



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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – JANUARY 9, 2022

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY JANUARY 9

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 10

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

TUESDAY JANUARY 11

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 12

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

THURSDAY JANUARY 13

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Golden Opportunities Luncheon – PLC – 11:30 am

FRIDAY JANUARY 14

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

SATURDAY JANUARY 15

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

SECOND COLLECTION

~FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER~

The Second Collection this weekend, January 8 & 9, is for Homeless Assistance, the Family Support Center which offers a room sponsored by St. Eugene's. Your generous donations to this collection support families and individuals housed in "our" room. Our Second Collection next weekend, January 15 & 16, will be for our school's Tuition Assistance Program.

~RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS~

We have **THREE WINNERS** for our Knights of Columbus raffle! Please check your ticket stubs. The winning numbers are: **546656, 546500, 545744**. Winners need to bring their ticket to the St. Eugene's Gift Shop/Bookstore to redeem their prize. Congratulations and thank you for your support!

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Day of: 12/25/21

Donations Received: Christmas	\$21,782.
2nd Collection Revenue Received for: Becker Center Upgrades	\$7,525.

For the Week of: 12/26/21

Sunday Donations Received:	\$14,418.
2nd Collection received for: N/A	

~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! 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.

~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."

~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.

~ADORATION CHAPEL~

Our gratitude to all of you who signed up to spend an hour with Jesus. We are now open 24/7 once again thanks to your dedication and devotion! Please remember to wear a mask and socially distance while in the chapel. Thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	January 8
8:00 am	Christina Lorbeer, living
4:30 pm	Frederick Harold Wallace, Jr., deceased
6:30 (Sp)	Thanksgiving & Reparation for the life of Maria Garcia, living
Sunday	January 9
7:30 am	Stephanie Buettner, deceased
9:00 am	Douglas, Marapao and Masalta Families, living & deceased
10:30 am	People of the Diocese
12:00 pm	Marie Egger, living
1:30 pm (EF)	Michael Hart, deceased
5:30 pm	John Paul Moore, deceased
6:00 pm (Newman Ctr.)	Gregory Ivovic, deceased
Monday	January 10
6:45 am	Monalisa Douglas, living
8:00 am	Cecilia Guzman, living
Tuesday	January 11
6:45 am	Patrick Hanley, deceased
8:00 am	Linda Pisenti, living
5:30 pm (EF)	Gloria Garcia, deceased
Wednesday	January 12
6:45 am	Fred Wallace, deceased
8:00 am	Leo Pimentel, deceased
9:20 am (Sch)	Kitzia Leon Luna, living
Thursday	January 13
6:45 am	People of St. Eugene's
8:00 am	Chuck Towey, deceased
Friday	January 14
6:45 am	Sister Maria Philomena, living
8:00 am	Theresa Stronge, living
Saturday	January 15
8:00 am	Luis Roberto Monterroso, deceased
4:30 pm	George Schirle, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp)	In Thanksgiving & Reparation for the life of Jessica Martinez, living

IN NEED OF PRAYER

~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

~CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATION IN MEMORY OF ~

Ruben Leon Mary Meagher

Rabaka & Tikovakaca Families

~BIBLE STUDY~

St. Eugene's began an 8-week Bible study on **Wednesday, January 5th**. It is not too late, however, to join! The study will focus on how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church. *Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* will help you discover the story of salvation is meeting every Wednesday at 6:00 pm in the Hope Room (upstairs) of the Parish Life Center (PLC). All students are required to purchase a study guide at a cost of **\$26.95** due by check on the first day of class. Please contact Steve for more information or to reserve a seat in the class. 707-292-0054.

RESPECT LIFE

~WALK FOR LIFE~

The Knights of Columbus is organizing a bus trip to the 2022 Walk for Life in San Francisco on **Saturday, January 22nd**. The Bus will leave St. Eugene's at 7:45am and drop us off at San Francisco's St. Mary's Cathedral for 9:30am Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cordileone. After Mass we will walk to SF Civic Center for the Annual Walk for Life Rally. The Rally begins at 12:30pm, followed by The Walk for Life down Market St. at 1:30pm. We will board our bus at the end of The Walk around 3:30pm and we will arrive back at St. Eugene's around 5pm. Bus Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office on a first come/first serve basis. The cost is \$27. *All passengers are required to wear a mask while on the bus.*

~BECKER CENTER UPGRADES~

Recently, we were notified by the County Health Department that the flooring in the kitchen of the Msgr. Becker Center needs to be replaced. The Finance Council, as well as the Parish Council, have also recommended that we do much needed upgrades to the kitchen and bathrooms, for they are also in poor condition. To take care of all of these upgrades, we will need to raise approximately \$100,000 (the kitchen floor alone will cost upwards of \$20,000.) Please consider making a tax deductible donation to help the parish complete this work. Thank you so much for your prayerful consideration of this endeavor!

