



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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 9, 2021

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY MAY 9

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 MAY 10

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

TUESDAY MAY 11

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

WEDNESDAY MAY 12

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Adult Faith Formation Class – Brinker Room- 6:00 pm

THURSDAY MAY 13

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

FRIDAY MAY 14

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

SATURDAY MAY 15

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

SAVE THE DATE

~ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE~

On **Saturday, June 5, at 10:00 am**, His Excellency, Bishop Robert Vasa, will ordain Seminarian, Gabriel Sanchez-Navarro to the Transitional Diaconate here at the Cathedral of St. Eugene. We may still be at only 50% capacity at that point, so we will live-stream the Mass and also provide for outdoor seating/viewing.

~PRIESTLY ORDINATION~

On **Friday, June 11, at 6:00 pm**, His Excellency, Bishop Robert Vasa, will ordain Deacon Alan Acevedo to the Holy Priesthood here at the Cathedral of St. Eugene. We may still be at only 50% capacity at that point, so we will live-stream the Mass and also provide for outdoor seating/viewing.

~ SECOND COLLECTION ~

This weekend, May 8 & 9, there is no second collection. Next weekend, May 15 & 16, the second collection is for the Holy Day – The Ascension of the Lord.

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of: 4/25/21

Sunday Donations Received:	\$12,159.00
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Collection Revenue Received for: N/A	
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~CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS~

May is the month of Mary! During this month, all items related to our Blessed Mother will be 25% off. This includes books, statues and pictures. Please stop in and see our great selection of Marian items as well as so many other items! 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.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

~CARDINAL NEWMAN HIGH SCHOOL~

Cardinal Newman High School is seeking a Christian Service Coordinator to work with students in collaboration with the Theology Department to implement the school's four-year service program which culminates with the senior CBSL service projects. The purpose of the Christian Service Coordinator is to facilitate opportunities for students to serve others out of Christian charity. For a job summary/requirements/qualifications, please go to: <https://www.edjoin.org/Home/DistrictJobPosting/1394345> -OR- contact Wednesday Bogel at: Bogel@CardinalNewman.org

SUMMER SCHOOL

~SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM~

St. Eugene Elementary school will hold summer school classes beginning **June 14th**. The cost will be \$825 for a five week program. Classes will be held from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm and finish on **July 16th**. Our full day session (grades 1-8) focuses on Math, Reading, and Writing taught around engaging themes. If you're interested, call the school office at 545-7252 or send us an email at: office@steugenesch.org.

SCAM ALERT!

~ MESSAGE FROM FR. EPPERSON ~

It has come to my attention that a scammer is sending out e-mails and text messages, allegedly from me, asking for money (often under the guise of gift cards). **THIS IS A SCAM!** Neither I, nor any priests of this diocese, would ever solicit for money or help of any kind in such a manner. Please remain vigilant as these scammers can be very persistent!

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	May 8
8:00 am	Fidelia Chavez, deceased
4:30 pm	Patrick Grace, deceased
6:30 (Sp)	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Sunday	May 9
7:30 am	ICF Members, living & deceased
9:00 am	Richard Anthony Macdonnell, deceased
10:30 am	People of the Diocese
12:00 pm	Felicitas Zamora, deceased
1:30 pm	Ron Priore, deceased & All the Holy Souls in Purgatory
5:30 pm	Lauren Miller, deceased
6:00 pm (Newman Ctr.)	Dn. Alan Acevedo, living
Monday	May 10
6:45 am	Maria Helena Cambrone, deceased
8:00 am	A. Magdalena Delgadillo, living
Tuesday	May 11
6:45 am	Dennis & Carol McKay, deceased
8:00 am	Elizabeth Ameller, living
5:30 pm (EF)	Michael Tran, living
Wednesday	May 12
6:45 am	Dominico-Augustino Nguyen Van Ngan, deceased
8:00 am	Emily Tran, living
Thursday	May 13
6:45 am	Leo Pimentel, deceased
8:00 am	Stephanie Buettner, deceased
Friday	May 14
6:45 am	People of St. Eugene's
8:00 am	Patricia Josephine Ferrand, deceased
12:00 (Hospital)	John Paul Tran, living
Saturday	May 15
8:00 am	Enrique Olivas, Anahi Olivas and Asension Arroyo, living
4:30 pm	George Schirle, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp.)	Maria Ema Gomez Arroyo, deceased

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

~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

~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.

