



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

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector
 Fr. Gabriel Sanchez, Parochial Vicar
 Rev. Bala Putchakayala, Parochial Vicar
 Rev. Jeffrey Keyes, In Residence
 Deacon Mike Heinzelman
 Deacon Gary Moore
 Deacon Russ Bowden

WEBSITES

Parish: www.steugenes.com
 School: www.steugenesch.org
 Email Comments/Suggestions to:
Office@steugenes.com

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office Phone	(707) 542-6984
Parish Office Fax	(707) 542-1621
Religious Education	(707) 326-3408
Finance Council – Marty McCormick	(707) 526-1700
Choir Directress – Pam Zieminski	(707) 578-8848
School Office	(707) 545-7252
Preschool Office – Tess Mellor	(707) 528-9133
Homeschool Academy– Jessica Warner	(707) 206-5579

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 Entrance is located at the North end of the Rectory

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: (707) 542-3635 or Maria Vega (Spanish) at: (707) 710-5094

DEVOTIONS

Recitation of the Rosary takes place Monday – Saturday at 7:25 a.m. in the Cathedral

Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed every 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 am-4:30pm & Sun 8:30am-1:30pm, Closed Mon/Tues - Phone: (707)542-0250

THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17

Masses – Cathedral – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 noon, 1:30 pm (Latin) & 5:30 pm
RCIA – PLC Hope Rm. – 10:30 am
Coffee Social – PLC – 8:00 am – 12:00 noon

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 18

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

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Women of the Word – PLC – 9:00 am
Parish School of Religion – 3:45 pm – Becker Ctr.
Latin Mass – Cathedral – 5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Outdoor Rosary – Fatima Grotto – 6:00 pm

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21

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

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Bible Study – Parish Life Center (Hope Rm) - 9:00 am

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am
Confession – Cathedral 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 pm & 6:30 pm Spanish

~EMBER DAYS~

Ember days are a tradition that was established in the early Church. They consist of a Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday set aside for prayer and fasting at the beginning of every season. The intention of these days is "to thank God for the gifts of nature, to teach men to make use of them in moderation, and to assist the needy," (Catholic Encyclopedia) and each set is associated with a particular harvest. The Ember Days fall on: the Third Week of Advent; the First Week of Lent; the week after Pentecost and the Third Week in September (that's this week: the 20th, 22nd, and 23rd.) Traditionally, Ember Wednesdays and Saturdays are observed with abstinence while Ember Fridays are observed with fasting and abstinence. These days stopped requiring mandatory observance in 1966 but are still observed by many who wish to "go the extra mile" and give thanks to the Lord for all He has given us!

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of: 9/3/23

Sunday Donations Received:	\$15,017.
Second Collection: Seminarian support:	\$5,428.

~ CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS ~

The month of September is the month of the Seven Sorrows of Mary. In honor of Mary's sorrow over her Son's suffering and death, our Special of the Month is 25% off all wall and standing crucifixes. All Catholic homes should have at least one crucifix hanging on the wall! 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: 707-542-0250.

~ CREDIT CARD DONATIONS ~

Consider paying your parish contributions with your credit card. Log into our website (www.steugenes.com) and select "Give Now". The system allows you to manage your own donations online including Sunday plate, second collections, adoration, capital improvements and more. The amounts are automatically credited to your giving history. If you need assistance setting up your account, please contact the parish office bookkeeper, Eileen, at 542-6984, ext. 13.

~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 by coming to the parish office Mon-Fri, 9-4 to register. *Registration cards are also available in the front and east church vestibules.*

~ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT~

The St. Eugene's Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year of 2022-2023 is now available in the Parish Office. Please stop by and take one if you are interested.

2nd COLLECTION INFORMATION

~TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM~

This weekend, September 16 & 17, our Second Collection will be for our school's Tuition Assistance Program. Next weekend, September 23 & 24, there will be no Second Collection. As always, thank you for your generosity!

