES LA PREDESTINACIÓN?~

Porque a los que de antemano conoció, también los predestinó para que fueran hechos conformes a la imagen de su Hijo; para que él sea el primogénito entre muchos hermanos.

"Este versículo es explicativo del anterior. El Apóstol dice a los cristianos que les está asegurada la eficaz asistencia divina, porque están predestinados a ser partícipes de la gloria de Cristo. ... Él sabía de antemano. Para San Juan Crisóstomo y otros Padres griegos, que entienden por "propósito", del versículo precedente, sólo la buena disposición de parte de los cristianos que hace eficaz su llamado a la fe, "presiente" de este versículo no incluye la idea de elección, sino que simplemente significa el conocimiento previo por el cual Dios entendió a aquellos que responderían a Su llamado, y a quienes Él, por lo tanto, predestinó. Para aquellos que consideran el llamamiento como eficaz y el propósito como un decreto divino, "presupieron" significa: (a) el conocimiento acompañado de una elección o preferencia de parte de la voluntad divina (b) el conocimiento que Dios tiene desde la eternidad de la perseverancia de algunos en la fe y el amor (c) la presciencia, a diferencia de la predestinación, y sin embargo acompañada por una predilección de la cual San Pablo no asigna aquí la causa.

A los que, pues, Dios ha conocido y amado desde toda la eternidad, los ha predestinado (v. 29) para que sean conformes, etc. Esta conformidad no es motivo ni causa, sino efecto o consecuencia de predestinación; y consistirá finalmente, en la resurrección, en nuestra completa y perfecta adopción como hijos, en nuestra transformación y glorificación del cuerpo y del alma, para participar de la gloria del cuerpo glorificado de Cristo resucitado. Dios, pues, ha predestinado a los cristianos a ser semejantes a su Hijo, y el Hijo tomó nuestro cuerpo, para que participemos de la gloria de su cuerpo resucitado, para que seamos sus hermanos adoptivos y él el **primogénito** entre Sus **muchos hermanos**. San Pablo dice aquí a los cristianos que la llamada a la fe, a la que han respondido, es, en el plan divino, prenda de su gloria eterna. Sin duda, una conformidad con Cristo aquí abajo a través de la gracia se presupone para nuestra conformidad final y gloriosa con Él en la resurrección, pero es solo esta última.

~ESCUELA PARROQUIAL DE RELIGIÓN~

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