

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

Garry Janota, Permanent Deacon

Russell Pasket, Permanent Deacon

Gregory Jelinek, MD, Permanent Deacon (Retired)

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, and Sam Pry

FINANCE COUNCIL

Teresa Morales, Carolyn Katkoski

DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

Deacon Grant Holt, Jason Katkoski, Bill Heathcott, 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

Deacon Grant Holt, 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

March 20, 2022 - Third Sunday of Lent

Christ Our Light Catholic Church • Navasota, Texas

March 19 & 20, 2022

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

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTION

MONDAY, MARCH 21

No Mass

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

No Mass

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

8:30 AM Smith Family, Living & Deceased

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

8:30 AM Torres and Rangel Families

6:00 PM* Juan Castro †

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

8:30 AM Baldobino & Duran Families, Living & Deceased

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

6:00 PM Leona Pasket †

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

8:00 AM Larry Wisnoski †

1:00 PM* People of the Parish

*Spanish

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, MARCH 21

5:00 PM Spanish, Legion of Mary, Cry room, CH

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

6:00 PM Consecration to Jesus through St. Mary Class, SPCC

7:00 PM English Choir Practice, CH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

6:00 PM CCE, Grades 1st thru 5th, SPCC

6:00 PM RCIC Class, SPCC

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

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

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

7:00 PM Spanish Choir Practice, CH

7:00 PM R.E. Board Meeting, SPH

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

5:30 AM TMIY Men's Group, SPH

5:30 PM English Stations of the Cross, CH

6:30 PM Spanish Stations of the Cross, CH

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

10:15 AM CCE, Grades 6-12th, SPCC

Christ Our Light Catholic Church



The Church is open every day from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for people to come stop by and Pray.

II Collection in March

March 26 & 27 — Catholic Relief Service

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 mediodía. 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 2022: 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR TO CLASS. To register please contact Deacon Grant Holt at 936-825-6448.

Spanish Baptism Class Schedule for 2022: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, Apr. 24, July 24 & October 23. For Information, call Rosa Torres at 936-419-8974 or Felsa Paz at 979-255-4361.

ALL DOCUMENTS AND FORMS must be completed and turned in before Baptism Date. SCHEDULED Baptism will be celebrated at 11:30 AM in Spanish every 2nd Saturday and at 11:30 AM in English every 4th 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.



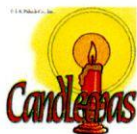
**PRAY for THE CONTINUING
RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF
the infirmed and homebound
members of our community.**

Sarina Alo, Scott Beddingfield, Leonard Busa, Andrew Castillo, Jo Ann Clepper, Frank Crouch, Elizabeth Culmer, Herman Culmer, Eva Estrada, Liz Estrada, Lois Finke, Fabryna Hitchcock, Liz Johnson, Rachel Kammel, Mary Ann Knowles, Liz Kubricht, Glenda Lawrence, John Lawrence, Nancy Lopez, Christian Mills, Leslie Mills, France Munoz, Delia Nunez, Anita Olguin, Julian Olguin, Leona Pasket, Cecelia Pearson, Angelina Peterson, Wallace Peterson, Irene Ramirez, Lucila Rivera, Zek Rueda, Rosalinda Salazar, Josh Sechelski, Sherrie Shiflett, Dana Sowell, Lydia Torres, Jessie Torres, Robert Mario Torres, Jessie Valadez, III, Crystal Winkler, David Woehler.

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 REPONDS

March 12 & 13, 2022

(65) Offertory Envelopes/Loose Checks, On Line Giving, Mail Ins. Drop Ins	3,848.63
Children	45.00
Maintenance Fund	1,280.00

Thank you thank you for Mailing, Bringing in, and On Line Giving your Offertory. Baskets will be passed during the Offertory. Baskets will also be passed when we have a II Collection.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK —Third Sunday of Lent

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

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., Sgn, Jason Malek, Antonio Magallon, Jose Rene Milan, Christopher Munoz, Javier Salinas, Shelby Seale, SSgt Allen Thane

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

Intention for A Christian response to bioethical challenges — We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.



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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has resumed on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. following the 8:30 AM Masses and will be reposed at 9:00 PM on Wednesdays, Thursdays at 5:45 PM before the 6:00 PM Spanish Mass and Friday at 5:00 PM

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**

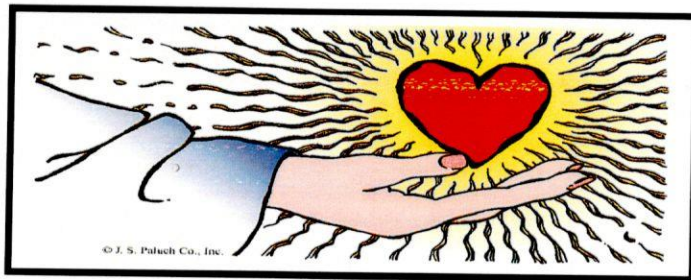
**The Parish Code to access the website is
MVMZKF**

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

Then register to create an account.

NOTE: Do not use Mozilla Firefox browser.

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



Third Sunday of Lent March 20, 2022

Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger
and abounding in kindness. —Psalm 103:8

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 month.

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Pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life especially in our Archdiocese.

