



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

DEVOTIONS

Recitation of the Rosary takes place Monday – Saturday at 7:25 a.m. in the Cathedral

Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed every 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

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – AUGUST 27, 2023

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY AUGUST 27

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 AUGUST 28

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

TUESDAY AUGUST 29

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

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 30

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

THURSDAY AUGUST 31

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

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 1

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

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am
Confession – Cathedral 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 pm & 6:30 pm
(Spanish)

2nd COLLECTION INFORMATION

~TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM~

This weekend, August 26 & 27 our Second Collection will be for our Tuition Assistance Program. Next weekend, September 2 & 3, the Second collection will be for the Education & Support of our Seminarians.

~THE LITTLE FLOWERS~

The Little Flowers Girls' Club, for grades K-4, will begin meeting on Saturday, Sept. 9th, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the PLC. Meetings will take place on the second Saturday of each month. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office and church vestibules. Early bird discount is \$10 off if you register by Aug. 31. *COST: Returning members – \$55; New members – \$50. Call Anna deLaney for more info: 539-5185.*

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of: 8/13/23

Sunday Donations Received:	\$13,018.
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Second Collection: No Second Collection	
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~ CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS ~

The month of September is the month of the Seven Sorrows of Mary. In honor of Mary's sorrow over her Son's suffering and death, our Special of the Month is 25% off all wall and standing crucifixes. All Catholic homes should have at least one crucifix hanging on the wall! 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.

~THE MAUI FIRES~

Many want to know how they can help the victims of the devastating fire on the island of Maui, Hawaii. The Diocese of Honolulu would appreciate donations be made to the Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation (HCCF). Tax-deductible contributions can be made directly by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/MauiCatholic>.

~NOTICE OF DEADLINE~

Deadline for filing abuse or other claims against the Diocese of Santa Rosa in regard to: The Roman Catholic Bishop of Santa Rosa, Case No. 23-10113. On March 13, 2023, The Roman Catholic Bishop of Santa Rosa aka Diocese of Santa Rosa (“Debtor”) filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. **If you were sexually abused by any person connected with the Debtor, you must file a claim so as to be received by October 20, 2023, or otherwise you will be forever barred, estopped, and enjoined from asserting such claim against the Debtor.** Claims based on acts or omissions of the Debtor that occurred before March 13, 2023, **must be filed on or before October 20, 2023**, even if such claims are not now fixed, liquidated, or certain or did not mature or become fixed, liquidated, or certain before March 13, 2023. For more information on how to obtain and file a proof of claim form and associated documents, please visit www.donlinrecano.com/rcbsr, or contact Donlin, Recano & Company, Inc., the Debtor's claims agent via e-mail at rcbsantarosainfo@drc.equiniti.com or toll free at 1-800-236-1551, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time), Monday through Friday. **If you have questions about the bankruptcy case filed by the Diocese of Santa Rosa, please also visit the website at <https://srdiocese.org> and follow the links for Chapter 11 Reorganization.**

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	August 26
8:00 am	Bernie Welchon, deceased
4:30 pm	Mike Pendergast, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp)	Maria Mercedes Rodriguez, deceased
Sunday	August 27
7:30 am	Martin Sayes, deceased
9:00 am	Manuel Carrnera & Family, deceased & living
10:30 am	John & Pat Skonecke, deceased
12:00 pm	People of St. Eugene's
1:30 pm (EF)	Gustavo Sanchez-Barba, living
5:30 pm	Santa Rosa Fijian Catholic Community, living & deceased
6:00pm Newman Ctr.	Vincenty Family, living & deceased
Monday	August 28
6:45 am	Albina Ruhl, living
8:00 am	Lisa Tran, living
Tuesday	August 29
6:45 am	Peter & Theresa Pham, living
8:00 am	Nancy Reilly, deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Michael Tran, living
Wednesday	August 30
6:45 am	Sofia & Santo Hervatin, deceased
8:00 am	Charlotte Ellis, living
Thursday	August 31
6:45 am	Peter & Theresa Pham, living
8:00 am	Timothy Cagwin, deceased
Friday	September 1
6:45 am	Lino Cervantes, deceased
8:00 am	Rick Boike, deceased
9:20 am (Sch)	All families of St. Eugene's School, living
12:00 pm (Hosp)	Mary Tran, living
Saturday	September 2
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	Mary Aggio, living
6:30 (Sp)	Gracia Laurel, deceased

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~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 forms are now in the church vestibules, the Parish Office, and the St. Eugene's Gift Shop/Bookstore.

