



The Cathedral of
ST. EUGENE

2323 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
(707) 542-6984

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector
Rev. Alan Acevedo, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Jeffrey Keyes, In Residence
Deacon Mike Heinzelman
Deacon Gary Moore
Deacon Russ Bowden

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Email Comments/Suggestions to:
cathedralresponse@gmail.com

Parish Office Phone	542-6984
Parish Office Fax	542-1621
Religious Education	326-3408
Finance Council – Marty McCormick	526-1700
Choir Directress – Pam Zieminski	578-8848
School Office – Sharon Jeffrey	545-7252
Preschool Office – Sharry Caesare	528-9133
Homeschool Academy– Jessica Warner	206-5579

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Entrance is located at SW corner of Rectory

WEBSITES

Parish: www.steugenes.com
School: www.steugenesch.org

REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH

Our warmest welcome to all who worship in our community. If you are not registered in the parish, please complete a registration card. Cards are available at church entrances or at the parish office.

MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS

Please contact the office at least 12 months in advance for weddings and 3 months in advance for baptisms. Check the parish website for more information.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office when a parishioner is home bound or hospitalized to arrange for Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick.



MASS TIMES

Daily Mass: 6:45 and 8:00 a.m.
Saturday: 8:00a.m; 4:30 p.m. & Sp.6:30 p. m.
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday Latin Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Latin Mass: 1:30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Saturday or by appointment

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Perpetual Adoration is in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To sign up for your hour with our Lord, call Annette (English) at: 542-3635 or Maria Vega (Spanish) at: 710-5094

Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament is held in the chapel every First Friday following 8:00 a.m. Mass. *During this time of Covid-19, Benediction is not being held.*

DEVOTIONS

Recitation of the Rosary is Monday – Saturday at 7:30 a.m. in the Cathedral

Chaplet of Divine Mercy is Saturday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral

CATHEDRAL SHOPS

Cathedral Thrift Shop Hours: Tues & Wed. 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Cathedral Books & Gifts Hours: Wed-Sat 8:30-4:30 & Sun 8:30-1:30, Closed Mon/Tues - Phone: 542-0250

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 16, 2022

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY JANUARY 16

Masses – Cathedral – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00, 1:30 pm (Latin) & 5:30 pm
RCIA & RCIF – School – 10:30 am

MONDAY JANUARY 17

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

TUESDAY JANUARY 18

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Women of the Word – PLC (Hope Rm) – 9:30 am
PSR – School – 3:45 pm
Latin Mass – Cathedral – 5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 19

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Bible Study – PLC Hope Room – 6:00 pm

THURSDAY JANUARY 20

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

FRIDAY JANUARY 21

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

SATURDAY JANUARY 22

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am
Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
(Spanish)

SECOND COLLECTION

~TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM~

The Second Collection this weekend, January 15 & 16, is for Our school's Tuition Assistance Program. Our Second Collection next weekend, January 22 & 23, will be for the Church in Latin America. As always, your generosity is appreciated!

~BECKER CENTER UPDATE~

We are happy to report that we have reached the \$75,000 mark in our quest to raise \$100,000 for much needed upgrades and repairs to the Msgr. Becker Center kitchen and bathrooms. We are almost at our goal! Thank you so much for your generosity!

The bulletin item deadline is Thursday @ 3:00pm for the Sunday after next bulletin. E-mail items to: office@steugenes.com. We reserve the right to edit or omit items.

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of: 01/02/22

Sunday Donations Received:	\$19,107.00
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2nd Collection received for: N/A	
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~CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS~

Our Special of the Month for January is 25% off "Sleeping Saint Joseph" statues. Also, we will soon have a special clearance section set up with discounts from 25% to 50% off on selected items. There will also be a clearance sale on all Advent and Christmas merchandise during January. We are also seeking more volunteers to help us in this busy ministry. Please see paragraph below for more information! Also, please tell your Spanish-speaking friends that we have a great selection of Spanish language books & cards! The shop hours are: Wed-Sat from 8:30 am-4:30 pm & Sun 8:30 am-1:30 pm. We are closed Mon./Tues. Call us at: 542-0250.