~ADULT FAITH FORMATION~

Fr. Jeffrey Keyes is holding a Summer Series of Adult Faith Formation classes that are being held once a week, on Wednesdays, from 6-7:30 pm. Classes began last Wednesday, May 5th, and will run through August 11th. Meetings take place in the Msgr. Becker Center, Brinker Room. There is a book required for this class which can be purchased for \$19.95 + tax at our St. Eugene's Gift Shop/Bookstore. The book is entitled: *The Case for Catholicism*, by Trent Horn.

~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 *We meet every other Tuesday morning "virtually"* via zoom and regular telephone lines. **Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 11, at 10:00 a.m.** We will be doing a study called "The Taste of Victory: Easter Joy." 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

~SILENT RETREAT~

Opus Sanctorum Angelorum is offering a silent retreat at St. Clare's Retreat Center in Soquel, CA, from June 3-6, 2021. 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).

IN MEMORIAM

†Carlton Pederson†

Please remember Carlton Pederson and his family and friends in your prayers and Masses. He passed away on 04/24/21. "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him." *May he rest in peace.*

Happy Mother's Day to all of our Mothers!
Please remember these mothers, living & deceased, especially in your prayers!

<i>Paula Epperson</i>	<i>Martha Keyes</i>	<i>Virginia Marson</i>	<i>Virginia Putko</i>	<i>Mary Duke</i>
<i>Florence Licht</i>	<i>Anita Manzo</i>	<i>Maria Alvarez</i>	<i>Kathleen Pavlich</i>	<i>Elizabeth M. Coscia</i>
<i>Carole Pasquini</i>	<i>Helen DeLaney</i>	<i>Rose Baiocchi</i>	<i>Betty Virgin</i>	<i>Ann Stella</i>
<i>Florence Fecho</i>	<i>Mariam Lasko</i>	<i>Sylvia Cook</i>	<i>Rosemarie Cook</i>	<i>Josephine Gaddie</i>
<i>Blanche Triske</i>	<i>Kathleen Sill</i>	<i>Florence Seme</i>	<i>Dona Argentieri</i>	<i>Lucia Mahoney</i>
<i>Rosanne Ravella</i>	<i>Ingeborg Flasser</i>	<i>Helen Bonkowski</i>	<i>Dorothy Galayda</i>	<i>Irene Paolini</i>
<i>Alice Moratto</i>	<i>Judy Paolini</i>	<i>Virginia Welchon</i>	<i>Lien Tran</i>	<i>Lorraine Miller</i>
<i>Patty McCormick</i>	<i>Danette McCormick</i>	<i>Caitlin Foppoli</i>	<i>Ashley McCormick</i>	<i>Jenni McCormick</i>
<i>Mary Robinson</i>	<i>Jeanne McCormick</i>	<i>Jacqueline S. Cagwin</i>	<i>Irene Forkner</i>	<i>Perina Pisenti</i>
<i>Gwendolyn Carda</i>	<i>Mary Pfaff</i>	<i>Mary Schirle</i>	<i>Claudia Skrypka</i>	<i>Nell Carroll</i>
<i>Angelina Webb</i>	<i>V. Sanchez</i>	<i>O. Royston</i>	<i>G. Wynn</i>	<i>M. Powell</i>
<i>Mary Hart</i>	<i>Iola Olson</i>	<i>Rainey Olson</i>	<i>Alice Whitney</i>	<i>The Wara Family</i>
<i>The Maladroka Family</i>	<i>Carmella Hanson</i>	<i>Maria McCall</i>	<i>Peggy Hayes</i>	<i>Meta McCall</i>
<i>Albina Dragovina</i>	<i>Sofia Hervatin</i>	<i>Anita Boyko</i>	<i>Christina Fable</i>	<i>Janet Martens</i>
<i>Carol McKay</i>	<i>Carol Johnson</i>	<i>Anita Cerri</i>	<i>Anne Brown</i>	<i>Kathryn Stewart</i>
<i>Linda Crandall</i>	<i>Kristin Heystek</i>	<i>Becky Harber</i>	<i>Elizabeth Gill</i>	<i>Anne Deabenderfer</i>
<i>Anne Lapham</i>	<i>Sylvia Lapham</i>	<i>Marian Siple</i>	<i>Mary Sykes</i>	<i>Deana Sible</i>
<i>Sallie</i>	<i>Rosie</i>	<i>Josie</i>	<i>Marie</i>	<i>Constance</i>
<i>Helen</i>	<i>Janice</i>	<i>Shirley</i>	<i>Angelina Ortiz</i>	<i>Maria Santiago Torres</i>
<i>Felicitia Cruz</i>	<i>Isabel Ross Hefelfinger</i>	<i>Marion Whitker Ahearn</i>	<i>Carolina Torres</i>	<i>Francisca Guigosa</i>
<i>Angeles Luna</i>	<i>Isabel Luna</i>	<i>Monica Luna</i>	<i>Veronica Luna</i>	<i>Rosario Luna</i>
<i>Rosa Maria Cruz</i>	<i>Carmen Cruz</i>	<i>Eloisa Cruz</i>	<i>Eloisa Maravilla</i>	<i>Esperanza Lopez</i>
<i>Maria de los Angeles Guerrero</i>	<i>Martha Pena de Anguiano</i>	<i>Dolores Navarrete</i>		

