

Our Lady of Lourdes Church and School

A Catholic Tradition in the foothills of Los Angeles since 1920



April 30, 2023

Pastor

Fr. Rolly Astudillo
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✉frrolly106@gmail.com

Deacons

Dn. Mar Enriquez
☎818-802-1639
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Dn. Ramon Villasenor

☎818-352-3218
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In Residence

Fr. Jiwan Kim
✉jiwankim@yahoo.com

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass
5:00 pm (English)

Sunday Mass

7:00 am (English)
8:30 am (Spanish)
10:30 am (English)
12:30 pm (English)

Daily Mass

Monday through Thursday
7:45 am
Friday: 8:30 am

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
2:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Saturday and Sunday

8:00 am - 12:00 pm
✉ollenriquezy@gmail.com
☎818-352-3218

Church Location

7315 Apperson St
Tujunga, CA 91042

Office Location

7344 Apperson St
Tujunga, CA 91042

OLL School Office Hours

✉officemanager@olltujunga.org
☎818-353-1106

Adoration and Benediction

First Fridays after 8:30 am Mass

Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm

Rosary

After Daily Mass

Baptism and Marriages

Please call the Parish Office
☎818-352-3218

Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2:14.36-41

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23

– *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Second Reading: 1Peter 2:20-25

Gospel: John 10:1-10

The first Letter of Peter (2nd reading) is a catechism for newly baptized slaves. How should the persecuted ones behave? Should they rebel or resort to violence? Should violence be met with violence, calumny with calumny, deceit with deceit? Follow Christ “who suffered for you in just this way and left you an example, to have you follow in his footsteps. . . . who did no wrong; no deceit was found in his mouth By his wounds, you were healed,” declares Peter.

The same testimony was made by Peter in the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles where he tells the crowd, “beyond any doubt that God has made both Lord and Messiah this Jesus whom you crucified.” In response, the people showed repentance and proclaimed their readiness to accept God’s will: “What are we to do?”

The fourth Sunday of Easter is called “Good Shepherd Sunday” as it uses the 10th chapter of John which is distributed over three years. This year, we have the first part of 10th chapter of John which speaks of Jesus as “shepherd” and “gate”. Today is also called “Vocation Sunday”: a day of special prayer for those who are “shepherds” in the Church.

At the time of Jesus, shepherds were not considered the good, kind, and sweet people we imagine them to be today. Quite the opposite: they were strong and violent men, weather-beaten people, accustomed to fight brigands and wild animals that threaten their flocks. Socially, they were despised for their wild ways of living in the mountains, they were considered impure, dishonest, and deceitful. At the birth of Jesus, God befriended them and made them the first ones to receive the news of salvation.

This is the shepherd that Jesus talks about. “The sheep hear his voice as he calls his own by name and leads them out.” Jesus, therefore, as shepherd, knows us and calls each of us by name. As shepherd, Jesus does not have an anonymous following; he takes interest in each of us.

Unlike good shepherds, there are thieves and brigands who do not pass through the gate but

climb over elsewhere. Jesus was referring to the religious and political leaders of the Jews who maintain that they were after the good of the people but in reality, were after their own interests; their goal was power and the means to attain it was through deceit and violence. And the gospel says, “They will not follow a stranger . . . because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.”

In our days, we have a lot of voices: voices of people talking to us – our elders, our friends, the radio, newspapers, advertisements, television programs, politicians, leaders – all promise security and happiness. Are they really shepherds or brigands; do we recognize the voice of a shepherd in them or the voice of a thief?

Now, Jesus also tells us that he is the “gate of the sheepfold.” A gate has a two-fold purpose: First is to let one in and second, to prevent one from entering.

Jesus says that he is the gate: He will allow entrance only to the shepherds and not to the thieves and brigands. He decides who should enter and who should not enter to see the sheep. He will allow entrance only to those who are like him, those who care about others, those who are ready to give their life in the service of others as he did, those who care for life and not to bring about death. “I came,” says Jesus, “that they might have life and have it to the full.”