SAVE THE DATE

~KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BBQ~
Our Knights of Columbus will be having their annual Chicken BBQ on Sunday, September 10th, from 10:00 am - 1:30 pm. The menu will include 1/2 a chicken, corn on the cob and potato salad. The cost is \$25 with tickets on sale at the Parish Office, Bookstore and on Sundays at the morning coffee socials. We will be serving in the PLC from 10:00 am-1:30pm. You can 'eat-in' or 'take out'!

~COLLECTIBLE SALE~
The St. Eugene's Thrift Shop will be having their annual Collectible Sale on **September 15 & 16** in the Msgr. Becker Center. The sale will run from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm on Friday and from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm on Saturday. All proceeds go to help with the support of our Parish. If you have items to donate, please wait until the week of the sale and deliver them to the Becker Center (Mon -Thurs, 9 -2:00 pm.) Please, no books or clothing! Call Sue Davis for donation information at : 707-484-3126. **The Thrift Shop will be closed the week of the sale and the following week, too!**

~RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS~
On Saturday, **September 23rd**, the Diocese of Santa Rosa will present a day of prayer and fellowship for all adults in the Diocese at **Cardinal Newman High School**. This year's theme, "**Liturgy, Devotion and the Most Holy Eucharist**" Speakers will include Fr. Jeffrey Keyes, Rev. Mother Teresa Christe and Fr. Daniel Roa. Early registration, by Sept. 14th, is recommended. To do this, please go to: www.srdioocese.org.

~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.

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.

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

ON SIN AND SALVATION

~FROM THE PASTOR~

Today's first reading and Gospel reading both teach us about the power given to Eliakim and Peter to loosen and bind. I'd like to look at this power in terms of sin and the forgiveness offered to those who repent and go to Confession. When one is given absolution by a priest at the end of a good confession, we see the power of loosening one from the grip of the devil and returning to a state of grace. If one does not make a good confession, perhaps by not being repentant or purposely holding back mortal sins, the priest may also choose to not absolve the penitent, thus he is still bound to the devil in his sin. This power given to the Church and her priests is an awesome responsibility, for souls are hanging in the balance. Because this is so important, I want to share a sermon by St. Augustine that points out how God often leads us to repentance by giving us various afflictions or tribulations. Sadly, we humans often need such an approach to get our attention! Also, we will look at the reality of the existence of hell and the mystery of sin and redemption. Let us read on ...

AUGUSTINE & TRIBULATION

~RECOVER HIS GRACE~

"St. Augustine tells us: My brethren, let us convince ourselves of what I have undertaken to show you today, namely, that God does not afflict us in this life for our injury but for our good, in order that we may cease from sin, and by recovering His grace escape eternal punishment. And I will give My fear in their heart, that they may not revolt from Me. ---- Jer. 32:40. The Lord says that He infuses His fear into our hearts, in order that He may enable us to triumph over our passion for earthly pleasures, for which, ungrateful that we are, we have left Him. And when sinners have left Him, how does He make them look into themselves, and recover His grace? By putting on the appearance of anger, and chastising them in this life: In Thy anger Thou shalt break the people in pieces. ----Ps. 55:8.

~A PUNISHMENT & A GRACE~

Tribulation is for the sinner at once a punishment

and a grace, says St. Augustine. ----In Ps. 38. It is a punishment inasmuch as it has been drawn down upon him by his sins; but it is a grace, and an important grace, inasmuch as it may ward eternal destruction from him, and is an assurance that God means to deal mercifully with him if he look into himself, and receive with thankfulness that tribulation which has opened his eyes to his miserable condition, and invites him to return to God. Let us then be converted, my brethren, and we shall escape from our several chastisements: "Why should he who accepts chastisement as a grace be afraid after receiving it?" says St. Augustine. He who turns to God, smarting from the scourge, has no longer anything to fear, because God scourges only in order that we may return to Him; and this end once obtained, the Lord will scourge us no more." For the complete article, please go to: <http://thecatholicreader.blogspot.com/2013/12/god-chastises-us-in-this-life-for-our.html#more>

THE EXISTENCE OF HELL

~THE GATE IS NARROW~

"Hell is not just a theoretical possibility. Jesus warns us that real people go there. He says, "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Matt. 7:13-14).

~ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM GOD~

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states: "The teaching of the Church affirms the existence of hell and its eternity. Immediately after death the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, 'eternal fire.' The chief punishment of hell is eternal separation from God, in whom alone man can possess the life and happiness for which he was created and for which he longs" (CCC 1035).

~TEACH IT & PREACH IT~

In his 1994 book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, Pope John Paul II wrote that too often "preachers, catechists, teachers . . . no longer have the courage to preach the threat of hell" (p. 183). Concerning the

reality of hell, the pope says, "In point of fact, the ancient councils rejected the theory . . . according to which the world would be regenerated after destruction, and every creature would be saved; a theory which abolished hell. . . . [T]he words of Christ are unequivocal. In Matthew's Gospel he speaks clearly of those who will go to eternal punishment (cf. Matt. 25:46). [But] who will these be? The Church has never made any pronouncement in this regard" (pp. 185-6). Thus the issue that some will go to hell is decided, but the issue of who in particular will go to hell is undecided." For entire article, go to: <http://www.catholic.com/tracts/the-hell-there-is>

THE MYSTERY OF SIN

~WHY WE MUST NOT DESPAIR~

After reading these somewhat sobering articles, we might be tempted to despair. But don't!! Take a look at the following essay: "Read Romans 7, 14-24. Read it again. *Carefully*. Every word of it. I know that it is a rather long citation, but it is necessary and profitable to you. Have you read it? Good. Now, let's begin. You've sinned... *seriously*. The very thing that you were determined never to do again ... you have just done. You even knew it as you were doing it. And you went ahead and did it anyway. Right? It's almost like a second self, and you are watching it abstractly, aware of what is going on, but somehow strangely detached from it. The Siren Song of the moment seems to block out everything else, and you know that it is, after all, "just this one time more and that's it!". In fact, it has already entered your heart – the sin – you have already committed it in thought, in desire, in intention – and the guilt will accrue to you even if you don't actually do it ... so ... why not? If you're going to pay the penalty you may as well at least enjoy the sin. I wonder who could be whispering this so persuasively to you ...?

~REGRET VS SORROW~

And now the devil has you in his grip – even more now than in your sin, for you flee from God, hide under something selfish and false called "regret", rather than coming forth with something genuine called "sorrow". You crawl into darkness, that terrible vortex of despair that would carry you off to death ... instead of contrition that will bring you back to life. What a victory! For that miserable serpent. What a loss ... for God, for the Church ... for you. The mystery of sin. The utter ability of sin to blind! St. Paul understood this, even as he stumbled

to understand the terrible power of sin. "For I do not that good which I will; but the evil which I hate, that I do."

~WHY WE MUST NOT DESPAIR~

Hello? Still with me? That was Saint Paul. *Saint Paul!* We must admire him tremendously! He did not put a veneer over the struggle, nor excuse himself in his failure to vanquish it. But what answer does St. Paul come up with to this terrible enigma? In the agony of his sin, he cries out, "*Unhappy man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*" But in the next breath he answers his own question – and ours: "*The grace of God, by Jesus Christ our Lord.*" **HE** will deliver me! His grace will deliver me. The Jesus Christ that he proclaimed from Corinth to Galatia, that Jesus Who came to call not the righteous but sinners, to gather the lost, to go after "the one who strayed", to go, not to those who are not sick, but to the sick! **Jesus Christ** is his answer! **Mercy** is his answer! **Forgiveness** is his answer! ... In other words, **all the things you despair of!** They are there for you – in abundance. Were it never required of God, how could we call Him Merciful? Were it never required of God, how could we call Him Loving? Were it never required of God, how would we call Him forgiving? ... [S]in remains a great mystery. Its ugliness, its hideousness, its malignant deformity, by and large remains hidden from us. But we do have clues. We can often see the **consequences** of our sins ... and they are devastating! Even so, we see the mere superficialities (outer appearance). The more apparent effects that are, even in their terrible penalty, opaque to our understanding – we do not see the hidden effect of sin, how frightfully it affects the entire Church, the lives of others of whom we have no inkling – how sin, our sin, leeches into the suffering of others! **The mystery of sin** is so closely tied up with the greater mystery of forgiveness. Ironically, we could sooner understand the mystery of sin – before we could arrive at an understanding of **the far greater mystery of forgiveness**. Yes, you've sinned. Grievously. Recognize this. Ask God's mercy and forgiveness. Go to Confession. If your heart is sincere, He knows this, and His forgiveness is that of a Father's to a Prodigal son. Unstinting. Joyous. Overwhelming. Overflowing. Take! Receive! Embrace! What are you waiting for? **He loves you!** As to that fatal whisper of despair? Tell the devil to go to Hell, and get up and move on. You've work to do!" For entire essay, go to: <http://www.boston-catholic-journal.com/the-mystery-of-sin-why-we-must-not-despair.htm>