~VOLUNTEERS NEEDED~

Our Bookstore/Gift Shop is looking for a few volunteers with retail experience, who are customer-service oriented, self-starters (but willing to take direction) and able to work a minimum of 4 hours/week. We are a ministry as well as a retail store, so compassion and the ability to listen are highly recommended. Interested? Stop in the bookstore during business hours (see hours above) and an interview will be scheduled.

~CHARITABLE DONATIONS & TAX STATEMENTS~

"St. Eugene's greatly appreciates your generous donations. A year end list of your donations suitable for tax purposes is available to **registered** parishioners upon request. If you wish to receive a tax statement, e-mail office@steugenes.com or call 707-542-6984 ext. 102. Mention your envelope number if you have one. Indicate how you want to receive your statement: mail, email or pick up."

~JOB OPENING~

Cardinal Newman High School is looking for a Campus Ministry Coordinator to work closely with the Chaplain in organizing faith-based programs and activities throughout the school year. Especially noteworthy are the annual student retreats, monthly school-wide Masses, and various activities around the liturgical calendar. If Please apply at <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1506169>. For more information, please contact Fr. Plass at frplass@cardinalnewman.org.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	January 15
8:00 am	Luis Roberto Monterroso, deceased
4:30 pm	George Schirle, deceased
6:30 (Sp)	In Thanksgiving & Reparation for the life of Jessica Martinez, living
Sunday	January 16
7:30 am	People of St. Eugene's
9:00 am	ICF Members, living & deceased
10:30 am	Norberto Carrera, deceased
12:00 pm	Deirdre & Martin B McCormick, deceased
1:30 pm (EF)	Michael Hart, deceased
5:30 pm	Fred Wallace, deceased
6:00 pm (Newman Ctr.)	Karen Vandenberg, deceased
Monday	January 17
6:45 am	Sandy Castagnola, deceased
8:00 am	Ted Shelton, deceased
Tuesday	January 18
6:45 am	Laura Leon Luna, living
8:00 am	McShane & Stronge Families, living & deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Lisa Tran, living
Wednesday	January 19
6:45 am	James J. Haberkorn, Jr., deceased
8:00 am	Luigi Fabiano, deceased
9:20 am (Sch)	Laura Leon Luna, living
Thursday	January 20
6:45 am	Graham B. Mann, deceased
8:00 am	Robert Cook Family, living & deceased
Friday	January 21
6:45 am	Natalie Amborn, deceased
8:00 am	William Avilla, deceased
Saturday	January 22
8:00 am	For Unborn Children
4:30 pm	For the protection of Unborn Children
6:30 pm (Sp)	In Thanksgiving & Reparation for the life of Mariela Martinez, living

~PLEASE PRAY FOR~

Those who are ill need your support and prayers: Tristan Humble, Samuel Agius, Sandy Torti Wilcox, Marjorie Miles, Amelia Lansangan, Gail Brown, Leo Del Santo, Emeline Jane Smith, Rosalind Britto, Ken Davis, Rita Wyatt, Karen Mills, Eileen Carol, Nancy Amador, Patrick Welter, Cristeta Marentes, Jesus Navarro, Michael Boland, Stephen Warner, Thomas Patrick, Aida Catapang, Bob Goldman, Pat Davenport, Joan Cosgrove, Paulita Castro, Jean L. Alfano, Theresa Pham, Rainey Olson, Michele Otten, Pauline Goslovich, Mary Gonzales and Nick Sidjakov.