Jesus does not promise an easy life but a life in abundance. It is not the life after this life; it is this life on earth he is talking about, to live life to the full. And fullness of life does not mean a long life for even a life lived in a few years can be a life lived to the full. Fullness of life is lived on the basis of our faith, making plans and decisions that speak of the Christ in us and not the brigands and rascals in us.

This is what priests and bishops are for: To be shepherds in the meaning of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd so “that others might have life and have it to the full.” Pray for us that we may remain true to our calling as shepherds leading all to Christ who is both Shepherd and Gate. ❖

Cast into the Deep (April 30)

Vocation: Grace and Mission

Excerpts from the Message of Pope Francis on Vocation Sunday

Today we observe the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The purpose of this Day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). The entire church, including lay people, are charged with the work of fostering priestly and religious vocations. Here are some excerpts from the message of Pope Francis for the [2023 World Day of Prayer for Vocations](#). To read the full text follow the link.

"This year I would ask you, in your reflection and prayer, to take as your guide the theme "Vocation: Grace and Mission". This Day is a precious opportunity for recalling with wonder that the Lord's call is grace, complete gift, and at the same time a commitment to bring the Gospel to others. We are called to a faith that bears witness, one that closely connects the life of grace, as experienced in the sacraments and ecclesial communion, to our apostolate in the world. Led by the Spirit, Christians are challenged to respond to existential peripheries and human dramas, ever conscious that the mission is God's work; it is not carried out by us alone, but always in ecclesial communion, together with our brothers and sisters, and under the guidance of the Church's pastors. For this has always been God's dream: that we should live with him in a communion of love."

"Chosen before the creation of the world"

"The apostle Paul opens before us a remarkable horizon: in Christ, God the Father "chose us before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Eph 1:4-5). These words allow us to glimpse life at its fullest: God has "conceived" us in his image and likeness and desires us to be his sons and daughters. We were created by love, for love and with love, and we are made for love."

"In the course of our lives, this call, which is part of the fiber of our being and the secret of our happiness, comes to us by the work of the Holy Spirit in ever new ways. It enlightens our minds, strengthens our wills, fills us with amazement and sets our hearts afire. At times, the Spirit comes to us in completely unexpected ways."

"The Lord's initiative and his gracious gift call for a response on our part. Vocation is "the interplay between divine choice and human freedom", a dynamic and exciting relationship between God and the human heart. The gift of vocation is like a divine seed that springs up in the soil of our existence, opens our hearts to God and to others, so that we can share with them the treasure we ourselves have found. This is the fundamental structure of what we mean by vocation: God calls us in love and we, in gratitude, respond to him in love."

"I am a mission on this earth"

"God's call, we said, includes a "sending". There is no vocation without mission. There is no happiness and full self-realization unless we offer others the new life that we have found. God's call to love is an experience that does not allow us to remain silent. Saint Paul says, 'Woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!' (1 Cor 9:16). And the First Letter of John begins with the words, 'What we have heard and seen, looked at and touched – the Word made flesh – we declare also to you, so that our joy may be complete' (cf. 1:1-4)."

"Our shared mission as Christians is to bear joyful witness wherever we find ourselves, through our actions and words, to the experience

of being with Jesus and members of his community, which is the Church. That

mission finds expression in works of material and spiritual mercy, in a welcoming and gentle way of life that reflects closeness, compassion and tenderness, in contrast to the culture of waste and indifference. By being a neighbor, like the Good Samaritan (cf. Lk 10:25-37), we come to understand the heart of our Christian vocation: to imitate Jesus Christ, who came to serve, not to be served (cf. Mk 10:45)."

