

Christ Our Light Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
9677 HIGHWAY 6 • NAVASOTA, TEXAS

OFFICES AND MAILING ADDRESS
510 Manley Street • Navasota, TX 77868

Phone: 936-825-3920 • **Fax:** 936-825-7612

Religious Education: 936-825-1869

After hour emergencies: 936-825-3920

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday

9:15am - noon & 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Friday 9:15am- noon

Other times by appointment

Website: www.christourlight.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Rev. Elias Lopéz

Grant Holt, Permanent Deacon

Gregory Jelinek, MD, Permanent Deacon (Retired)

Matthew Krusleski, Pastoral Year Seminarian

ADMINISTRATION & BOOKKEEPER

Nelda Kurten

COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Carolyn Katkoski

DIRECTOR OF LITURGY AND MUSIC

Susan Russell

SACRISTAN

Samuel Pry

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Michael Culver (Chairperson), Teresa Morales, Jason Katkoski, Laura Quirino, Gerardo Olguin, Sam Pry and Larry Busa

FINANCE COUNCIL

Teresa Morales, Ann Clark, Carolyn Katkoski

DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

Deacon Grant Holt, Jason Katkoski, Mitch Kroll, Gregorio Gonzalez

RE BOARD

President: Brandi Tejeda, Vice President: Jessica Herrera

Secretary: Teresa Morales, Board Members: Lucy Coronilla, Jason Katkoski, Allyson Sweeney, Den Grant Holt

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Larry Busa, Danny Clark, Richard Krolczyk, and Joe Rangel

YOUTH MINISTER COORDINATOR

Jessica Herrera

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm

Sunday: (English) 8:00am

Sunday: (Spanish) 1:00pm

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

First Saturday 9am

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am

Tuesday 6:00pm (English)

Thursday 6:00pm (Spanish)

ROSARY PRAYED IN COMMON

Tuesday & Thursday: 5:40pm

Wednesday & Friday: 8:10am

Saturday: 5:15pm

Sunday: 7:15am & 12:15pm

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

Tuesday, Thursday and

2nd & 4th Saturdays 5:00-5:45pm

and by appointment 936-825-3920

RECONCILIACION/CONFESIONES

Los Martes, jueves y el

segundo y cuarto sábado a las 5:00-5:45pm

y por cita 936-825-3920

Solemnity of All Saints : November 1, 2020

Christ Our Light Catholic Church • Navasota, Texas

October 31 & November 01, 2020

Under the Patronage of St. Patrick and Our Lady of Guadalupe

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02

No Mass

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03

6:00 PM Risa Sauer †

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 04

8:30 AM Smith Family, Living & Deceased

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05

8:30 AM Mike † and Clementine † Busa

6:00 PM* Angelina Tenorio†

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 06—FIRST FRIDAY

8:30 AM Spanish, Legion of Mary, Living & Deceased

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 07—FIRST SATURDAY

9:00 AM English, Legion of Mary, Living & Deceased

6:00 PM Nina Rotello †

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 08

8:00 AM Torres, Rangel & Baldobino Families

1:00 PM* People of the Parish

*Spanish

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM Confessions, Ch

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 04

6:00 PM CCE Grades 1st thru 5th—Group A

6:00 PM RCIC, SPCC

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05

12:00 PM English, Legion of Mary, CH Cry room

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM Confession, CH

7:00 PM RCIA Session, SPH

7:00 PM Spanish Prayer Group Leaders, SPCC

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 07

10:00 AM Altar Server Practice for new and returning Servers

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 08

10:15 AM CCE, Grades 6-12th—Group A

4:00 PM Workshop, PEHC and Confirmation



The Parish thanks David and Jennifer Ramirez for the Altar Flowers this past weekend.



Daylight Savings Time ends November 1st

Turn your clocks back before going to bed Saturday, October 31st.

E-Mail Addresses for the Parish

To e-mail Fr. Elias...fr.eli@christourlight.org

To e-mail Nelda: nelda@christourlight.org

To e-mail RE Board: reboard@christourlight.org

Christ Our Light web-site: www.christourlight.org

BULLETIN DEADLINE TUESDAY 12:00 NOON

Announcements and or articles are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office, or faxed to 825-7612 or e-mailed nelda@christourlight.org.

Events, meeting etc. for the Parish Calendar are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office in advance.

AFTER MASS WEEKLY PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline Tuesday, 12:00 Noon. Announcements are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office. The Pastor reserves the right to pick and choose which announcements are made in this forum as there is a need to keep these to a minimum.

Todos los anuncios deben ser presentados por escrito en la oficina de la parroquia no mas tarde que los martes al mediodia. El Pastor decidirá si las noticias son de importancia para ser pronuncia das.

PARISH REGISTRATION

To our new parishioner, we welcome you to Christ Our Light Parish. Please register at the parish office or ask one of the Hospitality Ministers to help you. For parishioners moving out of the parish or changing your address or phone number, **please** notify the parish office, 825-3920.



Sacrament of Baptism Schedule

English Baptism Class Schedule for 2020: 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM Oct. 10th., 2020 **PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR TO CLASS.** To register please contact Deacon Grant Holt at 936-825-6448 or Lucy Coronilla at 936-419-9296.

Spanish Baptism Class Schedule for 2020: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, Oct. 25th. For Information, call Rosa Torres at 936-419-8974

ALL DOCUMENTS AND FORMS must be completed and turned in before Baptism Date. SCHEDULED Baptism will be celebrated once a month at 12 noon every 3rd Saturday following completion of the baptismal classes the prior month and Fr. Eli has been informed in advance. The Sacrament of Baptism is a communal celebration. Therefore, private baptisms are not celebrated here.

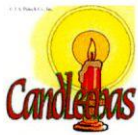


**PRAY for THE CONTINUING
RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF
the infirmed and homebound
members of our community.** Debra

Alwell, Sarafina Alo, Jo Ann Clepper, Frank Crouch, Elizabeth Culmer, Herman Culmer, Eva Estrada, Liz Estrada, Lois Finke, Liz Johnson, Rachel Kammel, Mary Ann Knowles, Liz Kubricht, Glenda Lawrence, John Lawrence, Dennis Leiber, Christian Mills, Leslie Mills, Leon Nowak, Victor Ostiguin, Leona Pasket, Cecelia Pearson, Angelina Peterson, Wallace Peterson, Irene Ramirez, Lucila Rivera, Rosalinda Salazar, Josh Sechelski, Dana Sowell, and Krysten Sowell, Jessie Valadez, III, Crystal Winkler.

Call the parish office when a member of our community has a need to be remembered in prayer, 825-3920.

Also, if you have added a name to the prayer list, **please call to let us know when to remove the name from the list.**
Thank you.



New Memorial Candles

The new Candle Stands are electrical. Anyone wanting to light a candle may do so by pressing the red button and give an offering. The candle will burn for 12 hours. Memorial Candles burning for one year are \$150.00 each. Come by the parish office to schedule and pay your offering of \$150.00 for your Memorial candle.



**YOUR PARISH
SUPPORT
SU APOYO
PARROQUIAL**

TRESASURE YOU HAVE SHARED:

GIFTS FOR GOD — YOUR TITHE RESPONDS

October 24 & 25, 2020

(61) Offertory Envelopes/Loose Checks
On Live Giving, Mail Ins, & Drop Ins 3,695.00
Maintenance Fund 35.00
Propagation of the Faith (World Mission) 15.00

Thank you thank you for Mailing, Bringing In, and On Line Giving your Offertory. Baskets will not be passed during the Offertory. You will be able to place your weekly gift in a basket by the Baptism Font before or after Mass.

SAINTS AND SINNERS

The only difference between the saint and the sinner is that saint has a past, and every sinner has a future.
—Oscar Wilde

SANTOS Y PECADORES

La única diferencia entre los santos y pecadores es que los santos tuvieron un pasado y los pecadores tienen un futuro.
—Oscar Wilde

In Our Prayers

We remember in prayer our friends and loved ones in active military duty, both in and out of harms way, in the service of their our country. Pray for peace in the world and for our leaders.

SSG Jorge Aguilar, Jr., Alexander Cortez, Jesus Cortez, Spec. Alysa Flores Kelleher, SFC Antinia Franco, 1SG, Jason Malek, Antonio Magallon, Jose Rene Milan, Christopher Munoz, Javier Salinas, Sgt. Kevin Seigler, SSgt Allen Thane

**OUR HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS
FOR OCTOBER**

General Intention — The Laity's Mission in the Church.

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.



