



St Michael Catholic Parish

*Where we Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples and
Bring Christ to People.*

458 Maple St

Livermore, CA 94550

925-447-1585

www.StMichaelLivermore.com

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 3, 2016



**The harvest
is abundant
but the
laborers
are few;
so ask the
master of the
harvest to
send out
laborers for
the harvest.**

Luke 10:2

Mass Times

Mon-Fri: 7:00 & 8:30 am
Saturday: 8:30 am
Wednesday: 7:00 pm in Spanish

Saturday Vigil

5:00 pm in English
7:00 pm in Spanish

Sunday

6:45 am, 8:00 am, 9:30 am 11:00 am
and 6:00 pm and 12:30 pm in Spanish

Sign Language 1st Sunday 11:00 am
Vietnamese Mass 4th Sunday 3:30 pm

Confession

Saturday in the Church
9:00 am and 3:45 pm English
6:15 pm Spanish
1st & 3rd Wednesdays
2:30 pm in the Convent Chapel

Anointing of the Sick

Every 1st Saturday after the 8:30 am
Mass or by appointment: 925-447-1585

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

24/7 in the Chapel. For after hours
access code, call 925-980-4826.

Clergy

Rev. Van Dinh, Pastor
Rev. Rafael Hinojosa, Parochial Vicar
Rev. David Staal, Associate
Rev. Alfred Amos, In Residence
Rev. Stanislaus Poon, Retired
Rev. Dcn Rob Federle, Admin
Rev. Deacon Dave Rezendes
Rev. Deacon Bill Archer
Rev. Deacon Bob Vince

Pastoral Council

Frs. Van, Rafael and Alfred, Deacon Rob
Federle, Alice Aufderheide, Ricardo Echon,
Michael Pereira, Dave Ruth, Fidelis Atuegbu, Jo
Anne Lindquist, Dave Parks, Frank Draschner,
Ken Varallo, Irving Garcia and Cynthia Garay

Finance Council

Fr. Van Dinh, Fr. Rafael Hinojosa, Deacon Rob
Federle, Cynthia Garay, Kathy Rooney, Dave
Ruth, Vanessa Suarez

St Michael School

925-447-1888

Faith Formation

925-447-8814 M-Th 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Bulletin Editor

TinaGregory@StMichaelLivermore.com
925-344-7127

Reflect &

Mission and Evangelization by Opening the Word

In the first reading from the last chapter of the prophet Isaiah, we get a vision of Jerusalem as the mother of the remnant, those who survive the tribulations of the Babylonian conquest and exile. But it is simultaneously a vision of a renewed Jerusalem in the “new heavens and new earth” that are promised for the future: “For behold I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy” (Isaiah 65:17-18, RSV). This promised new heavens and new earth, with Jerusalem as its capital, has already arrived in a provisional form in the arrival of Christ and his kingdom, when “the LORD’s power shall be known to his servants,” but it is also promised to the Church of the end time when God’s enemies will be confounded and his faithful ones vindicated as those from all nations are united in peace.

Isaiah 66:7 uses the image of labor pains. Those who have suffered the tribulations of invasion and exile are invited to see these as labor unto birth. And, in fact, the author seems to suggest a birth like that which is traditionally assigned to Mary: “Before she was in labor she gave birth; before her pain came upon her she was delivered of a son” (RSV). At that time, the Body of Christ, the Church, will be delivered from her trials and they will give way to a time (or an eternity) when our “bodies flourish like the grass” and we are cared for by our loving God “as a mother comforts her child.” May his kingdom come!

In St. Paul’s letter, as in the first reading, we have an ending. St. Paul closes his letter to the Galatians by returning to basics. The argument he has been making is that God’s work in the people of Israel has given birth to some-

thing new in Christ, who in his death has signaled the end of the obligations of that older covenant and announced the establishment of a new one in him. In this sense, not only has that older order been transformed into a new one, but the whole of the “world has been crucified to me,” Paul says, “and I to the world.” That yields not just a new religious system or set of rules but a “new creation.” To nature has been added a super nature, a grace, about the full effects of which Revelation says, “Behold, I make all things new” (21:5).

It is “a rule,” he says, that has made meaningless circumcision or uncircumcision, the old signs of being a Jew or Gentile. This new rule bears “peace and mercy” for us. Finally, there is some controversy among scholars as to whether the “Israel of God” he refers to here is a reference to the Jews or to the Christian Church as a kind of new Israel of God. But in one sense, that confusion can be instructive. His whole argument has been that the older has given birth to the new and that God’s plan is a unity in which the deep mysteries of Israel and its history are now brought to light in Christ and his Church. The whole point of Galatians is, in fact, that in the Church there is no longer Jew and Gentile but only the one Israel of God.

