



The Cathedral of
ST. EUGENE

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

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector
Rev. Thomas Stuart, 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 - David Gallagher	545-7252
Preschool Office - Sharry Caesare	528-9133

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.steuenes.com
School: www.steuenesch.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: 8:00 a.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 has been moved to outside of the East Entrance of the Parish Life Center due to Covid-19 restrictions on gathering indoors.

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – APRIL 25, 2021

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY APRIL 25

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

MONDAY APRIL 26

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

TUESDAY APRIL 27

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Women of the Word ZOOM Meeting – 10:00 am
Latin Mass – Cathedral- 5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY APRIL 28

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

THURSDAY APRIL 29

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

FRIDAY APRIL 30

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

SATURDAY MAY 1

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am
Confession - Cathedral -3:00 – 4:30 pm
Mass – Cathedral -4:30 pm
Spanish Mass – Cathedral – 6:30 pm

~ALZHEIMER'S FUND~

The Peter F. Bessone Alzheimer's Fund was established at St. Eugene's in honor of Mr. Bessone, a former parishioner who suffered from this debilitating disease. Upon his death, the Bessone family set up the Fund to provide financial assistance to parishioners who also suffer from Alzheimer's or who provide care for family members who have been afflicted. This monetary assistance is to help cover respite care expenses that are not already covered by private or public insurance. If you find yourself in this position, please contact the parish office to inquire about any assistance the Fund may be able to provide to you. Additional contributions to this Fund are welcome. Should you, your family or your social/service group wish to make a donation, contact the parish office at 542-6984.

~ SECOND COLLECTION~

This weekend, April 24 & 25, there is no Second Collection. Next weekend, May 1 & 2, our Second Collection is for Catholic Home Mission. As always, thank you for your generosity!

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of: 4/11/21

Sunday Donations Received:	\$12,119.00
Collection Revenue Received for: Tuition Assistance Program	\$3,537.00

~CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS~

During the month of April, all in-stock missals are 25% off! Whether you attend the Ordinary Form or the Extraordinary Form, we have missals for Sunday and for daily Mass. The center of Catholic life is the Holy Mass and a missal is one of the most important books you'll ever own. A missal not only guides you through the prayers and rubrics of the Mass, but it connects you to the Church's liturgical calendar, providing a spiritual rhythm that shapes each day. To own a missal is to become engaged at the moment where time and eternity meet during the perfect prayer of the Most Holy Mass. Please stop in and see our new location in the "Faith Room" of the Parish Life Center. Also, we have a nice selection of books and cards in Spanish. Please share this information with your Spanish-speaking friends! 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.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

~SUNDAY/HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION MASS ATTENDANCE~

Since things seem to be moving in a positive direction, the Santa Rosa Diocese is planning *to end the dispensation* from the obligation to attend Mass beginning with Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021. **Please note, however, that persons who continue to have fears or who are somehow compromised in terms of health, incur no sin if they truly desire to attend Mass but decide that to do so would be dangerous for them.** We will continue to be serious about observing all safety protocols and, if conditions change and we return to the RED or PURPLE tiers, then an extension of the dispensation will be considered. It is the desire of Bishop Vasa that the lifting of the dispensation will apply to the whole Diocese, but individual county consideration is also possible.

~MOTHER'S DAY ENVELOPES~

If you were not able to return your Mother's Day Remembrance Envelope to the collection plate, please bring it to the parish office by noon, Wednesday, April 28, for publishing in the May 9th Mother's Day Sunday bulletin. Names submitted after that date will be published in future bulletins.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	April 24
8:00 am	Andy Skrypka, living
4:30 pm	Meghan McCurry, living
6:30 (Sp)	Dominico-Augustino Nguyen Van Ngan, deceased
Sunday	April 25
7:30 am	Giampaoli & Tessier Families, living & deceased
9:00 am	George Skikos, deceased
10:30 am	People of the Diocese
12:00 pm	People of St. Eugene's
1:30 pm	Nguyen Van Ngam, deceased
5:30 pm	Diane Pellechi, deceased
6:00 pm (Newman Ctr.)	Dn. Alan Acevedo, living
Monday	April 26
6:45 am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
8:00 am	Anya Cunningham, living
Tuesday	April 27
6:45 am	German Jimenez, living
8:00 am	Diane Pellechi, deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Joseph Duong, living
Wednesday	April 28
6:45 am	Dominico-Augustino Nguyen Van Ngan, deceased
8:00 am	Diane Pellechi, deceased
Thursday	April 29
6:45 am	Claudia Skrypka, deceased & the Holy Souls in Purgatory
8:00 am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Friday	April 30
6:45 am	Rudy Sarmiento, living
8:00 am	Florence Skikos, deceased
12:00 (Hospital)	Maria Hong Tran, deceased
Saturday	May 1
8:00 am	In honor of and in Reparation for the offenses against the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus and for the living and deceased members of the Russell and Rinaldi Families.
4:30 pm	John J. Haberkorn, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp.)	Leo Pimentel, deceased