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

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>

LA SOCIEDAD DE SAN VICENTE DE PAÛL
CRISTO EL BUEN PASTOR
NAVASOTA/ANDERSON

Somos una organización religiosa, sin ánimo de lucro, que presta servicios sociales a personas necesitadas. Nuestro número de teléfono es

936-873-5002

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

3rd Sunday of Lent "...He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'" Luke 13:7 We can all be like the barren fig tree at time. Do you cling to what you have or do you generously share with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous, we are called to develop and nurture our gifts, and return them with increase. Remember, we are called to be generous with all of gifts; especially the one that means the most to you.

REFLEXIONES DEL BOLETIN DE CORRESPONSABILIDAD

3er. Domingo de Cuaresma "...Él le dijo al viñador, 'Por tres años he venido a buscar los frutos de la higuera, pero no encontré ninguno'" Lucas 13:7 A veces podemos ser como la higuera estéril. ¿Se aferra a lo que tiene o lo comparte generosamente con otros? ¿Cómo responderá cuando Dios le pregunte que ha hecho con todos los dones que Él le ha dado? Recuerde, no solamente estamos llamados a ser generosos, somos llamados a desarrollar y cuidar nuestros dones, y a retornarlos con creces. Recuerde, hemos sido llamados a ser generosos con todos los dones; especialmente aquellos que más significado tienen para usted.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERDS
NAVASOTA/ANDERSON

We are a non-profit, faith-based organization providing social services to people in need. We can be reached at 936-873-5002.

IGNITE

Ignite Parish Goal \$208,632.00
Gifts Amount Received \$75,233.00
39 Donors

+++++

2022 DIOCESAN SERVICE FUND

DSF Goal 26,200.00
Gifts Received
Gifts Received \$9,602.00
15 Doner

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MARY
A BIBLICAL WALK with the
BLESSED MOTHER

An 8 week Study Through the biblical Narrative of Mary's life.
You will be introduced to the Blessed Mother on a personal level
and will see how Scripture, History, and Jewish culture reveal
the sorrows, anxieties, and joys Mary would have held in her heart.

Narrated by Dr. Edward Sri and filmed in the Holy Land

Classes begin:
Monday, April 25th 2022 and continue until Monday, June 20, 2022
6:00 pm – 8:00pm
St. Patrick's Hall at 510 Manley Street

To register please contact Helen Kimball at helen.kimball@outlook.com or call 832-771-3001.
Helen will order the study guides, cost is \$27.00.



The Spring start of the men's program called That Man is you! (TMIY) Session 14-26 has started. Weekly meeting are held on Friday Mornings 5:30 AM to 7:00 AM. In St. Patrick Hall, 510 Manley Street Christ Our Light. That Man is You is an interactive men's program that combines the latest findings of modern science with the teaching of the Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop authentic male leaders capable of transforming themselves, their families and greater society. Join us for food, fellowship, and faith Fridays at 5:30 am. We will be done by 7:00 am. All men are welcome. Learn more at tmiy.org or call/text Mike Kimball at 281-923-8314.

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We need volunteers for the following ministries: Parish Council, Finance Council, and English Baptism Coordinator. Please pray and consider offering your time, talent and treasure to serve our parishioners. Thank you for all you do.

Please contact Fr. Eli or Nelda Kurten at the parish office.



Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

March 20, 2022

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 | 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 | Lk 13:1-9

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

Several years ago, my family gave me a blueberry bush for Mother's Day. It has yet to produce a single berry. However, I can't bring myself to remove it, and today's Gospel encourages me to be patient (a Google search reveals that it can take several years for a blueberry bush to produce a harvest!). The parable of the fig tree shows us how patient God is with us. Like the fig tree, we may not bear fruit or feel as if we're growing spiritually, even as we enter the second half of Lent. Yet Jesus teaches us that if we nurture our faith through prayer and repentance of our sins, we can always grow and blossom. Like the gardener, we need to be patient with ourselves as God is patient with us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It strikes me that in the parable of the fig tree, the gardener offered to cultivate *the ground around it*. Just as a tree needs light and water and a little individual TLC, it needs good soil. I think for us Catholics, that can be where our parish community and the broader Church come in. Through small actions such as greeting newcomers at Sunday Mass or volunteering in a parish ministry, we can become the fertile soil that nourishes not only our own faith, but that of the entire community. The 2021-23 Synod on Synodality invites us to share our faith and also to listen without judgment to the experiences of others. In doing so, we as a Church can grow stronger. As Pope Francis said in his opening prayer, "May this Synod be a true season of the Spirit! For we need the Spirit, the ever new breath of God, who sets us free from every form of self-absorption, revives what is moribund, loosens shackles and spreads joy."

STUDY Learn about the Synod on Synodality: www.usccb.org/synod. Check your parish bulletin to see how you can get involved.



God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings. The Sunday Connection provides useful background and activities to better understand the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings, helping you to connect the Scripture to daily life in a meaningful way

Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle C

Sunday, March 20, 2022

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:1-9

Jesus preaches a lesson on repentance.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.

ST. PATRICK

THE APOSTLE
OF IRELAND

Although legends abound about the life and work of Patrick, the 5th century Apostle of Ireland, he tells his own story in his Confession, written near the end of his life to praise God's guiding presence in his life. In it, he tells the story of his captivity, first by Irish pirates and then by the Lord, whom he then spent a lifetime serving.

Kidnapped at age 16 by pirates and taken to Ireland as a slave, he worked as a shepherd in the mountains. After 6 years, he escaped and, after many adventures, returned to Britain and eventually became a priest. When a missionary was needed, Pope Celestine sent Patrick to evangelize the Irish. Although he was constantly at risk from hostile pagans, by the time of his death, a native Irish clergy was in place and Christianity had reached nearly all of Ireland.