CATEDRAL DE ST. EUGENE'S — 27 de Agosto del 2023
21° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

SOBRE EL PECADO Y LA SALVACION

~DEL PASTOR~

Tanto la primera lectura como el Evangelio de hoy nos hablan del poder otorgado a Eliaquim y Pedro para desatar y atar. Me gustaría analizar este poder en relación con el pecado y el perdón ofrecido a quienes se arrepienten y se confiesan. Cuando un sacerdote nos da la absolución al final de una buena confesión, vemos el poder de liberarnos de las garras del demonio y de volver a un estado de gracia. Si uno no hace una buena confesión, tal vez por no estar arrepentido o por retener a propósito los pecados mortales, el sacerdote también puede optar por no absolver al penitente, por lo que sigue atado al diablo en su pecado. Este poder otorgado a la Iglesia y a sus sacerdotes es una gran responsabilidad, porque las almas penden de un hilo. Como esto es tan importante, quiero compartir un sermón de San Agustín que señala cómo Dios a menudo nos lleva al arrepentimiento dándonos diversas aflicciones o tribulaciones. Lamentablemente, ¡los seres humanos a menudo necesitamos un método así para llamar nuestra atención! Además, examinaremos la realidad de la existencia del infierno y el misterio del pecado y la redención. Sigamos leyendo ...

AUGUSTÍN Y LA TRIBULACIÓN

~RECUPERA SU GRACIA~

"San Agustín nos dice: Hermanos míos, convenzámonos de lo que hoy me he comprometido a mostrarles, a saber, que Dios no nos aflige en esta vida para nuestro perjuicio, sino para nuestro bien, a fin de que dejemos de pecar y, recobrando su gracia, escapemos al castigo eterno. Y daré Mi temor en su corazón, para que no se rebelen contra Mí. ----Jer. 32:40. El Señor dice que infunde Su temor en nuestros corazones, para que nos permita triunfar sobre nuestra pasión por los placeres terrenales, por los cuales, ingratos que somos, Le hemos abandonado. Y cuando los pecadores lo han abandonado, ¿cómo hace para que se miren a sí mismos y recobren su gracia? Poniendo en ellos la apariencia de la cólera, y castigándolos en esta vida: Con tu cólera despedazarás a los pueblos. ----Ps. 55:8.

~UN CASTIGO Y UNA GRACIA~

La tribulación es para el pecador a la vez un castigo y una gracia, dice San Agustín. ----En Sal. 38. Es un castigo en la medida en que ha sido atraído sobre él por sus pecados; pero es una gracia, y una gracia importante, en la medida en que puede alejar de él la destrucción eterna, y es una garantía de que Dios tiene la intención de tratar misericordiosamente con él si mira dentro de sí mismo, y recibe con agradecimiento esa tribulación que ha abierto sus ojos a su condición miserable y le invita a volver a Dios. Convirtámonos, pues, hermanos míos, y →

escaparemos de nuestros diversos castigos: "¿Por qué ha de tener miedo después de recibirlo quien acepta el castigo como una gracia?", dice San Agustín. El que se vuelve a Dios, escocido por el azote, ya no tiene nada que temer, porque Dios sólo azota para que volvamos a Él; y una vez obtenido este fin, el Señor no nos azotará más."

