



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 the North end of the 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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – OCTOBER 1, 2023

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY OCTOBER 1

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

MONDAY OCTOBER 2

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

TUESDAY OCTOBER 3

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Women of the Word – PLC – 9:00 am
Parish School of Religion – 3:45 pm – Becker Ctr.
Latin Mass – Cathedral – 5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4

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

THURSDAY OCTOBER 5

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

FRIDAY OCTOBER 6

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

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7

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 – PLC – 5:30 pm

2nd COLLECTION INFORMATION

~RELIGIOUS EDUCATION~

This weekend, Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, the Second Collection will be for our Religious Education Program. Next weekend, October 7 & 8, our Second Collection will be for our school's Tuition Assistance Program.

ST. EUGENE SCHOOL NEWS

~BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS~

On Wednesday, October 4, in honor of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, there will be a blessing of pets in the St. Eugene Schoolyard at 8:30 am. All parishioners are welcome to bring their pets on leashes or in carriers. There will also be a school tour given on Friday, October 13, at 9:00 a.m. Simply go to the school office if you wish to take part in the tour! Call 707-545-7252 for more information.

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of: 9/17/23

Sunday Donations Received:	\$12,076.
Second Collection: Tuition Assistance Program	\$3,406.

~ CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS ~

October is the month of the Holy Rosary, and all of our rosaries are 25% off all month! Take advantage of our special and purchase one or more of our custom-made "St Eugene Rosaries". We also have plastic rosaries and high-end beautiful rosaries that would be perfect as a gift. The word rosary comes from Latin and means a garland of roses, the rose being one of the flowers used to symbolize our Blessed Mother. We only do this once a year, so come inside and see our great selection. 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.

~UPDATE YOUR RECORDS ~

Have you changed your address? Phone number? Email address? 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 all her at 542-6984 ext. 10

~ CREDIT CARD DONATIONS ~

Consider paying your parish contributions with your credit card. Log into our website (www.steugenes.com) and select "Give Now". The system allows you to manage your own donations online including Sunday plate, second collections, etc. The amounts are automatically credited to your giving history. If you need assistance setting up your account, please contact the parish office bookkeeper, Eileen, at 542-6984, ext. 13.

~"MY CATHOLIC FAITH"~

Way back on the First Sunday of Advent, 2014, I began sharing articles with you concerning the Catholic Faith that I found to be compelling. I knew that not everyone had a computer or was computer-savvy and so, it seemed like a great way for all of us to stay informed as well as to learn more about our Faith. Unfortunately, with my departure coming up at the end of the month, I will have to stop doing this. Therefore, next Sunday, October 8th, will be the last time I run any articles for the "My Catholic Faith Section" of the bulletin. As of October 15th, you will notice a much thinner bulletin as a result. I hope you enjoyed reading the articles as much as I enjoyed sharing them with you! God bless, Fr. Epperson

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	September 30
8:00 am	Esmeralda Lopez, deceased
4:30 pm	Alfonsina Masi, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp)	Elin Vasquez, living
Sunday	October 1
7:30 am	Elizabeth Archard, deceased
9:00 am	People of St. Eugene's
10:30 am	Peter Nelson, living
12:00 pm	Deirdre & Martin Brian McCormick, II, deceased
1:30 pm (EF)	Wynn Hayes, deceased
5:30 pm	Diana & Solo Rucumu, living
Monday	October 22
6:45 am	Sister Maria Fatima, living
8:00 am	James F. Ernst, deceased
Tuesday	October 3
6:45 am	Sister Mary Emmanuel, living
8:00 am	Mike Pendergast, deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Milton Olson, deceased
Wednesday	October 4
6:45 am	Bernadette DeSouza, deceased
8:00 am	Anna & Ivan Roberto Aviles, deceased
Thursday	October 5
6:45 am	Joshua Leon, living
8:00 am	Jon Milford Stark, deceased
Friday	October 6
6:45 am	Clarita Fantone, deceased
8:00 am	Verah Bugbee, living
12:00 pm (Hosp)	Edward, Jean & George Haun, deceased
Saturday	October 7
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	For the Carol Family, living & deceased
6:30 (Sp)	Maria Tran, deceased

~EVENING ROSARY~

The month of October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, so on Friday, October 13th, the 106th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun in Fatima, at 7:00 pm, you are invited to come to the Cathedral for praying of the Rosary and recitation of the Litany of the Saints. An ice cream social will follow in the PLC!