**P.E.R.A. (Perpetual Eucharistic
Reparative Adoration)**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has resumed on Thursdays throughout the Summer following the 8:30 AM Masses on Thursdays and will be reposed before the 6:00 PM Spanish Mass.

The "Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to make amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease."

Please call Mary Rangel @ 936-419-9024 to sign up for a time slot on Thursdays.

**THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND
Web site is FORMED.ORG**

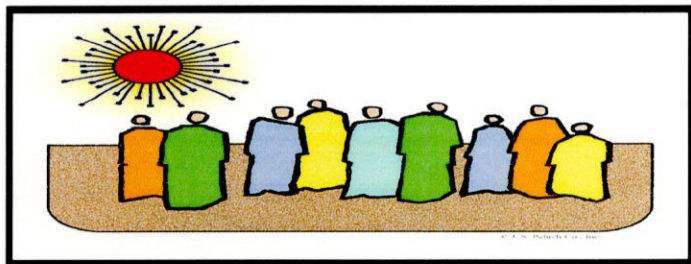
The Parish Code to access the website is
MVMZKF

Then register to create an account.

**There are 2 easy ways to connect to
FLOCKNOTE (pick one):**

NOTE: Do not use Mozilla Firefox browser.

1. Visit our church at: www.flocknote.com/chistourlightchurch
2. Text SPOLG to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.



The Solemnity of All Saints November 1, 2020

See what love the Father has bestowed on
us that we may be called children of God.
—1 John 3:1

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Every 1st weekend of the month (Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses) blessing of all who have a birthday or Wedding Anniversary during the

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

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**Pray for
Vocations**



to the Priesthood and Religious Life especially in our Archdiocese.

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MEMORIALIZING THE SANCTUARY CANDLE

If you are interested in memorializing the Sanctuary candle, in memory of, in personal reverence and petition or Special Intention for the week, stop by the parish office for more information.

**ParishSOFT
Giving**

SIGN UP NOW

Sign Up for Christ Our Light
Online Giving Now

Christ Our Light now accepts online giving. **Parish Soft** is our parish's online giving program. Enroll at the link below. It is secure and easy to use. You will be able to use **Parish Soft** for normal tithing and special collections throughout the year. Apps are available, so your cell phones/tablets can be used for online giving.

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/dl?uid=chri510191>

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CELEBREMOS/LET US CELEBRATE MISSALETTES

Missalette's starting August 9th to November 28, 2020 are available to purchase for \$5.00. Do not leave them in Church. Take them home with you, bring with you each weekday or weekend Masses you will be attending.

MONTHLY REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASSES

Refreshment will be served after Masses the first Sunday of each month. The refreshments and service will be provided by the following:

Altar Society—January and July
Pastoral Council—February and October
Finance Council—March and September
R.E. Board—April and August
Stewardship—May and November
Choir—June and December

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

All Saints Day — *"Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me."* Matthew 5:11
We are all at different points on the path to holiness, on getting to Heaven becoming a saint. Part of the journey is being mocked and ridiculed by others. When this happens, how do you respond? Do you become silent? Do you react in anger or do you react with love? Fortunately, as one Body of Christ, we are united with the saints already in Heaven. As your favorite saint for guidance in defending the Faith.

Boletín de Mayordomía—Reflexiones

Día de Todos los Santos — *"Bienaventurados ustedes cuando por mi causa los insulten, los persigan y profieran todo tipo de calumnias en su contra (falsamente)." Mateo 5:11* Todos estamos en diferentes puntos del camino hacia la santidad, para llegar al cielo y convertirnos en santos. Parte del viaje es ser burlado y ridiculizado por otros. Cuando esto sucede, ¿Te Callas? ¿Reaccionas con ira o reaccionas con amor? Afortunadamente, como un solo Cuerpo de Cristo, estamos unidos con los santos que ya están en el Cielo. Pídale orientación a su santo favorito para defender tu fe.

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PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

November 1, 2020 — That we ask the saints in Heaven for guidance in defending our Faith.

ORACIONES DE LOS FIELES

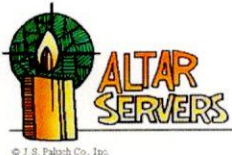
1 de Noviembre de 2020 — Que le pidamos a los santos del Cielo que nos guíen para defender nuestra Fe.



BAZAAR APPRECIATION DINNER FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

Will be held on Sunday, November 15th at 4:30 PM at the Church. The meat and drinks will be provided. Each family is asked to bring a side dish.

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There will be altar server practice on Saturday, November 7th at 10:00 AM for new and returning servers.

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CCE NEWS: We are asking that more parents get involved with their child's Religious Education by becoming an aid/assistant in the classroom. We are still looking for a 2nd grade teacher and aids for the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Even if you don't have a child attending classes please consider helping to educate our students. All are welcome!

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November 1, 2020 The Solemnity of All Saints

OUR HOPE AND GOD'S PROMISE

The Church uses these waning November days and darker skies as the season to remind us of the last things. Today's feast, the Solemnity of All Saints, is the centerpiece of three days that point to doctrines we proclaim each time we say the Apostles' Creed: "We believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting." And while the days and our hearts may be dark, the readings today are bright with the light of faith. John's vision in the book of Revelation reveals dazzling angels and white-robed saints gathered in triumph around the throne of God. In the responsorial psalm we sing our longing to see God's face, and in the second reading John writes that we are God's children and will, in fact, see God "as he is" (1 John 3:2). This is our hope. This is God's promise. Today we celebrate the triumph of those who already gaze on the face of God. Tomorrow we cry out for mercy with those in purgatory, who, like us on earth, still long to see God's face.

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1o de noviembre de 2020 Todos los Santos

NUESTRA ESPERANZA Y LA PROMESA DE DIOS

La Iglesia usa estos días que se acortan y los cielos oscuros como el tiempo para recordarnos las postrimerías de la vida. La fiesta de hoy, la Solemnidad de Todos los Santos, es el centro de tres días que nos presentan las doctrinas que proclamamos cada vez que rezamos el Credo de los Apóstoles: "Creemos en la Iglesia católica, la comunión de los santos, el perdón de los pecados, la resurrección de los muertos y la vida perdurable". Y mientras que los días y nuestro corazón parezcan oscuros, las lecturas de hoy están llenas de la luz de la fe. La visión de Juan en el libro del Apocalipsis revela ángeles resplandecientes y santos con túnicas blancas reunidos triunfantemente alrededor del trono de Dios. En el salmo responsorial cantamos sobre nuestro anhelo de ver el rostro de Dios, y en la segunda lectura, Juan escribe que somos hijos de Dios y que veremos a Dios "tal como es". Esa es nuestra esperanza. Esa es la promesa de Dios. Hoy celebramos el triunfo de aquellos que ya contemplan el rostro de Dios. Mañana clamamos para que Dios tenga misericordia de los que están en el purgatorio, quienes, al igual que los que estamos todavía en la tierra, anhelan contemplar el rostro de Dios.

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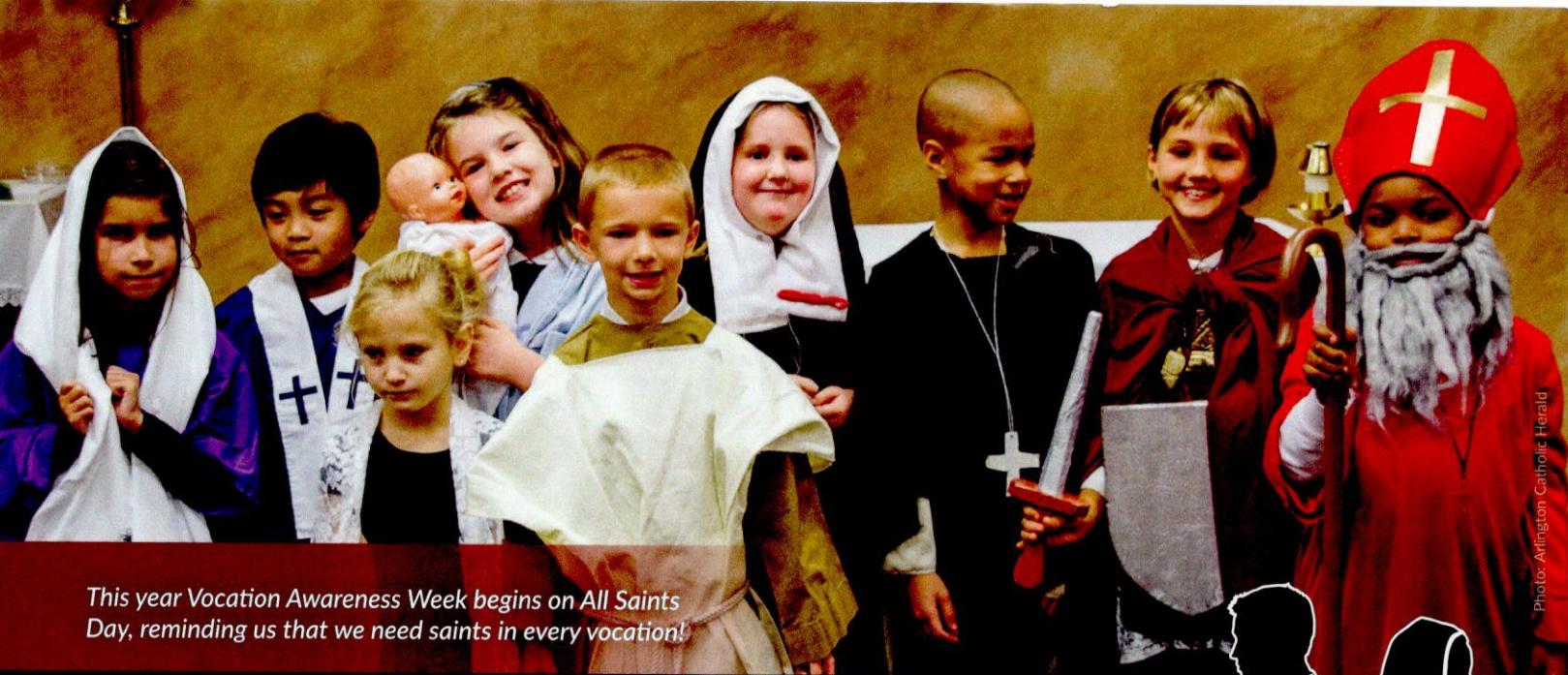