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	September 16
8:00 am	Mike Pendergast, deceased
4:30 pm	George & Chris Schirle, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp)	Perla Mendez, living
Sunday	September 17
7:30 am	Charles Nicholas & Laura Eulalie Archard, deceased
9:00 am	William Avilla, deceased
10:30 am	Peter Nelson, living
12:00 pm	People of St. Eugene's
1:30 pm (EF)	Michael Irvine King, deceased
5:30 pm	Pauliasi Naivalurua, living
6:00pm Newman Ctr.	Pete & Shad Skikos, living
Monday	September 18
6:45 am	Isabel Borrego, living
8:00 am	McShane & Stronge Families, living
Tuesday	September 19
6:45 am	Gerardo Borrego, living
8:00 am	Betty Zander, deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Mary Tran, living
Wednesday	September 20
6:45 am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
8:00 am	Maria Hernandez, deceased
Thursday	September 21
6:45 am	Jennifer Gunderson, living
8:00 am	Bishop Robert. F. Vasa, living
Friday	September 22
6:45 am	Peter R. Paulson, deceased
8:00 am	Juanita Russell, living
12:00 pm (Hosp)	Lisa Tran, living
Saturday	September 23
8:00 am	Esmerelda Lopez, deceased
4:30 pm	Kathy Wable, deceased
6:30 (Sp)	Ricardo Olvera Galvan, deceased

~PRAYER FOR THE SICK~

"Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from illness of body or mind. May those who are thus afflicted receive the proper treatment and the comfort of Your healing presence. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, and in the name of your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen."

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS~

On Saturday, **September 23rd**, the Diocese of Santa Rosa will present a day of prayer and fellowship for all adults in the Diocese at **Cardinal Newman High School, 4320 Old Redwood Hwy., Santa Rosa**. This year's theme, "**Liturgy, Devotion and the Most Holy Eucharist**". Topics include: "The Liturgical Year", "Introduction to Liturgical Theology", "Eucharistic Living" and "The Breaking of the Bread". Please note that registrations received after September 14th will not be processed. After this date, you **must register at the event**. Please note that photographed tickets or photocopies are not acceptable. Registration is available on-site at 8:00 AM - 8:45 AM. The day begins with Holy Mass at 9:00 AM in the Student Life Center. **You can bring a lunch, eat at a nearby restaurant or get something from a food truck that will be available on campus. Please join us!*

~40 DAYS FOR LIFE~

The "40 Days for Life" Fall Campaign starts Wednesday, Sept. 27 and ends on Sunday, Nov. 5. Join us as we kick-off the campaign on Tuesday, Sept. 26, beginning with Holy (Latin) Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by a pot-luck dinner in the PLC. If your last name begins with: A - G bring a main dish; H- P bring salads; Q-V bring refreshments and W-Z bring desserts. Our opening prayer on Sept. 27 will take place at 11:00 am at the Planned Parenthood located at 1140 Sonoma Ave. in Santa Rosa. For more information, *please call Judy @ 707-477-8937, Mary @ 707-321-8948 & (Español) Theresa @ 707-795-8890.*

~SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL~

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul District Council of Sonoma County is hosting a Retreat: "Journey Together Toward Holiness" on Tuesday, Sept. 26th, from 10:00 am-2:00pm at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 1244 St. Francis Road, Santa Rosa. *Call 650-274-9941 for more info.*

~HELPING HANDS NEEDED~

We are in need of some "helping hands" to help clean the Cathedral for one hour after the 8:00 am Saturday Mass and prayers (8:45 am). Those who volunteer are requested to commit to each (or every other) Saturday. *Please call Nancy Nakai if you'd like to help! 707-328-0426.*

~PLEASE PRAY FOR~

Those who are ill need your support and prayers: Tristan Humble, Samuel Agius, Marjorie Miles, Amelia Lansangan, Gail Brown, Leo Del Santo, Emeline Jane Smith, Rosalind Britto, Ken Davis, Rita Wyatt, Karen Mills, Eileen Carol, Nancy Amador, Cristeta Marentes, Jesus Navarro, Michael Boland, Stephen Warner, Aida Catapang, Bob Goldman, Pat Davenport, Paulita Castro, Jean L. Alfano, Theresa Pham, Rainey Olson, Michele Otten, Pauline Goslovich, Mary Gonzales, Nick Sidjakov, Sandi Picconi, Joan Cosgrove, Denise Ealy, Becky Harber, Ernest Lanford, Daniel Bruce Moore, Megan Ingrassia, Art Haake, Rosalie Elliott and Eric Oser.