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~BLUE MASS~

Next Sunday, October 8, Bishop Vasa will celebrate a "Blue" Mass at 10:30 am. A Blue Mass is a Mass celebrated annually in the church for those employed in the field of public safety, which includes police officers, firefighters, corrections officers and paramedics. In the United States, the Blue Mass tradition began in September 1934, when Father Thomas Dade of the Archdiocese of Baltimore formed the Catholic Police and Fireman's Society. That year, the first Blue Mass was celebrated for police officers and firefighters. The name comes from the traditional uniform color associated with law enforcement. If you or a family member is in the field of Public Safety, please mark this date on your calendar and join us at the Cathedral for Holy Mass!

RESPECT LIFE NEWS

~OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH~

Since 1973, the year the Supreme Court legalized abortion nationwide in *Roe v. Wade*, the month of October has been set aside by the U.S. bishops as a time to focus on protecting God's precious gift of human life. While we thank God that the terrible reign of *Roe* has ended, we also recognize that abortion still continues in most states and is aggressively promoted at the federal level. A great many prayers, sacrifices, and good works are still desperately needed to transform a culture of death into a culture of life. Our public witness, our marching, and our advocacy must continue... You will find prayer cards in the vestibules of the church. Please take one home with you and pray for a change of heart and mind for those who think of abortion as a viable choice.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

~SINGLES POTLUCK~

We have our Singles Potluck on the first Saturday of each month, so that means that our meeting will be on October 7th this month! 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 as we share good food, pray together and mingle! Call Deborah Jones to RSVP or to get more information at: 310-600-2359.

~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, 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, Rosalie Elliott and Eric Oser.

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

GOD'S WILL

~FROM THE PASTOR~

Much like our readings of last week, we see the theme of complaint in this week's readings. In our first reading from the prophet Ezekiel, we read that the House of Israel says, "The Lord's way is not fair!" The Lord continues, "Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair? We also see in the Gospel of St. Mathew, the parable of the two sons - Where the one son said he would work in the vineyard, but then did not, and the other one said, "No, I won't go into the vineyard and work," but later changed his mind. Of course, the son who ended up working in the vineyard is the one who did God's will. Why, because he changed, did an about face ... he obeyed God! Also, in last week's bulletin, we saw that Oscar Wilde was one of several deathbed conversions mentioned in the article about, "Deathbed Conversions; Finding Faith at the Finish Line" by Karen Edmisten. His story is such a powerful one, that it is worth sharing in detail. So, first, let us take a look at the issues of seeking our own will over God's will and having a change of heart and choosing to do God's will after all and another look at Oscar Wilde.

MAN'S WILL

~CONTRACEPTION~

The first area in which we seek to assert our own human will over God's will, is in the teaching concerning artificial contraception. From the very start, Christians condemned contraceptive relations. Both forms mentioned in the Bible, coitus interruptus and sterilization, are condemned without exception (Gen. 38:9-10, Deut. 23:1). The early Fathers recognized that the purpose of marital intimacy in natural law is procreation; contraceptive relations, which deliberately blocks that purpose, is a violation of natural law. Every denomination in Christendom condemned contraception until 1930, when, at its Lambeth Conference, Anglicanism gave permission for the use of contraception in a few cases. Soon all Protestant denominations had adopted the secularist position on contraception. Today not one stands with the Catholic Church to maintain the ancient Christian faith on this issue.

Persons who employ artificial means deny the will of God and actually set their wills in His place. Birth regulation through the use of natural family planning (NFP) is licit and, unlike the artificial methods, contributes to marital unity.