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~WORLD MARRIAGE DAY~

SAVE THE DATE! Bishop Robert Vasa has announced that the 3rd Annual Diocesan "Celebrate Marriage Mass" will be held on Sunday, February 13th, at 10:30 a.m. here at the Cathedral. All married couples within the diocese are invited to attend, especially those celebrating "milestone" anniversaries (e.g., 5, 10, 20, 25, etc).

~LITURGY Q&A~

What do the liturgical terms "Propers" and "Ordinaries" refer to?

Propers are Scriptures that the Church prescribes as "proper" to each individual Mass in addition to the particular readings that are specially designated for each Mass. They are integral to the structure of the liturgy and have been sung since the earliest centuries. You will hear the singing of the proper texts by a cantor or small group of singers at the Entrance, Offertory and Communion. The Entrance and Communion propers are printed in the Pew Missal for each Sunday and Holy Day. **Ordinaries** are the texts for the liturgy which never change, hence they are "ordinary" to all Masses. The Kyrie, Gloria, Creed, Sanctus and Agnus Dei are ordinaries. Although the musical settings can vary for these, the wording of the texts, whether in Latin or English, should always be precisely what the Church has given to us.

RESPECT LIFE

~WALK FOR LIFE~

The bus taking St. Eugene's parishioners to the Walk for Life in San Francisco is now full. All available tickets have been sold! Let us pray for those who are embarking on this journey on **January 22nd**. May they be protected by their guardian angels and may they be good witnesses for life! Why do we march every year? Here's why: Since 1973, the year the Supreme Court legalized abortion, there have been over 62 million abortions in the United States. (Due to the fact that several forms of contraception can also act as abortifacients, this number is likely much higher.) This is roughly the population of the country of Italy! Such a large number of innocent lives taken is hard to fathom. Remember the words of God to the prophet Jeremiah: *"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you. I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."* Jeremiah 1:5

~RALLY FOR LIFE~

Next Sunday, January 23, starting at 2:00 pm, please join other pro-lifers for the "Rally for Life" at Santa Rosa Christian Church located at 1315 Pacific Avenue. Hear great speakers, enjoy music and fellowship and most importantly, pray with others as we seek an end to the legal slaughter of the innocents. You can drive directly to the location or join a group of us at St. Eugene's at 1:00 pm and walk to the rally (about 1.2 miles). Let's stand up and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves!

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

FROM THE PASTOR

~GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT~

In our second reading today, we read about the various gifts that the Holy Spirit sometimes bestows upon us. I would like to focus more closely on the gift of prophecy and the discernment of this gift, as in this day and age, there seem to be so many who claim to have visions, etc. When we read below what the late Fr. William Most has to say about this, it makes us aware that we must be very wary. The devil is very active, and knows that many people have a particular weakness for things of this particular realm. So, let us see what Fr. Most, has to say regarding mystics and visions.

PROPHECY & DISCERNMENT

~ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS~

"St. John of the Cross, a Doctor of the Church and one of the greatest of mystic theologians, who had had so many special favors himself, is very severe with persons who desire to be the recipients of visions and revelations. He never wearies of repeating that the proximate means of union with God in this life is the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. True growth consists in intensified love, which is founded on faith and hope. Now although St. John encourages everyone to aim at infused contemplation, even though relatively few attain it, he strongly reproveth anyone who desires to be the recipient of a vision or revelation. They desire to see; faith holds on without seeing.

~ST. TERESA OF AVILA~

St. Teresa of Avila, who herself had an abundance of visions, takes a similar stand. She admits that great profit can be had from such things when they are genuine and are received in the proper spirit. Yet she says (Interior Castle 6. 9): "I will only warn you that, when you learn or hear that God is granting souls these graces, you must never beg or desire Him to lead you by this road. Even if you think it is a very good one... there are certain reasons why such a course is not wise."