Called together and convened

"The evangelist Mark relates the moment when Jesus called to himself twelve disciples, each by name. He appointed them to be with him and to be sent out to proclaim the message, to heal infirmities and to cast out demons (cf. Mk 3:13-15). The Lord thus laid the foundations of his new community. The Twelve were people from different social classes and trades; none of them was a person of influence. The Gospels speak too of other callings, like that of the 72 disciples whom Jesus sent out two by two (cf. Lk 10:1)."

"The Church is an *Ecclesia*, the Greek word for an assembly of persons called and convened, in order to form the community of missionary disciples of Jesus Christ committed to sharing love among themselves (cf. Jn 13:34; 15:12) and spreading that love to all others, so that God's kingdom may come."

"Within the Church, all of us are servants, in accordance with the variety of our vocations, charisms and ministries... Only in relation with all the others, does any particular vocation in the Church fully disclose its true nature and richness. Viewed in this light, the Church is a vocational "symphony", with every vocation united yet distinct, in harmony and joined together in "going forth" to radiate throughout the world the new life of the kingdom of God."

Grace and mission: a gift and a task

"Dear brothers and sisters, vocation is a gift and a task, a source of new life and true joy. May the initiatives of prayer and of activity associated with this Day strengthen an awareness of vocation within our families, our parish communities, our communities of consecrated life, and our ecclesial associations and movements. The Spirit of the risen Lord dispels our apathy and grants us the gifts of sympathy and empathy. In this way, he enables us to live each day born anew as children of the God who is love (cf. 1 Jn 4:16) and in turn to offer that love to others. To bring life everywhere, especially in places of exclusion and exploitation, poverty and death, in order to enlarge the spaces of love, so that God may reign ever more fully in this world."



A Parish Pictorial CDA's Spring Tea

The Catholic Daughters of America, San Ysidro Court, had a very successful Spring Tea event last Sunday. Aside from the scrumptious variety of teas, tea sandwiches, scones, eclairs, cookies, etc., there were three sets of raffles and a truly entertaining Parade of Nations. Not only did our culture representatives show off their traditional attires, they also threw in some traditional dances and acts. Jim Lank did the honors of narrating some info about the country represented while Steve Morin played DJ.



Parade of Nations



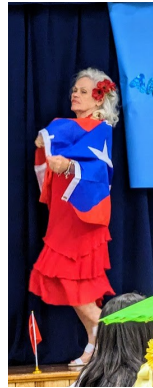
Jim Lank as emcee



DJ Steve Morin



Philippines



Puerto Rico



Italy



Germany



Ireland



Sweden



Italy



Italy



Ecuador



Mexico



Scotland



Czechoslovakia



China



Nicaragua

Raffle Drawing



To all who participated in our Spring Tea Event: those who provided and those who served the food; those who transformed the auditorium into a proper Tea Room; those who joined the parade of nations; and of course to all our wonderful guests...

thank you

Parish News

Schedule of Masses and Reconciliation

Confessions

Saturday at 3:45 - 4:45 pm (music room - entry by baptismal font)

Sunday Masses (all Masses are indoors)

Saturday at 5:00 pm.

Sunday at 7:00 am, 8:30 am (Spanish), 10:30 am, 12:30 pm

Live Stream: Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sunday at 8:30 am (Sp)

The Link to the live streamed Masses is:

<https://www.facebook.com/106570891120663/live/>

Daily Masses

Monday - Thursday at 7:45 am; Friday at 8:30 am

ADOPT-A-FAMILY: the Religious Education year is almost over and some of our parents are in need of some financial help. There are envelopes in all the pews that say "Adopt a Family" on them. Please help by giving toward their children's tuition. Any amount will be most appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

Seniors 55+ Group

Join the Seniors 55+ Group (for single, separated, divorced and widowed women) on **Saturday, May 27** for the 5 p.m. Mass followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Meet at the hospitality patio at 4:50 p.m.



Call the parish office and leave your name, email and phone number before **May 25** so we know how many to expect for dinner.