~ABORTION~

Many people today feel that abortion is an inherent right. This is another instance in which it is often said that the Lord's way is "unfair." Why saddle a woman with an "unwanted" child? In looking at the Catechism of the Catholic Church we see that: 1. The right to life is the right without which all other rights are rendered meaningless. Every Christian has the *duty* to protect human life from conception. 2. Every human life is of equal value, and all human lives are of infinite value. 3. Laws which permit the killing of prenatal human life are illicit, and no Christian may cooperate with them. 4. The killing of the unborn by abortion will inevitably lead to other abuses against human life, including infanticide and euthanasia. 5. Abortion can never be made allowable, regardless of circumstances. These include rape, incest, fetal deformity, maternal physical and mental health, or any economic or social indicator. 6. The principle of the "double effect" is licit in the instance where an operation must be performed on a pregnant woman for the purpose of saving her life, 7. All Catholics, including medical personnel and lay people, may never perform or assist in any manner the procurement of an abortion. Any such action leads to instant excommunication. 8. The Catholic Church has always opposed abortion for any reason, contrary to the propaganda offered by certain enemies of the Church.

~EUTHENASIA~

So-called "mercy killing" is the third area that modern man seeks to assert his will over God's will. Under the guise of compassion and mercy, we hear the same old slogan: "You are being unfair! I have the right to choose when to end my own life!" First of all ... 1. No human being has the right to end his own life, because this life is a gift from God. 2. Laws that allow or encourage euthanasia or infanticide can never be legitimate. 3. The Church does not require that the process of dying be prolonged to the maximum extent possible through the use of "heroic

measures."4. The use of painkilling drugs by a person in extreme agony is not immoral, but he should be conscious before death in order to properly prepare to meet God

~SAME-SEX MARRIAGE~

The fourth area that is deemed "unfair" in the eyes of many, is the Church teaching on "Gay marriage." Since its very beginning, the Church has taught that there is a natural and intrinsic connection between sex and babies, and this teaching – rooted in biology – influences the Church's unchangeable positions on contraception, marriage and a host of other "reproductive issues."

DEATH BED CONVERSION

~OSCAR WILDE~

"Oscar Wilde is one of the most famous 19th century authors and playwrights, having written such works as *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. What is less known about him is that, after years of flirting with the Church, he had a death bed conversion to Catholicism. Born in Dublin, Ireland in 1854, Wilde was baptized as an infant in an Anglican church. His mother, Jane, however, was drawn to Catholicism and would often visit Mass. When Oscar was a young child, she asked her local priest to instruct her children in the Catholic faith, though it's unclear if she herself ever joined the Church officially. Wilde, though he received some Catholic instruction, did not consider himself a Catholic growing up. ... In 1877, at the age of 23, he traveled to Rome and had a meeting with Pope Pius IX that left him "speechless," and he started reading the books of Bl. John Cardinal Newman. He is quoted as having said, the Catholic Church is "for saints and sinners alone – for respectable people, the Anglican Church will do." In 1878, he befriended a priest and scheduled a date on which he would be received officially into the Church. But his family was against it: his father threatened to cut off his funds if he joined. At the last minute, Wilde decided against joining. Years later in 1895, after having achieved literary fame, he was accused of sodomy, or of having committed homosexual acts, which was illegal in England at the time. After a lengthy public trial, he was convicted and sentenced to two years of hard labor. During his time in prison his health declined, but he also experienced a spiritual renewal.

