



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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 6, 2022

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY MARCH 6

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 MARCH 7

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

TUESDAY MARCH 8

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 MARCH 9

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

THURSDAY MARCH 10

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

FRIDAY MARCH 11

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Stations of the Cross – Cathedral – 2:00 pm; 6:00 pm;
7:00 pm (Spanish)

SATURDAY MARCH 12

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, March 5 & 6, is for the Tuition Assistance Program. Next weekend, March 12 & 13, we will have our Annual Ministry Appeal. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated! Envelopes are available in each vestibule. Please see below for more details.

~ANNUAL DIOCESAN MINISTRY APPEAL~

The Annual Diocesan Ministry Appeal will be conducted next weekend. Our parish target this year is \$47,267.00. St. Eugene's receives 100% of funds raised over that amount. With your help, we can assure the continued support of many important programs that help individuals and parishes throughout our diocese – the Catholic education of our children, the education of our Seminarians, Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Clergy Formation and more. Please respond generously when you are asked to make a pledge on the weekend of March 12 & 13.

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of: 02/20/22

Sunday Donations Received:	\$12,681.
2nd Collection : Tuition Assistance Program	\$3,168.

~CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS~

We are now in the season of Lent. Did you know that the practice of receiving ashes dates back to the fifth century and became a universal Christian practice by the 11th century? To honor and to assist you in observing Lent, our special of the month for March is 25% off any book that has the word "Lent" in the title. We have prayer books for Lent, Stations of the Cross and more. Let's make this time of Lent holy and spiritually enriching. God bless you all! 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. Please feel free to call us at: (707) 542-0250.

~NEW TO THE PARISH?~

If you are new to St. Eugene's, *Welcome!* We hope you find a spiritual home here. Please formally register in the parish and be a part of our family. Come to the parish office Mon-Fri, 9-4 to register - a welcome packet awaits you there. Registration cards are also available in the front and east church vestibules.

~UPDATE YOUR RECORDS ~

Have you changed your address? Phone number? Email address? Have new family members since you registered in the parish? Have your children grown up and left home? If so, please contact the parish office and let us know your changes so that we can update your parishioner record. Email changes to maria@steuigenes.com or call her at 542-6984, extension 100.

~LITURGY Q & A~

Why do we use incense at Mass? (Part 3)

"The word *incense* is from the Latin *incendere*, meaning to set on fire as in a sacrifice. Offering incense is an act of sacrifice, the giving of an expensive gift to God . . . When the faithful are incensed, it is at once a purification of them, a protection of them, and an honoring of Christ, who is present within them." The use of incense for Holy Mass helps to protect us and purify us from the secular world where sin abounds, and facilitates our transition to a sacred place where we can unite ourselves to Our Lord and glorify Him. Our prayers rise up to Heaven just as the smoke ascends. (Fr. James W. Jackson, *Nothing Superfluous*)

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	March 5
8:00 am	In honor of and in reparation for the offences against the Immaculate Heart of Mary & the Sacred Heart of Jesus and for the living & deceased members of the Russell & Rinaldi Families.
4:30 pm	Ryan Edward Shaklik, living
6:30 (Sp)	Juana de la Cruz Garcia & Miguel de Jesus Carrillo de la Cruz, deceased
Sunday	March 6
7:30 am	Stephanie Buettner, deceased
9:00 am	Nancy Reilly, living
10:30 am	People of St. Eugene's
12:00 pm	Robert Moore, deceased
1:30 pm (EF)	The Finn & Green Families, living & deceased
5:30 pm	Cesar Datu, Alfredo & Julia Dichoso, deceased
6:00 pm (Newman Ctr.)	Gildardo Luna Torres, living
Monday	March 7
6:45 am	Henry & Filomena Ramos, deceased
8:00 am	Fr. John Plass, living
Tuesday	March 8
6:45 am	Henry & Filomena Ramos, deceased
8:00 am	Felipa de Jesus Monterroso, deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Michael Tran, living
Wednesday	March 9
6:45 am	Carl Goslovich, deceased
8:00 am	James Ernst, deceased
9:20 (Sch)	Emmanuel Luna & Family, living
Thursday	March 10
6:45 am	Paulina Pelaez, living
8:00 am	Barthelemy Strady, deceased
Friday	March 11
6:45 am	Isabel Ameller, living
8:00 am	Robert Moore, deceased
12:00 (hospital)	Roberto Marapao, deceased
Saturday	March 12
8:00 am	Luis Alfredo Gonzalez Monterroso, deceased
4:30 pm	George Schirle, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp)	Juana Maldonado, deceased