Photo: Arlington Catholic Herald

This year Vocation Awareness Week begins on All Saints Day, reminding us that we need saints in every vocation!

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK



A VOCATION STORY

WHO WILL YOU BRING TO HEAVEN?

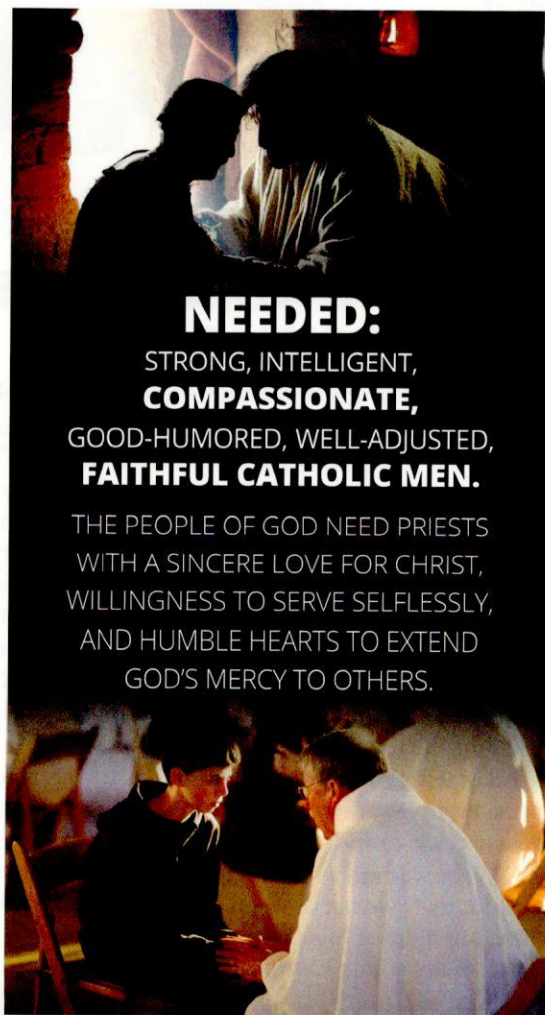
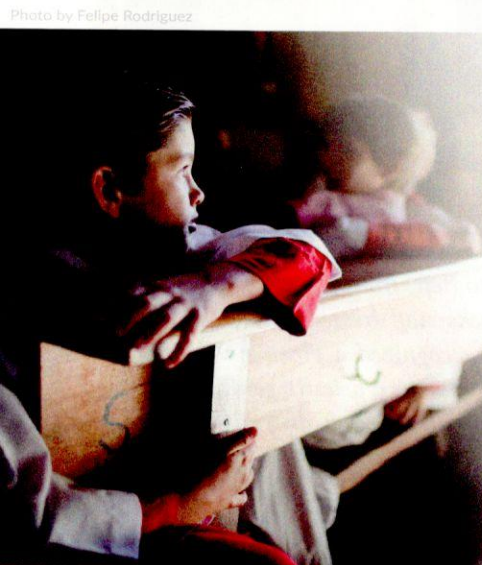
I grew up in a loving Catholic family, helping out often at my parish. I got tired of hearing everyone say, "You'll make a good priest when you get older!" Everyone, that is, except my pastor.

But one day, as a senior serving one of my last Masses, just as the old monsignor and I were about to enter the sanctuary, he asked, "John, what will you be doing after graduation?" I thought to myself, "Oh boy, here it comes." But I replied, "Monsignor, I'm thinking about studying medicine." And he replied, "Good, good. And what will you do after that?" I said, "Well, I suppose I will marry and have a family." The priest said, "Good, and what after that?" Not sure exactly where this was leading, I replied, "I guess I will grow old and eventually retire. And then I guess I will die

and go to heaven." The pastor nodded his head thoughtfully, then looked at me earnestly and asked, "And who will you bring with you into heaven?" Immediately, he rang the sacristy bell and we walked out to begin Mass.

I thought to myself, "How clever you are, Monsignor. How clever you are. Who *will* I bring with me to heaven?" I pondered that question for several years before answering it by entering the seminary.

Adapted from an anonymous priest's vocation story as told in *To Save a Thousand Souls*



NEEDED:

STRONG, INTELLIGENT,
COMPASSIONATE,
GOOD-HUMORED, WELL-ADJUSTED,
FAITHFUL CATHOLIC MEN.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD NEED PRIESTS
WITH A SINCERE LOVE FOR CHRIST,
WILLINGNESS TO SERVE SELFLESSLY,
AND HUMBLE HEARTS TO EXTEND
GOD'S MERCY TO OTHERS.

"Every vocation always requires an exodus from oneself in order to center one's life on Christ and on his Gospel." ~Pope Francis

BY THE NUMBERS MEN ORDAINED IN 2020



- 16** Average age first considered the priesthood
- 34** Average age when ordained
- 25%** Born outside the U.S.
- 90%** Baptized Catholic as an infant
- 40%** Attended Catholic schools
- 73%** Served as altar boys
- 72%** Frequented Eucharistic Adoration
- 70%** Regularly prayed the rosary
- 54%** Completed a degree before entering seminary
- 55%** Worked full time before entering seminary
- 51%** Participated in a parish youth group
- 29%** Participated in Catholic campus ministry

Data from *The Class of 2020: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood*, conducted by CARA and commissioned by the USCCB

HOW YOU CAN HELP ENCOURAGEMENT IS KEY

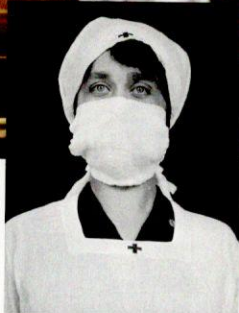
What can you do to inspire vocations? Of course, parents should create a faith-filled home environment. Teachers and catechists should teach kids about marriage, holy orders, and consecrated life.

But for ordinary Catholics, the number one thing, by far, is to *invite*. In CARA's study of the 2020 ordination class, 89% of brand-new priests said they were encouraged to consider seminary by their parish priest, a friend, or another parishioner.

Another parishioner. That's you. When your gut tells you, "There's something special about that young man," say something! Look for an appropriate moment to draw him aside and say, "I see the Holy Spirit in you. If God called you to be a priest, I think you'd make a great one."

“
I SEE THE HOLY
SPIRIT IN YOU.

Above, sisters in Burkina Faso, Africa. Right, a sister-turned-nurse who served in Philadelphia during the 1918 flu pandemic.