~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, Luigi Fabiano, 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 and Theresa Pham.

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

~SILENT RETREAT~

Opus Sanctorum Angelorum is offering a silent retreat at St. Clare's Retreat Center in Soquel, CA, from June 3-6, 2021. The retreat will be preached by Fr. Mathew Hinks, ORC and Fr. John Brohl, ORC. Conference topics will be: The Miracle of the Sun and the Angels, Mary and the Angels, Forgiveness of Sins Outside of Confession, What Will Heaven Be Like, Mental Prayer, Lectio Divina, The Hidden World of the Angels and Angelic Mystagogy. A single room is \$480 and double room is \$440 (per person). This cost covers 3 overnights and 9 meals. You can register for the retreat online (see below) or send a \$50 non-refundable deposit to the Opus Angelorum office at: 164 Apollo Road SE, Carrollton, OH 44615. For on-line registration go to: www.opusangelorum.org or call (330) 969-9900. (For email communication: office@opusangelorum.org). Spread the word!

~WOMEN OF THE WORD~

Women of the Word, St. Eugene's scripture, prayer, and social group open to all Catholic women, continues to meet during this pandemic (albeit in a different form). What do we do? *We support each other in prayer:* We are sharing weekly prayer requests and praises with one another. How and when do we meet? *We meet every other Tuesday morning "virtually"* via zoom and regular telephone lines. We are learning about and contemplating the Seven Sacraments. **Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 27, at 10:00 a.m.** In honor of St. Joseph the Worker's Feast Day (May 1), we are doing a study called: "The Faithful Steward: St. Joseph." We welcome new members. If you are interested in joining us with prayer or at our bi-weekly meetings, email Mary Gioia for information about how to participate at: hiecke@sonic.net

~FORMED~

If you have not yet signed up for FORMED, an incredible on-line resource, go to signup.formed.org and enter "St. Eugene's Cathedral," your name and your e-mail to access this treasure of faith enriching resources.

CATHOLIC SPEAKER

~CATHOLIC LAY EVANGELIST IN NAPA~

Catholic Lay Evangelist Jesse Romero Speaking in Napa! In these challenging times, we are blessed to have the inspiring Catholic evangelist, radio host, author, **Jesse Romero**, returning to Napa for two-days of talks on April 30-May 1. A bilingual evangelist, Jesse will give two talks in Spanish on Fri. night, April 30, from 6pm-8:30pm, and three talks in English on Saturday, May 1 from 10am-2:30pm. The powerful theme of his talks is: "*The Power of Prayer & the Holy Spirit in the Year of St. Joseph*". The talks will take place on the outdoor stage & grounds of Kolbe Academy-Trinity Prep, 2055 Redwood Rd, Napa. No charge, donations gratefully accepted. For more information, please call 707-337-1158; email: mary-quinn@comcast.net

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

~**SERMON FROM ST. VINCENT FERRER, O.P.**~
(The following sermon has been edited for space. For the entire sermon from this great saint, please go to: <https://rorate-caeli.blogspot.com/2019/05/sermon-for-good-shepherd-sunday-by.html>.)

~**SERMON: JESUS, THE GOOD SHEPHERD**~
“The proposed word for a theme and the basis of our sermon is the world of our Lord Jesus Christ speaking of himself saying: "I am the good shepherd". The goodness of this Blessed shepherd toward his sheep, namely of the Christian faithful, is shown in today's holy Gospel in four ways:

- First, because he buys the sheep dearly;
- Second, because he keeps them carefully;
- Third, because he feeds them abundantly; and
- Fourth, because he guards them safely.

