



The Cathedral of
ST. EUGENE

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

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Email Comments/Suggestions to:
Office@steugenes.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	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.

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



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 7:25 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 IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 12, 2023

PARISH CALENDAR

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12

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

MONDAY FEBRUARY 13

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

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14

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

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am
Outdoor Rosary – Fatima Grotto – 6:00 pm
Bible Study – PLC – 7:00 pm

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16

Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17

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

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am
Little Flowers Meeting – PLC – 9:30 am
Confession – Cathedral 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 pm & 6:30 pm
(Spanish)

SECOND COLLECTION INFORMATION

~ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM ~

This weekend, February 11 & 12, the Second Collection will be for our Religious Education program. Next weekend, February 18 & 19, the Second Collection will be for our Tuition Assistance Program. *Thank you for continued generosity!*

~ ON-LINE NFP CLASS ~

All engaged and married couples are welcome to come to English Class #1 of Natural Family Planning (NFP). This is the first of three classes and will be held on Saturday, March 4, and last from 1-3pm. To sign up for this live class, please visit <http://www.ccli.org>. Any questions? Please call (707) 542-3635.

Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

ADMINISTRATION

For the Week of 01/29/23

Sunday Donations Received:	\$13,219.
Second Collection: St. Vincent de Paul	\$5,665.

~ CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS ~

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. The USCCB states: *During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. A season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving...* To support your prayer life, all of our in-stock prayer books are on sale for 25% off during the month of February. Some of the titles to choose from are: "Divine Intimacy" and "Christian Prayer," with many more excellent Catholic prayer books in stock. 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.

~2022 CHARITABLE DONATION LIST~

St. Eugene's greatly appreciates your donations to the Cathedral. A year-end list of donations suitable for tax purposes is provided to registered parishioners. Please note that year-end donation lists are sent **upon request only**. Email your requests to bookkeeper@steugenes.com, leave a message at 707-852-0376, or come to the parish office. Let us know if you want your statement mailed or emailed.

~NEW TO THE PARISH?~

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

~ANNUAL DIOCESAN MINISTRY APPEAL~

The Annual Diocesan Ministry Appeal will be conducted at St. Eugene's next month. Our parish target this year is \$51,994.00. St. Eugene's receives 100% of funds raised over that amount. With your help, we can assure the continued support of many important programs that help individuals and parishes throughout our diocese – the Catholic education of our children, the education of our Seminarians, Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Clergy Formation and more. Please respond generously when you are asked to make a pledge on the **weekend of March 4 & 5**. We will focus on a few of the ministries that will benefit from this collection in the weeks to come!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	February 11
8:00 am	Cathy Starkiy, deceased
4:30 pm	Thomas Patrick, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp)	Familia Jimenez-Garcia, living
Sunday	February 12
7:30 am	Ryan Kozlowski, deceased
9:00 am	George & Chris Schirle, deceased
10:30 am	People of the Diocese
12:00 pm	People of St. Eugene's
1:30 pm (EF)	Midori Miranda, living
5:30 pm	Ana Geiser, living
6:00pm Newman Ctr.	Marvin Brunson, deceased
Monday	February 13
6:45 am	Volande Windels, deceased
8:00 am	Edelmira Gramajo, deceased
Tuesday	February 14
6:45 am	Fr. Alan Acevedo, living
8:00 am	Bill Pisenti, Jr., living
5:30 pm (EF)	Fr. Epperson, living
Wednesday	February 15
6:45 am	Eugene Cashman, deceased
8:00 am	Kathleen Hugh Devlin, deceased
9:20 am (School)	Thomas Axelrad, living
Thursday	February 16
6:45 am	Anna Magdalena Arnerich, living
8:00 am	Jack Bjornstrom, deceased
Friday	February 17
6:45 am	Antonietta Oregioni, living
8:00 am	Maureen Wise, living
12:00 pm (Hosp)	John Paul Tran, living
Saturday	February 18
8:00 am	Mc Shane & Stronge Families, living & deceased
4:30 pm	Tim Williams, deceased
6:30 (Sp)	Familia Jimenez-Garcia, living

~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, Patrick Welter, 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, Margaret Keifer, Joan Cosgrove, Denise Ealy and Becky Harber.