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~STATIONS OF THE CROSS~

Visiting and praying at the stations is seen as an "act of reparation" for the suffering of Jesus during the Passion. Such acts were referred to by Pope John Paul II as part of "an unceasing effort to stand beside the endless crosses on which the son of God continues to be crucified." Please join us every Friday at 2:00 or 6:00 pm (7:00 pm Spanish) as we pray the Stations together.

~INTERNATIONAL ROSARY CRUSADE~

Join us in solidarity with an international prayer effort begging the Mother of God for help in this unprecedented, global crisis of division and strife brought on by a two-year pandemic. People around the world are praying the Rosary in a public place every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Join us at the Fatima Statue and grotto outside the east entrance of the Cathedral **every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.**

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

~COFFEE & DONUTS~

We are very happy to announce that after a two year respite, our Coffee Social after the 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses will re-start next Sunday, March 13th! Please stop by the Parish Life Center, Charity Room, between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon and enjoy fresh donuts and hot coffee and get reacquainted with your friends. We hope to see you there!

~KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS VIDEO SERIES~

What does it mean to be a man today? I think most of us have asked ourselves this question. We all want to lead fuller and more purposeful lives - to be better men, better husbands and better fathers - but sometimes it can be difficult to know how. The Knights of Columbus is hosting a 12-part video discussion series, "Into The Breach". Please join us for food, fraternity, and prayer as we discuss "Brotherhood", Monday, March 14th, at 6:00PM in the Becker Ctr. Open to all Catholic Men 18 years and older.

~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.

~DAYLIGHT SAVINGS~

Just a reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 13, at 2:00 am. Don't forget to turn your clock 1 hour forward!

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.

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

TEMPTATION & JUSTIFICATION

~FROM THE PASTOR~

In our Gospel reading on this First Sunday of Lent, we read St. Luke's account of Satan attempting to tempt Jesus. Of course, unlike us fallen creatures, Jesus was never tempted inwardly to sin, yet this topic of temptation is one that I'd like to explore further in terms of our own inward temptations. Who better to teach us about how to defeat our foe (Satan) than St. Francis de Sales? Below, we read some advice he gave in a sermon on the First Sunday of Lent ... 400 years ago! The second topic I'd like to share with you has to do with our Second Reading, where we read, "*For one believes with the heart and so is justified ...*" What is Justification? Read on ...

DEFEATING TEMPTATION

~ST. FRANCIS DE SALES~

"One of the ever-bearing gifts of the Catholic Church is incredible depth of her teaching. Spanning over two thousand years the Church boasts incredible thinkers from Augustine to Aquinas; from Henri Nouwen to Cardinal Newman; from St. Francis of Assisi to, one of my personal favorites, St. Francis de Sales. Living and writing some 400 years ago, St. Francis de Sales was Bishop of Geneva at a time of crisis for the Christian Church. He stands out for his poignant responses to the early Protestant Reformers as well as his faultless compassion, gentleness, and virtue. His writings, teachings, and sermons established him as a champion of the Catholic Counter-Reformation and as a Doctor of the Church—named for his overwhelmingly important contributions to the faith. And, for our purposes here, it's his Lenten sermon series that I want to focus on."

~SERMON FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT~

"St. Francis de Sales, ever the great orator, centers his sermon on the First Sunday of Lent around three concise points: Everyone is tempted, idleness breeds temptation, and faith helps to conquer it. By unpacking his sermon, some four hundred years later, I believe we can be that much more prepared to meet temptations when they come. And come, says St. Francis, they will indeed."