~FIRST REASON~

Christ buys his sheep dearly : I say first that Christ as the good shepherd buys his sheep at a great price, namely by the price of his blood. He does not get them by stealth or stealing, or by deception, but he buys them for a just price and thensome. About this he speaks in the beginning of the gospel, "I am the good shepherd," (Jn 10:14). Reason, because "The good shepherd gives his life," that is his bodily life, "for his sheep," (v. 11). Reason: why he gives such a precious price, is the incomparable value of a soul, because no bodily creature is comparable in value to the soul. Hence, on the scale of divine justice, which is just and fair, if on one side is placed all bodily creatures, namely gold and silver, pearls and elements, sun, moon and all the stars, and on the other side one rational soul, the rational soul would weigh more in value than all the creatures. ... But Christ comes, the best merchant from heaven to earth, knowing the value of souls, and he gives not an apple, nor gold, etc., but only his precious blood of inestimable value, which redeems us. Therefore he says, "You have been redeemed," (Cf 1 Pet 1:18). Note "redeemed", that is re-purchased. Thus it is a conclusion of theology that the least drop of the blood of Christ was a price sufficient and more so for redeeming a thousand worlds by virtue of its divinity and infinite charity.

~HIS MANY DROPS OF BLOOD~

Now think how many drops of blood Christ shed for us. First, while yet a baby in his circumcision. In the first drop he redeemed us. Again in the second, etc. Second, on the night of his passion how many drops of blood did he shed. In Luke 22:44, "And his sweat became as drops of blood, trickling down upon the ground." Each drop would have been a sufficient price. Third, when he was led off to the house of Pilate, etc. Fourth, when he was crowned with thorns, his whole head flowed blood. Fifth, when he was crucified in hands and feet, how many drops of blood were falling on the head of the Virgin Mary. Also how many tears, how many drops of sweat, how many labors when he would go preaching. Thus he does not say you have been bought, but you have been redeemed, that is bought many times over. Therefore the Apostle [Paul]: "In whom we have redemption" he does not say purchase, "through his blood, the remission of sins, according to the riches of his grace, which hath superabounded in us," (Eph 1:7-8). See the first reason why Christ is the Good Shepherd, because he buys his sheep at great price.

~SECOND REASON~

Christ keeps his sheep carefully: I say, Christ, the Good Shepherd, keeps his sheep carefully. You already see how every lord who has sheep on earth where there are wolves, keeps them well. So Christ does for the Christians lest they be devoured by the wolves of hell. About this he himself speaks in the second part of the gospel. "But the hireling, and he that is not the shepherd," etc. until, "and mine know me," (Jn 10:12-14), where he states the difference between a true shepherd and the hireling: "But the hireling, and he that is not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and flieth: and the wolf catcheth, and scattereth the sheep: And the hireling flieth, because he is a hireling: and he hath no care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know mine, and mine know me." Note how a lord who has sheep in the desert, has two custodians for the sheep, namely the shepherd and a dog against the raiding wolf. So Christ for the custody of his sheep provides two custodians, namely of pastoral ministers. The shepherds are the holy angels.

Whence it is a teaching of sacred theology that everyone from the beginning of his birth has an angel commissioned for his protection. ... Here the Gloss of Jerome says: "How great is the dignity of souls, that each from the moment of their birth would have a good angel assigned to its care." Note, "each." No owner provides a shepherd for each of his sheep, but he commits 100 or 200 to one shepherd. But Christ loves souls so much that he gives to each their shepherd or keeper. See how he cares for his sheep.

~THINK OF YOUR ANGEL~

... You have heard the teaching, when you have some temptation, or occasion of sin, you should think repentance of the angel. No thief would steal when another person is watching, nor a lustful person commit a sin of lust. Think how the angel sees you always, etc. ... "In every corner, and every direction give reverence to the angel, and do not do in his presence what you would not do if I were present. ... Second, Christ for keeping his sheep, provides dogs who hunt down the wolves of hell. The dogs are all who have the office of preaching. Demons are more afraid of and are more terrified by the clamor and barking of preaching, than wolves are of the barking of dogs.