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

~CELEBRATE MARRIAGE~

The 4th annual "Celebrate Marriage Mass" will be held on World Marriage Day, **this Sunday, February 12th** at the **10:30 am Mass at the Cathedral of St. Eugene**. Bishop Vasa is inviting married parishioners within the Diocese of Santa Rosa to attend and prayerfully celebrate the joy of married life in the Catholic Church. Couples celebrating "milestone anniversaries" that is, every 5-year anniversaries (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, etc.) will be recognized.

~LENTEN MINI-RETREATS~

Lent is just around the corner and is a time for us to pause and to make extra time for prayer, penance and reflection. To assist us on this journey, we will be offering 3 mini-retreats on 3 consecutive Saturdays during Lent: March 4, 11 & 18. Our priest-presenters will offer the 8:00 am Mass and then begin the talks approximately 15 after Mass has ended. Refreshments will be available in the Parish Life Center during this break time. The talks will last approximately one hour. Our first presentation on March 4th will be given by Fr. Robert Torczynski on "How to Pray Well." Our second presentation on March 11 will be given by Fr. Cameron Faller of the Archdiocese of San Francisco on "The Four Last Things." Our third presentation on March 18th will be given by Fr. Raul Lemus of St. Joseph Church in Cotati. He will speak on "Evangelization: Holiness Cannot Exist without this." More information about each talk will be given in upcoming bulletins!

~40 DAYS FOR LIFE~

The Santa Rosa "40 Days for Life" campaign will begin their Spring Campaign on (Ash) Wednesday, February 22, at 11:00 am, with an Opening Prayer in front of the Planned Parenthood building at 1140 Sonoma Avenue. We will kick-off the campaign with Holy Mass at 5:30 pm the evening before, Tuesday, February 21, followed by a Potluck in the Parish Life Center, Charity Room, at 7:00 pm. For more info, call Judy at (707) 477-8937; (for donations) call Mary at (707) 321-8948 or for a Spanish speaker, call Theresa at (707) 795-8890.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

~KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS VIDEO SERIES~

What does it mean to be a man today? Most men have asked themselves this question. Most men want to lead fuller and more purposeful lives - to be better men, better husbands and better fathers - but sometimes it can be difficult to know how. The Knights of Columbus will be showing **the final episode** of the 12-part video discussion series, "Into The Breach". Please join them for food, fraternity, and prayer as they discuss "**The Cornerstone**" on **Monday, February 13**, at 6:00PM in the Becker Center. Open to all Catholic Men *18 years and older*.

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.

MY CATHOLIC FAITH

THE LAW & CHOOSING GOOD OR EVIL

~FROM THE PASTOR~

Our Gospel reading today (Mathew 5: 17-27) is so very powerful in its message because it can be boiled down to one word: Love. Love is the essence of who and what God is, therefore, it is at the heart of all that He teaches us. Jesus reiterates that the Law as established by God, the 10 Commandments, is indeed of the utmost importance, but the essence of the Commandments are not only to “follow the rules,” but to live the *essence* of the rules, too. Our first article will teach us more about this. We also saw in our first reading from the Book of Sirach, about the free will that has been given to us by God, i.e., the freedom to choose good or evil and the reality behind the existence of evil in the world. Finally, our second reading talks about the Wisdom of God, so *we will look at a few Bible verses about this.*

JESUS FULFILLS THE LAW

~GOD ESTABLISHES A RELATIONSHIP~

“Jesus gives us the interpretive key to this long passage in verse 17 when he says, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.” Jesus’ original hearers, an audience primarily made up of Jewish men and women, would have recognized that he is making a messianic claim: He is the one whom God promised to send. In His very person, Jesus is bringing to fulfillment the Kingdom of God. For example, in Deuteronomy 18:15, Moses says, “A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you from among your own kindred; that is the one to whom you shall listen.” Likewise we see Jesus as the fulfillment of the prophecy made in Isaiah 11:1, “A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,” King David’s father, “and from his roots a bud shall blossom.” Jesus is trying to tell us how we are to interpret his coming: not to abolish everything that God had done up to that point in the history of salvation, but rather to fulfill it. In the Old Testament, God calls and chooses His people, he establishes a covenant with them, and only then does he give them the precepts of the law. Or, put another way, God first establishes a relationship with his people, and then he teaches them how to

live in that relationship. The law teaches them how to conduct themselves before God and among one another.”