In the Gospel reading, in addition to the Twelve, Jesus also appoints seventy or seventy-two others to serve, we might say, as “advance men” for his own ministry. But by their very number we see that the “kingdom of God” that Jesus instructs them to announce means that the role of Israel—especially through a messianic figure that Isaiah calls the servant of Yahweh—to be “a light to the nations” is coming to fulfillment (Isaiah 42:6 and 49:6). In Jewish tradition, seventy (or seventy-two) is the number of the nations descended from Noah and his sons after the flood

Discuss

(Genesis 10) and the number of the offspring of Jacob who went with him into Egypt (Exodus 1:5).

Deuteronomy 32:8 even seems to connect these two, saying, "When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of men, he fixed the bounds of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God [that is, Jacob]" (RSV). So the seventy of Israel is God's "portion" (Deuteronomy 32:9) of the seventy nations, and specially set aside for his purpose to bring the truth of his covenant love (Isaiah 42:6) to the world. As Isaiah 49:6 (RSV) puts it, "I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." When Jesus sends out these new elders of Israel, he is telling his people that the kingdom, now "at hand," will reach to the nations!

Gospel Meditation

Place yourself with the disciples as Jesus prepares to send them out for mission. Listen carefully to the instructions of Jesus. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way.

Eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Cure the sick and say to them, "The kingdom of God is at hand for you."

As you hear these words, what is going through your mind? What part is the hardest for you to accept? Why? Now ask yourself, "Am I fully committed to receiving the message of Christ and sharing that message with others? Do I believe that I am capable of doing what Jesus is asking?" Ask Jesus to show you the areas in your life where you do not fully receive and share the message of Christ. Listen for a prompting of the Holy Spirit in response to your prayer.

When you think of the word "evangelization," what images or phrases typically come to mind? Regardless, what qualities make a good evangelizer? Let's make a list of some of these qualities.

Choose one area of your life where it is difficult for you to joyfully witness to Christ's peace. Ask Jesus for the grace to live more joyfully in that area and make steps this week to do so.



Sunday Readings

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 3, 2016

First Reading -- Rejoice and be glad for I will spread prosperity over Jerusalem like a river, and the wealth of nations like an overflowing torrent (Isaiah 66:10-14c).

Psalm -- Let all the earth cry out to God with joy (Psalm 66).

Second Reading -- May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 6:14-18).

Gospel -- Jesus sends his disciples out in pairs to bring his peace and proclaim the kingdom of God (Luke 10:1-12, 17-20) [1-9].

Readings for the Week

Monday: Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22; Ps 145:2-9; Mt 9:18-26; or, for Independence Day, any readings from the Mass "For Public Needs," nos. 882-889, or "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891

Tuesday: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13; Ps 115:3-10; Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday: Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Ps 105:2-7; Mt 10:1-7

Thursday: Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16; Mt 10:7-15

Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-14, 17; Mt 10:16-23

Saturday: Is 6:1-8; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mt 10:24-33

Saints and Special Observances

Monday: Independence Day

Tuesday: St. Anthony Zaccaria; St. Elizabeth of Portugal

Wednesday: St. Maria Goretti

Saturday: St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions; Blessed Virgin Mary



O GOD OUR CREATOR,

From your provident hand we have received our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. You have called us as your people and given us the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God, and your Son, Jesus Christ. Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit, you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world, bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty. Give us the strength of mind and heart to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened; give us courage in making our voices heard on behalf of the rights of your Church and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father, a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters gathered in your Church in this decisive hour in the history of our nation, so that, with every trial withstood and every danger overcome—for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and all who come after us—this great land will always be “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Mary Immaculate, patroness of our country, pray for us.