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

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

~FROM THE PASTOR~

This Sunday we are celebrating the Baptism of the Lord. There are a couple of things that I'd like to examine regarding this. First, why was Jesus baptized? He certainly didn't need it, did He? Second, what does Baptism do to us exactly? Also, in this day and age of rampant secularism, we sometimes hear of people who "renounce" their baptism. Is this possible? Finally, we will look at the rite itself. Let's take a look now at some good articles that shed more light on these topics.

WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?

~WHY WAS JESUS BAPTIZED?~

"Jesus did not need to be baptized. The baptism by John the Baptist was a baptism of repentance, and the sacrament of baptism removes original sin. Since Jesus had neither original sin nor actual sin, he did not need to undergo baptism. However, Jesus also had no need to be born, to suffer, or to die as a man. He did so out of love for humanity. John the Baptist appears to recognize the strangeness of Jesus asking to be baptized (Matt. 3:14) yet obeys Jesus' request. The baptism of Jesus began his public ministry and gave the first example that we are to follow. For if Jesus, who had no need of repentance or cleansing, humbled himself, then we all the more need to humble ourselves."

~THE SACRAMENT IS BORN~

"Jesus not only gave the example for us to follow, but many Fathers of the Church commented that in the baptism of Jesus the sacrament of baptism was born. It was a symbolic action that, though the grace of Christ, was changed into an ontological action. When we receive a sacrament, the grace flows to us from the sacrament, but in the baptism of Jesus the grace of Christ flowed into the sacrament. In salvation history, the Jordan River was very important. It was through the Jordan River that Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land. Jesus chose this spot to be baptized so that through his immersion and emergence from the Jordan River all humanity could be led to heaven. Ultimately, the reason Jesus chose to be baptized in the Jordan by John was not for him but for us." Fr. Charles Grondin, <https://www.catholic.com/qa/why-jesus-chose-to-be-baptized>

GATEWAY TO NEW LIFE

~SUPERNATURAL LIFE~

"The sacrament of Baptism is the beginning of life—supernatural life. Because of original sin, we come into the world with a soul which is supernaturally dead. We come into the world with only the natural endowments of human nature. The supernatural life which is the result of God's personal and intimate indwelling, is absent from the soul. Original sin is not, in the strict sense, a "blot" upon the soul. Indeed, original sin is not a "something" at all. It is the **absence** of something that should be there. It is a darkness where there ought to be light. Jesus instituted the sacrament of **Baptism** to apply to each individual soul the atonement which He made on the Cross for original sin. Jesus will not force His gift upon us, the gift of supernatural life for which He paid. He holds the gift out to us hopefully, but each of us must freely accept it. We make that acceptance by receiving the sacrament of Baptism."

~SANCTIFYING GRACE~

"When the sacrament of Baptism is administered, the spiritual vacuum which we call original sin disappears as God becomes present in the soul, and the soul is caught up into that sharing of God's own life which we call **sanctifying grace**. The sacrament of Baptism not only gives us sanctifying grace: it also makes us adopted children of God and heirs of heaven. We say "adopted" children because God the Father has only **one** begotten Son—Jesus Christ. He is God's only Son through generation; the rest of us become God's children by adoption. As children of God, we receive our inheritance at the very moment of our adoption, at the very moment of Baptism. Our inheritance is eternal union with God, and we have that inheritance **now**, once we are baptized. Nobody can take this inheritance away. Not even God, who has bound Himself by irrevocable promise never to take back what He has given. We ourselves can renounce our rights—as we will do if we commit mortal sin—but no one else can deprive us of our heritage. The point to be emphasized, and never to be forgotten, is that we are potentially in heaven the **moment** we are baptized. The point needs to **be** emphasized because many people remember the effects of Baptism only in negative terms: "It takes away original sin."

