



OUR LADY
OF LOURDES
PARISH TUJUNGA 1920-2020

Family ~ Community ~ Church

May 7, 2023

Pastor

Fr. Rolly Astudillo
818-352-3218 x 103
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Deacons

Dn. Mar Enriquez
818-802-1639
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In Residence

Fr. Jiwan Kim
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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

Our Lady of Lourdes Church and School

A Catholic Tradition in the foothills of Los Angeles since 1920



Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33

— Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

Gospel: John 14:1-12

We have beautiful readings today that speak about us, that speak about the Church founded by Jesus on the apostles, the Church that is human and divine, One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.

In the second reading, Peter compares this Church to a spiritual building. The builder is God, and the building material is made up, not of clay bricks, but of living stones, human beings. Peter goes on to say that God started this building by the laying of a cornerstone, that is, a solid stone as foundation. This cornerstone is Jesus and the building began with the resurrection of Christ. And God has continued to lay other living stones on this foundation who are themselves "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people he claims for his own. . . ."

Although we note how beautiful the description of this Church is as we read from the letter of St. Peter, it is not without problems because of the human nature of its members. It is here where we can put the gospel in context for as it may speak about eternal life with God, it also speaks about how we live our life as a faith community.

Jesus says, "I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me so that where I am going, you may also be." This is the first of three farewell speeches Jesus made during the last supper and is addressed to the disciples of all times and the best time to understand them is during this Easter season. Jesus seems to tell us that the time has come for him to go to heaven and from there, prepare a place for his disciples. But there is a deeper meaning to these words.

Jesus says, first of all, that he must travel along a difficult path, the way of suffering and death. Although he has been speaking about this many times, Thomas seems not to understand as many of us cannot understand what "way" Jesus was referring to. Thomas asks the question for many of us, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, how can we know the way?"

We don't, however, have to be like Thomas. We already know the way that Jesus is referring to. It is the path leading to Easter, a difficult path because it demands pain, suffering and death to one's life.

When we have accepted to follow the "way" of Jesus, we can find ourselves in the house of the

Father where there are many rooms. And that house of the Father is the Church; it is the Catholic Church we belong to, this community of faith gathered around the risen Christ, the foundation stone. The house of the Father has many rooms, that is, many ministries and services where we can, in many and varied ways, make use of the different gifts given to all of us. In getting involved and in doing one's ministry, we may also experience difficulties as we find in any place where there are different peoples, cultures, interests, personalities as it happened in the early Church (first reading). Initially, the early Church had only Jews who became Christians. But with the entry of non-Jews, as the Church was growing, problems arose such that the difficulties became thorny and scandalous. The disciples then held a meeting where they appointed seven deacons who enjoyed the respect of all and who would be responsible for the distribution of the goods for the poor.

This brings us back to where we are as Church. This Church where we belong and which comes from the apostles, is made up of human beings and not angels. In its long history, it has to deal with problems caused by envy, jealousy, misunderstandings of people of different cultural backgrounds. Obviously, this is not a good thing, but it was, after all, normal. We shouldn't then be scandalized or discouraged by problems we encounter in the Church. It reminds us of our sinfulness and of our constant need for conversion. Our being human is not an excuse for our sins and failures. Our being human is a privilege that must be exercised to bring forth life, life in its fullness with Christ.

And if we want to know God more, we do not have to overanalyze or spend time in elaborate searches. Listen once again to what Jesus has to say in the gospel after Philip asked him, "Master, show us the Father" where Jesus replies, "It is the Father who lives in me accomplishing his works." To know God then, all we have to do is to look at Christ, see what he does, listen to what he teaches, watch how he behaves, how he loves, what and whom he prefers and goes with, where and with whom he dines, how and whom he reprimands and what kind of people are those he defends . . . because this is what the Father does.