Upon release, he made a request to the Society of Jesus for a six month retreat. Unfortunately, he was turned down. Reports say he wept at hearing the rejection. Nonetheless, he told a journalist regarding the Catholic Church, "I intend to be received before long." But he left England for France, where he lived for a few years depressed and in poverty, spending the little money he had on alcohol. In 1900, he developed cerebral meningitis and became very sick. When it became clear he might die, his friend and apparent homosexual lover Robbie Ross who was with him called for a Catholic priest. When the priest arrived, Wilde requested to be received into the Catholic Church. The priest later recounted how it happened: "As the carriage rolled through the dark streets that wintry night, the sad story of Oscar Wilde was in part repeated to me..." "Robert Ross knelt by the bedside, assisting me as best he could while I administered conditional baptism, and afterwards answering the responses while I gave Extreme Unction to the prostrate man and recited the prayers for the dying. "As the man was in a semi-comatose condition, I did not venture to administer the Holy Viaticum [Eucharist]; still I must add that he could be roused and was roused from this state in my presence. When roused, he gave signs of being inwardly conscious..." "Indeed I was fully satisfied that he understood me when told that I was about to receive him into the Catholic Church and gave him the Last Sacraments... And when I repeated close to his ear the Holy Names, the Acts of Contrition, Faith, Hope and Charity, with acts of humble resignation to the Will of God, he tried all through to say the words after me." The next day, Wilde died." <https://churchpop.com/2015/10/27/the-deathbed-conversion-of-oscar-wilde/>

~THE BIBLE ON LAST MINUTE CONVERSION~

The Bible warns us concerning the brevity of the human lifespan. "You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). We are not instructed to consider converting someday, but to believe today! "Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts" (Hebrews 3:7-8, 14; 4:7). None of us knows how much time we have left in this life or what the circumstances of our death will be. We may die in a sudden, unexpected manner that will preclude a death-bed conversion. The only reasonable option is to repent and believe in Jesus Christ today. Many people die without having the experience of an extended amount of time on a death bed. Many people die instantly and unexpectedly, with no opportunity to trust in Christ. 2 Corinthians 6:2 declares, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." www.gotquestions.org/death-bed-conversion.html

CATEDRAL DE ST. EUGENE'S — 10 de Octubre del 2023
26° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

LA VOLUNTAD DE DIOS

~DEL PASTOR~

Al igual que en nuestras lecturas de la semana pasada, vemos el tema de la queja en las lecturas de esta semana. En nuestra primera lectura del profeta Ezequiel, leemos que la Casa de Israel dice: "¡El camino del Señor no es justo!" El Señor continúa: "¿Es mi camino el que es injusto, o más bien, no son injustos vuestros caminos? Nosotros también vemos en el Evangelio de San Mateo, la parábola de los dos hijos: donde un hijo dijo que trabajaría en la viña, pero luego no lo hizo, y el otro dijo: "No, no iré a la viña". viña y trabajo", pero luego cambió de opinión. Claro, el hijo que terminó trabajando en la viña es el que hizo la voluntad de Dios. Pues, porque cambió, dio un giro... ¡obedeció a Dios! Además, en el último En el boletín de esta semana, vimos que Oscar Wilde fue una de varias conversiones en el lecho de muerte mencionadas en el artículo sobre "Conversiones en el lecho de muerte; encontrar la fe en la línea de meta" de Karen Edmisten. Su historia es tan poderosa que vale la pena compartirla en detalle. Entonces, primero, echemos un vistazo a las cuestiones de buscar nuestra propia voluntad por encima de la voluntad de Dios y tener un cambio de corazón y elegir hacer la voluntad de Dios después de todo y otra mirada a Oscar Wilde.

LA VOLUNTAD DE EL HOMBRE

~CONTRACEPCIÓN~

La primera área en la que buscamos hacer valer nuestra propia voluntad humana sobre la voluntad de Dios es la enseñanza sobre la anticoncepción artificial. Desde el principio, los cristianos condenaron las relaciones anticonceptivas. Ambas formas mencionadas en la Biblia, el coitus interruptus y la esterilización, están condenadas sin excepción (Gén. 38:9-10, Deuteronomio 23:1). Los primeros Padres reconocieron que el propósito de la intimidad conyugal en el derecho natural es la procreación; Las relaciones anticonceptivas, que deliberadamente bloquean ese propósito, son una violación de la ley natural. Todas las denominaciones de la cristiandad condenaron la anticoncepción hasta 1930, cuando, en su Conferencia de Lambeth, el anglicanismo autorizó el uso de anticonceptivos en unos pocos casos. Pronto todas las denominaciones protestantes adoptaron la posición secularista sobre la anticoncepción. Hoy en día nadie apoya a la Iglesia Católica para mantener la antigua fe cristiana en este tema.