~POWER OF PREACHING~

It is a greater dignity to be such a minister and watchdog - because it is the apostolic office on behalf of the flock of Christ - than to be a patriarch or prophet. Authority: Job in the person of Christ crucified, said, "But now the younger in time scorn me, whose fathers I would not have set with the dogs of my flock," (Job 30:1). Note, "But now," namely in the midst of the passion, "the younger in time scorn me," namely the Jews who were then were, "whose fathers," the patriarchs and prophets, "I would not have set with the dogs of my flock," namely with the apostles, because the apostles were of greater dignity, and the apostolic men, than the patriarchs and the prophets. Note therefore how great is the office of preaching, and with how much vigilance is it to be exercised by manly barking.

~THIRD REASON~

Christ feeds his sheep abundantly: I say third, that the goodness of Christ the shepherd is shown in this that he feeds his sheep generously, namely in the sacrament of the altar. It is great when a lord

permits his sheep to graze in his garden; greater still when at his table and of his own bread. Christ does more for his sheep, whom he permits to eat in his house, namely the church, and at his table, the altar, where he provides not bread, but his body as food, and his blood as drink, not one piece but his whole body. About this the gospel says, "As the Father knows me, and I know the Father: and I lay down my life for my sheep," (Jn 10:15). Here Gregory comments that he says this about the sacrament of the altar. Christ did what he admonishes, he shows what he commands. The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, that he changes his body and blood into our sacrament, and he feeds the sheep which he has redeemed with the food of his flesh. ... If therefore you wish to be with the angels in the pastures of paradise, receive communion each year at Easter, prepared well for you, otherwise you will not be received in paradise. A great reason is that he who does not wish to receive Christ in his house will not be received by Christ in paradise. "Amen, amen I say unto you: Except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, you shall not have life in you," (Jn 6:54). But he who receives communion, is received by Christ saying, "It is right, because you have received me, that I receive you into my house." "Well done, good and faithful servant," (Mt 25:21) ...

~FOURTH REASON~

Christ keeps his sheep in safety: I say that Christ like a good shepherd keeps his sheep safe. Just as a shepherd gathers his sheep into a secure place, etc, so does Christ. About this the fourth part of the gospel: "And other sheep I have, that are not of this fold," (Jn 10:16). Thus, good people, I see that you who have sheep in pastures on the mountain, when night comes, you put them in some sheepfold, lest the wolves eat them. So Jesus does with us. When evening comes - the day of our death, Jesus gathers souls into paradise, if they have lived well, lest the wolf, that is the devil devour them. And Christ speaks to the angels saying, "Other sheep I have," men and women, and it is necessary to lead them to me, namely through innocence, or through obedience, or through penitence. The sheepfold, or place of these sheep where in the night of death they might rest most securely is the empyreal heaven, namely the society of the angels, and they make up "one fold and one shepherd," (v. 16).

CATEDRAL DE ST. EUGENE'S — 25 de Abril del 2021
Cuarto Domingo de Pascua

MI FE CATOLICA

EL BUEN PASTOR

~ **SERMÓN DE ST. VINCENT FERRER, O.P.** ~

(El siguiente sermón ha sido editado por espacio. Para el sermón completo de este gran santo, visite: <https://rorate-caeli.blogspot.com/2019/05/sermon-for-good-shepherd-sunday-by.html>.)

~ **SERMÓN: JESÚS, EL BUEN PASTOR** ~

"La palabra propuesta para un tema y la base de nuestro sermón es el mundo de nuestro Señor Jesucristo hablando de sí mismo diciendo: "Yo soy el buen pastor ". La bondad de este pastor bendito para con sus ovejas, es decir, los fieles cristianos, se muestra en el santo Evangelio de hoy de cuatro maneras:

- Primera razón, porque compra cara la oveja;
- Segunda, porque los guarda con cuidado;
- Tercera, porque los alimenta en abundancia;
- Cuarta, porque los protege de forma segura.