Cast into the Deep (May 7)

Sharing Our Story

Nelle Orsburn

When we were first forming our Evangelization Ministry here at OLL, we attended seminars offered by the San Fernando Region of the LA archdiocese. In one of the talks, Fr. Loftus, pastor of the other OLL in the Valley, encouraged us to share our story, not just any story, but the story of our first personal encounter with Jesus Christ. He emphasized how, in the work of evangelization, our witness to God's work in our lives is important.

However, let us not stop at the first moment of our personal encounter with Christ. Our life is a moment by moment, daily encounter with Jesus whom we have chosen to follow. Our Christian journey is not a solitary one for we all go to God together. Sharing our story is like reaching out with an outstretched hand or guiding the other with a light touch at the elbow or setting a life-saving raft on the water. What story, then, do we share and how do we do it?

We start with the realization that God loves us immensely and unconditionally. So many times we are amazed at the blessings each day brings us. Even when there may be sadness or trials, there is always a reminder of how much we are loved by our heavenly Father. Maybe a most opportune call from a relative or a friend or the faint strain of a melody that reminds us of a happy occasion and lifts us up or a sense of peace that comes unbidden. "All your works give you thanks, LORD and your faithful bless you... Making known to the sons of men your mighty acts, the majestic glory of your rule." (Psalm 145: 10,12)

Remember, the two disciples on their way back to Emmaus from Jerusalem and their encounter with Jesus along the way? They were moved to say, "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us? (Luke 24:32)" And they couldn't wait to share the encounter they had with Jesus, so right away they went back to Jerusalem. They must have shared the things that they had newly understood when Jesus explained everything to them.

God's unconditional love does not ask for anything in return. Even as He asks us to love Him with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves, such commands are actually for our sake; Doing so does not add or subtract one iota from God's being. But do you notice the sense of well-being and peace when you love someone? I think that loving God and praising Him, brings an even greater peace and elation. And the second command, to love our neighbor? The more we are able to do so, the closer we are to fulfilling the plan that God has for us. And we know that it is the Perfect Plan.

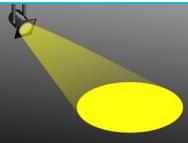
We always start our Evangelization Team meetings with sharing how we have loved our neighbor not to get a pat on the back but to give witness to how God is working in our lives, transforming us, shaping us, refining us as silver or gold in the fire. In sharing these stories, first of all there is that sense of gratitude that God has allowed us to love him in the situation and rejoice for that grace. Secondly, It affirms within ourselves that love given produces fruits in the other and we are encouraged to continue loving. Thirdly, the recipient of such sharing may receive new insights for their own spiritual growth. Thus, we consider the sharing of our story, our souls as part of our spiritual formation. Think about it. Every act of love is another piece of the Divine Word lived. We understand the Scriptures better when we live it. Servant of God, Chiara Lubich had said that if all bibles in the world were destroyed, we should be able to rewrite it with our lives.

There is no vanity in sharing with others how the Lord is working in our lives. We don't say, "Look how good I am that I helped Mary through this rough patch." No. What we say instead is, "Look how good God is for giving me the grace to listen to Mary with the greatest love and patience and for giving Mary the grace to discern what she needs to do." "...For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my heavenly Father. (Matthew 16:17)" Always by the Grace of God.

It is so easy and natural to share stories with family and friends about the new restaurant we went to and what food we ate, or what we read in the newspaper or watched on TV. Nothing wrong with that. How about adding a story about how we loved someone whom God had put next to us and the fruits that it surely brings. Or how we encountered a suffering, and relying on God's goodness and grace, we were able to transform it to love. Shall we try it?