Amen.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 7/2

8:30am Earl Schmitt †
5:00pm Raymond H. Werner
7:00pm Jesus Valencia Arteaga †

Sunday 7/3

6:45am Virginia Tynan †
8:00am Mass for Our Parish
9:30am Antony Pham Van Hoi †
11:00am Patricia Werner †
12:30pm Jesus Valencia Ateaga †
6:00 pm Rosemary Erving †

Monday 7/4

8:30am Gus & Lucile Beach †

Tuesday 7/5

7:00am Tri Nguyen †
8:30am Joe & Teresa Stocking

Wednesday 7/6

7:00am Giuse Nguyen V. Ruy †
and Anna Tran T. Trong †
8:30am Richard & Rita Bast
7:00pm Jesus Valencia Ateaga †

Thursday 7/7

7:00am Stefan Zaczek †
8:30am Richard J. Gandolfo, Jr. †

Friday 7/8

7:00am Clement C. Ezekwem †
8:30am Lucille Budd †
and Josaphine Zoret †

Saturday 7/9

8:30am Fr. Stanislaus Poon
5:00pm Mass for Our Parish
7:00pm Gregorio & Gliceria Arevalo †

Parish News

Our NEW Parish Website

We have a new beautiful parish website at StMichaelLivermore.com. Please stop by and have a look.

If you had bookmarked the old website at saintmichaelliv.org, you will need to delete it. You may also have to clear your browser history too. A quick Google search will give you the instructions for whatever browser you are using.

Thank You From Birthright

Many thanks to all of you who returned a Birthright baby bottle and offered generous donations. It's people like you who help make an enormous difference in the lives of many women and children.

If you have not yet returned a baby bottle, please drop it by the church office this week. To save costs, we would like to use them for future campaigns.

Are You Getting the Friday Flocknote?

Flocknote.com/StMichaelLivermore is where you go to sign up! Flocknote is our way of keeping our parish family connected via email and/or text.

When you sign up, be sure to check The Friday Flocknote group so that you receive our weekly e-Newsletter. Also check any other group or ministry from which you wish to receive updates.

Happy Anniversary!

Randall and Brenda Schlientz will be celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary on July 8. Keep the happy couple in your prayers.

Scripture Safari Vacation Bible School

Children entering grades K-6 are invited to Vacation Bible School July 25-29. Pick up the registration form in the church office.

Teen Confirmation Registration is Open

Registration for high school Confirmation classes is now open. Please pick up the packet in the church office. Then email Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com to make a registration appointment. No applications will be accepted after August 24th.

Register Your Child for Faith Formation

Students entering first grade through fifth grade this fall are encouraged to join our Faith Formation program. Registration packets are available in the church office, Faith Formation office, or www.StMichaelLivermore.com. Return them to the Faith Formation office M-Th between 9:30 am - 4:00 pm.

Are you being called to be part of the faith formation ministry? We need catechists, party planners, assistants, photographers and many other jobs. Call Charmie at 925-447-8814 x 242.

BackPack Project

Backpack Project is underway!

175 elementary school backpacks are being filled with school supplies for low-income students in Livermore. Thank you to all of you who donated money and time, and to those who carried, lugged, sorted, counted, packed and helped in so many ways! Please continue to keep these students in your prayers. The backpacks will be delivered in August.

For more information, or to help contribute, please contact:

Ernestina Shay, ernestina.shay@comcast.net, 455-1089
Lynn Macedo, wmacedo@comcast.net, 443-3287



This Week

Fourth of July Schedule Monday, July 4

There will be no 7:00 am Mass.
8:30 am Mass will be celebrated as usual.

The parish offices will be closed.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration will continue as usual.

Pray for Our Country

Please come to the Lord's presence in the chapel to pray for our country! Our Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is open 24/7. For night access, please call 925-980-4826 or 925-337-0741 for the code to enter.

Adorers in the evening of the 4th of July are welcome to park in the circular courtyard area, as many may be using our parking lot to view the fireworks display down the street.

Counter Point: Hope and Recovery for Families

Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm
Small Hall

Counter Point Ministry is designed to support families who have a loved one addicted to drugs or alcohol. Our aim is to encourage growth and recovery for the whole family. Parents, spouses and friends can find courage, strength and hope in Christ through the 12 step recovery program, Scripture and Prayer.

Please join us; our meetings are open to all who want recovery from the effects of someone else's addictions.

Please also remember in your prayers all those who are suffering with addiction, and their friends and family who love them.

For more information call Rachael at 510-501-1411

Confessions in the Convent

Wednesday, July 6

Fr. Mark Mannion, a priest of Opus Dei, is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) in the Convent chapel every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 2:30 pm. The Convent is located diagonally across from the church.

Altar Server Training Throughout the Summer

Pope Francis addressed thousands of altar servers and said:

"Serving at the altar is a privileged way to draw closer to Jesus. This in turn enables you to open yourselves to others, to journey together, to set demanding goals and to find the strength to achieve them."