~NOT AN END IN ITSELF~

“In a similar manner, Jesus first calls his disciples to himself; he establishes a relationship with them. Then, here in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus begins to teach them. At this point in Jewish history, many saw the law of Moses as an end in itself. Think for example, of the Pharisees, who prided themselves on observing every detail of the law. Jesus, on the other hand, teaches that while the observance of the law is good (because it was given by God), its observance is meant to always lead us back to love: both love of God and love of neighbor. In other words, by observing the law externally, we interiorize what it is trying to accomplish.”

~BUT I SAY TO YOU~

“Once we understand this, we can read Jesus’ teachings with fresh eyes. When he says, “You have heard it was said” followed by “but I say to you . . .” we see Jesus pointing us to the ultimate end of the law. For example, he calls us not only to observe the commandment not to kill our brothers and sisters, but to do something deeper: to avoid unjust anger with our fellows. Likewise, we are not only to observe the commandment to not commit adultery, but to avoid the lustful gaze that leads us to see others as less than who they truly are: beloved daughters and sons of God.”

~PUT ON THE MIND OF CHRIST~

“Truly Jesus is calling his disciples to something greater than a mere cursory observance of rules. He is inviting us to reflect upon how our behavior impacts our relationships, both with God and with others. Jesus is calling us to do what St. Paul invites the early Christians to do throughout his letters: to “put on the mind of Christ,” allowing our relationship with Jesus to mold and shape our hearts and our wills and make us more like himself. When we place Christ at the center of everything in our lives, we begin to realize that following his teachings, even the difficult ones, is not so much about observing rules. Instead, we begin to desire the same things that Christ does because he is our close

Christ does because he is our close friend, and we want what he wants. The motivation behind living the Christian life becomes not so much an obligation as a daily observance of living in a way that glorifies God in everything we do." <https://www.hprweb.com/2023/01/homilies-for-february-2023/>

CHOOSING GOOD OR EVIL

~WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?~

"If God is truly good and "all-powerful," why is there evil in the world? Why do bad things happen to good people? A young child dies and their parents are heart broken. Or a terrorist detonates a bomb inside a crowded church. How do we explain these things in light of Christian teaching? Some even suggest that the occurrence of evil and suffering disproves the existence of God all together."

~IT IS NOT A CREATED THING~

"To begin, let's lay some groundwork. God is love (1 Jn 4:16-18), and it is against his nature to *do* evil. And if God is good, then *everything* he has made is good: "And God saw that it was good" (Gn 1: 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 31). But it is also important to realize that evil is *not* a created thing. It is the absence of good, and the choosing of something that is contrary to God's will. So God neither creates, nor does, evil. But if God is all-powerful, how is it that he allows evil and suffering? Let's take these two things separately, for while they are related, they are not the same thing. The answer to why there is evil is, in some ways, quite simple. God created us to know and love him. But to truly be able to love, we must be able to freely choose - to choose between good and evil. Love is simply the desiring, and doing, of good for another. If we cannot *freely* choose to do this good, we *cannot* truly love! We would simply be robots programmed to perform a particular task that would have no merit to the person performing it. But that said, every act of love that we perform, *first* comes as a prompting of God's grace. "Apart from you (Jesus), we can do nothing" (Jn 15:5). But we are still *free* to choose this good, grace or not. And evil is the ultimate result of the abuse of this incredible gift of free will that God has given to us (and the angels). Some choose not to do the good. But God must also allow us this option to choose evil if he truly wants us to be able to love. If God overruled our free choice each time we chose to abuse this freedom and commit sin, big or small, we would eventually realize that, practically speaking, we were not *really* free to choose

at all!" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 303-311)