Patrick's Confession

I am Patrick, a sinner, the most unlearned and least of all the faithful, and utterly despised by many. I was ignorant of the true Lord, and so I was led to Ireland in captivity. Then the Lord took pity and watched over me before I knew him. God strengthened and comforted me as a father consoles a son. Thus I cannot remain silent about the great benefits and graces that the Lord has granted me in the land of my captivity.

The Spirit Prays within Us

While tending sheep, I prayed frequently during the day and night—and I realize now, the spirit was burning in me at that time. Once I saw in me one who was praying strongly, with sighs. I was amazed and astonished, and pondered who it was who prayed in me; but at the end of the prayer, it was clear that it was the Spirit.

The Spirit Lives in Us

I must not hide God's gift, which was generously given me in the country of my captivity. Because then I sincerely sought him, and there I found him. God protected me from evil because, I fervently believe, God's Spirit lives within me and works within me even to this day.

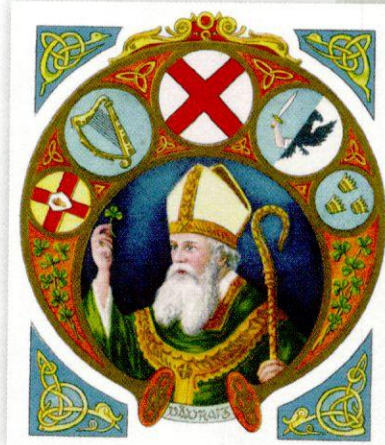
ST. PATRICK: COMPASSION IN ACTION

St. Patrick is a good model for our lives today as we struggle to put our compassion into action to make our world more like the way God wants it to be.

Attuned to God's Presence

As Patrick's *Confession* reveals, his life was grounded in a deep trinitarian awareness of God's presence in himself and in the world around him. We too learn to discover Christ's presence in ourselves and our world. We look out at the world through eyes of faith to discover the meaning of our history and our situation in the context of God's plan to reorder our world into right relationships (justice). We scrutinize the signs of the times to discover "what may be genuine signs of the presence or the purpose of God" (Vatican Council II, *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, #11).

- What can you recall about your "call" or invitation to follow Jesus in a more adult way?
- How have you experienced God inviting you to a deeper prayer life both as an individual and as a member of your parish?



Acting with Compassion and Justice

Becoming more keenly aware of God's presence moves us to act to continue Jesus' works of compassion and justice.

Compassion calls on us to aid the victims of social evil by providing more immediate assistance to those who are poor, hungry and in need food and shelter by doing the corporal works of mercy (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2447).

Justice calls on us to change the structures of society to eliminate their sinfulness and conform more closely with Jesus' vision of rightly ordered relationships (justice). Since the institutions of society are so complex, their structural evil is often so hidden and so tenacious that it cannot be eradicated by a single individual. Consequently, working for social justice to eliminate this social sin involves joining with others to change the societal structures that conceal their corrosive evil.

- In what ways are you experiencing God's bringing you to a new awareness of God's values?
- How can you act more justly and establish right relationships in your household? at your work? in your parish? in your community?

ST. PATRICK'S PRAYER

This popular prayer attributed to St. Patrick is often called his "breastplate" because in the first part he imagines God's protection like battle armor to protect him from all the dangers he might face that day. In the second part he then calls on Christ to be with him and in him and for the grace to recognize Christ in others as he goes about his day.

I arise today through
 God's strength to pilot me,
 God's might to uphold me,
 God's wisdom to guide me,
 God's eye to see before me,
 God's ear to hear me,
 God's word to speak for me,
 God's hand to guard me,
 God's way to lie before me,
 God's shield to protect me,
 God's host to secure me—
 against snares of devils,
 against temptations and vices,
 against inclinations of nature,
 against everyone who shall wish me
 ill, afar and anear,
 alone and in a crowd.
 Christ, be with me,
 Christ before me,
 Christ behind me,
 Christ in me,
 Christ beneath me,
 Christ above me,
 Christ on my right,
 Christ on my left,
 Christ where I lie,
 Christ where I sit,
 Christ where I arise,
 Christ in the heart
 of everyone who thinks of me,
 Christ in the mouth
 of everyone who speaks of me,
 Christ in every eye that sees me,
 Christ in every ear that hears me.
 Salvation is of the Lord.
 Salvation is of the Christ.
 May your salvation,
 O Lord, be ever with us. Amen.

ST. JOSEPH

SPOUSE AND WORKER

St. Joseph, husband of Mary, foster father and protector of Jesus, skilled craftsman of Nazareth is honored by two liturgical feasts: as spouse of Mary (March 19) and as a worker (May 1). Devotion to Joseph originated in the 8th to 9th centuries in the East and in the 12th century in the West first among the Crusaders and then by the Franciscans, especially Bernardine of Siena. In the 15th century Pope Sixtus IV (a Franciscan) made the first feast universal in the church. The feast of Joseph the worker was promulgated by Pope Pius XII in 1955 to show the church's relevance to workers and to counteract the Communist and Socialist celebrations of Labor Day on May 1.

According to the Gospels, Joseph was a descendant of king David and Jesus was known as "the carpenter's son" (Mt 13:55). The Greek word *tekton* (from which we get our word "technical") designates any skilled artisan and so could mean not only a woodworker but also a "mason" or "smith" (as some early Church Fathers thought).