~ **PRIMERA RAZÓN** ~

Cristo compra caro sus ovejas: digo primero que Cristo, como buen pastor, compra sus ovejas a un precio muy alto, es decir, el precio de su sangre. No los consigue a escondidas, ni robando, ni engañando, sino que los compra por un precio justo y algo más. De esto habla al comienzo del evangelio: "Yo soy el buen pastor" (Jn 10, 14). Razón, porque "el buen pastor da su vida", es decir, su vida corporal, "por sus ovejas" (v. 11). Razón: por qué da un precio tan precioso, es el valor incomparable de un alma, porque ninguna criatura corporal es comparable en valor al alma. Por lo tanto, en la escala de la justicia divina, que es justa y equitativa, si de un lado se colocan todas las criaturas corporales, a saber, oro y plata, perlas y elementos, sol, luna y todas las estrellas, y del otro lado un alma racional, el alma racional pesaría más en valor que todas las criaturas. ... Pero viene Cristo, el mejor mercader del cielo a la tierra, conociendo el valor de las almas, y no da una manzana, ni oro, etc., sino sólo su preciosa sangre de inestimable valor, que nos redime. Por eso dice: "Habéis sido redimidos" (Cf 1 P 1, 18). Nota "canjeado", que se vuelve a comprar. Por lo tanto, es una conclusión de la teología que la menor gota de la sangre de Cristo era un precio suficiente. y más por redimir mil mundos en virtud de su divinidad y caridad infinita.

~ **SUS MUCHAS GOTAS DE SANGRE** ~

Ahora piensa cuántas gotas de sangre derramó Cristo por nosotros. Primero, cuando aún era un bebé en su circuncisión. En la primera gota nos redimió. De nuevo en el segundo, etc. Segundo, en la noche de su pasión, ¿cuántas gotas de sangre derramó? En Lucas 22:44, "Y su sudor se convirtió en gotas de sangre que caían por el suelo". Cada gota habría sido un precio suficiente. Tercero, cuando fue llevado a la casa de Pilato, etc. Cuarto, cuando fue coronado de espinas, toda su cabeza fluyó sangre. Quinto, cuando fue crucificado en manos y pies, cuántas gotas de sangre caían sobre la cabeza de la Virgen María. También cuántas lágrimas, cuántas gotas de sudor, cuántas labores cuando iba a predicar. Por eso no dice que has sido comprado, sino que has sido redimido, eso se ha comprado muchas veces. Por eso el Apóstol [Pablo]: "En quien tenemos redención" no dice compra, "por su sangre, la remisión de pecados según las riquezas de su gracia, que sobreabundó en nosotros" (Ef 1 : 7-8). Vea la primera razón por la que Cristo es el Buen Pastor, porque compra sus ovejas a un gran precio.

~ **SEGUNDA RAZÓN** ~

Cristo guarda sus ovejas con cuidado: Yo digo, Cristo, el Buen Pastor, cuida a sus ovejas con cuidado. Ya ves cómo todo señor que tiene ovejas en la tierra donde hay lobos, las cuida bien. Así lo hace Cristo por los cristianos para que no sean devorados por los lobos del infierno. De esto él mismo habla en la segunda parte del evangelio. "Pero el asalariado, y el que no es el pastor", etc., hasta "y los míos me conocen" (Jn 10: 12-14), donde establece la diferencia entre un verdadero pastor y el asalariado: "Pero el y el asalariado, y el que no es el pastor, de quien no son propias las ovejas, ve venir al lobo, y deja las ovejas y huye; y el lobo arrebató y dispersa las ovejas; y el asalariado huye, porque es asalariado y no se preocupa por las ovejas. Soy el buen pastor; y yo conozco a los míos, y los míos me conocen a mí ". Observe cómo un señor que tiene ovejas en el desierto, tiene dos custodios de las ovejas, a saber, el pastor y un perro contra el lobo asaltante. custodios, es decir, de los ministros pastorales Los pastores son los santos ángeles.



De ahí que sea una enseñanza de la sagrada teología que todo el mundo, desde el principio de su nacimiento, tiene un ángel encargado para su protección. ... Aquí dice el Gloss de Jerónimo: "Cuán grande es la dignidad de las almas, que cada una desde el momento de su nacimiento tenga un ángel bueno asignado a su cuidado". Tenga en cuenta, "cada uno". Ningún dueño proporciona un pastor para cada una de sus ovejas, pero encomienda 100 o 200 por un pastor. Pero Cristo ama tanto a las almas que da a cada una su pastor o guardián. Vea cómo se preocupa por sus ovejas.