~DRAWING A GREATER GOOD~

"But here is where God shows his great power: by always bringing about a greater good from any evil he *allows*. "We know that in everything, God works for good for those who love him" (Rom 8:28). St. Augustine puts this beautifully, writing: "For almighty God ... because he is supremely good, would never allow any evil whatsoever to exist if he were not so all-powerful and good as to cause good to emerge from evil itself." St. Paul confirms that, "where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more" (Rom 5:20). Similarly, the Catechism reminds us of the ultimate example of God powerfully drawing a greater good from even the greatest evil: "From the greatest moral evil ever committed - the rejection and murder of God's only Son, caused by the sins of all men - God, by his grace that 'abounded all the more,' brought the greatest of goods: the glorification of Christ and our redemption. But for all that, evil never becomes a good" (CCC 312).

~GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS~

"... Clearly, we can't always know why God does what he does, or understand his plan and wisdom. We can't see the big picture the way he does - or the final outcomes drawn out from seemingly unrelated events. "His ways are not our ways" (Is 55:8-9). Evil and suffering will sometimes be a mystery to us ... But if we believe and love God, we must also trust that he loves us (Jn 3:16). "I know well the plans I have in mind for you ... plans for your welfare and not for woe ... to give you a future of hope" (Jer 29:11). So let this be the foundation we view evil and suffering from: Jesus I trust in *You*." *By: Graham Osborne. For the complete article, go to: <https://bccatholic.ca/voices/graham-osborne/why-does-god-allow-evil>*

~THE WISDOM OF GOD~

James 3:17 - "... [T]he wisdom that comes from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, and considerate, full of mercy and good fruits, without any trace of partiality or hypocrisy.."

Romans 11:33 - "The Judgments of God Are Unfathomable. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unfathomable his ways!"

MI FE CATOLICA

~DEL PASTOR~

~LA LEY Y ELEGIR EL BIEN O EL MAL~

Nuestra lectura del Evangelio de hoy (Mateo 5: 17-27) es tan poderosa en su mensaje porque se puede reducir a una palabra: Amor. El amor es la esencia de quién y qué es Dios, por lo tanto, está en el corazón de todo lo que Él nos enseña. Jesús reitera que la Ley establecida por Dios, los 10 Mandamientos, es de suma importancia, pero la esencia de los Mandamientos no es sólo "seguir las reglas", sino también vivir la esencia de las reglas. Nuestro primer artículo nos enseñará más sobre esto. También vimos en nuestra primera lectura del Libro del Eclesiástico, sobre el libre albedrío que nos ha sido dado por Dios, es decir, la libertad de elegir el bien o el mal y la realidad detrás de la existencia del mal en el mundo. Por último, nuestra segunda lectura habla de la Sabiduría de Dios, *por lo que examinaremos algunos versículos bíblicos al respecto.*

JESÚS DA CUMPLIMIENTO A LA LEY

~DIOS ESTABLECE UNA RELACIÓN~

"Jesús nos da la clave interpretativa de este largo pasaje en el versículo 17 cuando dice: "No penséis que he venido a abolir la ley o los profetas. No he venido a abolir, sino a cumplir". Los oyentes originales de Jesús, un público compuesto principalmente por hombres y mujeres judíos, habrían reconocido que está haciendo una afirmación mesiánica: Él es aquel a quien Dios prometió enviar. En su persona, Jesús está llevando a cabo el Reino de Dios. Por ejemplo, en Deuteronomio 18:15, Moisés dice: "El Señor, tu Dios, te suscitará un profeta como yo, de entre tu propia parentela; ése es a quien escucharás". Del mismo modo, vemos a Jesús como el cumplimiento de la profecía hecha en Isaías 11:1: "Brotará un retoño del tronco de Jesé", el padre del rey David, "y de sus raíces florecerá un capullo." Jesús trata de decirnos cómo debemos interpretar su venida: no para abolir todo lo que Dios había hecho hasta entonces en la historia de la salvación, sino para cumplirlo. En el Antiguo Testamento, Dios llama y elige a su pueblo, establece una alianza con él, y sólo entonces le da los preceptos de la ley. O, dicho de otro modo, Dios establece primero una relación con su pueblo, y luego le enseña cómo vivir en esa relación. La ley les enseña cómo comportarse ante Dios y entre sí".