~AN UNWISE COURSE~

She then goes on at length to explain her reasons: First, such a desire shows a lack of humility; second, one thereby leaves oneself open to "great peril,

because the devil has only to see a door left a bit ajar to enter"; third, the danger of auto-suggestion: "When a person has a great desire for something, he convinces himself that he is seeing or hearing what he desires." Fourth, it is presumption for one to want to choose his own path, as only the Lord knows which path is best for us. Fifth, very heavy trials usually go with these favors: could we be sure of being able to bear them? Sixth, "you may well find that the very thing from which you had expected gain will bring you loss."

~WHOLESOME ADVICE~

She then adds that there are also other reasons, and continues with some wholesome advice that one can become very holy without this sort of thing: "There are many holy people who have never known what it is to receive a favor of this sort, and there are others who receive such favors even though they are not holy." We think of the frightening words of Our Lord in Mt. 7.22-23. Speaking of the last day, He said: "Many will say to me on that day: "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out devils in your name, and work many miracles in your name? And then I will tell them: I never knew you. Depart from me you workers of iniquity." St. Teresa adds: "It is true that to have these favors must be a very great help towards attaining a high degree of perfection in the virtues; but one who has attained the virtues at the cost of his own work has earned much more merit." It is, then, a sad mistake to center one's spiritual life about recounting and hoping for special revelations. Yes, we do well to follow those that have been approved by the Church, such as Lourdes and Fatima (the Church does not require belief in any private revelation). But even there, they should not be the center of our spiritual lives except in so far as they are an exhortation to what the Gospel already calls for. Thus the three requests of Fatima are all just repetitions of what general theology provides: 1) Penance: which in the Gospel sense, means moral reform and reparation for sin; 2) Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: this is merely the natural conclusion of learning what our Father's plan is, of His approach to us in which He has given her an all-pervading role; and 3) The Rosary, consisting mostly of lines from the Gospel, plus prayers composed by the Church.

~SO MANY APPARITIONS~

Since there is today so great a number of alleged apparitions of Our Lady, and since so many become so attached to them as to almost center their spiritual lives about them, it is good to consider some principles about visions and revelations. First, these things are definitely not part of the core of the spiritual life. St. John of the Cross, the Mystical Doctor, is very hard on these things. He goes so far as to tell souls that if a vision comes, they should at first not accept, to hold off and consider its authenticity only if it comes again. The reason he gives is this: faith holds on without seeing proof; those who want visions want to see, not to believe without seeing (cf. Garrigou-Lagrange, *The Three Ages of the Spiritual Life* II, 575-88 and Poulain, *The Graces of Interior Prayer*, 299-399).

~THE LOCAL BISHOP~

We distinguish two kinds of actions by the local bishops of places of alleged apparitions:

1) a decision that it is or is not authentic. Since the Church herself has no providential protection in the area of private revelations, the bishop could be in error. We are not obliged to believe him, or even the Pope himself in such a case.

2) an order to all not to go in pilgrimage to the place of the supposed visions. This is a different matter, it is an exercise of authority, which the local bishop does have. Therefore if there are violations of this order, and yet visions seem to continue, we may be absolutely certain that the visions are false. Our Lady or the Saints will never appear to promote disobedience. Even if there seem to be benefits to the devotion of people, we must still obey. And we need to recall how demanding the Church is of proof for alleged miracles. At Lourdes, after thousands of seeming miracles, the Church has checked and approved only a little over 60 cases since the start of that shrine.

~FATIMA~

The objection will be raised: The Church was so slow in approving Fatima, and so people lost so many graces while waiting. We reply: They lost nothing at all. Visions are not like sacraments, which produce their effect by their own power (that is, the power of Christ working through them) in those who do not place an obstacle. One of the most approved series of visions are those of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary. On one occasion, He had told her to do something, but her Superior did