Matthew's infancy narrative focuses on Joseph's dilemma. Embarrassed by Mary's pregnancy with a child he knows is not his, Joseph, a "righteous" or just man who follows the prescriptions of the Mosaic law, decides to send her back to her family, which is the proper social and legal thing to do.

Pope Francis points out that "Joseph cannot explain to himself Mary's pregnancy. In that moment of doubt and anguish, God approaches him through his messenger and enlightens him about the nature of this maternity. Thus, in facing this extraordinary event, which surely gave rise to many questions in his heart, Joseph trusts totally in God who has drawn near to him, and takes Mary as his wife. In accepting Mary, Joseph knowingly and lovingly receives Jesus who has been conceived in her. Joseph, a just and humble man, teaches us to always trust in God, who draws near to us. When God approaches us, we must entrust ourselves to God and allow ourselves to be guided by God with willing obedience."



SAINT JOSEPH

Our Patron

From very early on in Church history, the importance of the saints as intercessors for us with God became 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.

St. Joseph is most well-known as the patron saint of fathers, families, and workers and, since 1870, as the official patron of the universal Church. However, as St. Teresa of Avila advised her sisters, "Though you have recourse to many saints as your intercessors, go especially to St. Joseph, for he has great power," so Christians have successfully gone to St. Joseph for various needs. As a result St. Joseph has become known for his intercession for many causes and professions including against doubt, against hesitation, craftsmen (cabinetmakers, carpenters, joiners, civil engineers), lawyers, teachers, travelers (immigrants and exiles, house hunters) orphans and dying people (for a holy death).

"Some Saints are privileged to extend to us their patronage with particular efficacy in certain needs, but not in others; but our holy patron St. Joseph has the power to assist us in all cases, in every necessity, in every undertaking."

—St. Thomas Aquinas



JOSEPH'S SPECIAL VOCATION

Matthew portrays Joseph as a good man, a working carpenter, who trusted in God. Luke describes how Joseph took the newborn child as his own. There is a general rule that whenever divine grace chooses someone to receive a special grace, or to accept a high vocation, God adorns that person with all the gifts of the Spirit needed to fulfill the task. This is especially true of Joseph. He was chosen by the eternal Father to be the faithful guardian and protector of Jesus, his divine Son, and of Mary, his wife. This was the task laid upon him which he carried out faithfully right to the end.

—St. Bernardine of Siena

JOSEPH OUR EXAMPLE

Joseph is a good model for us because he is constantly attentive to God, open to the signs of God's presence and receptive to God's plans, and not simply to his own. He is able to hear God's voice and be guided by God's will, and for this reason he is all the more sensitive to the persons entrusted to his safekeeping. His example is for us all an invitation to accept, with total openness of spirit, Jesus, who for love made himself our brother. Joseph spurs us to always seek God's will and to follow it with full trust. He can look at things realistically, he is in touch with his surroundings, he can make truly wise decisions. In him we learn how to respond to God's call, readily and willingly, but we also see the core of the Christian vocation, which is Christ! Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation!

—Pope Francis

GOD SEES OUR HUMBLE WORK

God sees the fruit of our labor, even if others cannot. Think of Joseph, the carpenter who taught Jesus his craft, a man given no lines to say in the New Testament and whose life remains almost completely hidden. His work was of supreme importance—even though others may not have seen this then. How similar this is to all those who do hidden work today: spending long hours working to put their kids through school; taking on an extra job to save money to care for an elderly parent or relative; working to exhaustion scrubbing floors, doing multiple loads of laundry, and spending hours over a stove for their families. Even if their efforts are hidden from others, they are seen by the One whose gaze matters most.

—James Martin, SJ

The Jesuit Guide to (Practically) Everything

Stewardship

In the Gospel reading from Matthew wherein Jesus was preaching to 5,000 people and dusk was starting to set in, supper was long overdue, stomachs were starting to growl, and all there was to eat were two fish and five loaves of bread. The disciples were aware of the predicament. They said to Jesus, in effect, "This is a sticky situation, and we can't do anything about it anyway. Let's take what we have gathered and go away and eat!"

By nature there is some of that mentality in all of us. Whenever God places us in a situation that challenges us to use our time and talent, and to invest some of ourselves in finding a solution to someone's problem or need, our first response is to remove ourselves from the problem.

Matthew, the one who wrote the account of the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, was an eyewitness to the event. Can you imagine the joyful satisfaction ... the uplift in faith Matthew

... they trusted God and had the joy and satisfaction that comes with being a partner with Jesus? A partner in his ministry of love and service.


experienced when he was able to write, "But everyone ate, and there was more than enough. They gathered twelve baskets full of leftovers!"

Do you think there could be any symbolic significance to the fact that there were twelve baskets full? One for each disciple? Enough to satisfy their needs for days to come? And all because they

trusted God and had the joy and satisfaction that comes with being a partner with Jesus? A partner in his ministry of love and service.