A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

"All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old. We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy. We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways. We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away. We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion. We remember mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen."

MOTHER'S DAY

~FROM THE PASTOR~

[From 5-14-17 Bulletin] May is the month of Mary, Mother to us all. How fitting then that we give honor to all mothers during this month. Let us look at some brief biographies of saintly mothers who gave their all to God and to their families. We will begin with the Mother of God.

~THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY~

The Blessed Mother offers us the perfect example of a virtuous mother. Her will was always perfectly aligned with God's will. She faced many hardships and difficulties. She had to travel to a strange land (Egypt), far away from family and friends, when she was a very young mother. She also had to endure watching her beloved Son suffer so greatly. Mary does understand the struggles we face as mothers, and her intercession is especially powerful since she is so close to Jesus.



Pope Paul VI noted, "We believe that the Holy Mother of God, the new Eve, Mother of the Church, continues in heaven to exercise her maternal role on behalf of the members of Christ." There are many feast days devoted to Mary throughout the year, but she is especially honored as the Mother of God on January 1st.

~ST. GIANNA~

We often think of saints as men and women who lived long ago, but St. Gianna is a modern day saint who was not only a mother but also a pediatrician, athlete and tireless volunteer in her community. Born on October 4, 1922, in Magenta, Italy, Gianna Beretta Molla made the ultimate sacrifice by giving her life so that her child could live. Diagnosed with a tumor on her uterus, she refused to have an abortion or hysterectomy and endured a painful and difficult pregnancy and childbirth. She died on April 28, 1962, shortly after giving birth to her fourth child, also named Gianna, who is still alive today and very active in the pro-life movement. Her feast day is celebrated on April 28th.

~ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON~

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, born August 28, 1774, is the first saint to be born in the United States. She was raised in the Episcopal church, married a wealthy businessman and had five children. Sadly, her husband's business went bankrupt, and he died of tuberculosis. Now a widow and single mother, Elizabeth became a Catholic and started a school in order to support her family. She continued to endure hardships, including the death of two daughters and difficulties in her mission to lead a religious order, yet she's remembered as being cheerful and hopeful. Like her husband, she contracted tuberculosis and died at age 46, on January 4, 1821. Her feast day is celebrated on January 4th.

~ST. JUDITH~

St. Judith lived in the thirteenth century. She was born in Thuringia. This was in what is now central Germany. Judith was married at fifteen to a wealthy young nobleman. Judith tried to be a good Christian wife. She was especially generous with the poor. Her husband was a good man, but he was satisfied with his wealthy lifestyle. He expected his wife to dress and live like a rich woman. He felt that their well-dressed look would win them respect. But Judith gently persuaded him to live and dress more simply. By doing this, they would have more to give to people less fortunate than themselves. Judith's husband died suddenly while on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The young widow raised her children alone. When the children grew up, Judith listened to a longing that had been in her heart during the busy, happy days of her life. She gave away everything and lived as a hermit. She moved to Prussia where people would not know that she was from a wealthy family. There she spent her time praying and taking care of weary travelers who passed by her little hut. She prayed especially for the conversion of nonbelievers. She prayed also for the newly baptized Christians to be true to their faith. "Three things can lead us close to God," she once said. "They are painful physical suffering, being in exile in a foreign land, and being poor by choice because of love for God." St. Judith died of fever in 1260.

DIA DE LAS MADRES

~ DEL PASTOR ~

[Boletín del 14-5-17] Mayo es el mes de María, Madre de todos nosotros. Qué apropiado entonces que demos honor a todas las madres durante este mes. Veamos algunas breves biografías de madres santas que lo entregaron todo a Dios y a sus familias. Empezaremos por la Madre de Dios.

~ LA BENDITA VIRGEN MARIA ~

La Santísima Madre nos ofrece el ejemplo perfecto de una madre virtuosa. Su voluntad siempre estuvo perfectamente alineada con la voluntad de Dios. Ella enfrentó muchas privaciones y dificultades. Tuvo que viajar a una tierra extraña (Egipto), lejos de familiares y amigos, cuando era una madre muy joven. También tuvo que soportar ver sufrir tanto a su amado Hijo. María comprende las luchas que enfrentamos como madres, y su intercesión es especialmente poderosa porque está muy cerca de Jesús. El Papa Pablo VI señaló: "Creemos que la Santa Madre de Dios, la nueva Eva, Madre de la Iglesia, continúa en el cielo ejerciendo su papel maternal en nombre de los miembros de Cristo". Hay muchas fiestas dedicadas a María durante todo el año, pero ella es especialmente honrada como Madre de Dios en el 1 de enero.

~ ST. GIANNA ~

A menudo pensamos en los santos como hombres y mujeres que vivieron hace mucho tiempo, pero Santa Gianna es una santa moderna que no solo fue madre, sino también pediatra, atleta y voluntaria incansable en su comunidad. Nacida el 4 de octubre de 1922 en Magenta, Italia, Gianna Beretta Molla hizo el máximo sacrificio al dar su vida para que su hijo pudiera vivir. Diagnosticada con un tumor en el útero, se negó a someterse a un aborto o una histerectomía y soportó un embarazo y un parto dolorosos y difíciles. Murió el 28 de abril de 1962, poco después de dar a luz a su cuarto hijo, también llamado Gianna, quien aún vive hoy y es muy activa en el movimiento pro-vida. Su fiesta se celebra el 28 de abril.

~ ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON ~

Santa Isabel Ann Seton, nacida el 28 de agosto de 1774, es la primer santa en nacer en los Estados Unidos. Se crió en la iglesia episcopal, se casó con un rico hombre de negocios y tuvo cinco hijos. Lamentablemente, el negocio de su marido quebró y murió de tuberculosis. Ahora viuda y madre soltera, Elizabeth se hizo católica y comenzó una escuela para mantener a su familia. Continuó soportando dificultades, incluida la muerte de dos hijas y dificultades en su misión de dirigir una orden religiosa, pero se la recuerda como alegre y esperanzada. Como su marido, contrajo tuberculosis y murió a los 46 años, el 4 de enero de 1821. Su fiesta se celebra el 4 de enero.