~WHAT MATTERS~

“Baptism does take away original sin, of course. Also, in the case of an adult, it takes away all mortal and venial sins & the punishment due for them, if the person baptized is truly sorry for them. Baptism makes a clean sweep of everything. But the “taking away” is not a negative removal, like the emptying of a trash can by the garbage collector. Sin and its consequences **disappear** when God comes into the soul, just as darkness disappears when the light is turned on. Sin is a spiritual emptiness which is obliterated by the coming of **grace**. Baptism does **not** restore the preternatural gifts which were lost for us by Adam: freedom from suffering and death, from ignorance, and inordinate inclinations of passion. We still are inclined to sin because of these effects, and our bodies will still die. But who cares? These are **insignificant** compared to the supernatural gifts which are restored. Here is a newly baptized soul, beautiful with a beauty which even the most wild-eyed artist could not imagine, splendid with a splendor which ravishes the on-looking angels and saints. Here is a soul that already is in heaven except for the formality of a few (even though they be numbered a hundred) quickly passing years. **That** is what matters!” <http://www.beginningcatholic.com/baptism>

BAPTISM AND EXORCISM

~THE BAPTISMAL RITE~

“Did you know the Baptismal Rite includes an exorcism? Most of the time when people think of exorcisms, they think of dramatic situations like those depicted in movies like *The Rite* or *The Exorcist*. But did you know that an exorcism is performed with something as common as the rite of baptism? There are two kinds of exorcisms: *major exorcisms* and *minor exorcisms*. A major exorcism is a solemn ritual performed by a priest when a person is believed to be possessed by a demon. They are rare and are only performed by authorized exorcists. A minor exorcism, on the other hand, is a more general exorcism performed even if the recipient is not believed to be possessed and is included in the baptismal rite. But if a person, such as an infant receiving baptism, is not possessed, why do they need an exorcism? The *Catechism* gives the answer: “**Since Baptism signifies liberation from sin and from its instigator the devil**, one or more exorcisms are pronounced over the candidate.” (1237)

~FROM DEATH TO LIFE~

“All humans are born with Original Sin (with the exceptions of Jesus and Mary). As the Council of Trent taught, this makes us “by nature children of wrath,” “servants of sin,” and “under the power of the devil and death.” When a person is baptized, they receive God’s grace and are translated from death to life, from the dominion of Satan to the Church of God. Thus, an exorcism is appropriate. For those interested, here’s the prayer of exorcism in the baptismal rite, titled “Prayer of Exorcism and Anointing before Baptism”: Almighty and ever-living God, you sent your only Son into the world to cast out the power of Satan, spirit of evil, to rescue man from the kingdom of darkness, and bring him into the splendor of your kingdom of light. We pray for N./and N. Set them free from original sin, make them a temple of your glory, and send your Holy Spirit to dwell within them. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

~THE TRADITIONAL RITE~

“The extraordinary form of the baptismal rite also includes a few minor exorcisms that are more explicit. Here’s an English translation of one of them:

‘I exorcise thee, unclean spirit, in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, that thou goest out and depart from this servant of God, N. For He commands Thee, accursed one, Who walked upon the sea, and stretched out His right hand to Peter about to sink. Therefore, accursed devil, acknowledge thy sentence, and give honor to the living and true God: give honor to Jesus Christ His Son, and to the Holy Spirit; and depart from this servant of God, N. because God and our Lord Jesus Christ hath vouchsafed to call him (her) to His holy grace and benediction and to the font of Baptism.’

So if you were baptized in the Catholic Church, you’ve received an exorcism!” <https://churchpop.com/2016/10/10/did-you-know-the-baptismal-rite-includes-an-exorcism/>

~THE ETERNAL MARK~

Q: I have a family member who wants to formally renounce his Baptism. Is this possible? Can a person be “un-baptized”?

A: Theologically, a person is eternally marked with the seal of Baptism and Confirmation and there is no way to erase that. Canonically (i.e. according to Church law) there is no way to leave the Catholic church; once a Catholic, always a Catholic. It's like a family; the bonds are always there.

MI FE CATOLICA

**EL BAUTISMO DEL SEÑOR
~DEL PASTOR~**

Este domingo celebramos el Bautismo del Señor. Hay un par de cosas que me gustaría examinar al respecto. Primero, ¿por qué fue bautizado Jesús? Ciertamente no lo necesitaba, ¿verdad? Segundo, ¿qué nos hace el bautismo exactamente? Además, en esta época de secularismo desenfrenado, a veces oímos hablar de personas que "renuncian" a su bautismo. ¿Es esto posible? Por último, examinaremos el rito mismo. Veamos ahora algunos buenos artículos que arrojan más luz sobre estos temas.

PORQUE JESUS FUE BAUTIZADO

~¿POR QUÉ FUE BAUTIZADO JESÚS?