Mary our Mother, Queen of Heaven



The Catholic Daughters are inviting you and all of our parishioners to join the Annual May Crowning and Rosary to Our Blessed Lady Queen of Heaven. We will be praying for our Country and the World as Mary asks us to do. We will meet in the Grotto area after the 10:30 Mass and before the 12:30 Mass on **Sunday May 7**. All are welcome spread the word!

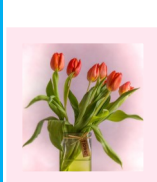
Coming Soon:

First Reconciliation - May 3rd

First Communion - May 13th

Confirmation - May 10th

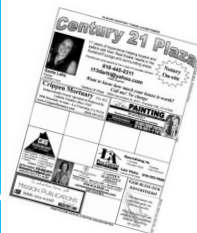
Let us pray for those preparing to receive the Sacraments.



Flower Arrangements for sale

The Catholic Daughters will be outside the church on May 13th and 14th at all the Masses with beautiful flower arrangements for sale for Mother's Day. Let us remember Mom on her special day while supporting the Catholic Daughters of America.

In the News:



Save our Parish Bulletin

If you have a business or service that you would like to advertise, consider doing so in our Parish Bulletin. To place your ad, please call our publisher, Mission Publications, at 888-253-4358.



Reminder to **Beware of Scammers**. Do not respond to suspicious messages. Some parishioners have received scam text messages or emails, purportedly from Fr. Rolly, requesting personal information, money and/or gift cards. Please be sure that Fr. Rolly would **never** send you a text message or email asking for personal information or money. If in doubt, call the main number of the parish (818-352-3218) to authenticate the message.

Lions Roar: OLL School News

OLL School Golf Tournament

May 23, 2023 at 12:00 P.M. Moorpark Country Club will be the venue for the first Golf Tournament organized by the OLL Family Fun Days Team to benefit OLL School.

Singles at \$200.00 and Foursomes at \$700.00. Get our buddies to fill in the slots by March 1st. Register at: ollgolfevent@gmail.com. Please check out the flyer on p. 8 for more information.

Lions Dash

Was held on Friday, April 21. Here they are doing their part to raise funds for the OLL School grassy play area.



World Day of Prayer for Vocations is observed today, April 30th also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes. See page 5 for the Prayer for Vocations.

Papal Prayer Intention for May:

For church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.



Celebrating our Saint for the Week

April 30: St Pope Pius V, Martyr (1504–1572): Pope Pius V was born in Italy and was called Antonio Ghislieri. At the age of 14 he joined the Dominican Friars and took the name Michele. Where he became the Master of Novices. He was elected Pope in 1566, three years after the Council of Trent closed. One of his tasks was to implement the recommendations of the Council. Hence he did much work on the Reformation of the Catholic Church including: founding seminaries for the training of priests; publishing a new Missal, a new Breviary and a new Catechism; establishing the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine classes for the young. His unceasing papal quest for the renewal of the Church was rooted in his life as a Dominican friar.

"God is to be loved above all things, and whatever separates us from God is therefore to be hated above all things."

Prayer for Vocations

Loving and Generous God,
it is You who call us by name
and ask us to follow You.

Help us to grow in the Love and Service
of our Church as we experience it today.
Give us the energy and courage
of Your Spirit to shape its future.

Grant us faith-filled leaders
who will embrace Christ's Mission
of love and justice.

Bless our church of Our Lady of Lourdes,
by raising up dedicated and generous leaders
from our families and friends
who will serve Your people as
Sisters, Priests, Brothers,
Deacons and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us to know You better
and open our hearts to hear Your call.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Amen.



Understanding the VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children program



As a way to commemorate April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month, please take time to learn about, update or sign up for the VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children Program. VIRTUS® teaches that through early identification, awareness, and education, adults can be "proactive" in protecting minors and vulnerable adults from sexual abuse. Since the program began nearly 20 years ago, more than 405,000 adults have been trained in abuse prevention. Additionally, more than 165,000 Catholic school and religious education students are trained annually with an age-appropriate curriculum on boundary awareness and how to communicate if violations of those safe boundaries occur. For more information, visit <https://lacatholics.org/education-and-training/>.