(First Printing: Sep 12, 2021)





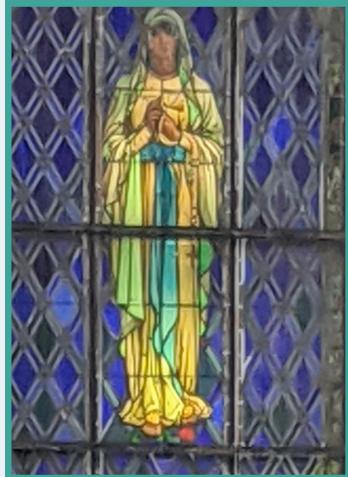
A Parish Pictorial Finding Mary

The month of May is traditionally a month dedicated to Mary, the mother of God. May is the height of spring, of new life. Mary brought Jesus into the world and gave us new life. In this special month honoring Mary, we ask for her intercession in a special way. Some pious practices recommended to honor Mary: The Recitation of the Rosary, Regina Coeli, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Consecration to Mary. As I look around our Church and church grounds, it is gratifying to note that you can't go very far without seeing an image of Mary, our Mother who constantly points us to her Son.

To celebrate our Mother Mary in this month of May, let's take a virtual procession to the images of our Blessed Mother.



1. As we go up the driveway to park, we meet our lady robed in blue. She is Our Lady of Grace. Like her we can pray for the Holy Spirit to fill us and guide our days.



2. As we walk up from the parking lot, we see the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, with her image in stained glass. Our outdoor altar with the Image of the Sacred Heart fills us with joy. A special lady watches over us

3. Our Lady of Guadalupe greets us as we reach the hospitality patio. We note her hands joined in prayer pointing to the cross on her brooch. And we are reminded to always be in an attitude of prayer united with Jesus.



4. As we walk through the double doors into the church the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes awaits us. Like Bernadette, we pray for sinners and pray for peace



5. Looking to the left up front is a replica of the Image on St Juan Diego's tilma and we can almost hear her, "I am your most compassionate Mother"



6. Our eyes move to the right and there is Mary with a rosary in her hands encouraging us to pray. Even the prayer dedicated to her is a meditation on the life of Jesus.



7. We turn to the right, just above the organ. Mary is with her family with Christ at the center. Let us live a Christ-centered life.

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.

ARCHDIOCESE OF TOGETHER IN MISSION

	<u>a/o 5/01/23</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Goal:	\$44,396.00	\$41,607.00
Pledged:	\$22,910.75	\$49,948.00
Paid:	\$18,293.86	\$48,272.75
Over/Under Goal:	(\$26,102.14)	\$ 6,665.25*

You may have noticed a new addition to our church "décor." Yes, we liberated the "Together in Mission" thermometer from under mothballs and we invite you to track our progress towards goal in this 3-D display. Blue = Goal; Red= Paid



If you haven't submitted your pledge, it is not too late. Pledge envelopes are in the bulletin racks.

Thank you for your generosity.

* Amount over goal last year was paid to the parish as rebate.



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.

In the News:

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!



Sacraments of Initiation at OLL This Week

On Wednesday, May 10th, Archbishop Jose Gomez will confer Confirmation to our OLL Teens who have been preparing to receive the sacrament for two years.

Then on May 13th, our RE and OLL schoolchildren will receive Holy Communion for the first time.

Let us pray for those preparing to receive the Sacraments.

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.



OLL School Masquerade Night, a fundraiser for the S.T.E.A.M program, was held on Friday, April 28. During the event Chuck and Beverly Naudet were honored with the 2023 Helen Lund Community Excellence Award.

OLL School Mass last Sunday was sponsored by the 7th graders.



Proclaiming the Word

Prayers of the Faithful

Announcements

Celebrating our Saint for the Week

May 7: St. Rose Venerini, virgin (1656–1728): St. Rose was born in Viterbo, Italy to an upper middle class family, whose father was a doctor. At a young age of 7 she vowed to consecrate her life to God. At the age of twenty, however, she accepted an offer of marriage. Her fiancé died soon after and she decided to enter the Dominican monastery where her aunt was a member. It wasn't a long stay at the monastery for her father died unexpectedly and she felt the need to go home to care for her widowed mother. Her mother herself died, heartbroken from the death of her husband and subsequently of her eldest son not too long after. St. Rose was 24-years old by that time.