Are you being called to be an altar server? The altar server program at St Michael's is open to boys and girls 5th grade and up. Training sessions are being held throughout the summer. For more information, please leave your name and phone number with the parish office admins at 447-1585 Ext.10

Small Group Study Formats

Starting in September, St Michael parishioners will have the opportunity to register to join a Small Group to grow in faith and build strong communities. We will have three program formats available:



1. **Study the Bible and the faith.** Parishioners will have access to the full catalog of bible study programs and other excellent Catholic faith programs through Ascension Press. Group members will order their own workbooks (around \$20 per study). Included are the video lectures for each session which will be accessible online. At least one person in the group needs to have access to the internet (such as a laptop, phone or tablet).
2. **Reflect on the Sunday Mass Readings.** Grow deeper in faith with the Sunday's Liturgy of the Word using reflections found in the parish bulletin or through other sources. No internet access is required for this format.
3. **Gather for a Catholic Book Club.** Choose from a large catalog of great Catholic books for just \$3 per book (when ordering six or more). No internet access is required for this format.

Upcoming

Baccalaureate Mass for All Grads

**Saturday, July 23 at 5 pm Mass
Potluck to follow in the Hall**

Fr Alfred is celebrating his graduation and invites all graduates to join him at a special Baccalaureate Mass to give thanks to God on Saturday July 23 at the 5:00 pm Mass. A potluck dinner will follow in the parish hall.

A baccalaureate service is a centuries-old tradition of honoring graduates and giving thanks to God for their lives dedicated to learning and wisdom.

Please call Cheryl Ruth at 510-406-2326 if you can bring a dish for the potluck to help make this graduation celebration a success.

Parish Fall Festival October 1 and 2

Did you know that we haven't had a parish fall festival like this for 17 years? We are excited to bring back this community tradition. Save the dates for the St Michael Parish Festival on October 1st and 2nd!

Enjoy two days of food from our diverse ethnic communities, entertainment, games, a dinner dance and silent and live auctions to benefit our growing parish.

Watch for a sign up sheet after the masses starting August 1st. Contact Corry Painter at 925-373-9059 or corrypainter@yahoo.com.

Holy Land and Rome Pilgrimage with Fr. Van November 2-17

The pilgrimage is filling up, but there is still room for you!

Join Fr. Van on a two-week pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome. We will visit all the major holy sites where Jesus, Mary and the apostles walked. We will walk through the Holy Door in Rome, which will only be open for this year of Mercy (ending in December). Come on this unforgettable journey for \$3,900, all inclusive.

While it is true that God can be worshiped from anywhere, it is also true that He manifests his presence in a special way in certain places. It is profitable to visit these places as a way of signifying one's desire to commemorate what God has done and to draw closer to him in one's heart. Therefore, a pilgrimage is not a sight-seeing vacation, but an intentional spiritual journey.

For a detailed itinerary, see the church office or Pilgrimage@StMichaelLivermore.com

Ten Reasons *to join*

As we see in the Gospels, Jesus taught His disciples in small groups. Although He could have preached to millions at a time, He chose a small group to teach, prepare, and empower His closest followers for ministry. He calls us all to discipleship in the same way.

Here are 10 reasons for joining a Small Group this fall:

1. It builds community and belonging in our parish.
2. It develops real friendships in Christ.
3. It is in a small community of

love within the larger parish that can help us overcome challenges.

4. It is a haven of fellowship with other people who have similar beliefs.
5. It gives us a safe place to work out our personal faith/life issues.
6. It provides a structured, scheduled time to refocus our lives on the Lord.
7. It is a way to discover other people in the community who you can help on their journey.
8. It fosters self-reflection.

9. It helps us to accept others and ourselves as flawed human beings striving towards God.

10. It inspires us to do better through the example of the other members of the small group.

Are you interested in hosting a small group in your home this fall? Call or text Tina Gregory at 925-961-7231 for more information.