LA EXISTENCIA DEL INFIERNO

~LA PUERTA ES ESTRECHA~

El infierno no es sólo una posibilidad teórica. Jesús nos advierte que personas reales van allí. Dice: "Entrad por la puerta estrecha; porque ancha es la puerta y espacioso el camino que lleva a la perdición, y muchos son los que entran por ella. Porque estrecha es la puerta y angosto el camino que lleva a la vida, y pocos son los que la hallan" (Mt. 7:13-14).

~SEPARACIÓN ETERNA DE DIOS~

El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica afirma: "La enseñanza de la Iglesia afirma la existencia del infierno y su eternidad. Inmediatamente después de la muerte, las almas de los que mueren en estado de pecado mortal descienden al infierno, donde sufren las penas del infierno, 'fuego eterno'. La principal pena del infierno es la separación eterna de Dios, en quien sólo el hombre puede poseer la vida y la felicidad para la que ha sido creado y que anhela" (CIC 1035).

~ENSEÑARLO Y PREDICARLO~

En su libro de 1994, Cruzar el umbral de la esperanza, el Papa Juan Pablo II escribió que con demasiada frecuencia "predicadores, catequistas, maestros... ya no tienen el valor de predicar la amenaza del infierno" (p. 183). Con respecto a la realidad del infierno, el Papa dice: "En efecto, los antiguos concilios rechazaron la teoría. . . según la cual el mundo sería regenerado después de la destrucción, y toda criatura se salvaría; teoría que abolía el infierno. . . [Las palabras de Cristo son inequívocas. En el Evangelio de Mateo habla claramente de los que irán al castigo eterno (cf. Mt. 25:46). [¿Pero quiénes serán éstos? La Iglesia nunca se ha pronunciado al respecto" (pp. 185-6). Así pues, la cuestión de que algunos irán al infierno está decidida, pero la cuestión de quiénes en particular irán al infierno está indecisa".

EL MISTERIO DEL PECADO

~POR QUÉ NO DEBEMOS DESESPERAR~

Después de leer estos artículos un tanto aleccionadores, podríamos caer en la tentación de desesperar. Pero no lo hagáis. Eche un vistazo al siguiente ensayo: "Lea Romanos 7, 14-24. Léalo otra vez. Con atención. Cada palabra. Sé que es una cita bastante larga, pero es necesaria y →

provechosa para ti. ¿Lo has leído? Sí. Ahora, comencemos. Has pecado... *en serio*. Lo que estabas decidido a no volver a hacer... lo acabas de hacer. Incluso lo sabías mientras lo hacías. Y seguiste adelante y lo hiciste de todos modos. ¿No es cierto? Es casi como un segundo yo, y lo estás observando de forma abstracta, consciente de lo que está pasando, pero de algún modo extrañamente ajeno a ello. El canto de sirena del momento parece bloquear todo lo demás, y sabes que, después de todo, es "sólo esta vez más y ya está". De hecho, ya ha entrado en tu corazón - el pecado - ya lo has cometido en pensamiento, en deseo, en intención - y la culpa se te acumulará aunque no lo hagas realmente... así que... ¿por qué no? Si vas a pagar la pena, al menos puedes disfrutar del pecado. Me pregunto quién podría estar susurrando esto tan persuasivamente a usted ...?

~ARREPENTIMIENTO VS DOLOR~

Y ahora el diablo te tiene en sus garras - aún más ahora que en tu pecado, porque huyes de Dios, te escondes bajo algo egoísta y falso llamado "arrepentimiento", en lugar de salir con algo genuino llamado "tristeza". Te arrastras hacia las tinieblas, ese terrible vórtice de desesperación que te llevaría a la muerte... en lugar de la contrición que te devolverá a la vida. ¡Qué victoria! Para esa miserable serpiente. Qué pérdida... para Dios, para la Iglesia... para ti. El misterio del pecado. La absoluta capacidad del pecado para cegar. San Pablo entendió esto, incluso mientras tropezaba para comprender el terrible poder del pecado. "*Porque no hago el bien que quiero, sino el mal que aborrezco, ese hago*".