"I feel so nailed to the will of God that nothing else matters, neither death nor life. I want what He wants. I want to serve Him as much as pleases Him and no more."

She started inviting young girls and women to her home to pray the rosary. Under the guidance of her spiritual director, she saw the need to devote herself to the instruction and Christian formation of the young. This led her to leave her home and start a school for the Christian formation of young girls and to instruct them in living in society. With two collaborators, their school saw much success and eventually, they were asked to establish schools in other places, overseeing the training of teachers and the administration of the schools. Wherever a new school opened, there was a moral improvement in the youth. By the time she died on May 7, 1728, she had opened 40 schools. St. Rose was beatified in 1952 and canonized in 2006 by Pope Benedict XVI.

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.



Do we have your current email address?



If you are not receiving Fr. Rolly's Friday letter and other notifications from OLL, please call the parish office now and provide your email address.

The importance of protective software



Children spend more time online than ever before. How can parents keep up with what they are doing and seeing? One easy way is to install accountability and filter software.

Programs like Covenant Eyes, Bark Home Web Filter, or Circle can limit the sites and apps available to your children, and allow you to see their online activity. For more internet safety tips, read the VIRTUS® article "Five Keys to Monitoring Kids Online Activity" at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.

Read the VIRTUS® article "Five Keys to Monitoring Kids Online Activity" here.

Mass Intentions

May 6 to 12, 2023



Saturday May 6

5:00 PM

Ricardo Cruz Jr. †--Birthday Remembrance

Sunday May 7

7:00 AM

Karl & Kimberly Santotome †

Evelyn Cruz †

Carmen Ofelia Soto †

Cristian Ortega—Spiritual Healing & Enlightenment

8:30 AM

Cristina Aviña †

Hugo Betancourt †

Christopher Girolo—Ordination to the Diaconate Thanksgiving

Mauricio Rodriguez—Ordination to the Diaconate Thanksgiving

10:30 AM

OLL Community of Faith

12:30 PM

Lucho Chacon †--Birthday Remembrance

Monday May 8

7:45 AM

Angeles de la Rosa †--Birthday Remembrance

Josefa Eigo—Birthday Blessing

Tuesday May 9

7:45 AM

Cristian Ortega—Spiritual Healing & Enlightenment

Ponciano & Isabel Tindoy †

James Hurst †--Birthday Remembrance

Wednesday May 10

7:45 AM

Maria Teresa Figueroa de Castro †--Mother's Day Remembrance

Dolores Montoya †--Mother's Day Remembrance

Cristian Ortega—Spiritual Healing & Enlightenment

Friday May 12

8:30 AM

John Michael Banquerigo—Birthday Blessing

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do..."

Jn 14:12

Readings for May 8 to 14, 2023

5/ 8	Acts 14:5-18 / Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16 / Jn 14:21-26
5/ 9	Acts 14:19-28 / Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 / Jn 14:27-31a
5/10	Acts 15:1-6 / Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 / Jn 15:1-8
5/11	Jn 15:1-8 / Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 / Jn 15:9-11
5/12	Jn 15:9-11 / Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 / Jn 15:12-17
5/13	Acts 16:1-10 / Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5 / Jn 15:18-21
5/14	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 / Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 / 1 Pt 3:15-18 / Jn 14:15-21

From scripture to life...

Even after three years with Him, Phillip had a problem seeing God in Christ. Christ understands and invites us to keep trying.

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 transmisiones 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.



Santa del Dia:

7 de mayo: Santa Rosa Venerini, virgen:

"me siento tan apegada a la Voluntad de Dios, que no me importa ni la muerte ni la vida, quiero lo que Él quiere, quiero servirle lo cuanto Él quiere ser servido por mí y nada más!".