~EVERYONE IS TEMPTED~

"St. Francis introduces the first prong of his sermon with a pointed question: Do you think you're *better* than our Lord? His point is poignant, and clear: If Jesus went out into the wilderness for 40 days and was tempted by Satan what makes us think we can make it through our own Lenten journey unscathed? Everyone, says St. Francis, is subjected to temptation if they plan on serving God. Even more so during Lent. "It is an infallible truth," says the saint, "that no one is exempt from temptation when he has truly resolved to serve God." We will be tempted. It should be expected. So be prepared. If temptation strikes, we must rise to meet it. Here, the great saint writes, "Rise, for mercy's sake, from your cowardice, and keep clearly before your mind this infallible truth: all must be tempted, all must keep readied for combat in order to win the victory."

~EXPECT TEMPTATION~

"Instead of expecting to be tempted and fall or, rather, not to be tempted at all during our Lenten fast we should *expect it*, and prepare to fight when necessary. Prepare, the saint says, with our eyes clearly fixed on Christ and Him our prize. For this certainly isn't something we can do on our own. While temptation, perhaps, can't be avoided, St. Francis de Sales does give us some clues as to how it can be minimized, relegated, and perhaps prevented from getting a stranglehold to begin with."

~IDLENESS BREEDS TEMPTATION~

"Avoid idleness. Too many Christians, says St. Francis, simply try to avoid *doing anything wrong* by simply *not doing anything at all*. But this formula is broken. St. Francis writes, "Never say: "I do not seek it; I am not doing anything." That is enough in order to be tempted, for temptation has a tremendous power over us when it finds us idle." It's not enough, says the saint, to simply bury your head in the sand to try and avoid doing anything wrong or butting up against temptation. We will all be tempted, he says, and by *being busy* doing the Lord's work we can better avoid the tramp of temptation. By praying, working in service, loving others, worshipping, and striving to find God in everything we do we can avoid becoming idle to the point of opening

ourselves up to temptation. Keep busy, St. Francis says, by doing God's will. *This is a sure fire formula for minimizing temptation.*"

~FAITH OVERCOMES TEMPTATION~

"Expect temptation, says the saint, avoid idleness and, finally, *take courage*. "The life of the perfect Christian," says St. Francis, "is a continual penance." That is, we should expect temptation, we should expect to have to rely on God's strength to get us through, and we should keep on going. Now is not the time to rest, says St. Francis. Now is the time to pray and strive. It is faith, instead of fear, that overcomes temptation. As we journey through this Lenten season towards the death and glorious resurrection of our saviour we can rest assured that St. Francis's imparted wisdom is certainly true. We will be tempted – we should expect no less. But our response to temptation is key. First, don't be idle, says the saint, because it's in the *doing nothing* that temptation gets a foothold. Instead, be busy for the Lord. In prayer, fasting, good works, and worship. And, second, when temptation does come it is our *faith* which we can rely on to get us through. Cling tightly to the faith, St. Francis would opine, and trust in the Lord. He writes again, "Let us fear neither the temptation nor the tempter, for if we make use of the shield of faith and the armor of truth, they will have no power whatsoever over us."

~TRUST IN JESUS~

"Jesus Christ, who conquered temptation in the wilderness during his forty days, has overcome temptation for us. And, what's more, he has conquered sin as a whole when he conquered death. Trust in that. And know that while we will be tempted this Lent He has overcome." <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/albertlittle/st-francis-de-sales-advice-for-lent-prepare-to-be-tempted/>

WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION?

~INITIAL JUSTIFICATION~

"Catholics and Protestants agree that God's grace is fundamental and indispensable to our eternal salvation as Christians. And that initial justification – i.e., when we first come into relationship with Jesus Christ – is a completely unwarranted divine gift (John 15:16; CCC 1989-92). In short, the Church teaches that God inwardly heals and transforms us by his grace, making us children of God (CCC 1262ff.).