~NO UN FIN EN SÍ MISMO~

"De manera similar, Jesús primero llama a sus discípulos a sí mismo; establece una relación con ellos. →

Luego, aquí en el Sermón de la Montaña, Jesús comienza a enseñarles. En este punto de la historia judía, muchos veían la ley de Moisés como un fin en sí mismo. Piensa, por ejemplo, en los fariseos, que se enorgullecían de observar cada detalle de la ley. Jesús, en cambio, enseña que, si bien la observancia de la ley es buena (porque fue dada por Dios), su observancia debe conducirnos siempre al amor: tanto al amor a Dios como al amor al prójimo. En otras palabras, al observar la ley externamente, interiorizamos lo que intenta conseguir."

~PERO YO TE DIGO~

"Una vez que comprendemos esto, podemos leer las enseñanzas de Jesús con ojos nuevos. Cuando dice: "Habéis oído que se ha dicho" seguido de "pero yo os digo . ." vemos que Jesús nos señala el fin último de la ley. Por ejemplo, nos llama no sólo a observar el mandamiento de no matar a nuestros hermanos y hermanas, sino a hacer algo más profundo: evitar la ira injusta con nuestros semejantes. Del mismo modo, no sólo hemos de observar el mandamiento de no cometer adulterio, sino evitar la mirada lujuriosa que nos lleva a ver a los demás como menos de lo que realmente son: hijas e hijos amados de Dios."

~PONTE EN LA MENTE DE CRISTO~

"En verdad, Jesús está llamando a sus discípulos a algo más grande que una mera observancia superficial de las normas. Nos invita a reflexionar sobre el impacto de nuestro comportamiento en nuestras relaciones, tanto con Dios como con los demás. Jesús nos está llamando a hacer lo que San Pablo invita a hacer a los primeros cristianos a lo largo de sus cartas: "revestirnos de la mentalidad de Cristo", permitiendo que nuestra relación con Jesús moldee y dé forma a nuestros corazones y voluntades y nos haga más parecidos a Él. Cuando ponemos a Cristo en el centro de todo en nuestras vidas, empezamos a darnos cuenta de que seguir sus enseñanzas, incluso las más difíciles, no consiste tanto en observar normas. Por el contrario, empezamos a desear las mismas cosas que Cristo, porque Él es nuestro cercano Cristo lo hace porque es nuestro amigo, y nosotros queremos lo que él quiere. La motivación para vivir la vida cristiana se convierte no tanto en una obligación como en la observancia diaria de vivir de un modo que glorifique a Dios en todo lo que hacemos."

ELEGIR ENTRE EL BIEN Y EL MAL

~¿POR QUÉ DIOS PERMITE EL MAL?~

"Si Dios es verdaderamente bueno y "todopoderoso", ¿por qué existe el mal en el mundo? ¿Por qué le pasan cosas malas a la gente buena? Un niño pequeño muere y sus padres se quedan con el corazón roto. O un terrorista hace estallar una bomba dentro de una iglesia abarrotada. ¿Cómo explicamos estas cosas a la luz de las enseñanzas cristianas? Algunos incluso sugieren que la aparición del mal y el sufrimiento refuta la existencia de Dios por completo".