For that matter, some of the most tired,



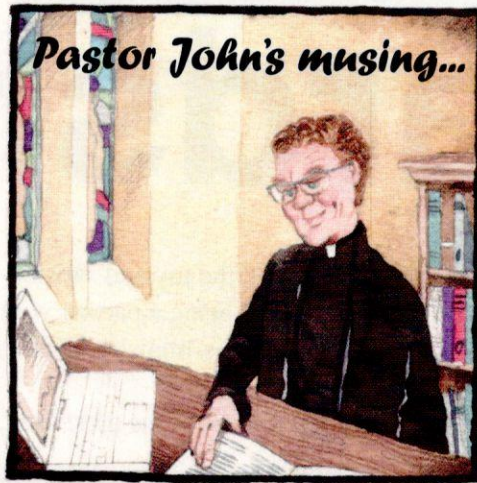
worn out at times, almost burnt out disciples at every church have become that way because they have a difficult time saying "no" when our Lord calls them to join hands with him in using their time and talent to serve their church. Tired? Yes! Weary? Yes! But then, you should be let in on a little secret: You should see their "baskets"! 

Invite others to work with you. A text from the Letter to the Hebrews is always relevant: "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together; ... but encouraging one another."

Hebrews 10:24



Pastor John's musing...



"You shall open your hands wide to your brother, and to your needy in the land." (Deut. 15:11)
In addition to faith, add brotherly kindness, love, self-control, knowledge and goodness to create a recipe for stewardship.

There are many cases listed in the Bible where giving is discussed. We need to be able to talk spiritually about giving. Jesus watched at the treasury to see how people gave. He wasn't checking amounts; he was studying people.

A woman broke an alabaster box of ointment and poured it on Christ. Christ commended the deed to others present. He said this gift would be forever a memorial to her (Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9).

When Cain and Abel brought of-

ferings, their gifts were approved, disapproved, and recorded for us (Genesis 4:1-5).

When Israelites gave for the tabernacle, their gifts were noted (Exodus 35:4-29).

Exactly what the woman gave to Elijah is recounted for us (1 Kings 17:8-16).

Scripture mentions approvingly Asa's gifts to the house of the Lord (1 Kings 15:14-15).

Giving was public under David (1 Chronicles 22, 28, 29).


They set Joash's chest outside the gate of the house of the Lord. People dropped money into it there. Nothing secret about that (2 Chronicles 24:8-10)!

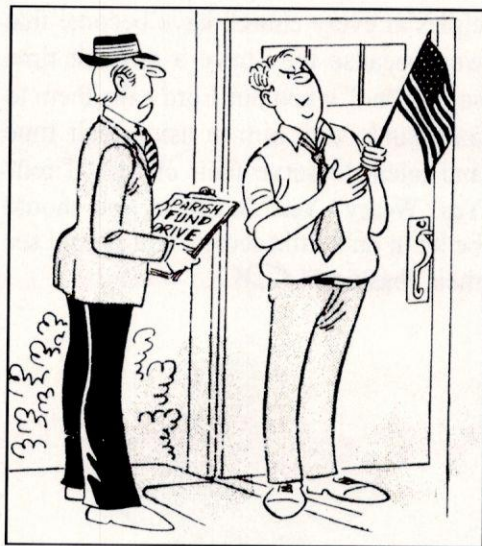
The early Christians "brought ... and laid ... at the apostles' feet" (Acts 4:34-35). Nothing private about that either. Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead for hypocrisy, not for giving in public (Acts 4:34 - 5:11).

Paul certainly wasn't secretive about his collection for the saints at Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8, 9; 1 Corinthians 16:1, 21). Nor did he keep still about what the Philippians gave to him (Philippians 4).

We believe the matter boils down to motive in giving. Is it for show or for witness?

Our giving needs to reflect that God keeps on giving to us. "Give as you have been given." Our love for the Lord should make our giving joyful. God is never outdone in generosity.

Our stewardship is tested by our sharing the blessing God gives us. 



"That isn't the kind of pledge I'm interested in, Mr. Fleming, and you know it!"

The Good Steward

A family counselor's favorite bit of advice is, "Love is a four letter word spelled T-I-M-E." She maintains that the best way to prove your love for anyone is to spend time with them ... and for them.


The greatest of all commandments is this: "Love the Lord your God." That too involves our time.

God loved us first, the Bible records. It is good for us to remember that God proved his love by giving us his time ... time to share our sorrows, time to teach, time to pay the supreme sacrifice, time for everything we needed. As always, God gave in generous measure.

How sad then, for us to give so little time in return. We, of course, are the

losers! Someone has quipped: "We are now stuck with a sixty minute God."

It would be another matter if we didn't much need God's company, or if this world of ours didn't require more loving acts of Christian service. Everywhere empty hearts and broken lives beg silently for some help. The sixty minute God can hardly begin to deal with all these problems, but the real God can do it.

Spend some time where it counts. Spend some time in God's presence to have your own empty heart filled, and spend some time in God's service filling the needs of people. 



Steward of the Month

The Good Neighbor

Submitted by: Jennifer, Palm Desert, CA

We had just moved into our new home in California after living in Maine all of our lives. My husband has an amazing new job here, and the schools are excellent for our three children. Although the desert creates breathtaking, picturesque sunsets, and the weather is always beautiful, our new house wasn't really "home" to me yet. My husband Peter suggested that I join a women's group through our new church. I wasn't really interested because at worship, I seemed to be the youngest person there by many years. I found myself wondering how I would ever make friends again.

One afternoon I noticed my neighbor, Henrietta, picking the oranges off of the tree in my front yard. I went outside to introduce myself. After a few minutes Henrietta and I went into her house for some coffee. She sat with me and listened to me explain how homesick I was for Maine.