This is initial justification, which takes place in baptism. So baptism gives us a share in divine love or "righteousness," an infused "theological virtue" which enables us to become like Jesus and do his will in a lovingly obedient way (CCC 1991). Baptism restores our communion with God and is the beginning of our salvation, the first step on a life-long journey. Through initial justification, from the Catholic perspective, God obligates us to abide in him (John 14:15) and grow progressively in holiness (see Matt. 5:43-48). This progressive growth after initial justification is known as ongoing justification or sanctification. In *ongoing* justification or sanctification, we continue to grow in the theological and human virtues, with Jesus as our model. This is not "works righteousness" or "salvation by works" as the Church's teaching is sometimes caricatured. Works alone, as the heretic Pelagius was reminded by the Church in the 400s, can *never* save. And works *apart from grace* cannot even contribute to our salvation. Indeed, our good works only have "merit" – including graces for ourselves and others to grow in holiness and help attain eternal life – *because they are rooted in and aided by Christ's love* (CCC 2006-16), so that we might persevere in God's grace instead of rejecting his gift of salvation. And if we are baptized after the age of reason, even the choice to receive baptism is a good work, again aided by God's grace." For entire articles, go to: <https://www.catholic.com/qa/difference-between-catholic-and-protestant-views-on-justification-and-sanctification>

~THE SAINTS ON TEMPTATIONS~

"When tempted, invoke your Angel. he is more eager to help you than you are to be helped! Ignore the devil and do not be afraid of him: He trembles and flees at the sight of your Guardian Angel." – St. John Bosco

"Do not grieve over the temptations you suffer. When the Lord intends to bestow a particular virtue on us, He often permits us first to be tempted by the opposite vice. Therefore, look upon every temptation as an invitation to grow in a particular virtue and a promise by God that you will be successful, if only you stand fast." – St. Philip Neri

"Virtue is nothing without the trial of temptation, for there is no conflict without an enemy, no victory without strife." – Pope St. Leo the Great

MI FE CATOLICA

TENTACIÓN Y JUSTIFICACIÓN
~DEL PÁRROCO~

En la lectura del Evangelio de este primer domingo de Cuaresma, leemos el relato de San Lucas sobre el intento de Satanás de tentar a Jesús. Por supuesto, a diferencia de nosotros, criaturas caídas, Jesús nunca fue tentado interiormente a pecar, pero este tema de la tentación es uno que me gustaría explorar más en términos de nuestras propias tentaciones internas. ¿Quién mejor para enseñarnos cómo vencer a nuestro enemigo (Satanás) que San Francisco de Sales? A continuación, leeremos algunos consejos que dio en un sermón del primer domingo de Cuaresma... ¡hace 400 años! El segundo tema que me gustaría compartir con ustedes tiene que ver con nuestra Segunda Lectura, donde leeremos: "Porque uno cree con el corazón y así queda justificado..." ¿Qué es la justificación? Sigue leyendo ...

VENCER LA TENTACIÓN

~SAN FRANCISCO DE SALES~

"Uno de los dones siempre portadores de la Iglesia católica es la increíble profundidad de su enseñanza. A lo largo de más de dos mil años, la Iglesia cuenta con pensadores increíbles, desde San Agustín hasta Santo Tomás Aquino; desde Henri Nouwen hasta el Cardenal Newman; desde San Francisco de Asís hasta, uno de mis favoritos, San Francisco de Sales. San Francisco de Sales, que vivió y escribió hace unos 400 años, fue obispo de Ginebra en una época de crisis para la Iglesia cristiana. Destaca por sus conmovedoras respuestas a los primeros reformistas protestantes, así como por su intachable compasión, gentileza y virtud. Sus escritos, enseñanzas y sermones lo consagraron como campeón de la Contrarreforma católica y como Doctor de la Iglesia, llamado así por sus importantísimas contribuciones a la fe. Y, para nuestros propósitos aquí, es su serie de sermones de Cuaresma en la que quiero centrarme".