~PORQUE NO DEBEMOS DESESPERAR~

Hola? ¿Sigues conmigo? Ese era San Pablo. ¡*San Pablo!* ¡Debemos admirarlo tremendamente! No puso un barniz sobre la lucha, ni se excusó en su fracaso para vencerla. Pero, ¿qué respuesta da San Pablo a este terrible enigma? En la agonía de su pecado, grita: "*Infeliz de mí, ¿quién me libraré del cuerpo de esta muerte?*". Pero en el siguiente suspiro responde a su propia pregunta, y a la nuestra: "*La gracia de Dios, por Jesucristo nuestro Señor*". ¡ÉL me libraré! Su gracia me libraré. El Jesucristo que proclamó desde Corinto a Galacia, ese Jesús que vino a llamar no a justos sino a pecadores, a recoger a los perdidos, a ir tras "el descarriado", a ir, no a los que no están enfermos, ¡sino a los enfermos! ¡*Jesucristo* es su respuesta! La *Misericordia* es su respuesta. ¡*El perdón* es su respuesta! ... En otras palabras, *¡todas las cosas de las que desesperas!* Están ahí para ti - en abundancia. Si a Dios no se le exigiera, ¿cómo podríamos llamarle misericordioso? Si nunca se le hubiera exigido a Dios, ¿cómo podríamos llamarle Amoroso? Si nunca se le hubiera exigido a Dios, ¿cómo podríamos llamarle perdonador? ...

El pecado sigue siendo un gran misterio. Su fealdad, su horror, su deformidad maligna, por lo general permanece oculta para nosotros. Pero tenemos pistas. A menudo podemos ver las *consecuencias* de nuestros pecados... ¡y son devastadoras! Aun así, vemos la mera superficie (apariencia exterior). Los efectos más aparentes que son, incluso en su terrible penalidad, opacos a nuestra comprensión -no vemos el efecto oculto del pecado, cuán espantosamente afecta a toda la Iglesia, a la vida de otros de los que no tenemos ni idea-, ¡cómo el pecado, nuestro pecado, hace sanguijuelas en el sufrimiento de los demás! *El misterio del pecado* está tan íntimamente ligado al misterio mayor del perdón. Irónicamente, podríamos comprender antes el misterio del pecado, antes de llegar a comprender el misterio mucho mayor del perdón. Sí, has pecado. Gravemente. Reconócelo. Pide la misericordia y el perdón de Dios. Confiésate. Si tu corazón es sincero, Él lo sabe, y Su perdón es el de un Padre a un hijo pródigo. Inquebrantable. Gozoso. Sobrecogedor. Desbordante. ¡Toma! Reciban. ¡Abraza! ¿A qué esperas? ¡*Él te ama!* ¿Y ese susurro fatal de desesperación? Dile al diablo que se vaya al infierno, y levántate y sigue adelante. Tienes trabajo que hacer".

~AVISO DE FECHA LÍMITE~

Fecha límite para presentar reclamaciones por abuso u otras reclamaciones contra la Diócesis de Santa Rosa con respecto a: El Obispo Católico Romano de Santa Rosa, Caso No. 23-10113.

El 13 de marzo de 2023, el Obispo Católico de Santa Rosa, también conocido como Diócesis de Santa Rosa, ("Deudor") solicitó protección bajo el Capítulo 11 del Código de Bancarrota.

Si usted fue víctima de abuso sexual por parte de cualquier persona relacionada con el Deudor, debe presentar su reclamo para que se reciba antes del 20 de octubre de 2023, o de lo contrario el derecho de reclamo contra el Deudor se bloqueará, prohibirá, e impedirá para siempre.

Las reclamaciones basadas en actos u omisiones del Deudor que ocurrieron antes del 13 de marzo de 2023 deben presentarse antes del 20 de octubre de 2023, incluso si dichas reclamaciones no están fijadas, liquidadas o ciertas o no se fijaron, liquidaron, o vencieron antes del 13 de marzo de 2023. Para obtener más información sobre cómo obtener y presentar un formulario de prueba de reclamación y los documentos asociados, visite www.donlinrecano.com/rcbsr, o comuníquese con Donlin, Recano & Company, Inc., agente de reclamaciones del Deudor por correo electrónico a rcbsantarosainfo@drcequiniti.com o al número gratuito 1-800-236-1551, de 9:00 a. m. y las 5:00 p.m. (Hora del Este) de lunes a viernes.

Si tiene preguntas sobre el caso de bancarrota presentado por la Diócesis de Santa Rosa, visite también el sitio web <https://srdiocese.org> y siga los enlaces correspondientes al Capítulo 11 de Reorganización.

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