~NO ES ALGO CREADO~

"Para empezar, sentemos algunas bases. Dios es amor (1 Jn 4:16-18), y hacer el mal va contra su naturaleza. Y si Dios es bueno, entonces todo lo que ha hecho es bueno: "Y vio Dios que era bueno" (Gn 1, 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 31). Pero también es importante darse cuenta de que el mal no es algo creado. Es la ausencia del bien, y la elección de algo que es contrario a la voluntad de Dios. Por tanto, Dios ni crea ni hace el mal. Pero si Dios es todopoderoso, ¿cómo es que permite el mal y el sufrimiento? Analicemos estas dos cosas por separado, pues aunque están relacionadas, no son lo mismo. La respuesta a por qué existe el mal es, en cierto modo, bastante sencilla. Dios nos creó para conocerle y amarle. Pero para poder amar de verdad, debemos poder elegir libremente, elegir entre el bien y el mal. El amor es simplemente desear y hacer el bien a los demás. Si no podemos elegir libremente hacer el bien, ¿no podemos amar de verdad! Seríamos simplemente robots programados para realizar una determinada tarea que no tendría ningún mérito para la persona que la realiza. Pero dicho esto, cada acto de amor que realizamos, viene primero como un impulso de la gracia de Dios. "Sin ti (Jesús), no podemos hacer nada" (Jn 15,5). Pero seguimos siendo libres de elegir este bien, por gracia o no. Y el mal es el resultado último del abuso de este increíble don del libre albedrío que Dios nos ha concedido (y a los ángeles). Algunos eligen no hacer el bien. Pero Dios también debe permitirnos esta opción de elegir el mal si realmente quiere que seamos capaces de amar. Si Dios anulara nuestro libre albedrío cada vez que elegimos abusar de esta libertad y cometer un pecado, grande o pequeño, acabaríamos por darnos cuenta de que, en la práctica, no somos realmente libres para elegir en absoluto". (Catecismo de Iglesia Católica 303-311)

~SACANDO UN BIEN MAYOR~

"Pero aquí es donde Dios muestra su gran poder: sacando siempre un bien mayor de cualquier mal que permite. "Sabemos que, en todas las cosas, Dios obra el bien para los que le aman" (Rm 8,28). San Agustín lo expresa maravillosamente, escribiendo: "Porque Dios todopoderoso... porque es supremamente bueno, nunca permitiría que existiera mal alguno si no fuera tan todopoderoso y bueno como para hacer surgir el bien del mal mismo". San Pablo confirma que "donde abundó el pecado, sobreabundó la gracia" (Rm 5, 20). Del mismo modo, el Catecismo nos recuerda el ejemplo supremo de Dios sacando poderosamente un bien mayor incluso del mayor mal: "Del mayor mal moral jamás cometido - el rechazo y asesinato del Hijo único de Dios, causado por los pecados de todos los hombres- Dios, por su gracia que 'sobreabundó', sacó el mayor de los bienes: la glorificación de Cristo y nuestra redención. Pero, por todo ello, el mal nunca llega a ser un bien" (CIC 312).

~LOS CAMINOS DE DIOS NO SON NUESTROS CAMINOS~

"... Es evidente que no siempre podemos saber por qué Dios hace lo que hace, ni comprender su plan y su sabiduría. No podemos ver el panorama general como él lo hace, ni los resultados finales extraídos de acontecimientos aparentemente inconexos. "Sus caminos no son los nuestros" (Is 55,8-9). El mal y el sufrimiento serán a veces un misterio para nosotros Pero si creemos y amamos a Dios, también debemos confiar en que Él nos ama (Jn 3,16). "Yo conozco bien los planes que tengo para vosotros... planes de bienestar y no de infortunio... para daros un futuro de esperanza" (Jr 29,11). Que éste sea el fundamento desde el que veamos el mal y el sufrimiento: Jesús confió en Ti". Por: Graham Osborne.

~LA SABIDURÍA DE DIOS~

Santiago 3:17 - "... La sabiduría que viene de lo alto es ante todo pura, después pacífica, amable y considerada, llena de misericordia y de buenos frutos, sin rastro de parcialidad ni de hipocresía.."

Romanos 11:33 - "Los juicios de Dios son insondables. ¡Oh, profundidad de las riquezas, de la sabiduría y de la ciencia de Dios! Cuán inescrutables son sus juicios y cuán insondables sus caminos!"

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