Las personas que emplean medios artificiales niegan la voluntad de Dios y de hecho ponen su voluntad en su lugar. La regulación de la natalidad mediante el uso de la planificación familiar natural (PFN) es lícita y, a diferencia de los métodos artificiales, contribuye a la unidad matrimonial.

~ABORTO~

Mucha gente hoy siente que el aborto es un derecho inherente. Este es otro caso en el que a menudo se dice que el camino del Señor es "injusto". ¿Por qué cargar a una mujer con un hijo "no deseado"? Al examinar el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica vemos que: 1. El derecho a la vida es el derecho sin el cual todos los demás derechos pierden sentido. Todo cristiano tiene el deber de proteger la vida humana desde la concepción. 2. Cada vida humana tiene el mismo valor y todas las vidas humanas tienen un valor infinito. 3. Las leyes que permiten matar la vida humana prenatal son ilícitas y ningún cristiano puede cooperar con ellas. 4. La matanza de los no nacidos mediante el aborto conducirá inevitablemente a otros abusos contra la vida humana, incluidos el infanticidio y la eutanasia. 5. El aborto nunca puede permitirse, independientemente de las circunstancias. Estos incluyen violación, incesto, deformidad fetal, salud física y mental materna, o cualquier indicador económico o social. 6. El principio del "doble efecto" es lícito en el caso en que deba realizarse una operación a una mujer embarazada con el fin de salvarle la vida. 7. Todos los católicos, incluido el personal médico y los laicos, nunca podrán realizar o asistir en cualquier forma la procuración de un aborto. Cualquier acción de este tipo conduce a la excomunión instantánea. 8. La Iglesia Católica siempre se ha opuesto al aborto por cualquier motivo, contrariamente a la propaganda ofrecida por ciertos enemigos de la Iglesia.

~EUTENASIA~

El llamado "asesinato por piedad" es la tercera área en la que el hombre moderno busca hacer valer su voluntad sobre la voluntad de Dios. Bajo la apariencia de compasión y misericordia, escuchamos el mismo viejo eslogan: "¡Estás siendo injusto! ¡Tengo derecho a elegir cuándo poner fin a mi propia vida! Primero que nada... 1. Ningún ser humano tiene derecho a poner fin a su propia vida, porque esta vida es un don de Dios. 2. Las leyes que permiten o fomentan la eutanasia o el infanticidio nunca pueden ser legítimas. 3. La Iglesia no exige que el proceso de morir se prolongue al máximo posible mediante el uso de "medidas heroicas".

"4. El uso de analgésicos por parte de una persona en agonía extrema no es inmoral, pero debe estar consciente antes de morir para prepararse adecuadamente para encontrarse con Dios.

~MATRIMONIO DEL MISMO SEXO~

La cuarta área que muchos consideran "injusta" es la enseñanza de la Iglesia sobre el "matrimonio homosexual". Desde sus inicios, la Iglesia ha enseñado que existe una conexión natural e intrínseca entre el sexo y los bebés, y esta enseñanza -arraigada en la biología- influye en las posiciones inmutables de la Iglesia sobre la anticoncepción, el matrimonio y una serie de otras "cuestiones reproductivas".