"Jesús no necesitaba ser bautizado. El bautismo de Juan el Bautista fue un bautismo de arrepentimiento, y el sacramento del bautismo elimina el pecado original. Como Jesús no tenía ni pecado original ni pecado real, no necesitaba someterse al bautismo. Sin embargo, Jesús tampoco tenía necesidad de nacer, sufrir o morir como hombre. Lo hizo por amor a la humanidad. Juan el Bautista parece reconocer la extrañeza de que Jesús pida ser bautizado (Mateo 3:14), pero obedece la petición de Jesús. El bautismo de Jesús inició su ministerio público y dio el primer ejemplo que debemos seguir. Porque si Jesús, que no tenía necesidad de arrepentirse ni de purificarse, se humilló, con mayor razón debemos humillarnos nosotros. "

~NACE EL SACRAMENTO~

"Jesús no sólo nos dio el ejemplo a seguir, sino que muchos Padres de la Iglesia comentaron que en el bautismo de Jesús nació el sacramento del bautismo. Fue una acción simbólica que, por la gracia de Cristo, se transformó en una acción ontológica. Cuando recibimos un sacramento, la gracia fluye hacia nosotros desde el sacramento, pero en el bautismo de Jesús la gracia de Cristo fluyó hacia el sacramento. En la historia de la salvación, el río Jordán fue muy importante. Fue a través del río Jordán que Josué condujo a los israelitas a la Tierra Prometida. Jesús eligió este lugar para ser bautizado, para que a través de su inmersión y salida del río Jordán toda la humanidad pudiera ser conducida al cielo. En definitiva, la razón por la que Jesús eligió ser bautizado en el Jordán por Juan no fue por él, sino por nosotros".

~VIDA SOBRENATURAL~

"El sacramento del Bautismo es el comienzo de la vida, de la vida sobrenatural. A causa del pecado original, venimos al mundo con un alma sobrenaturalmente muerta. Venimos al mundo sólo con las dotes naturales de la naturaleza humana. La vida sobrenatural, que es el resultado de la morada personal e íntima de Dios, está ausente del alma. El pecado original no es, en sentido estricto, una "mancha" en el alma. De hecho, el pecado original no es un "algo" en absoluto. Es la ausencia de algo que debería estar ahí. Es una oscuridad donde debería haber luz. Jesús instituyó el sacramento del Bautismo para aplicar a cada alma individual la expiación que Él hizo en la Cruz por el pecado original. Jesús no nos impondrá su don, el don de la vida sobrenatural por el que pagó. Nos ofrece el regalo con esperanza, pero cada uno de nosotros debe aceptarlo libremente. Esa aceptación la hacemos al recibir el sacramento del Bautismo".

~GRACIA SANTIFICANTE~

"Cuando se administra el sacramento del Bautismo, el vacío espiritual que llamamos pecado original desaparece, ya que Dios se hace presente en el alma, y el alma es atrapada en esa participación de la propia vida de Dios que llamamos gracia santificante. El sacramento del Bautismo no sólo nos da la gracia santificante: también nos hace hijos adoptivos de Dios y herederos del cielo. Decimos hijos "adoptivos" porque Dios Padre sólo tiene un Hijo engendrado: Jesucristo. Él es el único Hijo de Dios por generación; los demás nos convertimos en hijos de Dios por adopción. Como hijos de Dios, recibimos nuestra herencia en el mismo momento de nuestra adopción, en el mismo momento del Bautismo. Nuestra herencia es la unión eterna con Dios, y la tenemos ahora, una vez bautizados. Nadie puede quitarnos esta herencia. Ni siquiera Dios, que se ha obligado por promesa irrevocable a no retirar nunca lo que ha dado. Nosotros mismos podemos renunciar a nuestros derechos -como haremos si cometemos un pecado mortal-, pero nadie más puede privarnos de nuestra herencia. El punto que hay que destacar, y que nunca hay que olvidar, es que estamos potencialmente en el cielo en el momento en que nos bautizamos. Es necesario subrayar este punto porque mucha gente recuerda los efectos del bautismo sólo en términos negativos: "Quita el pecado original".