**At St. Michael Parish in Livermore, it is our mission to
Celebrate the Sacraments, Grow Disciples and Bring Christ to People.**



Jesus...
Know Him, Trust Him, Share Him
One Body, One Spirit

Staff Contact List

Clergy

Fr. Van, Pastor 925-447-1585 x 16
Pastor@StMichaelLivermore.com
Fr. Rafael, Parochial Vicar 925-447-1585 x 18
Padre@StMichaelLivermore.com
Fr. Alfred, Priest in Residence 925-447-1585 x 21
Deacon Rob Federle, Business Admin 925-447-1585 x 14
RobFederle@StMichaelLivermore.com
Deacon Bill Archer, Pastoral Assc. 925-447-1585 x 12

Administration

Mary Dayton, Admin 925-447-1585 x 10
MaryDayton@StMichaelLivermore.com

Lourdes Kay, Admin 925-447-1585 x 10
LourdesKay@StMichaelLivermore.com
Tina Gregory, Communications 925-344-7127
TinaGregory@StMichaelLivermore.com
Kathy Hawkins, Bookkeeper 925-447-1585 x 20
KathyHawkins@StMichaelLivermore.com

Ministry

Debbie Pizzato, Liturgy 925-447-8814 x 222
Liturgy@StMichaelLivermore.com
JaNet Hancock, Music Director 925-292-5071
Music@StMichaelLivermore.com

Charmie Vince, Religious Ed 925-447-8814 x 242
CharmieVince@StMichaelLivermore.com
Priscilla Stutzman, Youth Ministry 925-447-1585 x 11
Youth@StMichaelLivermore.com
Marjorie Melendez, RCIA 925-447-2925
RCIA@StMichaelLivermore.com
Ana Fregoso, RICA 925-344-7150

St Michael School

Sally Douthit, Principal 925-447-1888 x 223
SallyDouthit@StMichaelLivermore.com
Mary Beasley, Admin 925-447-1888 x 221
MaryBeasley@StMichaelLivermore.com

Ministry Contact List

Adult Catechesis

Adult Catechesis Team
925-858-1342
Charismatic Group (English)
925-449-7848
Charismatic Group (Spanish)
925-339-6411
Social Concerns
925-201-8666
Vocations Committee
jouy1235@gmail.com

Charitable Works

Backpack Project
925-455-1089
Dress-a-Girl
925-352-8447
Open Heart Kitchen
925-447-4344
Homebound Ministry
925-443-6829
Knights of Columbus
925-449-4828
St Vincent de Paul
925-373-7472
Santa's Secret Service Ministry
925-447-1585 x 0
Welcoming Ministry
925-294-4178

Christian Initiation

Baptism for Infant-7 year olds
925-447-1585 x 0
Baptism & Eucharist for 7-17 years
925-447-8814 x 246
Teen Confirmation
925-447-1585 x 11
Adult Baptism and Eucharist
925-447-2925
Adult Confirmation
925-447-2925
Adults Inquiring About Catholicism
925-447-2925
RICA Español
925-344-7150

Evangelization

Charismatic Prayer (English)
925-449-7848
Charismatic Prayer (Spanish)
925-339-6411
Legion of Mary
925-223-7790
Catholic Detention Ministry

925-606-8784
Parish Communication
925-961-7231

Fellowship

Golden Friends
925-447-8198
Columbianettes
925-606-7991
Young Ladies Institute
925-447-8895

Fortifying Families

Annulments
925-447-1585 x 12
Birthright
925-449-5887
CounterPoint
Support for family and friends of addicts
925 606-8784
Covenant of Love Date Nights
925-455-4234
Grief Support Ministry
925-455-0944
Marriage Preparation (English)
925-447-1585 x 12
Marriage Preparation (Spanish)
925-960-1524
Mothers Fellowship
949-874-7404
Natural Family Planning
925-577-4499
Quinceañera
925-606-5763
World Wide Marriage Encounter
925-292-9585

Funerals

Holy Angels Funeral & Cremation
at St Michael Cemetery
925-455-9696

Kids and Teens

St Michael School
925-447-1888
K-5 Faith Formation
925-447-8814 x 304
Formacion de Fe
925-371-6214
High School Youth Ministry
925-447-1585 x 11
Vacation Bible School (summer)
925-443-3143

CYO Track www.smistrack.org
CYO Basketball www.smsccyo.org
Girl Scouts
925-294-8504
Cub Scouts
925-876-3589 kstevens4scouts@gmail.com
Boy Scouts
925-321-3614
Columbian Squires
925-447-4299
Legion of Mary Junior Presidium
925-216-0309

Liturgy and Music

Liturgical Ministers
925-447-8814 x 222
Altar Linens
925-784-5390
Altar Society
925-443-7394
Altar Servers
925-447-1585
Music Ministry
925-292-5071

Multi Cultural

Filipino Block Rosary Group
925-373-9059
Grupo de Oracion
925-339-6411
Virgen de Guadalupe
925-640-8821
Italian Catholic Federation
925-846-0897
Portuguese Community
925-455-8359
Vietnamese Community
lac.dinh@gmail.com