~ ST. JUDITH ~

Santa Judit vivió en el siglo XIII. Nació en Turingia. Esto fue en lo que ahora es el centro de Alemania. Judith se casó a los quince años con un joven noble rico. Judith trató de ser una buena esposa cristiana. Fue especialmente generosa con los pobres. Su esposo era un buen hombre, pero estaba satisfecho con su estilo de vida rico. Esperaba que su esposa se vistiera y viviera como una mujer rica. Sintió que su apariencia bien vestida le haría ganar respeto. Pero Judith lo persuadió gentilmente de que viviera y se vistiera de manera más sencilla. Al hacer esto, tendrían más para dar a las personas menos afortunadas que ellos. El esposo de Judith murió repentinamente durante un peregrinaje a Tierra Santa. La joven viuda crió sola a sus hijos. Cuando los niños crecieron, Judith escuchó un anhelo que había estado en su corazón durante los ajetreados y felices días de su vida. Ella lo entregó todo y vivió como un ermitaña. Se mudó a Prusia, donde la gente no sabría que provenía de una familia adinerada. Allí pasó su tiempo rezando y cuidando a los cansados viajeros que pasaban por su pequeña cabaña. Oró especialmente por la conversión de los incrédulos. También oró para que los cristianos recién bautizados fueran fieles a su fe. "Tres cosas pueden acercarnos a Dios", dijo una vez. "Son sufrimiento físico doloroso, estar exiliado en tierra extranjera y ser pobre por la elección de amor a Dios". Santa Judit murió de fiebre en 1260.

Sexto Domingo de Pascua

Leamos con atención una parte del Comentario de San Cirilo de Alejandría, Obispo, sobre la segunda carta a los Corintios.

Los que poseen las arras del Espíritu y la esperanza de la resurrección, como si poseyeran ya aquello que esperan, pueden afirmar que desde ahora ya no conocen a nadie según la carne: todos, en efecto, somos espirituales y ajenos a la corrupción de la carne.

Porque, desde el momento en que ha amanecido para nosotros la luz del Unigénito, somos transformados en la misma Palabra que da vida a todas las cosas. Y, si bien es verdad que cuando reinaba el pecado estábamos sujetos por los lazos de la muerte, al introducirse en el mundo la justicia de Cristo quedamos libres de la corrupción.

Por tanto, ya nadie vive en la carne, es decir, ya nadie está sujeto a la debilidad de la carne, a la que ciertamente pertenece la corrupción, entre otras cosas; en este sentido, dice el Apóstol: Si en un tiempo conocimos a Cristo según la carne, ya ahora no es así. Es como quien dice: La Palabra se hizo carne y puso su morada entre nosotros, y, para que nosotros tuviésemos vida, sufrió la muerte según la carne, y así es como conocimos a Cristo; sin embargo, ahora ya no es así como lo conocemos. Pues, aunque retiene su cuerpo humano, ya que resucitó al tercer día y vive en el cielo junto al Padre, no obstante, su existencia es superior a la meramente carnal, puesto que ya no muere, la muerte no tiene ya poder sobre él; su muerte fue un morir al pecado de una vez para siempre, mas su vida es un vivir para Dios.