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

ANGER, HATRED & FORGIVENESS

~FROM THE PASTOR~

In our first reading today, the Book of Sirach tells us, "Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight." Also, in our Gospel reading from St. Mathew, Peter asks, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. " We see then, just how displeasing anger and vengeance are to the Lord and how important is to forgive those who have angered or hurt us. Sirach ends with this reminder, "Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! " Let's take a look at what Ven. Louis of Granada, O.P. has to say about remedying the sins of anger and hatred in his classic writing, "The Sinner's Guide." (I highly recommend this book, by the way!)

DESERVING PARDON

~OUR DAILY OFFENSES AGAINST GOD~

"If it be hard to subdue your anger, excited by an injury from one of your fellow creatures, consider how much more God has borne from you and how much He has endured for you. Were you not His enemy when He shed the last drop of His Blood for you? And behold with what sweetness and patience He bears with your daily offenses against Him, and with what mercy and tenderness He receives you when you return to Him."

~WHO DESERVES PARDON?~

"If anger urges that your enemy does not deserve forgiveness, ask yourself how far you have merited God's pardon. Will you have God exercise only mercy toward you, when you pursue your neighbor with implacable hatred? And if it be true that your enemy does not deserve pardon from you, it will be equally true that you do not deserve pardon from God. Remember that the pardon which man has not merited for himself, Christ has superabundantly merited for him. For love of Him, therefore, forgive all who have offended you. Consider also that the fellow creature whom you hate is either a just man

or a sinner. If a just man, it is certainly a great misfortune to be the declared enemy of a friend of God. If a sinner, it is no less deplorable that you should undertake to punish the malice of another by plunging your own soul into sin. And if your neighbor in his turn seeks vengeance for the injury you inflict upon him, where will your enmities end? Will there be any peace on the earth?"

~A FIRM RESOLUTION~

"Make a firm resolution never to speak or act under the influence of anger, nor to heed any suggestions, however plausible, which your heart may urge at such moments. Never act until your anger has subsided, or until you have once or twice repeated the Our Father or some other prayer. Plutarch tells of a wise man who, on taking leave of a monarch, advised him never to speak or act in anger, but to wait until he had repeated to himself the letters of the alphabet. Learn a lesson from this, and avoid the evil consequences of acting from the impulse of anger." http://www.catholictreasury.info/books/sinners_guide/sg35.php

~THE SAINTS ON "PATIENCE"~

"If you seek patience, you will find no better example than the Cross. Great patience occurs in two ways: either when one patiently suffers much, or when one suffers things that one is able to avoid and yet does not avoid. Christ endured much on the Cross, and did so patiently. . . ." — *St. Thomas Aquinas*

"He who bears his sufferings with patience for God's sake, will soon arrive at high perfection. He will be master of the world and will already have one foot in the other world." — *Bl. Giles of Assisi*

"When you are overtaken by some misfortune, seek the remedies that God affords you — for not to do so would be to tempt His Divine Providence — but having done so, await the result He may appoint with perfect resignation. If He sees fit to permit the remedies to overcome the evil, thank Him humbly; but if, on the other hand, He permits the evil to overcome the remedies, patiently bless His holy name and submit." — *St. Francis de Sales*

ST. AMBROSE SPEAKS

~REMEMBER DEATH~

“Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin!” Sirach, 28:6

“Many of the saints of our Catholic faith have written about death, but perhaps none has written so eloquently on this topic as the good St. Ambrose. St. Ambrose is truly a saint of great distinction. Not only is he one of the four great Western fathers of the Church, he is perhaps the only man in Church history to be baptized, and to be ordained a deacon, priest, and bishop all within a week’s time. A capable administrator and an ardent lover of the poor, St. Ambrose was also a courageous man, who took on even emperors face-to-face to secure the rights of the Church when he couldn’t win them over with his eloquence. But for all of his steely composure, St. Ambrose was also a very tender and loving man, and upon the death of his beloved brother, Satyrus, Ambrose suffered greatly. But he found relief from his sorrow through meditating and writing upon death.”