~SERMÓN DEL PRIMER DOMINGO DE CUARESMA~

"San Francisco de Sales, siempre el gran orador, centra su sermón del primer domingo de Cuaresma en torno a tres puntos concisos: Todos somos tentados, la ociosidad engendra la tentación y la fe ayuda a vencerla. Al desgranar su sermón, unos cuatrocientos años después, creo que podemos estar mucho más preparados para afrontar las tentaciones cuando lleguen. Y vendrán, dice San Francisco, de hecho".

~TODO EL MUNDO ES TENTADO~

"San Francisco introduce la primera vertiente de su sermón con una pregunta punzante: ¿Crees que eres mejor que nuestro Señor? Su argumento es conmovedor y claro: si Jesús salió al desierto durante 40 días y fue tentado por Satanás, ¿qué nos hace pensar que podemos superar nuestro propio viaje de Cuaresma ilesos? Todo el mundo, dice San Francisco, está sometido a la tentación si piensa servir a Dios. Más aún durante la Cuaresma. "Es una verdad infalible", dice el santo, "que nadie está exento de la tentación cuando ha resuelto verdaderamente servir a Dios". Seremos tentados. Es de esperar. Por tanto, que hay estar preparados. Si la tentación golpea, debemos levantarnos para enfrentarnos a ella. Aquí, el gran santo escribe: "Levántate, por misericordia, de tu cobardía, y mantén claramente en tu mente esta verdad infalible: todos deben ser tentados, todos deben mantenerse preparados para el combate a fin de ganar la victoria."

~ESPERA LA TENTACIÓN~

"En lugar de esperar ser tentados y caer o, más bien, no ser tentados en absoluto durante nuestro ayuno cuaresmal, debemos esperarla, y prepararnos para luchar cuando sea necesario. Prepararnos, dice el santo, con la mirada puesta claramente en Cristo y en Él, nuestro premio. Porque, ciertamente, esto no es algo que podamos hacer por nuestra cuenta. Aunque la tentación, tal vez, no pueda evitarse, San Francisco de Sales nos da algunas pistas sobre cómo puede minimizarse, relegarse y, tal vez, impedir que se apodere de nosotros para empezar".

~LA OCIOSIDAD ENGENDRA LA TENTACIÓN~

"Evita la ociosidad. Demasiados cristianos, dice San Francisco, simplemente tratan de evitar hacer algo malo simplemente no haciendo nada. Pero esta fórmula se rompe. San Francisco escribe: "Nunca digas: "No lo busco; no hago nada". Eso es suficiente para ser tentados, pues la tentación tiene un tremendo poder sobre nosotros cuando nos encuentra ociosos". No basta, dice el santo, con enterrar la cabeza en la arena para intentar evitar hacer algo malo o chocar con la tentación. Todos seremos tentados, dice, y estando ocupados haciendo el trabajo del Señor podemos evitar mejor la zancadilla de la tentación. Rezando, trabajando en el servicio, amando a los demás, adorando y esforzándonos por encontrar a Dios en todo lo que hacemos podemos evitar volvernos →

ociosos hasta el punto de dar paso a la tentación. Mantente ocupado, dice San Francisco, haciendo la voluntad de Dios. Esta es una fórmula segura para minimizar la tentación".

~LA FE VENCE LA TENTACIÓN~

"Esperad la tentación, dice el santo, evitad la ociosidad y, finalmente, tened valor. "La vida del perfecto cristiano", dice San Francisco, "es una continua penitencia". Es decir, debemos esperar la tentación, debemos esperar tener que confiar en la fuerza de Dios para salir adelante, y debemos seguir adelante. Ahora no es el momento de descansar, dice San Francisco. Ahora es el momento de rezar y esforzarse. Es la fe, en lugar del miedo, la que vence la tentación. Mientras recorremos este tiempo de Cuaresma hacia la muerte y la gloriosa resurrección de nuestro salvador, podemos estar seguros de que la sabiduría impartida por San Francisco es ciertamente cierta. Seremos tentados; no debemos esperar menos. Pero nuestra respuesta a la tentación es clave. En primer lugar, no seas ocioso, dice el santo, porque es en el no hacer nada donde la tentación se afianza. En cambio, ocúpate por el Señor. En la oración, el ayuno, las buenas obras y la adoración. Y, en segundo lugar, cuando la tentación llega, es nuestra fe la que puede ayudarnos a salir adelante. Aférrate a la fe, decía San Francisco, y confía en el Señor. Vuelve a escribir: "No temamos ni a la tentación ni al tentador, pues si nos valemos del escudo de la fe y de la armadura de la verdad, no tendrán poder alguno sobre nosotros".