~ PIENSA EN TU ÁNGEL ~

... Has escuchado la enseñanza, cuando tienes alguna tentación, u ocasión de pecado, debes pensar en el arrepentimiento del ángel. Ningún ladrón robaría cuando otra persona cuando lo está mirando, ni una persona lujuriosa comete un pecado de lujuria. Piensa en cómo te ve el ángel siempre, etc. De nuevo, Bernardo: "En cada rincón y en cada dirección dale reverencia al ángel, y no hagas en su presencia lo que no harías si yo estuviera presente ... Segundo, Cristo, por tener sus ovejas, proporciona perros que cazan a los lobos del infierno. Los perros son todos los que tienen el oficio de predicar. Los demonios tienen más miedo y más aterrorizados por el clamor y los ladridos de la predicación, que los lobos por los ladridos. de perros.

~ PODER DE PREDICAR ~

Es una dignidad mayor ser un ministro y un perro guardián, porque es el oficio apostólico en nombre del rebaño de Cristo, que ser un patriarca o un profeta. Autoridad: Job, en la persona de Cristo crucificado, dijo: "Pero ahora me desprecian los más jóvenes, cuyos padres no habría puesto con los perros de mi rebaño" (Job 30: 1). Note, "Pero ahora", es decir, en medio de la pasión, "los más jóvenes en el tiempo me desprecian", es decir, los judíos que eran entonces, "cuyos padres," los patriarcas y profetas, "no me habría puesto con el perros de mi rebaño ", es decir, con los apóstoles, porque los apóstoles eran de mayor dignidad, y los hombres apostólicos, que los patriarcas y los profetas. Note, por tanto, cuán grande es el oficio de la predicación y con cuánta vigilancia debe ejercerse mediante ladridos varoniles.

~ TERCERA RAZÓN ~

Cristo alimenta abundantemente a sus ovejas: en tercer lugar digo que la bondad de Cristo pastor se manifiesta en el hecho de que alimenta generosamente a sus ovejas, es decir, en el sacramento del altar.

Es genial cuando un señor permite que sus ovejas pacen en su jardín; mayor aún cuando está en su mesa y de su propio pan. Cristo hace más por sus ovejas, a las que permite comer en su casa, es decir, en la iglesia, y en su mesa, el altar, donde no proporciona pan, sino su cuerpo como alimento y su sangre como bebida, no de una pieza sino todo su cuerpo. Acerca de esto, el evangelio dice: "Como el Padre me conoce a mí, y yo conozco al Padre, y yo doy mi vida por mis ovejas" (Jn 10:15). Aquí Gregorio comenta y dice esto sobre el sacramento del altar. Cristo hizo lo que amonestaba, y nos muestra lo que manda. El buen pastor da su vida por sus ovejas, que cambia su cuerpo y sangre en nuestro sacramento, y alimenta a las ovejas que redimió con el alimento de su carne. ... Si por lo tanto deseas estar con los ángeles en los pastos del paraíso, recibe la comunión cada año en Pascua, bien preparado para ti, de lo contrario no serás recibido en el paraíso. Una gran razón es que quien no desee recibir a Cristo en su casa no será recibido por Cristo en el paraíso. "En verdad, en verdad os digo: si no coméis la carne del Hijo del Hombre y no bebiereis su sangre, no tendréis vida en vosotros" (Jn 6,54). Pero el que recibe la comunión, es recibido por Cristo diciendo: "Es justo, porque me has recibido, que yo te recibiera en mi casa". "Bien, buen siervo y fiel" (Mt 25,21) ...

~ CUARTA RAZÓN ~

Cristo guarda a salvo a sus ovejas: Yo digo que Cristo, como buen pastor, guarda a salvo a sus ovejas. Así como un pastor recoge a sus ovejas en un lugar seguro, etc., también lo hace Cristo. Sobre esto la cuarta parte del evangelio: "También tengo otras ovejas que no son de este redil" (Jn 10, 16), hasta el final. Por tanto, buena gente veo que ustedes que tienen ovejas en los pastos del monte, cuando llega la noche, las ponen en un redil, para que no se las coman los lobos. Así lo hace Jesús con nosotros. Cuando llega la tarde, el día de nuestra muerte, Jesús recoge las almas en el paraíso, si han vivido bien, no sea que el lobo, que es el diablo, las devore. Y Cristo habla a los ángeles diciendo: "Tengo otras ovejas", hombres y mujeres, y es necesario que me las conduzcan, es decir, mediante la inocencia, la obediencia o la penitencia. El redil, o lugar de estas ovejas donde en la noche de la muerte podrían descansar más seguros es en lo alto del cielo, es decir, la compañía de los ángeles, y forman "un redil y un pastor" (v. 16).

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