Prayer and Devotions

33 Day Consecration Ministry
pacatham@gmail.com
African Prayer Group
foatuegbu@yahoo.com
Blue Army of Mary
925-447-3845
Eucharistic Adoration Ministry
Adoration@StMichaelLivermore.com
Medjugorje Prayer Group
925-447-7878
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
925-223-7790



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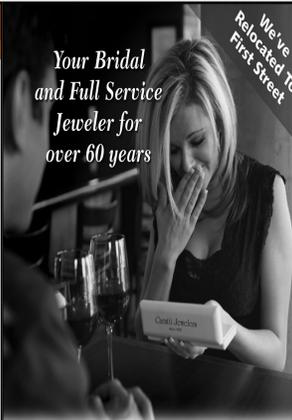


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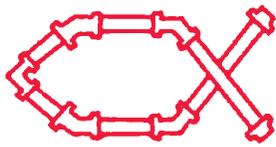


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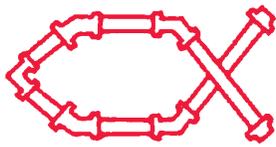
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3 de julio de 2016



Las lecturas de hoy celebran la providencia de Dios. No importa lo maravilloso (o doloroso) que sean nuestras relaciones, Dios siempre nos provee. Nadie cuida tanto de nosotros como lo hace Dios.

Isaías nos deleita con una imagen profundamente íntima de Dios cuidándonos "como una madre cuida de su hijo". El profeta nos describe no como los habituales "hijos de Dios" sino como "bebés". No debemos resistirnos a esta imagen, sino regocijarnos con ella. Confiando en el cuidado de Dios, nosotros podemos bajar la guardia y descansar como bebés en el regazo de nuestra madre.

La confianza de san Pablo en Dios le permite estar en paz. Audazmente dice que nadie puede "ponerle obstáculos" por que se ha entregado completamente a Jesús. Y cuando Jesús envía a sus discípulos a predicar y sanar, él los desafia a no cargar nada para ellos, sino tener fe en su guía.

NUNCA SOLOS

San Pablo nos recuerda hoy que él lleva en su cuerpo "la marca de los sufrimientos de Cristo". Podemos recordar otra carta en la que Pablo describe sus encarcelamientos y golpes: "cinco veces a manos de los judíos recibí cuarenta latigazos menos uno. Tres veces fui golpeado con varas, una vez fui apedreado, tres veces naufrague, pasé una noche y un día en lo profundo (2 Corintios 11:24-25). Más allá de amargarse por estas circunstancias, Pablo "alarde" en la cruz que Jesús le permitió compartir.

Aquellos de nosotros que tenemos cicatrices, también tenemos las historias que nos causaron la cicatriz. Las cicatrices de Pablo le recuerdan la vida de Jesús. Con las marcas de Jesús en su cuerpo y el amor de Cristo en su corazón, Pablo nunca está sólo.

PROFUNDAMENTE CONECTADO

Nunca estamos solos; bueno no siempre. Vivimos en relaciones, en comunidad. Esa es la forma como llegamos al

mundo, después de todo, con una mamá en parto que nos da a luz a la comunidad. Dios -Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo es una comunidad misteriosa que tiene la intención que vivamos en relación con Dios y con los demás, siempre y por la eternidad. Las historias de abandono o abuso nos afecta fuertemente precisamente porque todos sabemos la profundidad necesidad humana que abarca a una familia amorosa.

Hoy en nuestra lectura de Isaías describe a Dios como una madre gentil, dedicándonos tiempo, a sus hijos y confortándonos. Este Dios mismo nos cuida tan íntimamente que elige entrar a la familia humana por medio de María. Jesús, su hijo, creció fuerte al lado de su cuidado. Y como Lucas nos dice hoy, cuando el tiempo llegó para anunciar el mensaje de su Evangelio, Jesús insistió en la comunidad: él envió a sus discípulos en pares.

Las indicaciones que les dio Jesús a sus setenta y dos misioneros refuerza la importancia de la comunidad. Jesús quiere que sus discípulos construyan relaciones saludables a donde quiera que vayan, deseando paz a sus nuevos conocidos, compartiendo los dones de fe y el sanar de enfermos, y aceptar la hospitalidad en cualquier forma que esta se ofrezca. Estos consejos prácticos todavía se aplican a nosotros hoy, los discípulos modernos de Jesús que trabajan en el mundo.

Contáctenos

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