~CONFIANZA EN JESÚS~

"Jesucristo, que venció la tentación en el desierto durante sus cuarenta días, ha vencido la tentación por nosotros. Y, lo que es más, ha vencido al pecado en su totalidad cuando venció a la muerte. Confía en ello. Y sabed que mientras nosotros seremos tentados en esta Cuaresma, Él ha vencido".

¿QUÉ ES LA JUSTIFICACIÓN?

~JUSTIFICACIÓN INICIAL~

"Católicos y protestantes están de acuerdo en que la gracia de Dios es fundamental e indispensable para nuestra salvación eterna como cristianos. Y que la justificación inicial -es decir, cuando entramos por primera vez en relación con Jesucristo- es un don divino completamente injustificado (Juan 15:16; CIC 1989-92). En resumen, la Iglesia enseña que Dios nos sana y transforma interiormente por su gracia, haciéndonos hijos de Dios (CIC 1262 ss.).

Se trata de la justificación inicial, que tiene lugar en el bautismo. Así, el bautismo nos hace partícipes del amor divino o de la "justicia", una "virtud teologal" infusa que nos permite asemejarnos a Jesús y cumplir su voluntad de forma amorosamente obediente (CIC 1991). El bautismo restablece nuestra comunión con Dios y es el comienzo de nuestra salvación, el primer paso en un viaje de por vida. A través de la justificación inicial, desde la perspectiva católica, Dios nos obliga a permanecer en él (Juan 14:15) y a crecer progresivamente en santidad (ver Mateo 5:43-48). Este crecimiento progresivo después de la justificación inicial se conoce como justificación continua o santificación. En la justificación o santificación continua, seguimos creciendo en las virtudes teológicas y humanas, con Jesús como modelo. Esto no es "justicia por obras" o "salvación por obras", como a veces se caricaturiza la enseñanza de la Iglesia. Las obras por sí solas, como le recordó la Iglesia al hereje Pelagio en los años 400, nunca te pueden salvar. Y las obras separadas de la gracia ni siquiera pueden contribuir a nuestra salvación. De hecho, nuestras buenas obras sólo tienen "mérito" -incluyendo las gracias para nosotros y para los demás para crecer en santidad y ayudar a alcanzar la vida eterna- porque están arraigadas en el amor de Cristo y son ayudadas por él (CIC 2006-16), para que podamos perseverar en la gracia de Dios en lugar de rechazar su don de la salvación. Y si nos bautizamos después de la edad de la razón, incluso la elección de recibir el bautismo es una obra buena, de nuevo ayudada por la gracia de Dios".

~LOS SANTOS SOBRE LAS TENTACIONES~

"Cuando seas tentado, invoca a tu Ángel. ¡Él está más deseoso de ayudarte que tú de ser ayudado! Ignora al diablo y no le tengas miedo: Tiembla y huye a la vista de tu Ángel de la Guarda". -San Juan Bosco

"No te aflijas por las tentaciones que sufres. Cuando el Señor se propone concedernos una determinada virtud, a menudo permite que seamos tentados primero por el vicio contrario. Por lo tanto, considera cada tentación como una invitación a crecer en una virtud particular y una promesa de Dios de que tendrás éxito, si te mantienes firme." -San Felipe Neri

"La virtud no es nada sin la prueba de la tentación, pues no hay conflicto sin enemigo, ni victoria sin lucha." -Papa San León Magno

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