CONVERSIÓN EN EL LECHO DE MUERTE

~OSCAR WILDE~

"Oscar Wilde es uno de los autores y dramaturgos más famosos del siglo XIX y ha escrito obras como El retrato de Dorian Gray y La importancia de llamarse Ernesto. Lo que se sabe menos sobre él es que, después de años de coquetear con la Iglesia, se convirtió al catolicismo en su lecho de muerte. Nacido en Dublín, Irlanda, en 1854, Wilde fue bautizado cuando era niño en una iglesia anglicana. Su madre, Jane, sin embargo, se sentía atraída por el catolicismo y solía asistir a misa. Cuando Oscar era un niño pequeño, le pidió a su sacerdote local que instruyera a sus hijos en la fe católica, aunque no está claro si ella misma alguna vez se unió oficialmente a la Iglesia. Wilde, aunque recibió cierta instrucción católica, no se consideraba católico mientras crecía. ... En 1877, a la edad de 23 años, viajó a Roma y tuvo un encuentro con el Papa Pío IX que lo dejó "sin palabras", y comenzó a leer los libros del beato Cardenal John Newman. Se le cita diciendo que la Iglesia Católica es "sólo para santos y pecadores; para personas respetables, la Iglesia Anglicana servirá". En 1878, se hizo amigo de un sacerdote y fijó una fecha en la que sería recibido oficialmente en la Iglesia. Pero su familia estaba en contra: su padre amenazó con cortar sus fondos si se unía. En el último momento Wilde decidió no unirse. Años más tarde, en 1895, tras haber alcanzado fama literaria, fue acusado de sodomía, o de haber cometido actos homosexuales, algo que en aquella época era ilegal en Inglaterra. Después de un largo juicio público, fue declarado culpable y sentenciado a dos años de trabajos forzados. Durante su estancia en prisión su salud empeoró, pero también experimentó una renovación espiritual.

Al ser liberado, solicitó a la Compañía de Jesús un retiro de seis meses. Desafortunadamente, fue rechazado. Los informes dicen que lloró al escuchar el rechazo. Sin embargo, le dijo a un periodista sobre la Iglesia católica: "Tengo la intención de ser recibido pronto". Pero dejó Inglaterra para ir a Francia, donde vivió unos años deprimido y en la pobreza, gastando el poco dinero que tenía en alcohol. En 1900, desarrolló meningitis cerebral y enfermó gravemente. Cuando quedó claro que podría morir, su amigo y aparente amante homosexual Robbie Ross, que estaba con él, llamó a un sacerdote católico. Cuando llegó el sacerdote, Wilde solicitó ser recibido en la Iglesia Católica. Más tarde, el sacerdote contó cómo sucedió: "Mientras el carruaje avanzaba por las calles oscuras aquella noche invernal, me repitieron en parte la triste historia de Oscar Wilde..." Robert Ross se arrodilló junto a la cama, ayudándome lo mejor que pudo mientras yo administré el bautismo condicional, y luego contesté las respuestas mientras daba la extremaunción al hombre postrado y recitaba las oraciones por los moribundos. "Como el hombre estaba en estado semicomatoso (estar despierto pero confundido), no me atreví a administrarle el Santo Viático [Eucaristía]; aún así debo agregar que pudo ser despertado y fue despertado de este estado en mi presencia. Cuando lo despertaban, daba señales de estar interiormente consciente... "De hecho, estaba plenamente satisfecho de que él me entendió cuando me dijo que estaba a punto de recibirlo en la Iglesia Católica y darle los últimos sacramentos... Y cuando repetí cerca de su oído la Santos Nombres, los Actos de Contrición, Fe, Esperanza y Caridad, con actos de humilde resignación a la Voluntad de Dios, intentó en todo momento decir las palabras después de mí". Al día siguiente, Wilde murió". "

<https://churchpop.com/2015/10/27/the-deathbed-conversion-of-oscar-wilde/>

~"MI FE CATÓLICA"~

Allá por el Primer Domingo de Adviento de 2014, comencé a compartir con ustedes artículos que me parecieron convincentes sobre la fe católica. Sabía que no todos tenían una computadora o eran expertos en informática, por lo que me pareció una excelente manera de mantenernos informados y aprender más sobre nuestra Fe. Desafortunadamente, a sólo unas semanas de mi partida, tendré que dejar de hacer esto. El próximo domingo 8 de octubre será la última vez que tendremos esta sección del boletín.

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