not approve. When He came again, she asked Him about this, and He replied: "Therefore not only do I desire that you should do what your Superior commands, but also that you should do nothing of all that I order without their consent. I love obedience, and without it no one can please me" (*Autobiography of St. Margaret Mary* # 47). We can understand this: He Himself redeemed the world precisely by obedience (Cf. Rom 5:19). Without obedience His sacrifice would have been empty externalism, the kind God reproved in the ancient Jews in Isaiah 29:13: "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me." *Lumen Gentium* # 3 says "by His obedience He brought about redemption." So there is no grace to be had by disobeying. To wait will not entail any loss at all; rather, God's favor will be upon those who obey. If the local bishop does not approve, it is not good to say: let us wait for Rome to speak. Normally Rome respects the local bishop, and is highly unlikely to reverse his decision. Even if Rome did reverse it, we would have no guarantee, for, as we said, the providential protection promised to the Church does not cover private revelations.

~GOOD OR EVIL SPIRIT~

What kind of Spirit is at work when someone receives a vision, a revelation, or a more routine favor? To determine this is called the discernment of spirits. It is of great importance to find the right answer. It is evident that there can be three sources: good spirit, evil spirit, auto-suggestion." Fr. William Most - *Private Revelations and the Discernment of Spirits*. For the full article, please go to: www.Catholic-pages.com/bvm/private_revelations.asp

~CATHOLIC Q&A~

Q: What is the lesson to be learned in today's second reading from 1 Corinthians 12?

A: By baptism all, despite diversity of ethnic or social origins, are integrated into one organism (the Church). Within this body (the Church) is a diversity of functions among the parts (of the body) without threat to its unity. It is here, in a nutshell, that we see the main idea, namely, the unity of Christ's Church. One of the marks of Christ's true church is unity of belief. What a tragedy that in this day and age, we have thousands of churches, all calling themselves Christian! This splintering of belief is directly in contradiction to what Jesus says His Church is: a unified body, wherein each member plays a role.

MI FE CATOLICA

DE NUESTRO PASTOR
~DON DEL ESPIRITU SANTO~

En nuestra segunda lectura de hoy, leemos acerca de los diversos dones que el Espíritu Santo a veces nos concede. Me gustaría centrarme más de cerca en el don de profecía y el discernimiento de este don, ya que en esta época parece haber tantos que afirman tener visiones, etc. Cuando leemos a continuación lo que el difunto p. William Most tiene que decir sobre esto, nos hace conscientes de que debemos ser muy cautelosos. El diablo es muy activo y sabe que muchas personas tienen una debilidad particular por las cosas de este reino en particular. Entonces, veamos lo que el P. Most, tiene que decir sobre los místicos y visiones.

DECERNIMIENTO & PROFESIA

~SAN JUAN DE LA CRUZ~

"San Juan de la Cruz, Doctor de la Iglesia y uno de los más grandes teólogos místicos, que había tenido él mismo tantos favores especiales, es muy severo con las personas que desean ser destinatarios de visiones y revelaciones. Nunca se cansa de repetir que el medio inmediato de unión con Dios en esta vida son las tres virtudes teologales de la fe, la esperanza y el amor. El verdadero crecimiento consiste en un amor intensificado, que se basa en la fe y la esperanza. Ahora, aunque San Juan anima a todos a apuntar a la contemplación infundida, aunque relativamente pocos la alcanzan, él reprueba enérgicamente a cualquiera que desee ser el destinatario de una visión o revelación. Desean ver; la fe se sostiene sin ver.

~ SANTA TERESA DE AVILA ~

Santa Teresa de Ávila, que tuvo muchas visiones, adopta una postura similar. Ella admite que se puede obtener un gran beneficio de tales cosas cuando son genuinas y se reciben con el espíritu apropiado. Sin embargo, ella dice (Castillo Interior 6, 9): "Sólo te advertiré que, cuando aprendas o escuches que Dios está otorgando a las almas estas gracias, nunca debes suplicar ni desear". Él para guiarte por este camino. Incluso si crees que es muy bueno ... hay ciertas razones por las que tal curso no es prudente".