Mass Intentions

April 29 to May 5, 2023



Saturday April 29

5:00 PM

Pat Walsh †
Gertrudis Santos Cunanan †
Amelia Capati †--*Birthday Remembrance*
Rosalie Haase †--*Baptism Remembrance*
Serena Mastro †

Sunday April 30

7:00 AM

Bienvenido Venus †
Alfonso Cruz †--*Birthday Remembrance*
Cesar Cruz Jr. †--*Birthday Remembrance*
Ken Stipanov--*Health Blessing*
Shane Cooley--*Happy 7th Birthday*

8:30 AM

Claudia Garcia †
Hugo Betancourt †
Ramon & Alicia Villasenor--*35th Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving*
Jacqueline Cajero--*Graduation from University Thanksgiving*

10:30 AM

Enza Dottore Sanfilippo †
Teodora Dizon †
Amada Ortiz-Luis †--*Birthday Remembrance*

12:30 PM

OLL Community of Faith

Monday May 1

7:45 AM

Pio Basilio †--*Birthday Remembrance*
Cristina Ortiz-Luis--*Successful Surgery*
Cecilia & Ricardo De Los Reyes--*49th Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving*

Tuesday May 2

7:45 AM

Antero Carino Sr. †
R & C--*Anniversary*
Cristina Ortiz-Luis--*Thanksgiving Recovery*
Carmen Cortes †

Wednesday May 03

7:45 AM

Thomas Ford †

Thursday May 4

7:45 AM

Barbara King--*Birthday Blessing*

**...”and the sheep follow him,
because they recognize his voice.”** Jn 10:4

Readings for May 1 to 7, 2023

5/ 1	Acts 11:1-18 / Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4 / Jn 10:11-18
5/ 2	Acts 11:19-26 / Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 / Jn 10:22-30
5/ 3	1 Cor 15:1-8 / Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 / Jn 14:6-14
5/ 4	Acts 13:13-25 / Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27 / Jn 13:16-20
5/ 5	Acts 13:26-33 / Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab / Jn 14:1-6
5/ 6	Acts 13:44-52 / Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 / Jn 14:7-14
5/ 7	Acts 6:1-7 / Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 / 1 Pt 2:4-9 / Jn 14:1-12

From scripture to life...

**In a world full of noise, it may be hard to hear his voice.
You gotta listen closely.**

en Nuestra Parroquia

Calendario de misas y reconciliación

Confesiones: Sabado a las 3:45—4:45 pm (sala de música. entrar por el área del coro)

Misa dominicales:

Sabado a las 5:00 pm

Domingo a las 7:00 am, 8:30 am (Español), 10:30 am, 12:30 pm

Misas transmitidas en vivo: a las 5:00 pm; 8:30 am (Español)
<https://www.facebook.com/106570891120663/live/>

Misas diarias

de lunes a Jueves a las 7:45 am; Viernes a las 8:30 am

ADOPT-A-FAMILY: el año de Educación Religiosa casi ha terminado y algunos de nuestros padres necesitan ayuda financiera. Hay sobres en todas las bancas que dicen "Adopt-a-family". Por favor, ayude donando para la matrícula de sus hijos. Cualquier cantidad será muy apreciada. Gracias por tu generosidad.

Intención de oración papal para mayo:

Para movimientos y grupos de la iglesia

Oramos para que los movimientos y grupos de la Iglesia redescubran cada día su misión evangelizadora, poniendo sus propios carismas al servicio de las necesidades del mundo.



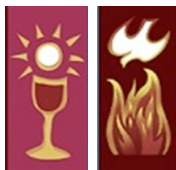
Muy pronto:

Primera Reconciliación - 3 de mayo

Primera Comunión - 13 de mayo

Confirmación - 10 de mayo

Oremos por los que se preparan para recibir los Sacramentos.