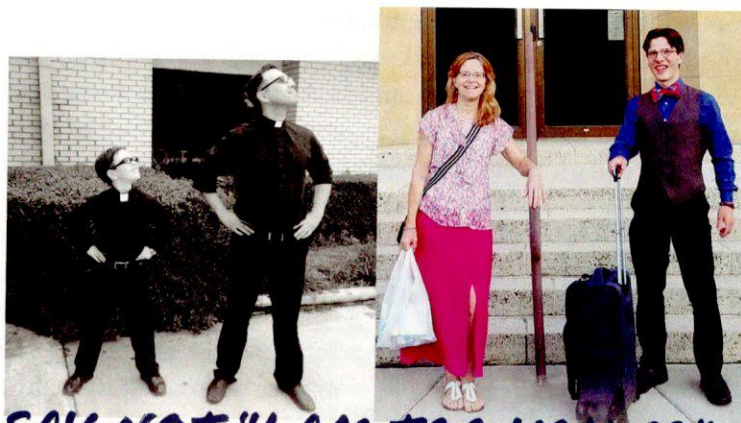
NOW AS THEN, SELFLESS SISTERS SAVE LIVES

During the 1918 flu pandemic, thousands of religious sisters, many with no formal medical training, tended to the sick and dying, often in terrible conditions. "I have never seen a greater demonstration of real charity or self-sacrifice than has been given by the sisters in their nursing of the sick," said the mayor of Philadelphia a century ago.

Likewise, in New York City in the 1980s, during the height of the AIDS epidemic, Mother Teresa set up a house for men dying of the disease. They were tended round the clock by her quiet sisters, who in their blue-striped habits truly lived by their founder's guiding scripture: "Whatever you do for the least of these, you do unto Me."

Today sisters have once again risen to the challenge, especially in third-world countries where the Covid-stricken poor cannot afford medical care. As one sister said, "We're women who anticipate the dawn while facing the darkness... we can draw on our own spiritual resources to be nourishers of hope."

May many young Catholic women open their hearts to this heroic vocation!



SAY NOT "I AM TOO YOUNG" JER. 1:7

Remember seeing this viral photo (left) from a few years ago? For All Saints Day in 2013, John Paul Bickerstaff dressed up as his local parish priest. His mother, Paula, who recognized a possible vocation (not hard to do, since he said he wanted to be a priest!), gently encouraged him, but never pushed. This Fall, after deeper discernment with his vocation director, John Paul entered Sacred Heart Seminary to study for the priesthood.

November 1, 2020

Solemnity of All Saints

Rv 7:2-4, 9-14 | 1 Jn 3:1-3 | Mt 5:1-12A

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

In journalism school, a professor admonished future reporters: “Show, don’t tell.” In other words, don’t start a story with a generality such as: “It was a nice day.” Instead, be specific: “The sun shone through the clouds and the air had a hint of the first snow.” This Sunday, we hear Jesus not only tell us, but show us through the poetic language of the beatitudes what holiness looks like. As if that weren’t enough, we celebrate All Saints’ Day, honoring those holy men and women (known and unknown) in heaven whose lives exemplified the beatitudes. Jesus and the saints remind us that we cannot do it alone; we need God’s help to live “blessed” lives. With God’s grace, we, too, can aspire to holiness and sainthood.

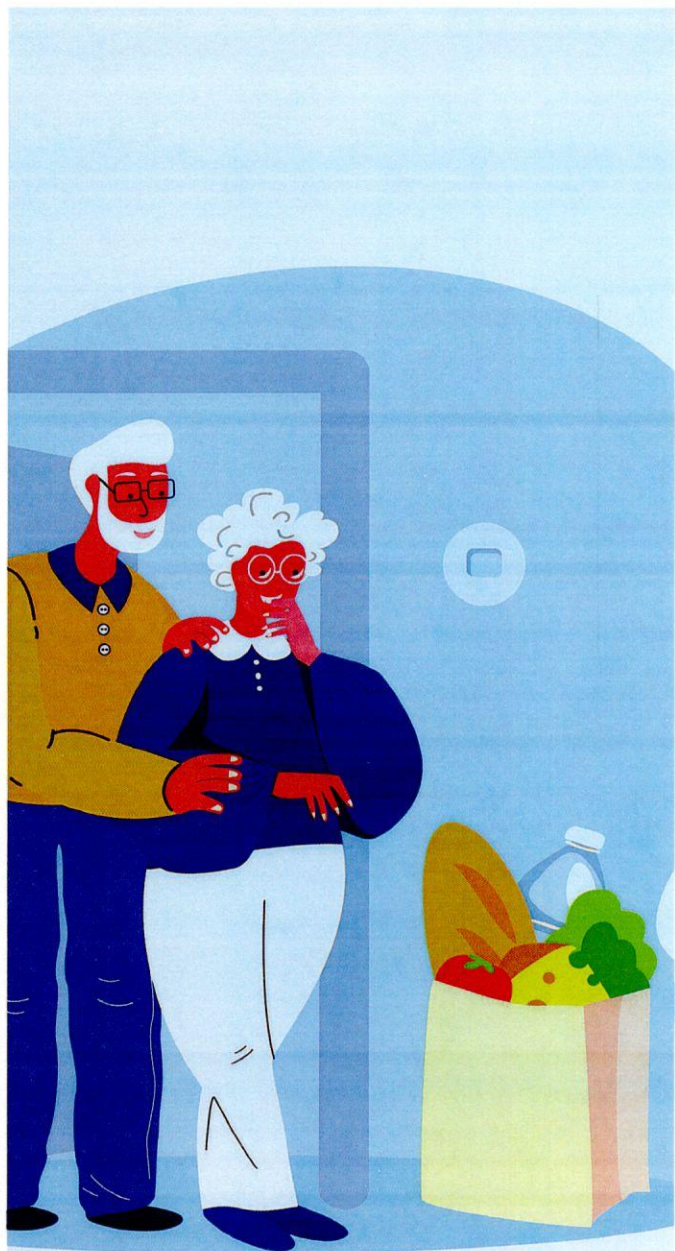
GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In his apostolic letter on the call to holiness, Pope Francis reminds us that the beatitudes are not simply platitudes. “Let us allow his words to unsettle us, to challenge us and to demand a real change in the way we live,” he writes. “Otherwise, holiness will remain no more than an empty word.” (*Gaudete et Exsultate* 66) He points out that we cannot do it alone, but only with the help of the Holy Spirit, who can free us from those stumbling blocks that may hold us back. Strengthened through prayer and the Eucharist, the road to holiness begins by putting one step in front of another – whether that means reordering our priorities, being more patient with our children, friends, or spouse — or aspiring to be what Pope Francis calls the saints next door: “Those who, living in our midst, reflect God’s presence.” (*GE* 7)

REFLECT

Read the section on the beatitudes in Chapter 3 of *Gaudete et Exsultate*, Pope Francis’ 2018 apostolic letter on the call to holiness. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us become the saints “next door” to those we encounter in our daily lives.



ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT
TO HELP US BECOME

THE SAINTS
“NEXT DOOR”

TO THOSE WE ENCOUNTER
IN OUR DAILY LIVES.