Very gently she put it in her own words that I'm like a kid in a new school; all I needed was to make one good friend, and everything else would fall into place. I went with Henrietta to worship on Saturday, it was a contemporary service with guitars, and drums, and singers, nothing like I had ever seen before. I looked around,

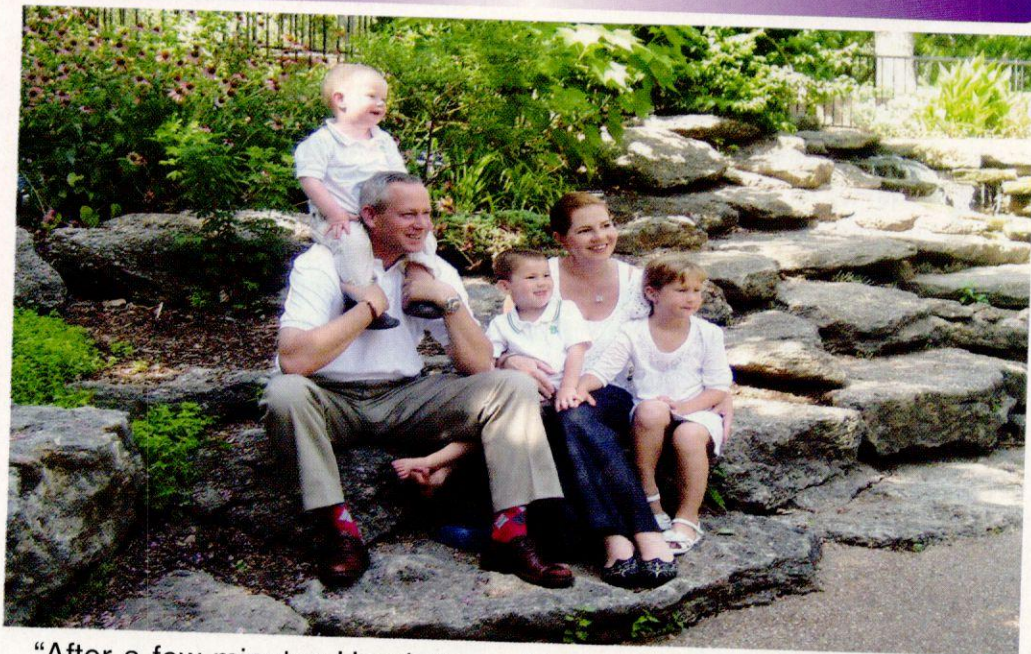
Continued on page 4...

"Steward of the Month" is an exciting way to recognize exemplary stewards. If you are aware of someone who has exemplified Christian stewardship, please tell us about it at stewardofthemonth.com. Once a month, one submission will be chosen to be published in *Stewardship*. In addition, if your story is chosen, \$100 will be given to the church or organization of your choice.

"Charge them to do good, to be rich in good works and generous, sharing what they have."

1 Timothy 6:18


May Timothy's letter move us to better see how we are using all that the Lord has entrusted to us; our income, our talents. This sense of stewardship will help us grow in faith and concern one for another.



"After a few minutes Henrietta and I went into her house for some coffee. She sat with me and listened to me explain how homesick I was for Maine..."

Continued from page 3...

Steward of the Month

and it was all families our age. The kids made lots of friends during the fellowship hour; the pastor introduced himself when he saw Peter and me with Henrietta. "More sheep for the flock?" he said to Henrietta "You are a one woman welcoming committee! It turns out our neighbor seeks out the new families in our congregation and introduces them to people in our church community ... she is a recruiter for God! 



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Co-Responsabilidad

En la lectura del Evangelio de Marcos, cuando Jesús predicaba a una muchedumbre de más de 5,000 personas y la noche empezaba a caer, ya era muy pasada la hora de la cena y los estómagos empezaban a gruñir, y todo lo que había disponible eran cinco panes y un par de pescados. Los discípulos eran concientes del aprieto en que se encontraban. Y, en efecto, le dijeron a Jesús, “Es una situación embarazosa y de cualquier manera no podemos hacer nada. Tomemos lo que hemos colectado y ¡vayámonos a comer!”

Por naturaleza hay mucho de esa mentalidad en cada uno de nosotros. Siempre que Dios nos pone en una situación que nos fuerza a usar nuestro tiempo y talentos y a dedicar algo de nosotros mismos a resolver el problema o la necesidad de alguien más, nuestro primer impulso es evadir el problema.

Mateo, quien escribió el relato sobre el milagro de haber alimentado a las 5,000 personas, fue testigo presencial de

... porque confiaron en Dios y tuvieron el gozo y la satisfacción que viene con el hecho de ser colaboradores de Jesús en su ministerio de amor y servicio.

los hechos, ¿Pueden imaginar la gozosa satisfacción y el crecimiento en su fe que experimentó cuando al final pudo escribir “Pero todos comieron y fue más que suficiente. ¡Y al final se recogieron doce canastos repletos de sobrantes!”


¿Creen que podría haber algún significado simbólico en el hecho de que quedaron doce canastos repletos, uno

para cada discípulo, lo suficiente para satisfacer sus necesidades durante varios días? Y todo porque confiaron en Dios y tuvieron el gozo y la satisfacción que viene con el hecho de ser colaboradores

Marzo 2022



de Jesús en su ministerio de amor y servicio.