~THE GREAT REMEDY~

“St. Ambrose wrote so beautifully that Christians should have: “a daily familiarity with death, a daily desire for death,” because ultimately death is the great remedy for our concupiscence and earthly desires. While we live on this earth, our fallen nature is often at war with our faith and reason. While we know by faith and reason that we should desire God above all else and work diligently to cultivate virtue, the propensity to sin that we inherited from our first parents often gets the better of us. As St. Ambrose wrote that: “Human life was condemned because of sin to unremitting labor and unbearable sorrows and so began to experience the burden of wretchedness.” But God’s mercy limits this sorrow, and death restores to us what life has forfeited.”

~WHAT WE LOST IN EDEN~

“In a sense, our lives as Christians are one long labor to recover the lost innocence and perfect ordering of our souls that was lost in the Garden when Adam and Eve sinned. That original sin of our first parents resulted in a wound of concupiscence that we all now bear, a wound that that we must seek to heal through the cultivation of the virtues and the courageous rejection of all that is contrary to God’s will. And if we have labored strenuously through-

out our lives on earth to find healing for this wound – if we’ve labored for holiness – then our death is the final remedy for that terrible wound. Therefore, death is not a cause for mourning; it is not something to be avoided. St. Ambrose tells us rather, that death is the cause of man’s salvation! Of course this is only true provided that we turn away from the wickedness of this world, that we turn away from the enticements of sin and the deceits of the devil. Some day we will face our Creator and have to make an accounting of our lives. Our death is truly the most important moment of our entire life, for it is in this dramatic moment that our eternal destiny is decided!”

~PREPARE WELL~

“Our eternal fate will rest upon the state of our souls and the attitude we have before God at that moment our souls slip away from our mortal bodies. Considering the absolute importance of this moment, it is imperative that we prepare well for our deaths. If we are well prepared, our death can be a moment of tremendous grace and mercy. If not, our death can lead us to everlasting horror. While it is true that God never leaves any soul without His divine aid, most especially in this moment of supreme importance, our Lord will not force His grace upon us. Priestly ministry has taught me that most of us die as we’ve lived. For those who have lived in that peace that only comes from doing God’s will, or who have earnestly repented, they usually die peacefully and filled with hope. But for those who have fought or ignored God’s will in this life, death approaches as a frightening specter of darkness and gloom. In short, whoever lives his life in union with God’s will; whoever has chosen for God in this life will generally have no problem choosing God and His mercy at this last and decisive moment of his life. But for those who ignore God throughout life and choose their own will instead of His, salvation will only come through a miracle of God’s mercy. so as we mourn for our loved ones and pray for the happy repose of their souls, let us not forget to meditate on our own death, nor should we ever forget that death can come at any moment, even when we least expect it. With this in mind, let us live our lives for God. Let us honestly repent of all of our sins and ask for our Lord’s mercy. In all things, let us always trust in our Lord’s promise of mercy: both for ourselves, and for those who have already died.”

For more go to: <https://>

earlychurchfathers.wordpress.com/2015/11/01/all-souls-day-2/

CATEDRAL DE ST. EUGENE'S — 17 de Septiembre del 2023
24° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

IRA, ODIO & PERDÓN

~DEL PASTOR~

En nuestra primera lectura de hoy, el Libro de Eclesiástico nos dice: "La ira y el enojo son cosas odiosas, pero el pecador las abraza fuerte". Además, en nuestra lectura del Evangelio de San Mateo, Pedro pregunta: "Señor, si mi hermano peca contra mí, ¿cuántas veces debo perdonar? ¿Hasta siete veces?" Jesús respondió: "Te digo, no siete veces, sino setenta y siete veces". Vemos entonces cuán desagradables son al Señor la ira y la venganza y cuán importante es perdonar a quienes nos han enojado o herido. Eclesiástico termina con este recordatorio: "¡Recuerda tus últimos días, deja a un lado la enemistad; recuerda la muerte y la decadencia, y deja de pecar!" Echemos un vistazo a lo que Ven. Luis de Granada, O.P. tiene que decir acerca de remediar los pecados de la ira y el odio en su escrito clásico, "La guía del pecador". (¡Por cierto, recomiendo mucho este libro!)

MERECER PERDON

~NUESTRAS OFENSAS DIARIAS CONTRA DIOS~

"Si te resulta difícil dominar tu ira, excitada por la herida de uno de tus semejantes, considera cuánto más te ha soportado Dios y cuánto ha soportado por ti. ¿No eras Su enemigo cuando derramó por ti la última gota de Su Sangre? Y he aquí con qué dulzura y paciencia Él soporta vuestras ofensas diarias contra Él, y con qué misericordia y ternura os recibe cuando regresas a Él".