All Saints & All Souls

We Are All in This Together

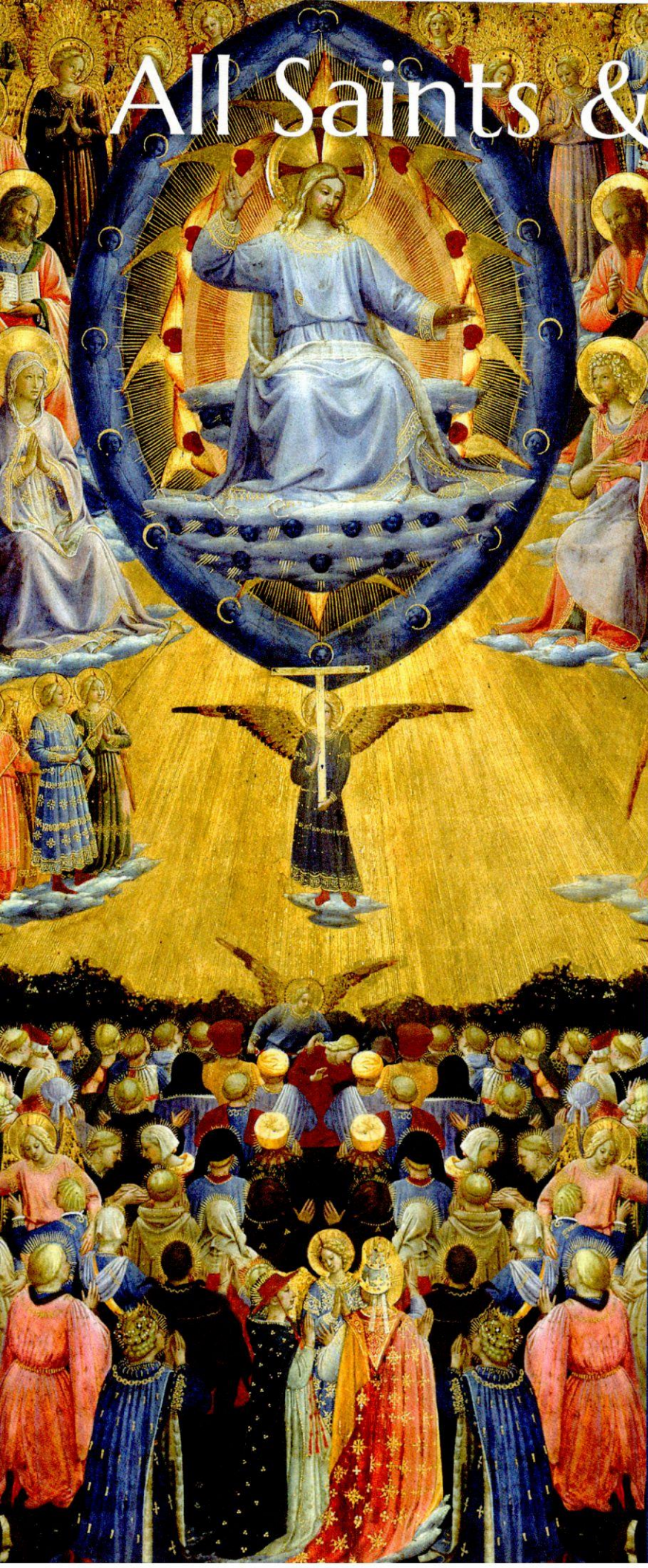
In coping with the pandemic during this past year, we have all become more aware of our common life together and our shared responsibility for one another's health and well-being. But we must note that this also applies to our spiritual solidarity as God's holy people. The feasts of All Saints and All Souls are a good way to remember and celebrate our spiritual unity in Christ. The Church calls this spiritual solidarity the "communion of saints," which binds together "all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church" (Pope Paul VI, *Creed of the People of God*). And death cannot sever this relationship that all the faithful share in Christ.

All Saints' Day November 1

This feast, honoring all the saints of the Church, known and unknown, provides an opportunity to reflect on our personal call to holiness and to celebrate the exemplary faithfulness of holy men and women of every place and time, whose lives and deeds continue to inspire us. It was given this date to counter a pagan feast held to appease the dangerous evil spirits associated with the coming of winter and darkness whose customs still linger in our celebration of Halloween (meaning All Hallows' [= Holy Ones, Saints] Eve).

All Souls Day November 2

This feast remembers the many nameless and forgotten persons like our deceased family and friends who led us to Christ and into the communion of his mystical Body. It purposely follows All Saints' Day to shift our focus from the recognized saints to ordinary people, especially those who might need our prayers. From the earliest times, Christians prayed for the dead and many monasteries adopted the tradition of remembering all the faithful departed. Eventually this custom spread throughout Europe and was included into the Church's liturgical calendar.



The COMMUNION of SAINTS

"The Church lives within the communion of the saints. In the Eucharist, this communion, which is a gift from God, becomes a spiritual union binding us to the saints and blessed ones whose number is beyond counting (Rev 7:4). Their holiness comes to the aid of our weakness in a way that enables the Church, with her maternal prayers and her way of life, to fortify the weakness of some with the strength of others. May the saints and blessed ones intercede for us and obtain for us the grace of living and walking always according to the mercy of God and with an unwavering trust in his love."

—Pope Francis



With a Little Help from Our Friends

Intercessors & Patron Saints

From the earliest times, Christians believed that members of the Christian community, though separated by death but now alive in Christ, were still able to help one another. "Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole Church more firmly in holiness. They do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, as they proffer the merits which they acquired on earth through the one mediator between God and humanity, Christ Jesus. So by their fraternal concern is our weakness greatly helped." (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, #49; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #956). Thus the importance of the saints as intercessors for us with God became more popular.

The identification of saints as mediators with God introduces their role as patron saints, that is, one to whom we can go when we have specific needs that require help. Saints are designated as patrons or special advocates for nations, churches, places, crafts, activities, jobs, classes, clans, families, illnesses, causes, etc. Most patrons have been so designated as the result of popular devotion and long-standing custom. The Church has officially designated rather few patrons, and most patron designations, especially more recent ones, are unofficial. (You can find a long list of patron saints online at catholic.org/saints/patron.php)



Reminders of Saints All Around Us

A Household Activity

The reminders of the saints and their popularity are all around us. Gather your household and take some time to recall this saintly influence so that you might find new inspiration from their lives and seek their help for your needs. Invite everyone in the household to answer these questions.

What saint or saints might you be named after?

- What do you know about that saint's life?
- What about that saint most attracts you to imitate him or her?
- Can you find a picture or photo of what that saint looked like?
- What is that saint the patron saint of?

What saint or saints is your parish (or neighboring parishes or your diocesan cathedral church) named for?

- What do you know about that saint's life?
- How might my parish be most like him or her?
- What is that saint the patron saint of?

What cities, businesses, streets, rivers or other things

can you think of that are named after saints? (Remember that in Spanish "San" means saint, so San Francisco means St. Francis and San Antonio means St. Anthony.)

CHRIST OUR LIGHT 2020 BAZAAR REPORT

Booth	Revenue	Donations	Expenses	Net 2020	Net 2019
B.B.Q. Dinners	5,232.00		185.57	5,046.43	4,287.43
Meat by the Pound	290.00			290.00	446.00
Tea, Coffee, Cake					
Bazaar Donations/ Collection		240.00		240.00	4,246.59
Fruit Cup Snacks					310.95
Junk Food Booth					303.50
Paletas/Popcicles					428.80
Religious Goods &					
T-Shirts	380.00			380.00	
Tacos					480.00
Carnitas					659.00
Funnel Cake	95.00			95.00	134.90
Auction	12,495.00			12,495.00	13,311.60
Cake Booth					1,152.50
Silent Auction					2,303.75
Children's Booths					541.00
Fruit Booth	485.00	Fruit Donated	84.41	400.59	696.95
Grocery Booth	1,225.00	Groceries Donated		1,225.00	1,014.25
Corn Booth	382.75			382.75	
Wine Booth					503.83
Plant Booth	976.00			976.00	1,349.65
Raffle	26,248.00	300.00		26,548.00	22,580.00
Raffle Prizes		9,925.00	9,841.81	83.19	
Raffle Tickets, Envelopes and Posters			734.17	-734.71	-1,263.50
Coke Booth	252.00			252.00	
Book Nook					131.00
Toy Booth	309.50			309.50	593.75
Dominoe Game	1,400.00			1,400.00	1,400.00
Koozies					-128.00
Card Game					520.00
Beer & Wine	545.81	259.00		804.81	460.75
Agua Frescars	328.00			328.00	
Country Conner Sto	94.81			94.81	
Postage			92.50	-92.50	-666.66
Hall Rental					-1,500.00
Advertisement			267.00	-267.00	-273.00
Portable Toilets/Hand Washing			435.00	-435.00	
Social Distance Signs			255.00	-255.00	
Overage	569.19			569.19	32.30
Totals	62,032.06		11,895.46	50,136.60	54,057.34
Net				50,136.60	54,057.34

2020 Bar-B-Que Dinners served 469 and 29 Complimentary Dinners.

Outstanding Auction \$1,125.00.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE. YOUR ARE APPRECIATED.

November 2020

October '20
S M T W T F S
4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31

December '20
S M T W T F S
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31

January '21
S M T W T F S
3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving 8:00 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 8:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Adam 10:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 1:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli	2	3 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli	4 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	5 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 12pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Adam 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli	6 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	7 9:00 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 4:15 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli
8 8:00 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 8:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Adam 10:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 1:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli	9	10 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli	11 Veterans Day 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	12 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 12pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Adam 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli	13 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	14 4:15 P.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Paul 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli
15 8:00 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 8:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Adam 10:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 1:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli	16	17 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli	18 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	19 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 12pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Adam 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli	20 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	21 4:15 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli
22 8:00 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 8:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Adam 10:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 1:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli	23	24 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli	25 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	26 Thanksgiving 9:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Adam 9:00 a.m. COL Fr. Eli	27 NO MASS	28 4:15 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli
29 8:00 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 8:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Adam 10:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 1:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli	30					
		Notes				

A Stewardship Minute

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving
An introduction of *Stewardship* to the congregation

November 2020

There is an old legend about how the great beasts first learned to live as they were set upon the world by God. Each of them had been quite self-centered, but realized that being what God intended them to be and do led to them great freedom and joy.