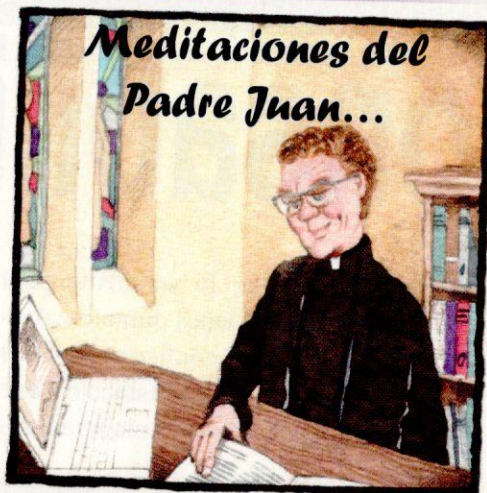
Por esta razón, algunos de los discípulos más fatigados, en ocasiones desgastados y hasta consumidos, en las diferentes iglesias, han llegado a ese punto porque no pueden decir “no” cuando nuestro Señor les pide echarle una mano y usar su tiempo y talentos al servicio de su iglesia. ¿Fatigados? ¡Sí! ¿Un poco hartos? ¡Sí! Pero también hay que conocer su pequeño secreto: ¡Solo hay que ver sus “canastos”! 

Invita a otros a trabajar contigo. Un texto de la Carta a los Hebreos siempre viene al caso: “Tratemos de superarnos el uno al otro en la forma de amar y hacer el bien, sin dejar de reunirnos...sino animándonos mutuamente”.

Hebreos 10:24



Meditaciones del Padre Juan...



“Debes abrir tu mano a tu hermano, a aquel de los tuyos que es indigente y pobre en tu tierra”. (Deuteronomio 15:11) Además de la fe, añadan amabilidad fraterna, amor, auto-dominio, conocimiento y bondad, y tendrán una fórmula de lo que es la co-responsabilidad.

Hay muchos casos en la Biblia donde se discute abiertamente el tema de las ofrendas. Debemos aprender a hablar espiritualmente del tema de dar. Jesús observaba al lado de las arcas para ver cómo daba la gente. No estaba registrando cantidades sino estudiando a las personas.

Una mujer quebró un alabastro de ungüento y se lo puso a Jesús. Él lo comentó con los presentes. Dijo que esta ofrenda quedaría para siempre gravada en esa mujer. (Mateo 26:6-13; Marcos 14:3-9)



¡Esa no es el tipo de promesa en la que estoy interesado, señor Fleming, y usted bien lo sabe!

Cuando Abel y Caín llevaron sus ofrendas, estas fueron aprobadas, desaprobadas y registradas para nosotros (Génesis 4:1-5).

Cuando los israelitas daban para el tabernáculo, sus ofrendas no pasaban desapercibidas (Éxodo 25:4-29).

Se nos relata exactamente qué fue lo que le dio la mujer a Elías (1Reyes 17:8-16).

Las Escrituras mencionan aprobatoriamente las ofrendas de Asá a la casa del Señor (1Reyes 15:14-15).

Bajo el reinado de David, las ofrendas se hacían públicamente (1Crónicas 22, 28, 29).

Pusieron el cofre de Joás a la entrada del templo del Señor. Ahí la gente ponía su dinero. ¡Nada secreto al respecto! (2Crónicas 24:8-10).

Los primeros cristianos “traían...y dejaban...a los pies de los apóstoles” (Hechos 4:34-35). Nada privado tampoco en esto.

Ananías y Safira recibieron un golpe mortal por su hipocresía, no por dar en público (Hechos 4:34-5:11).

Y ciertamente Pablo no hacía de manera oculta sus colectas para los santos de Jerusalén (2Corintios 8, 9; 1Corintios 16:1, 21). Tampoco se reservaba lo que los filipenses le daban (Filipenses 4).

Pensamos que todo se reduce al motivo del dar. ¿Es espectáculo o testimonio?

Nuestro dar debe reflejar la intención de Dios al darnos a nosotros. “Den como se les ha dado”. Nuestro amor por el Señor debe hacer que nuestro dar sea gozoso. No es posible sobrepasar la generosidad de Dios. Nuestra co-responsabilidad se pone a prueba en la forma de compartir lo que Dios nos ha dado. ☩

El buen co-responsable

Una de las frases favoritas de una consejera familiar es la siguiente: "El amor es una palabra de seis letras que se deletrea "T-I-E-M-P-O". Ella sostiene que la mejor forma de demostrarle amor a alguien es dedicándole tiempo, con y para él o ella.

El más grande de todos los mandamientos es este: "Ama al Señor tu Dios". Lo cual también implica nuestro tiempo.

Dios nos amó primero, dice la Biblia. Es bueno para nosotros recordar que Dios nos demostró su amor dedicándonos su tiempo...Tiempo para compartir nuestras penas, tiempo para enseñarnos, tiempo para hacer el sacrificio supremo, tiempo para todas nuestras necesidades. Y como siempre, Dios nos dio en forma generosa.

Qué pena que nosotros a cambio demos tan poco de nuestro tiempo.

¡Pero por supuesto somos nosotros quienes perdemos! A alguien se le ocurrió decir que "Ahora nos quedamos con un Dios de 60 minutos"

Otra sería la situación si no necesitáramos tanto la compañía de Dios, o si este mundo nuestro ya no necesitara más acciones amorosas de servicio cristiano. Por todos lados hay corazones vacíos y vidas quebrantadas que imploran silenciosamente ayuda. El Dios de sesenta minutos difícilmente podrá atender todos estos problemas, pero el Dios real sí puede.