La importancia del software de protección



Los niños pasan más tiempo en línea que nunca antes. ¿Cómo pueden los padres de familia mantenerse al día con lo que sus hijos hacen o ven? Una manera fácil es instalar un software de responsabilidad y de filtrado. Los programas como Covenant Eyes, Bark Home Web Filter o Circle pueden limitar los sitios y aplicaciones disponibles para sus hijos y permitirle a usted ver la actividad de ellos en la Internet. Para obtener más consejos de seguridad en Internet, lea el artículo de Virtus® en inglés, "Five Keys to Monitoring Kids Online Activity" (Cinco claves para monitorear la actividad de los niños en línea) en lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.

Lea el artículo de Virtus® en inglés, "Five Keys to Monitoring Kids Online Activity" (Cinco claves para monitorear la actividad de los niños en línea) aquí.

"Yo les aseguro: el que crea en mí, hará las obras que hago yo y las hará aun mayores..."

Jn 14,12

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!



Sacramentos de Iniciación en OLL Esta Semana

El miércoles 10 de mayo, el Arzobispo José Gómez conferirá la Confirmación a nuestros Adolescentes OLL que se han estado preparando para recibir el sacramento durante dos años.



Luego, el 13 de mayo, nuestros escolares RE y OLL recibirán la Sagrada Comunión por primera vez.

Oremos por los que se preparan para recibir los Sacramentos.

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.



Guarde nuestro Boletín Parroquial

Si tiene un negocio o servicio que le gustaría anunciar, considere hacerlo en nuestro Boletín Parroquial. Para colocar su anuncio, llame a nuestra editorial, Mission Publications, al 888-253-4358.



Recordatorio para tener cuidado con los estafadores. No responda a mensajes sospechosos. Por favor, asegúrese de que el Padre. Rolly nunca te enviaría un mensaje de texto o un correo electrónico para pedirte información personal o dinero. En caso de duda, llame al número principal de la parroquia (818-352-3218) para autenticar el mensaje.

De las escrituras a la vida ... Incluso después de tres años con Él, Felipe tenía problemas para ver a Dios en Cristo. Cristo comprende y nos invita a seguir intentándolo.

V Domingo De Pascua**Primera Lectura: Hechos 6, 1-7****Salmo Responsorial: Salmo 32***— Que tu misericordia, Señor, venga sobre nosotros, como lo esperamos de ti.***Segunda Lectura: 1 Pedro 2, 4-9****Evangelio: San Juan 14, 1-12**

Las bellas lecturas de hoy hablan de nosotros, hablan de la Iglesia fundada por Jesús sobre los apóstoles, la Iglesia que es humana y divina, Una, Santa, Católica y Apostólica.

En la segunda lectura, San Pedro compara esta Iglesia con un edificio espiritual. El constructor es Dios, y el material de construcción no está hecho de ladrillos de arcilla, sino de piedras vivas, seres humanos. San Pedro continúa diciendo que Dios comenzó este edificio al colocar una piedra angular, es decir, una piedra sólida como fundamento. Esta piedra angular es Jesús y la edificación comenzó con la resurrección de Cristo. Y Dios sigue colocando otras piedras vivas sobre este base que “son estirpe elegida, sacerdocio real, nación consagrada a Dios y pueblo de su propiedad”.

Aunque notamos cuán hermosa es la descripción de esta Iglesia que leemos en la carta de San Pedro, no está exenta de problemas debido a la naturaleza humana de sus miembros. Es aquí donde podemos poner el evangelio en contexto porque, así como puede hablar de la vida eterna con Dios, también habla de cómo vivimos nuestra vida como comunidad de fe.

Jesús dice: “Porque ahora voy a prepararles un lugar. Cuando me haya ido y les haya preparado un lugar, volveré y los llevaré conmigo, para que donde yo esté, estén también ustedes”. Este es el primero de los tres discursos de despedida que hizo Jesús durante la última cena y está dirigido a los discípulos de todos los tiempos y el mejor momento para entenderlos es durante este tiempo de Pascua. Jesús parece decírnos que ha llegado el momento de ir al cielo y desde allí preparará un lugar para sus discípulos. Pero hay un significado más profundo en estas palabras.