~¿QUIÉN MERECE EL PERDÓN?~

"Si la ira te insta a pensar que tu enemigo no merece el perdón, pregúntate hasta qué punto has merecido el perdón de Dios. ¿Quieres que Dios ejerza sólo misericordia hacia ti, cuando persigues a tu prójimo con odio implacable? Y si es cierto que tu enemigo no merece el perdón de ti, igualmente será cierto que tú no mereces el perdón de Dios. Recordad que el perdón que el hombre no ha merecido para sí mismo, Cristo lo ha merecido sobreabundantemente para él. Por tanto, por amor a Él, perdona a todos los que te han ofendido. Considera también que el prójimo a quien odias es un hombre justo o un pecador

Si se es un hombre justo, ciertamente es una gran desgracia ser enemigo declarado de un amigo de Dios. Si eres pecador, no es menos deplorable que te propongas castigar la malicia de otro hundiendo tu propia alma en el pecado. Y si tu prójimo a su vez busca venganza por el daño que le infliges, ¿dónde terminarán tus enemistades? ¿Habrá paz en la tierra?"

~UNA RESOLUCIÓN FIRME~

"Toma la firme resolución de nunca hablar ni actuar bajo la influencia de la ira, ni prestar atención a ninguna sugerencia, por plausible que sea, que tu corazón pueda instarte en tales momentos. Nunca actúes hasta que tu ira haya disminuido o hasta que hayas repetido una o dos veces el Padre Nuestro o alguna otra oración. Plutarco habla de un hombre sabio que, al despedirse de un monarca, le aconsejó que nunca hablara ni actuara con ira, sino que esperara hasta repetirse las letras del alfabeto. Aprenda una lección de esto y evite las malas consecuencias de actuar por impulso de ira".

~LOS SANTOS SOBRE LA "PACIENCIA"~

"Si buscas paciencia, no encontrarás mejor ejemplo que la Cruz. La gran paciencia se produce de dos maneras: o cuando uno sufre mucho con paciencia, o cuando sufre cosas que puede evitar y, sin embargo, no evita. Cristo soportó mucho en la Cruz y lo hizo con paciencia. . . ." — *Santo Tomás de Aquino*

"Quien soporta sus sufrimientos con paciencia por amor de Dios, pronto llegará a la perfección superior. Será dueño del mundo y ya tendrá un pie en el otro mundo". — *Bel. Giles de Asís*

"Cuando os sobrevenga alguna desgracia, buscad los remedios que Dios os dé, porque no hacerlo sería tentar a su Divina Providencia, pero habiéndolo hecho, aguardad con perfecta resignación el resultado que Él os indique. Si Él considera oportuno permitir que los remedios venzan el mal, agradézcale humildemente; pero si, por el contrario, permite que el mal venza a los remedios, bendice pacientemente Su santo nombre y sométete". — *San Francisco de Sales*

SAN AMBROSIO HABLA

~RECUERDA LA MUERTE~

"Acordaos de vuestros últimos días, dejad a un lado la enemistad; ¡Acordaos de la muerte y de la decadencia y dejad de pecar!" Eclesiástico, 28:6

"Muchos de los santos de nuestra fe católica han escrito sobre la muerte, pero quizás ninguno haya escrito tan elocuentemente sobre este tema como el buen San Ambrosio. San Ambrosio es verdaderamente un santo de gran distinción. No sólo es uno de los cuatro grandes padres occidentales de la Iglesia, sino que quizás sea el único hombre en la historia de la Iglesia que ha sido bautizado y ordenado diácono, sacerdote y obispo, todo ello en el plazo de una semana. San Ambrosio, un administrador capaz y un ardiente amante de los pobres, también fue un hombre valiente, que se enfrentó cara a cara incluso a los emperadores para asegurar los derechos de la Iglesia cuando no podía ganárselos con su elocuencia. Pero a pesar de su férrea compostura, San Ambrosio también era un hombre muy tierno y amoroso, y tras la muerte de su amado hermano, Sátiro, Ambrosio sufrió mucho. Pero encontró alivio a su dolor meditando y escribiendo sobre la muerte".