~LO QUE IMPORTA~

"El bautismo quita el pecado original, por supuesto. También, en el caso de un adulto, quita todos los pecados mortales y veniales y el castigo debido por ellos, si la persona bautizada está realmente arrepentida de ellos. El bautismo hace un barrido limpio de todo. Pero el "quitar" no es una eliminación negativa, como el vaciado de un cubo de basura por el recolector. El pecado y sus consecuencias desaparecen cuando Dios entra en el alma, igual que la oscuridad desaparece cuando se enciende la luz. El pecado es un vacío espiritual que se borra con la llegada de la gracia. El bautismo no nos devuelve los dones preternaturales que perdimos con Adán: la liberación del sufrimiento y de la muerte, de la ignorancia y de las inclinaciones pasionales desmedidas. Seguimos estando inclinados a pecar a causa de estos efectos, y nuestros cuerpos seguirán muriendo. Pero, ¿a quién le importa? Estos son insignificantes comparados con los dones sobrenaturales que se restauran. He aquí un alma recién bautizada, hermosa con una belleza que ni siquiera el artista de ojos más salvajes podría imaginar, espléndida con un esplendor que hace delirar a los ángeles y santos que la miran. He aquí un alma que ya está en el cielo, salvo la formalidad de unos pocos (aunque se cuenten por cien) años que pasan rápidamente. Eso es lo que importa"

BAUTISMO Y EXORSISMO

~EL RITO BAUTISMAL~

"¿Sabías que el Rito Bautismal incluye un exorcismo? La mayoría de las veces, cuando la gente piensa en exorcismos, piensa en situaciones dramáticas como las representadas en películas como El Rito o El Exorcista. Pero, ¿sabías que un exorcismo se realiza con algo tan común como el rito del bautismo?

Hay dos tipos de exorcismos: exorcismos mayores y exorcismos menores. Un exorcismo mayor es un ritual solemne realizado por un sacerdote cuando se cree que una persona está poseída por un demonio. Son poco frecuentes y sólo los realizan exorcistas autorizados. Un exorcismo menor, por otro lado, es un exorcismo más general que se realiza incluso si no se cree que el receptor está poseído y se incluye en el rito del bautismo. Pero si una persona, como un niño que recibe el bautismo, no está poseída, ¿por qué necesita un exorcismo? El Catecismo da la respuesta: "Puesto que el bautismo significa la liberación del pecado y de su instigador, el demonio, se pronuncian uno o varios exorcismos sobre el candidato". (1237)

~DE LA MUERTE A LA VIDA~

"Todos los humanos nacen con el Pecado Original (con las excepciones de Jesús y María). Como enseñó el Concilio de Trento, esto nos hace "por naturaleza hijos de la ira", "siervos del pecado" y "bajo el poder del diablo y de la muerte". Cuando una persona se bautiza, recibe la gracia de Dios y es trasladada de la muerte a la vida, del dominio de Satanás a la Iglesia de Dios. Por lo tanto, un exorcismo es apropiado. Para los interesados, aquí está la oración de exorcismo en el rito bautismal, titulada "Oración de exorcismo y unción antes del bautismo": Dios todopoderoso y siempre vivo, enviaste a tu único Hijo al mundo para expulsar el poder de Satanás, espíritu del mal, para rescatar al hombre del reino de las tinieblas y llevarlo al esplendor de tu reino de luz. Te pedimos por N./y N. Libéralos del pecado original, haz de ellos un templo de tu gloria y envía a tu Espíritu Santo a habitar en ellos. Te lo pedimos por Cristo nuestro Señor. Amén".

~EL RITO TRADICIONAL~

"La forma extraordinaria del rito bautismal también incluye algunos exorcismos menores que son más explícitos. Aquí hay una traducción al inglés de uno de ellos:

"Te exorcizo, espíritu inmundo, en el nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo, para que salgas y te alejes de este siervo de Dios, N. Porque te lo ordena, maldito, quien caminó sobre el mar y extendió su mano derecha a Pedro a punto de hundirse. Por lo tanto, maldito diablo, reconoce tu sentencia, y da honor al Dios vivo y verdadero: da honor a Jesucristo su Hijo, y al Espíritu Santo; y apártate de este siervo de Dios, N. porque Dios y nuestro Señor Jesucristo se ha dignado llamarlo a su santa gracia y bendición y a la fuente del bautismo."

Así que si fuiste bautizado en la Iglesia Católica, ¿has recibido un exorcismo!"

~LA MARCA ETERNA~

P: Tengo un familiar que quiere renunciar formalmente a su bautismo. ¿Es esto posible? ¿Puede una persona ser "desbautizada"?

R: Teológicamente, una persona queda marcada eternamente con el sello del Bautismo y la Confirmación y no hay manera de borrarlo. Canónicamente (es decir, según la ley de la Iglesia) no hay manera de dejar la Iglesia católica; una vez que se es católico, siempre se es católico. Es como una familia; los lazos siempre están ahí.

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