~UN CURSO IMPUDENTE~

Luego continúa explicando extensamente sus razones: Primero, tal deseo muestra una falta de humildad; segundo, uno de este modo se deja →

expuesto a un "gran peligro, porque el diablo sólo tiene que ver una puerta entreabierta para entrar"; tercero, el peligro de la autosugestión: " Cuando una persona tiene un gran deseo de algo, se convence de que está viendo o escuchando lo que desea. "En cuarto lugar, es presunción que uno quiera elegir su propio camino, ya que solo el Señor sabe cuál es el mejor para nosotros. En quinto lugar, estos favores suelen acompañar a pruebas muy duras: ¿podríamos estar seguros de poder soportarlos? En sexto lugar, "es muy posible que descubras que aquello de lo que esperabas obtener beneficios te traerá pérdidas".

~ BUENOS CONSEJOS ~

Luego agrega que también hay otras razones, y continúa con un sano consejo de que uno puede volverse muy santo sin este tipo de cosas: "Hay muchas personas santas que nunca han sabido lo que es recibir un favor de este tipo, y hay otros que reciben tales favores aunque no sean santos". Pensamos en las espantosas palabras de Nuestro Señor en Mateo 7,22-23. Hablando del último día, dijo: "Muchos me dirán en ese día: "Señor, Señor, ¿no profetizamos en tu nombre, y echamos fuera demonios en tu nombre, y obramos muchos milagros en tu nombre? Y luego les diré: nunca los conocí. Apartaos de mí, hacedores de iniquidad". Santa Teresa añade: "Es cierto que tener estos favores debe ser de gran ayuda para alcanzar un alto grado de perfección en las virtudes; pero quien ha alcanzado las virtudes a costa de su propio trabajo, ha ganado mucho más mérito. "Es, entonces, un triste error centrar la vida espiritual de uno en contar y esperar revelaciones especiales. Sí, hacemos bien en seguir esas que han sido aprobados por la Iglesia, como Lourdes y Fátima (la Iglesia no requiere creer en ninguna revelación privada). Pero incluso allí, no deben ser el centro de nuestra vida espiritual, excepto en la medida en que son una exhortación a lo que el Evangelio ya pide. Por tanto, las tres peticiones de Fátima son sólo repeticiones de lo que ofrece la teología general: 1) Penitencia: que en el sentido evangélico, significa reforma moral y reparación por el pecado; 2) Devoción al Inmaculado Corazón de María: esta es simplemente la conclusión natural de conocer cuál es el plan de nuestro Padre, de Su acercamiento a nosotros en el que le ha dado un papel omnipresente; y 3) El Rosario, que consiste principalmente en líneas del Evangelio, más oraciones compuestas por la Iglesia.

~TANTAS APARICIONES~

Espiritual Dado que hoy en día hay una gran cantidad de supuestas apariciones de Nuestra Señora, y dado que muchas se apegan tanto a ellas que casi centran sus vidas espirituales en ellas, es bueno considerar algunos principios sobre visiones y revelaciones. Primero, estas cosas definitivamente no son parte del núcleo de la vida espiritual. San Juan de la Cruz, el Doctor Místico, es muy duro con estas cosas. Llega al extremo de decirles a las almas que si llega una visión, al principio no deberían aceptarla, esperar y considerar su autenticidad sólo si vuelve. La razón que da es la siguiente: la fe se mantiene sin ver pruebas; los que quieren visiones quieren ver, no creer sin ver (cf. Garrigou-Lagrange, Las tres edades de la vida espiritual II, 575-88 y Poulain, Las gracias de la oración interior, 299-399).