Entendiendo el programa VIRTUS® Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios



Como una forma de conmemorar abril como el Mes Nacional de Prevención del Abuso Infantil, por favor tómese el tiempo para conocer, actualizar o inscribirse en el Programa VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children (Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios). VIRTUS® enseña que a través de la identificación temprana, la concientización y la educación, los adultos pueden ser "proactivos" para proteger a los menores y adultos vulnerables del abuso sexual. Desde que comenzó el programa hace casi 20 años, más de 405,000 adultos han sido capacitados en la prevención del abuso. Además, más de 165,000 estudiantes de escuelas católicas y de educación religiosa reciben capacitación anualmente con un plan de estudios apropiado para su edad sobre el conocimiento de los límites y cómo comunicarse si se producen violaciones de esos límites seguros. Para obtener más información, visite <https://lacatholics.org/education-and-training/>.

"...y ellas lo siguen, porque conocen su voz."

Jn 10,4

Torneo de Golf Escolar OLL

el 23 de mayo de 2023 a las 12:00 p.m.



Moorpark Country Club será la sede del primer Torneo de Golf organizado por el Equipo de Días de Diversión Familiar de OLL a beneficio de la Escuela OLL.

Singles a \$200.00 y Foursomes a \$700.00. Haz que nuestros amigos llenen los espacios antes del 1 de marzo.

Regístrate en: ollgolfevent@gmail.com

Consulte el volante en la p. 8 para más información.

Oración para Vocaciones

Dios Amoroso y Generoso eres Tú, quien nos llama directamente y nos pides que te sigamos. Ayúdanos a crecer en el amor y servicio por nuestra Iglesia, tal y como es en la actualidad. Danos la energía y coraje de Tu Espíritu para elaborar su futuro.

Concédenos líderes con fe ferviente que están dispuestos a abrazar la misión de amor y justicia de Cristo

Bendice la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, para que surjan de nuestras familias y amistades, líderes dedicados y generosos que sirvan a Su pueblo como: Hermanas, Sacerdotes, Hermanos, Diáconos y Ministros Laicos.

Inspíranos a conocerte mejor y abre nuestros corazones para escuchar tu llamado.

Te lo pedimos en nombre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Amen.



María nuestra Madre, Reina del Cielo

Las Hijas Católicas lo invitan a usted y a todos nuestros feligreses a unirse a la Coronación Anual de Mayo y al Rosario a Nuestra Santísima Señora Reina del Cielo. Estaremos orando por nuestra Patria y el Mundo como nos pide María. Nos reuniremos en el área de la Gruta después de la Misa de las 10:30 y antes de la Misa de las 12:30 **el domingo 7 de mayo.**



¡Todos son bienvenidos, corran la voz!

De las escrituras a la vida ...

En un mundo lleno de ruido, puede ser difícil escuchar su voz. Tienes que escuchar atentamente.

IV Domingo De Pascua**Primera Lectura: Hechos 2, 14. 36-41****Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 22***– El Señor es mi pastor, nada me falta.***Segunda Lectura: 1Pedro 2, 20-25****Evangelio: San Juan 10, 1-10**

La primera Carta de Pedro (2ª lectura) es un catecismo para los esclavos recién bautizados. ¿Cómo deben comportarse los perseguidos? ¿Deberían rebelarse o recurrir a la violencia? ¿Se debe enfrentar la violencia con violencia, la calumnia con calumnia, el engaño con engaño? Sigán a Cristo “que sufrió por ustedes y les dejó así un ejemplo para que sigan sus huellas ... Él no cometió pecado ni hubo engaño en su boca ... Por sus llagas ustedes han sido curados”, declara Pedro.