The legend went on, sadly, to point out that when humankind learned to live in God's world, mankind had not made the same realizations; had not learned that the greatest joy comes in doing the will of God. When our main focus is on ourselves, the legend says, we have wandered from freedom into a sort of bondage. We are locked into the misery we have brought upon ourselves by not choosing to love, obey, and serve our Creator. The Good News Christ came to say to mankind is this: "Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness..." Matthew 6:33

This month's issue of *Stewardship* brings to light that the secret of living an abundant, joyous life comes as we live one will and that "one will" is the will of God. Living any other way is to struggle in a lost and confused state, and with the nagging feeling that life should be better than it is. That includes being whom God wants us to be, doing what God wants us to do, having what God wants us to have, and giving what God wants us to give. The legend says that the animals ultimately do what God intends for them, but that humankind does not. Who knows about the animals, but we all know about ourselves!

Prayer: Lord of all, grant us the courage and the will to be what you want us to be and to do all you want us to do. **Amen**

A Stewardship Minute is available to subscribers of Stewardship at www.parishpublishing.org. Simply click on the "Parish Resource Center" and log in using with your account number (Username) and zip code (Password), both of which can be found on the invoice or mailing label.

parish

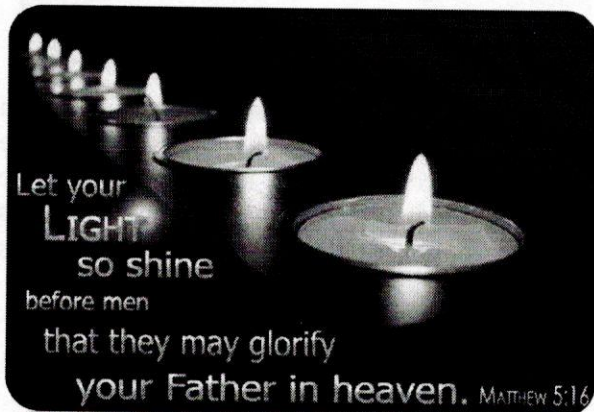
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Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

Testing Your Knowledge of Scripture

Jesus said, "You are the _____ of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people _____ a lamp and put it under a bowl."



If you filled in the blanks with the word "light," you were right. Jesus is the light of the world. He came to overcome the darkness of sin, evil, and ignorance. We are the light of the world in the sense that we reflect the light of Jesus, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun. We must be careful not to cover up our light so that no one can see it. When we live our lives in faith and light, others will see the difference in our lives. As Jesus' light is reflected through us, others will be drawn to that light and come to faith.

On the Lighter Side

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in there?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "So son, what does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy. It stands for 'Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.'"

Doing God's Perfect Will

In Romans 12:1 the Apostle Paul tells us "... to offer [our] bodies as living sacrifices . . ." Christ sacrificed himself for our sins, but, as he rose from the dead, so we Christians shall never die. We are living sacrifices who serve others in response to the grace that has been shown to us. We seek opportunities to be useful and to be God's representatives here on earth. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, Paul calls us "*Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.*" We do not have to have extraordinary abilities or spheres of influence, because we know that God is not limited by our flaws or by circumstances. We just need to make ourselves available, because God has chosen to make his appeal through us. By looking at Christian stewards, others see what Christ is like.

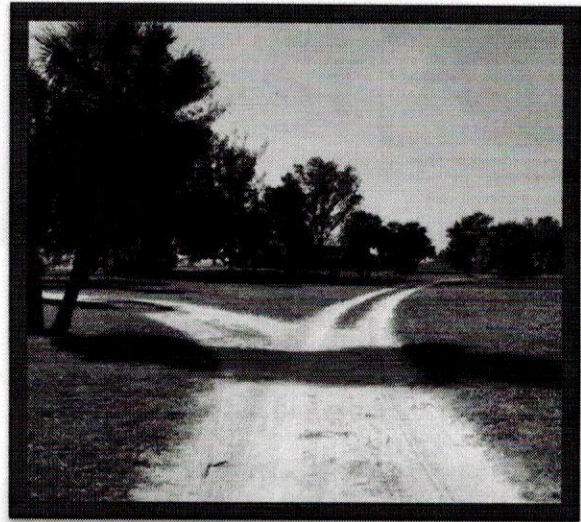
Christ spent his years of ministry on earth as a servant. People listened to him because they saw that his words were backed up by his deeds. God asks that we be faithful in service and promises that, through his Word, he will equip us "*for every good work*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). God has created and redeemed us, and, through Word and Sacrament, his Holy Spirit continues his work of sanctification in us. The more aware we are of God's great love and mercy, the more we desire to serve him.

Choosing Our Path

God wants us to follow him, but he gives us the freedom to choose what path we will take and whom we will serve. As we stand at the crossroads of life, God continually reaches out to us through his Word. In Jeremiah 6:16 we read, *"This is what the Lord says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.'"* Daily we are at the crossroads of life. The choice we make is our own. As Yogi Berra said, "When you get to a fork in the road, take it." The road we take will have eternal consequences. Will we choose God's way or the ways of the world? With God's help, our answer can be like Joshua's:

"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

Joshua's choice was that he and his family would be servants and stewards of the Lord. When you reach the crossroads in life, you will hear God's call, "Follow me." The call to serve yourself and the ways of the world will be loud and boisterous. If you don't reject God's call and you follow, as Jeremiah did, the ancient paths, you will turn away from your self-interests and focus on ways to serve the Lord.



Your lifestyle will reflect your relationship with him. As followers of Jesus, we acknowledge God's ownership and love. We become stewards of what he entrusts to us. As followers of the Lord, we see others as brothers and sisters in Christ. We live with an eternal perspective.

Fill out the Acronym for Grace:

G
R
A
C
E

(God's Riches At Christ's Expense)



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

Stewardship

There is an Old Testament legend about wealth and possessions and how misunderstanding God's purpose for them can steal a person's freedom to enjoy all the gifts of God, that were freely bestowed already in the first chapters of Genesis.

Long ago, even before the Garden of Eden, before God gave mankind dominion over all the earth, God decided to give to animals and to man the gift of freedom. There was one condition: It was to be a time of testing. If, after the testing, they learned the secret of freedom, they were to be relieved of its torture. In the course of time, all of the animals gathered before the Lord God to report.

The lion spoke on behalf of all of the beasts of the forest. "When I first knew the gift of freedom," it said, "I looked out over all the earth, with all of its wealth and possessions, and I wanted all of these things for myself. But after a while, I remembered that the Lord of the earth had given me life and food. So," the lion concluded, "I resolved to use my freedom to tell all of the beasts of the forest my discovery." Throughout the forests the lion roared, "All things come from thee, O Lord. God said, 'You have learned the secret of freedom. Return to the forest!'"

Then the condor came forth to report for the winged creatures of the sky. "I discovered freedom," it said, "as I soared high above the heavens and earth. All created things looked up to me in admiration. Quickly I pondered how wonderful it would be to have all

of them bow down to me in reverence and awe. Then just as suddenly I came to my senses," said the condor, "that my every flight must come to an end, and that only you, O God, remain." Thereupon I resolved to use my freedom to



herald this message to the very skies of the universe. "The Lord is God, and he alone. Let all the earth bow down before God in reverence and awe."

And the Lord God said, "You have learned the secret of freedom. Return to the skies!"

Then came forth the great blue whale as the spokesman for all the creatures of the seas. "I knew my power and my strength. I knew how wonderful it would be to soar through all of the seas, scattering all sea creatures before me in fear and terror. But, then I remembered that I am appointed to live only once, and then die forever, and that you, O Lord, rule and govern all things. After that I went forth to all of my fellow creatures and reminded them, 'All

In Matthew's Gospel, the words, "Unless you take up your cross and follow me..." are not just interesting points of contemplation; they represent a personal challenge to give of yourself.




(Continued on page 4)

Love is faith in action. Two of the most important questions we can ask ourselves are "Whom do I love?" and "Who loves me?" As Christians, we put faith into action by extending our concern for people beyond ourselves. We show our concern for others in our actions and relationships. Is our concern for others Christ-like? Do we reach out to help people in need?

Whatever You Have!

Then the righteous will answer him saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty, and give you drink?"

Matthew 25:37

Often we think this means helping the poor or giving to a worthy cause. However, it simply means meeting an immediate need. When we ask God to use us, doors have a way of opening quickly. Our local church always seems to have a need for helpers in the nursery. Vacation Bible school is another area that never has too many volunteers. The church custodian tells me on a regular basis how much he appreciates the volunteer cleaning and helping hands that keep the church looking nice. Taking communion to shut-ins is another way to "feed the hungry." God isn't as concerned with our giftedness as with our availability. Any time we give of ourselves, whether it is time, money, special abilities, or just our availability, God has a marvelous way of multiplying the gift to "feed the many" and bless the giver. 