Si tal es la condición de aquel que se convirtió para nosotros en abanderado y precursor de la vida, es necesario que nosotros, siguiendo sus huellas, formemos parte de los que viven por encima de la carne, y no en la carne. Por esto, dice con toda razón san Pablo: El que es de Cristo es una creatura nueva: lo antiguo ha pasado, lo nuevo ha comenzado. Hemos sido, en efecto, justificados por la fe en Cristo, y ha cesado el efecto de la maldición, puesto que él ha resucitado por librarnos, conculcando el poder de la muerte; y, además, hemos conocido al que es por naturaleza propia Dios verdadero, a quien damos culto en espíritu y en verdad, por mediación del Hijo, quien derrama sobre el mundo las bendiciones divinas que proceden del Padre.

Por lo cual, dice acertadamente san Pablo: Todo esto se lo debemos a Dios, que nos ha reconciliado consigo por medio de Cristo, ya que el misterio de la encarnación y la renovación consiguiente a la misma se realizaron de acuerdo con el designio del Padre. No hay que olvidar que por Cristo tenemos acceso al Padre, ya que nadie va al Padre, como afirma el mismo Cristo, sino por él. Y, así, todo esto se lo debemos a Dios, que nos ha reconciliado por medio de Cristo, y nos ha confiado el ministerio de esta reconciliación.

La Unción del Espíritu Santo

¡El Señor ha Resucitado! Hoy es el Sexto Domingo de Pascua. Reflexionemos en la siguiente catequesis de Jerusalén sobre la unción del Espíritu Santo.

Bautizados en Cristo y habiéndonos revestido de Cristo, habéis adquirido una condición semejante a la del Hijo de Dios. Pues Dios, que nos predestinó a la adopción de hijos suyos, nos hizo conformes al cuerpo glorioso de Cristo. Por esto, hechos partícipes de Cristo (que significa Ungido), no sin razón sois llamados ungidos; y es refiriéndose a vosotros que dijo el Señor: No toquéis a mis ungidos.

Fuisteis hechos cristos (o ungidos) cuando recibisteis el signo del Espíritu Santo; todo se realizó en vosotros en imagen, ya que sois imagen de Cristo. Él, en efecto, al ser bautizado en el río Jordán, salió del agua, después de haberle comunicado a ella el efluvio fragante de su divinidad, y entonces bajó sobre él el Espíritu Santo en persona, y se posó sobre él como sobre su semejante.

De manera similar vosotros, después que subisteis de la piscina bautismal, recibisteis el crisma, símbolo del Espíritu Santo con que fue ungido Cristo. Respecto a lo cual, Isaías, en una profecía relativa a sí mismo, pero en cuanto que representaba al Señor, dice: El Espíritu del Señor está sobre mí, porque el Señor me ha ungido; me ha enviado para dar la buena noticia a los pobres.

Cristo no fue ungido por los hombres con aceite o unguento material, sino que el Padre, al señalarlo como salvador de todo el mundo, lo ungió con el Espíritu Santo. Como dice Pedro: Dios ungió a Jesús de Nazaret con poder del Espíritu Santo; y en los salmos de David hallamos estas palabras: Tu trono, ¡oh Dios!, permanece para siempre; cetro de rectitud es tu cetro real; has amado la justicia y odiado la impiedad: por eso el Señor, tu Dios, te ha ungido con aceite de júbilo entre todos tus compañeros.

El Señor fue ungido con un aceite de júbilo espiritual, esto es, con el Espíritu Santo, el cual es llamado aceite de júbilo porque es el autor del júbilo espiritual; pero vosotros, al ser ungidos materialmente, habéis sido hechos partícipes de la naturaleza de Cristo.

Por lo demás, no pienses que es éste un unguento común y corriente. Pues, del mismo modo que el pan eucarístico, después de la invocación del Espíritu Santo, no es pan corriente, sino el cuerpo de Cristo, así también este santo unguento, después de la invocación, ya no es un unguento simple o común, sino el don de Cristo y del Espíritu Santo, ya que realiza, por la presencia de la divinidad, aquello que significa. Tu frente y los sentidos de tu cuerpo son ungidos simbólicamente y, por esta unción visible de tu cuerpo, el alma es santificada por el Espíritu Santo, dador de vida.

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