~EL OBISPO LOCAL~

Distinguimos dos tipos de acciones por parte de los obispos locales de lugares de supuestas apariciones: 1) una decisión de que es o no auténtica. Dado que la Iglesia misma no tiene protección providencial en el área de las revelaciones privadas, el obispo podría estar equivocado. No estamos obligados a creerle a él, ni siquiera al Papa mismo en tal caso. 2) una orden a todos de no ir en peregrinación al lugar de las supuestas visiones. Este es un asunto diferente, es un ejercicio de autoridad, que sí tiene el obispo local. Por lo tanto, si hay violaciones de este orden y, sin embargo, las visiones parecen continuar, podemos estar absolutamente seguros de que las visiones son falsas. Nuestra Señora o los santos nunca aparecerán para promover la desobediencia. Incluso si parece haber beneficios en la devoción de las personas, debemos obedecer. Y nosotros Necesito recordar cuán exigente es la Iglesia de pruebas de supuestos milagros. En Lourdes, después de miles de aparentes milagros, la Iglesia ha verificado y aprobado solo un poco más de 60 casos desde el inicio de ese santuario.

~FATIMA~

Se planteará la objeción: la Iglesia tardó mucho en aprobar a Fátima, por lo que la gente perdió tantas gracias mientras esperaba. Respondemos: No perdieron nada en absoluto. Las visiones no son como sacramentos, que producen su efecto por su propio poder (es decir, el poder de Cristo obrando a través de ellos) en aquellos que no ponen obstáculo. Una de las series de visiones más aprobadas son las del Sagrado Corazón a Santa Margarita María. En una ocasión, le había dicho que hiciera algo, pero su superiora no aprobó.

Cuando volvió, ella le preguntó sobre esto, y él respondió: "Por eso no sólo deseo que hagas lo que manda tu Superior, sino también que no hagas nada de todo lo que te ordeno sin su consentimiento. Me encanta la obediencia". y sin él nadie puede complacerme "(Autobiografía de Santa Margarita María # 47). Podemos entender esto: Él mismo redimió al mundo precisamente por la obediencia (Cf. Rm 5, 19). Sin la obediencia, su sacrificio habría sido un externalismo vacío, el tipo que Dios reprendió en los judíos de la antigüedad en Isaías 29:13: "Este pueblo de labios me honra, pero su corazón está lejos de mí". Lumen Gentium # 3 dice que "por su obediencia produjo la redención". Así que no hay gracia que se obtenga desobedeciendo. Esperar no implicará ninguna pérdida; más bien, el favor de Dios estará sobre aquellos que obedezcan. Si el obispo local no lo aprueba, no es bueno decir: esperemos a que hable Roma. Normalmente, Roma respeta al obispo local y es muy poco probable que cambie su decisión. Incluso si Roma lo revirtiera, no tendríamos ninguna garantía, porque, como dijimos, la protección providencial prometida a la Iglesia no cubre las revelaciones privadas.

~ESPÍRITU BUENO O MALO~

¿Qué tipo de Espíritu actúa cuando alguien recibe una visión, una revelación o un favor más rutinario? Determinar esto se llama discernimiento de espíritus. Es de gran importancia encontrar la respuesta correcta. Es evidente que puede haber tres fuentes: buen espíritu, espíritu maligno, autosugestión". P. William Most - Revelaciones privadas y el discernimiento de los espíritus.

~PREGUNTAS Y RESPUESTAS CATÓLICAS~

P: ¿Cuál es la lección que debemos aprender en la segunda lectura de hoy de 1 Corintios 12?

R: Por el bautismo todos, a pesar de la diversidad de orígenes étnicos o sociales, se integran en un solo organismo (la Iglesia). Dentro de este cuerpo (la Iglesia) hay una diversidad de funciones entre las partes (del cuerpo) sin amenaza a su unidad. Es aquí, en pocas palabras, donde vemos la idea principal, a saber, la unidad de la Iglesia de Cristo. Una de las marcas de la verdadera iglesia de Cristo es la unidad de creencias. ¡Qué tragedia que en esta época tengamos miles de iglesias, todas ellas llamándose cristianas! Esta fragmentación de la fe está directamente en contradicción con lo que Jesús dice que es Su Iglesia: un cuerpo unificado, en el que cada miembro juega un papel.



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