Dediquémosle más tiempo a lo importante. Pongámonos más tiempo en la presencia de Dios para que nuestro corazón vacío sea colmado, y dediquémosle más tiempo al servicio de Dios respondiendo a las necesidades de la gente. ☿



Co-responsable del Mes

El buen vecino

Enviado por: Jennifer, Palm Desert, CA

Nos acabábamos de mudar a nuestra nueva casa en California después de vivir en Maine toda nuestra vida. Mi esposo tiene un excelente trabajo aquí y las escuelas para nuestros tres hijos son excelentes. Aunque el desierto crea atardeceres impresionantes y pintorescos, y el clima aquí es siempre agradable, nuestra nueva casa para mí aún no era mi "hogar". Pedro mi esposo me sugirió ingresar al grupo de mujeres de nuestra nueva iglesia. Yo realmente no estaba muy interesada, porque en los servicios religiosos yo parecía ser por mucho la persona más joven. Así que de pronto me vi pensando cómo podría llegar a hacer nuevas amistades.

Una tarde vi a mi vecina, Henrietta, cortando las naranjas del árbol en mi patio frontal. Salí para introducirme con ella. Luego de algunos minutos Henrietta y yo fuimos a su casa a tomar un cafecito. Nos sentamos y me estuvo escuchando contarle cuánto extrañaba mi natal Maine.

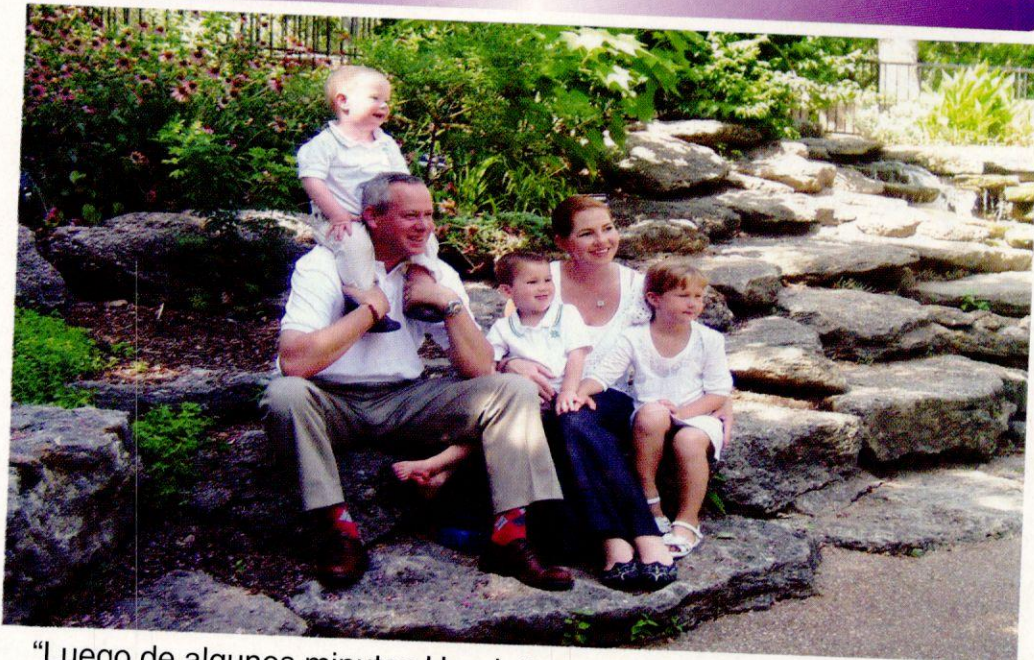
Muy gentilmente ella lo puso en sus propias palabras diciendo que yo era como una chica en su escuela nueva; lo único que necesitaba era hacer una buena amistad

(Continúa en página 4)

"Encomiéndales el bien, que se hagan ricos en buenas obras, que den de buen corazón, que sepan compartir".

1 Timoteo 6:18


Que la Carta a Timoteo nos mueva a ver mejor cómo estamos usando todo lo que el Señor ha puesto bajo nuestro cuidado; nuestro ingreso, nuestros talentos. Este sentido de co-responsabilidad nos ayudará a crecer en la fe y el amor recíproco.



“Luego de algunos minutos Henrietta y yo fuimos a su casa a tomar un cafecito. Nos sentamos y me estuvo escuchando contarle cuánto extrañaba mi natal Maine...”

Viene de página 3...

Co-responsable del Mes

y todo lo demás tomaría su lugar. Ese sábado fui con Henrietta a los servicios religiosos, fue un servicio muy contemporáneo, con guitarras, tambores y cánticos, algo que yo nunca había visto. Me fijé a mi alrededor y todas eran familias de nuestra edad. Los niños hicieron muchas amistades durante la convivencia posterior al servicio; cuando el pastor nos vio a Pedro y a mi con Henrietta se presentó. “¿Más ovejas para el rebaño?” le dijo a Henrietta. “¡Eres un comité de recepción de un solo miembro!” le comentó alegre. Y así es, nuestra vecina busca a las nuevas familias de nuestra congregación y las introduce con gente de nuestra comunidad eclesial...¡es una reclutadora de Dios! 



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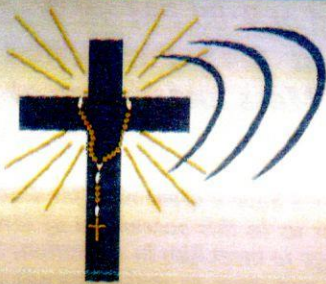
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