Thanksgiving

Sometimes we are inadvertently reminded of all that we have to be thankful for. My eyes stopped suddenly the other day on a sentence I read written by Allen W. Clark:

"Those who can be thankful only for prosperity are forever threatened by adversity."

To live in the Spirit of Christ endows you and me with the capacity to live thankful lives despite our circumstances. How I wish more of us really understood this.

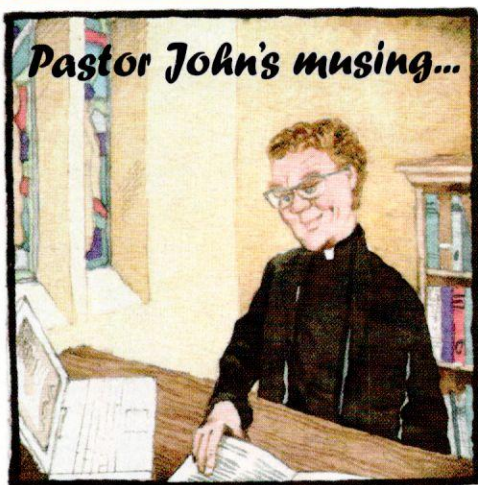
The companionship of Christ ... whether traveling along the bright hilltops of life or through dark valleys filled with failure, sorrow, and challenge ... supports our whole outlook and approach to life. God yearns for us to find our joy, our satisfaction, our needs fulfilled, not in material things and prosperity, but in God.

The loss of prosperity, and indeed the disappointing search for it, can ruin any deep sense of thanksgiving. "Those who can be thankful only for prosperity are forever threatened by adversity."

As Thanksgiving Day approaches, take time to think about your reasons for being thankful. How deep are they? Perhaps you will want to take this season to accept more fully God's companionship as your richest possession.

Worship God with a thankful heart!





"Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you have proved trustworthy in a small way, I will now put you in charge of something big."

Matthew 25:5

A steward is a person who manages the affairs and assets of another. Joseph as Potiphar's steward (Genesis 39:1-6) was the manager of Pharaoh's business affairs.

Likewise, God has entrusted the world and all it contains to us. We are responsible, as good managers, for the manner in which we use what God has placed in our hands.

A well-managed team may not finish first, but there is real satisfaction in knowing that as a manager one has done his or her best to develop and use the talents of all the players to the best advantage of the team.

Stewardship is being a good manager of our God-given talents. Like the man in the parable, we can bury our talents and not use them, only to discover that we have lost them, or we can invest them in a life of service and see them multiply over and over again. What are our talents? Our time, our abilities, our whole life! Stewardship is using all of these things to our best advantage and to the best advantage of others ... all for the honor and glory of God from whom they came. ☩

Take It Off the Top

The latter part of the Book of Leviticus summarizes the financial law of ancient Israel. In the last chapter, we find this passage:

"But no devoted thing that a man devotes to the Lord, of anything that he has, whether of man or beast, or of his inherited field, shall be sold or redeemed; every devoted thing is most holy to the Lord ... All the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord."

Leviticus 27:28-30

The tithe was to be taken "off the top." God was always to get the first ten percent of all income, of all produce. This was the way he ordained for the expenses to be covered that were incurred in building and maintaining first the Tabernacle, then the Temple, in supporting the priests and Levites, and in caring for the needy. A two-fold principle was evident, even from this early date.

First, this is God's way of paying for God's work. Of course, God doesn't "need" people's money. God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, the wealth in every mine. God doesn't need anything! But, God has chosen to be dependent upon our faithfulness in this regard.

Secondly, the people were to give their ten percent joyfully and without question. The rest was theirs, but the tithe is God's. They were to keep their promises, and not try to take back what was committed to the Lord. This was part of their covenant relationship with God. ☩

Ask not what the church can do for you; ask what you can do for your instrument of God in shaping and inspiring other members of your church!

Do you have special skills that you could use for your church?

Whatever your talent is, share it!

WE CAN ALL FIND SOME TIME TO SHARE...



...IF WE REALLY WANT TO!

Continued from page 1...

There is an Old Testament...


strength and power are from God, and God alone shall renew your strength.'"

And the Lord God said, "You have learned the secret of freedom. Return to the seas!"

Then it was man's turn to assemble before the Lord God to report. "I have discovered that this freedom is a very heavy, burdensome thing," he complained. "I have used my freedom to be taken up with possessions; anxious to maintain my standing and status amongst mankind; I became stricken with fear and anxiety over the possibility of losing it all. I used my freedom to hover and hoard; to accumulate and acquire more. I have not had time to learn its secret."

So the man returned to earth, and to this day he struggles to learn the secret of true freedom. He spends much of his time and energy, laden with anxiety, dreading its loss. In a few rare and far

apart moments of trust in the Lord, the giver of all, he comes to trust the Lord God. In those moments he offers it to God in praise and thanksgiving.

And the legend concludes: "O man, you have captured and conquered the lion, the condor, and the whale with your science and advanced technology. But you yourself have been made captive to greed, wealth, and the accumulation of things. You have lost your freedom in the very pursuit of it. What I gave you to subdue and enjoy captured you, made you its captive, and you have lost the secret of freedom. But you still have time, O man!" 



Co-Responsabilidad

Hay una leyenda del Viejo Testamento sobre riquezas y posesiones y sobre cómo una mala comprensión del propósito para el que Dios las ha hecho puede despojar a la persona de su libertad para disfrutar todos los regalos que Dios libremente nos concedió en los primeros capítulos del Génesis.

Hace mucho tiempo, aún antes del Paraíso Terrenal, antes de que Dios le diera al hombre el dominio sobre toda la tierra, decidió concederle a los animales y al hombre el don de la libertad. Solo les puso una condición: habría un periodo de prueba, al cabo del cual si demostraban haber aprendido el secreto de la libertad serían liberados de su tortura. Después de un tiempo, todos los animales se reunieron en torno al Señor para rendirle cuentas.

El león habló a nombre de todos los animales de la selva. “Cuando conocí el don de la libertad”, dijo, “contemplé toda la tierra, con toda su riqueza y sus posesiones, y lo desee todo para mí. Pero después de un tiempo recordé que el señor de la tierra me había dado la vida y la comida. Así que —concluyó el león— resolví emplear mi libertad para dar a conocer mi descubrimiento a todos los animales de la selva”. Y el león fue por toda la selva rugiendo “Todas las cosas provienen de ti, Señor”. Y Dios le dijo, “Has comprendido el secreto de la libertad. Regresa a la selva”.

Luego le tocó su turno al cóndor, que habló a nombre de todas las criaturas que surcan los cielos. “Yo descubrí la libertad”, dijo “cuando me elevaba

hasta lo más alto del firmamento. Todas las criaturas volteaban a verme con admiración. Muy pronto empecé a imaginar lo maravilloso que sería verlas a todas inclinarse ante mí con reverencia

Noviembre 2020



y admiración. Cuando súbitamente caí en lo siguiente: que hasta mi vuelo tiene un final, y que solo tú, oh Dios, permaneces. Desde ese momento resolví emplear mi libertad para difundir este mensaje por todos los cielos del universo. “El Señor es Dios, y solo él lo es. Que toda la tierra se incline ante él con admiración y reverencia”.

Y el Señor dijo, “Has aprendido el secreto de la libertad. Regresa a los cielos”.

Luego fue el turno de la gran Ballena Azul, que habló a nombre de todas las criaturas de los mares. “Yo conocí mi poder y mi fuerza. Me di cuenta qué tan maravilloso sería desplazarme por los océanos aterrizando a todas las criaturas del mar. Pero luego recordé que yo viviré una sola vez y después moriré

En el Evangelio de Mateo, las palabras “Si no toman su cruz y me siguen...” no son solo puntos interesantes para la contemplación; representan un desafío personal de autoentrega.



(Continúa en página 4)

El amor es fe en acción. Dos de las preguntas más importantes que nos podemos hacer son: “¿A quién amo?” y “¿Quién me ama?” Como cristianos, ponemos nuestra fe en acción ampliando nuestro interés en la gente más allá de nosotros mismos. Y mostramos dicho interés por medio de nuestras acciones y nuestras relaciones. ¿Es nuestro interés en los demás como el de Cristo? ¿Salimos a ayudar a la gente que padece necesidad?

¡CON LO QUE TENGAS!