El mismo testimonio lo hace Pedro en la primera lectura de los Hechos de los Apóstoles donde le dice a la multitud, “Sepa todo Israel con absoluta certeza, que Dios ha constituido Señor y Mesías al mismo Jesús, a quien ustedes han crucificado”. En respuesta, el pueblo mostró arrepentimiento y proclamó su disposición a aceptar la voluntad de Dios: “¿Qué tenemos que hacer?”



El cuarto domingo de Pascua se llama “Domingo del Buen Pastor”, ya que utiliza el capítulo 10 de Juan, que se distribuye a lo largo de tres años. Este año tenemos la primera parte del capítulo 10 de Juan que habla de Jesús como “pastor” y “puerta”. Hoy también se llama “Domingo de Vocaciones”: un día de oración especial para aquellos que son “pastores” en la Iglesia.

En la época de Jesús, los pastores no eran considerados las personas buenas, amables y dulces que hoy en día imaginamos que eran. Todo lo contrario: eran hombres fuertes y violentos, su apariencia demostraba el azote de la intemperie, gente acostumbrada a luchar contra bandoleros y fieras que amenazaban a sus rebaños. Socialmente, eran despreciados por su forma salvaje de vivir en las montañas, eran considerados impuros, deshonestos y engañosos. En el nacimiento de Jesús, Dios se hizo amigo de ellos y fueron los primeros en recibir la noticia de la salvación.

Este es el pastor del que habla Jesús. “Las ovejas reconocen su voz; él llama a cada una por su nombre y las conduce afuera”. Jesús, por tanto, como pastor, nos conoce y llama a cada uno de nosotros por nuestro nombre. Como pastor, Jesús no tiene seguidores anónimos; se interesa por cada uno de nosotros.

A diferencia de los buenos pastores, hay ladrones y bandoleros que no pasan por la puerta, sino que trepan por otra parte. Jesús se estaba refiriendo a los líderes religiosos y políticos de los judíos que aseguraban que buscaban el bien de la gente, pero en realidad, buscaban sus propios intereses; su objetivo era el poder y el medio para alcanzarlo era a través del engaño y la violencia. Y el evangelio dice: “Pero a un extraño no lo seguirán ... porque no conocen la voz de los extraños”.

En nuestros días, tenemos muchas voces: voces de personas que nos hablan: nuestros mayores, nuestros amigos, la radio, los periódicos, los anuncios, los programas de televisión, los políticos, los líderes, todos prometen seguridad y felicidad. ¿Son realmente pastores o bandidos? ¿Reconocemos en ellos la voz de un pastor o la voz de un ladrón?

Ahora, Jesús también nos dice que él es la “puerta del redil”. Una puerta tiene un doble propósito: el primero es dejar entrar y el segundo, evitar que entre.

Jesús dice que él es la puerta: Sólo permitirá la entrada a los pastores y no a los ladrones y bandidos. Él decide quién debe entrar y quién no debe entrar para ver las ovejas. Sólo permitirá la entrada a los que son como él, a los que se preocupan por los demás, a los que están dispuestos a dar su vida al servicio de los demás como él lo hizo, a los que se preocupan por la vida y no por provocar la muerte. “Yo he venido”, dice Jesús, “para que tengan vida y la tengan en abundancia”.

Jesús no promete una vida fácil sino una vida en abundancia. No es la vida después de esta vida; es de esta vida en la tierra de la que está hablando, de vivir la vida en plenitud. Y la plenitud de vida no significa una vida larga porque incluso una vida corta de años puede ser una vida vivida en plenitud. La plenitud de vida se vive sobre la base de nuestra fe, haciendo planes y decisiones que hablan del Cristo en nosotros y no de los bandoleros y sinvergüenzas en nosotros.

Para esto están los sacerdotes y obispos: Para ser pastores en el sentido de Jesucristo, el Buen Pastor para “que los demás tengan vida y la tengan en abundancia”. Oren por nosotros para que podamos permanecer fieles a nuestro llamado como pastores que conducen a todos a Cristo, que es a la vez Pastor y Puerta.

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