~EL GRAN REMEDIO~

"San Ambrosio escribió tan bellamente que los cristianos deberían tener: "una familiaridad diaria con la muerte, un deseo diario de muerte", porque en última instancia la muerte es el gran remedio para nuestra concupiscencia y deseos terrenales. Mientras vivimos en esta tierra, nuestra naturaleza caída a menudo está en guerra con nuestra fe y nuestra razón. Si bien sabemos por fe y razón que debemos desear a Dios por encima de todo y trabajar diligentemente para cultivar la virtud, la propensión al pecado que heredamos de nuestros primeros padres a menudo nos supera. Como escribió San Ambrosio: "La vida humana fue condenada por el pecado a un trabajo incesante y a dolores insoportables y por eso comenzó a experimentar el peso de la miseria". Pero la misericordia de Dios limita este dolor y la muerte nos devuelve lo que la vida ha perdido".

~LO QUE PERDIMOS EN EL EDÉN~

"En cierto sentido, nuestras vidas como cristianos son una larga labor para recuperar la inocencia perdida y el perfecto orden de nuestras almas que se perdió en el Jardín cuando Adán y Eva pecaron. Aquel pecado original de nuestros primeros padres resultó en una herida de concupiscencia que ahora todos llevamos, herida que debemos buscar curar mediante el cultivo de las virtudes y el rechazo valiente de todo lo que es contrario a la voluntad de Dios. Y si hemos trabajado vigorosamente a lo largo de nuestras vidas en la tierra →

para encontrar curación para esta herida; si hemos trabajado por la santidad, entonces nuestra muerte es el remedio final para esa terrible herida. Luego la muerte no es motivo de duelo; no es algo que deba evitarse. ¡San Ambrosio nos dice más bien que la muerte es la causa de la salvación del hombre! Por supuesto, esto sólo es cierto siempre que nos apartemos de la maldad de este mundo, de las tentaciones del pecado y de los engaños del diablo. Algún día nos enfrentaremos a nuestro Creador y tendremos que hacer cuentas de nuestras vidas. ¡Nuestra muerte es verdaderamente el momento más importante de toda nuestra vida, porque es en este momento dramático donde se decide nuestro destino eterno!

~PREPÁRATE BIEN~

"Nuestro destino eterno dependerá del estado de nuestras almas y de la actitud que tengamos ante Dios en ese momento en que nuestras almas se alejan de nuestros cuerpos mortales. Considerando la importancia absoluta de este momento, es imperativo que nos preparemos bien para nuestras muertes. Si estamos bien preparados, nuestra muerte puede ser un momento de tremenda gracia y misericordia. De lo contrario, nuestra muerte puede llevarnos a un horror eterno. Si bien es cierto que Dios nunca deja a ningún alma sin Su ayuda divina, especialmente en este momento de suma importancia, nuestro Señor no nos impondrá Su gracia. El ministerio sacerdotal me ha enseñado que la mayoría de nosotros morimos como hemos vivido. Aquellos que han vivido en esa paz que sólo proviene de hacer la voluntad de Dios, o que se han arrepentido sinceramente, suelen morir en paz y llenos de esperanza. Pero para aquellos que han luchado o ignorado la voluntad de Dios en esta vida, la muerte se acerca como un espectro aterrador de oscuridad y tristeza. En definitiva, quien vive su vida en unión con la voluntad de Dios; Quien ha elegido a Dios en esta vida, generalmente no tendrá problema en elegir a Dios y su misericordia en este último y decisivo momento de su vida. Pero para aquellos que ignoran a Dios durante toda la vida y eligen su propia voluntad en lugar de la suya, la salvación sólo llegará a través de un milagro de la misericordia de Dios. Así que mientras lloramos a nuestros seres queridos y oramos por el feliz descanso de sus almas, no olvidemos meditar en nuestra propia muerte, ni olvidemos jamás que la muerte puede llegar en cualquier momento, incluso cuando menos lo esperamos. Con esto en mente, vivamos nuestras vidas para Dios. Arrepintámonos honestamente de todos nuestros pecados y pidamos la misericordia de nuestro Señor. En todo, confiemos siempre en la promesa de misericordia de nuestro Señor: tanto para nosotros como para los que ya han muerto".

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