Con frecuencia pensamos que esto significa solo ayudar a los pobres o a una causa noble. Sin embargo, lo que significa es simplemente responder a cualquier necesidad inmediata. Cuando le pedimos a Dios servirse de nosotros, muchas puertas encuentran la forma de abrirse rápidamente. Nuestra iglesia local parece siempre necesitar ayudantes en la guardería. La Escuela Bíblica Vacacional es otra área que nunca tiene suficiente voluntarios. El custodio de la iglesia siempre me dice lo mucho que aprecia las manos voluntarias dedicadas al cuidado y la limpieza, que hacen que la iglesia se vea siempre bien. Llevar la comunión a las personas aisladas es otra forma de “alimentar a los hambrientos”. A Dios no le interesa tanto nuestra dadivosidad como nuestra disponibilidad. Cada vez que damos de nosotros mismos, ya sea en tiempo, dinero, capacidades especiales o simplemente nuestra disponibilidad, Dios tiene una forma maravillosa de multiplicar el don para ‘alimentar a la muchedumbre’ y bendecir al donante. ☩



ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS

Algunas veces inadvertidamente se nos recuerda todo aquello por lo que debemos estar agradecidos. El otro día mis ojos se detuvieron de repente en una frase de Allen W. Clark:

“Quienes solo pueden agradecer la prosperidad siempre estarán amenazados por la adversidad”.

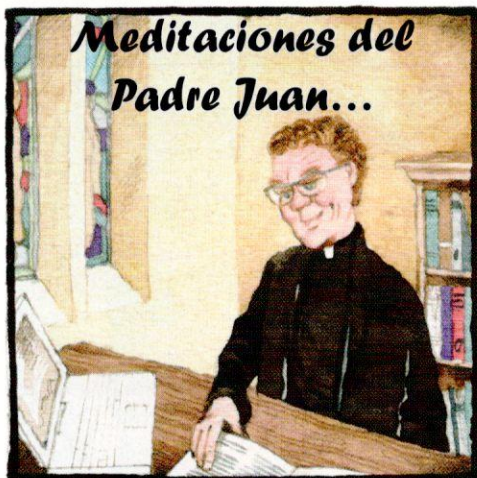
Vivir en el espíritu de Cristo nos da a ustedes y a mí la capacidad de vivir vidas agradecidas a pesar de nuestras circunstancias. Cómo quisiera que muchos de nosotros realmente entenderíamos esto.

La compañía de Cristo –sea en las brillantes cimas del éxito o en los valles oscuros del fracaso, la pena y los desafíos-- sostiene toda nuestra visión y forma de asumir la vida. Dios anhela que nosotros encontremos nuestra alegría y la satisfacción de nuestras necesidades no en las cosas materiales y la prosperidad, sino en Él.

La pérdida de la prosperidad y ciertamente el fracaso en su búsqueda, puede arruinar cualquier sentido profundo de agradecimiento. “Quienes solo pueden agradecer la prosperidad siempre estarán amenazados por la adversidad”.

Ahora que se aproxima el Día de Acción de Gracias, tómense tiempo para pensar en sus razones para dar gracias. ¿Qué tan profundas son? Quizás quieran aprovechar esta celebración para aceptar en forma más plena la compañía de Dios como su más valiosa posesión. ¡Ríndanle culto con un corazón agradecido! ☩

Meditaciones del Padre Juan...



Administrador es una persona que maneja los asuntos y posesiones de otra. José como administrador de Putifar (Génesis 30: 1-6) manejaba los asuntos y negocios del Faraón.

De la misma forma, Dios nos ha confiado el mundo y todo lo que contiene a nosotros. Somos responsables, como buenos administradores, por la forma en que usamos lo que Dios ha puesto en nuestras manos.

Un equipo bien manejado puede que no termine en primer lugar, pero es realmente satisfactorio saber que como manejadores hemos hecho lo mejor que podemos en desarrollar y usar los talentos de todos los jugadores para mejor provecho del equipo.

Corresponsabilidad es ser un buen administrador de los talentos dados por Dios. Como el hombre de la parábola, podemos enterrar nuestros talentos y dejarlos ociosos, solo para después descubrir que los hemos perdido, o los podemos invertir en una vida de servicio y verlos multiplicarse una y otra vez. ¿Qué son nuestros talentos? ¡Nuestro tiempo, nuestras capacidades, nuestra vida entera! Corresponsabilidad es usarlos para nuestro mejor provecho y para el de los demás...todo para el honor y la gloria de Dios, de quien todos ellos provienen. ☩

TOMARLO DE LOS PRIMEROS FRUTOS

La última parte del Libro del Levítico resume la ley financiera del antiguo Israel. En el último capítulo encontramos este pasaje:

“Nada de lo que uno ofrezca al Señor de todo lo que le pertenece, sea hombre o animal o campo de su propiedad podrá ser vendido ni rescatado; toda ofrenda es sagrada, pertenece al Señor...Todo diezmo de la tierra, sea de la semilla de la tierra o del fruto del árbol, pertenece al Señor, es cosa santa para el Señor”.

Levítico 27:28-30

El diezmo debía ser tomado de los primeros frutos. Dios siempre debía obtener el primer diez por ciento de todo el ingreso, de toda la producción. Esto es lo que Él ordenó para cubrir los gastos para la construcción y mantenimiento, primero del Tabernáculo y después del Templo, para el sostenimiento de los sacerdotes y los levitas, y para la atención de los necesitados. Desde ese entonces, era evidente la existencia de un doble principio. Primero, esta es la forma en que Dios ha escogido pagar su obra. Por supuesto que Dios no “necesita” el dinero de la gente. El es dueño del ganado de mil colinas y la riqueza de todas las minas. ¡Dios no necesita nada! Pero ha decidido depender de nuestra fidelidad en esta forma. Segundo, la gente debía dar su diez por ciento gozosamente y sin ningún cuestionamiento. El resto era de ellos, pero el diezmo, de Dios. Debían mantener sus promesas, y no tratar de retener lo que habían ofrecido al Señor. Esto era parte del pacto en su relación con Dios. ☩

*No te preguntes
qué puede hacer
la Iglesia por ti, sino
qué puedes hacer tú
por el instrumento de
Dios para inspirar
y orientar a otros
miembros de tu iglesia!
¿Tienes capacidades
especiales que
pudieras usar en
beneficio de tu iglesia?
¡Cualquiera que sea
tu talento, compártelo!*

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...¡SI REALMENTE LO QUEREMOS!

Viene de página 1...

Hay una leyenda del Viejo...


para siempre, y que tú, oh Señor, riges y gobiernas sobre todas las cosas. Después de esto me dirigí a todas las demás criaturas para recordarles que “Toda la fuerza y el poder provienen de Dios, y solo él puede renovar tu fuerza”.

Y el Señor dijo, “Has aprendido el secreto de la libertad. ¡Regresa a los mares!”.

Luego le tocó al hombre comparecer ante Dios para informarle. “Yo he descubierto que la libertad es una carga muy pesada y agobiante”, se quejó. “He usado mi libertad para llenarme de posesiones, ansioso de mantener mi posición y estatus entre la humanidad; y me sentí embargado de miedo y ansiedad por la posibilidad de perderlo todo. Usé mi libertad para medrar y acaparar; para acumular y adquirir más. No he tenido tiempo para conocer el secreto de la libertad”.

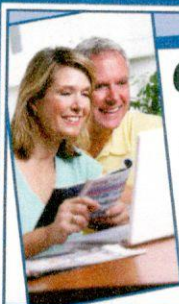
Así que el hombre regresó a la tierra y hasta el presente lucha por aprender el

secreto de la verdadera libertad. Se le va gran parte de su tiempo y energía, lleno de ansiedad, horrorizado de perderla. Solo se relaja en algunos raros y esporádicos momentos de confianza en el Señor. Y en esos momentos le ofrece su libertad en alabanzas y acción de gracias.

Y la leyenda concluye con esta palabras de Dios: “Oh, hombre, has capturado y subyugado al león, al cóndor y a la ballena con tu ciencia y tecnología avanzada. Pero tú has caído cautivo de la avaricia, la riqueza y la acumulación de cosas. Y en lograrlo has perdido tu libertad. Lo que te he dado para que lo domines y disfrutes te ha dominado a ti, te ha convertido en su cautivo, y has perdido el secreto de la libertad. ¡¡Pero aún tienes tiempo, oh hombre!! 



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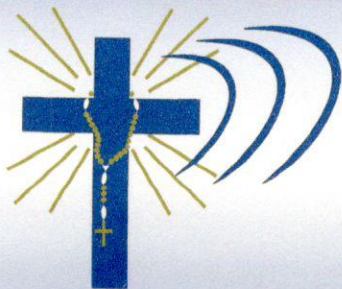


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