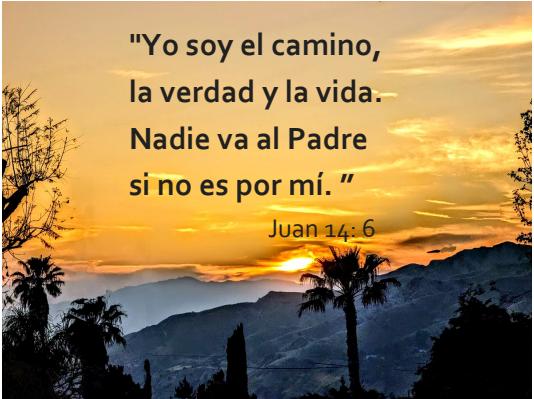
Jesús dice, primero que nada, que él debe recorrer un camino difícil, el camino del sufrimiento y de la muerte. Aunque ha estado hablando de esto muchas veces, Santo Tomás parece no entender ya que muchos de nosotros no podemos entender a qué “camino” se refería Jesús. Santo Tomás hace la pregunta para muchos de nosotros: “Señor, no sabemos a dónde vas, ¿cómo podemos saber el camino?”

Sin embargo, no tenemos que ser como Santo Tomás. Ya sabemos a qué camino se refiere Jesús. Es el camino que conduce a la Pascua, un camino difícil porque exige dolor, sufrimiento y muerte para la vida.

Cuando hemos aceptado seguir el “camino” de Jesús, podemos encontrarnos en la casa del Padre donde hay muchas habitaciones. Y esa casa del Padre es la Iglesia; es la Iglesia Católica a la que pertenecemos, esta comunidad de fe reunida en torno a Cristo resucitado, piedra fundamental. La casa del Padre tiene muchas estancias, es decir, muchos ministerios y servicios donde podemos, de muchas y variadas formas, hacer uso de los diferentes dones que se nos han dado a todos. Al involucrarnos y servir en nuestro ministerio, también podemos experimentar dificultades como las que encontramos en cualquier lugar donde hay diferentes pueblos, culturas, intereses, personalidades como sucedió en la Iglesia primitiva (primera lectura). Inicialmente, la Iglesia primitiva era formada solo de judíos que se hicieron cristianos. Pero con la entrada de los no judíos, a medida que la Iglesia iba creciendo, surgieron problemas tales que las dificultades se tornaron espinosas y escandalosas. Entonces los discípulos celebraron una reunión en la que nombraron a siete diáconos que gozaban del respeto de todos y que serían responsables de la distribución de los bienes entre los pobres.

Esto nos lleva de regreso a donde estamos como Iglesia. Esta Iglesia a la que pertenecemos y que viene de los apóstoles, está formada por seres humanos y no por ángeles. En su larga historia, tiene que lidiar con problemas causados por envidias, celos, incomprendiciones de personas de diferentes orígenes culturales. Obviamente, esto no es algo bueno, pero era, después de todo, normal. No debemos entonces escandalizarnos o desanimarnos por los problemas que encontramos en la Iglesia. Nos recuerda nuestra pecaminosidad y nuestra constante necesidad de conversión. Ser humanos no es una excusa para nuestros pecados y fracasos. Ser humanos es un privilegio que debe ejercerse para dar vida, vida en plenitud con Cristo.

Y si queremos conocer más a Dios, no tenemos que sobre analizar o gastar tiempo en búsquedas elaboradas. Escuche una vez más lo que Jesús tiene que decir en el evangelio después de que Felipe le pidiera: “Señor, muéstranos al Padre”, donde Jesús responde: “Es el Padre, que permanece en mí, quien hace las obras”. Entonces, para conocer a Dios, basta mirar a Cristo, ver lo que hace, escuchar lo que enseña, observar cómo se comporta, cómo ama, qué y a quién prefiere y con quién va, dónde y con quién come, cómo y a quién reprende y qué tipo de personas son las que defiende. . . porque esto es lo que hace el Padre.



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