



Dear Parishioners,

The cover story in a recent issue of *USA TODAY* was entitled “2010, The Year We Stopped Talking.” The subtitle read: Americans are more connected than ever - just not in person. According to the statistics, 93% of Americans have cellphones/wireless connections, and within the last year 1.8 trillion mobile text messages were sent. A few weeks ago, as I was greeting the congregation after Sunday Mass, it took three attempts at – “*Good morning*”- before I got an acknowledgement from a young adult. I finally got a quick “*Hi*”, as I was obviously interrupting her texting. Within a minute, another young girl, head bowed, greeted me the same way as she, too, was texting. I will acknowledge I was acting somewhat immaturely, but I was determined to see just how long it would take to receive a personal response. Perhaps it is true, as someone recently remarked to me, that we’re connected to everything but one another - and sadly, in my opinion at least, it’s becoming more commonplace. It’s not, however, just those in grammar or high school - it cuts across generational lines. During the recent televised State of the Union address, the cameras picked up several of our congressional representatives doing the same. Recently, a mother of three children told me that during family dinner her husband often pulls out the Blackberry to email his office. She said that she feels the message that is being conveyed to her young children is that “there is someone I’d rather be interacting with now other than you.” Not every text or phone call is an emergency. Recently I was invited to dinner at a restaurant in Washington by a colleague that I had not seen in years. Twice during the meal his cell rang and he carried on a conversation that went on for several minutes with each one as I continued to dine alone.

Although I am now 70 (but still prefer to think of myself as the new 50), I like to think of myself as “*with it*” or “*contemporary*”. I still think that simple, old fashioned, courtesy is still “*in*”. Rather than continue to criticize others - so easy to do - I have decided now to turn my phone off or leave it on vibrate when I go out for lunch or dinner. Most of the calls can wait until I got back to the office anyway. Isn’t that the way we carried on business not too many years back? Remember those pink “*while you were out*” messages that used to be atop the desk? After reading these thoughts, I’m sure that many, if not all, of those under 35 must think their pastor is really old fashioned and out of touch. My new resolution, however, to turn the phone off needs to apply to a few other places. During the past year it has gone off at two funerals, a wedding and a baptism. At the baptism and the wedding I acted as though it was someone else’s phone going off. At the funeral, I acknowledged my embarrassment and offered an apology.

In a couple of weeks we will begin the Lenten season. For many it is still a time of giving up deserts, candy etc. There just might be more sacrifice if we could turn the cell off during the family meal and simply listen to what those around the table have to say. A good contemporary way to practice charity 2011 style!

Have a nice week!



Nativity School's Annual Dinner and Auction

Our school's largest annual fundraiser, Lights! Camera! Auction! will be held the evening of **April 2, 2011.....**
 6:30pm – 10:30pm at the Country Club of Fairfax, Fairfax, VA. We invite all adult parishioners to attend and enjoy a night of fun and excitement; all proceeds benefit Nativity Catholic School. Tickets for the event are \$50.00 payable in advance and can be purchased after Masses the weekend of March 12th -13th or at the school office. Your ticket price includes, a sumptuous selection of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, full dinner buffet, drink ticket, entertaining and competitive games and silent auction and the always exciting live auction. The funds raised in our silent and live auctions support the students, teachers, and staff with assemblies, technology in the classrooms, outreach programs and many more activities.

For more information on attending the event, to make a donation of an item or service or if you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Bridget Spencer at (916) 595-2570 or bridgetmspencer@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity



Nativity Catholic School's First Annual Golf Tournament!

Help support Nativity's parish school while enjoying 18 holes of golf and lunch! Shotgun start at 9:00am on **May 9, 2011**, at Laurel Hill Golf Club in Lorton, VA, ranked 15th in Golf-week's 2009 list of the nation's 50 best municipal courses. More information to follow. Volunteers and sponsors should contact Jean Lewis at (703) 426-8735 or email at NativityGolf@gmail.com.

High School and Jr. ViBe:

High School and Jr. **ViBe**: There will be no Jr. **ViBe** or **ViBe** tonight, February 27th due to the CYO's participation in the DC service project. The next meeting will be on March 6th!! Jr. **ViBe** will meet from 5:00-6:00pm and High School **ViBe** will meet from 7:00-8:30pm in the APR. See you there!

WORKCAMP 2011: The next Workcamp meeting is on March 15th from 7:00-8:00pm in the Art Room. If you have any questions please contact Meghan O'Connor at (703)455-2400 ext. 115 or by email at cyo@nativityschool.org

**THE WEEK AHEAD
IN OUR PARISH**

Sunday, February 27

2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 pmCCD (S)

Monday, February 28

4:00 & 7:00 pm.....CCD (S)
 8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, March 1

9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
 4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD (S)
 7:00 pm.....Knights of Columbus (PH)
 7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Wednesday, March 2

10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
 7:00 pm.....First Holy Communion Parent Mtg. (CH)
 7:00 pm.....JustFaith (GR)
 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)
 7:00 pm.....RCIA (PH)
 7:00 pm.....RCIC (Room 4,6)
 7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)
 7:30 pm.....Youth Choir (CH)
 7:30 pm.....Hispanic Baptism Class (Room 8)

Thursday, March 3

9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
 7:00 pm.....Spanish Class (Room 2)
 7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)
 7:30 pm.....Grief Support (S)
 7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
 7:30 pm.....Adult Choir Practice (CH)

Friday, March 4

8:00 am.....Blessed Sacrament Exposition (CH)
 11:15 am.....Blessed Sacrament Closing (CH)

Saturday, March 5

9:30 am.....First Saturday Devotion (CH)
 10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
 10:00 am.....ESL (Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8)
 5:00 pm.....Hispanic CYO (Room 4)
 5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)

PRAY THE ROSARY WORLD PEACE

“Thus should one regard us, as servants of Christ.” Are you being called to serve the Lord and others in the consecrated life or priesthood? Call Father Brian Bashista (703) 841-2514, or write: b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org.



Annual Multi-Car Raffle

All Saints Church (Manassas, VA) has invited us to again participate in their Annual Multi-car raffle. The Knights of Columbus have been asked by Father Martin to lead the effort here at Nativity parish. You should have received your 20 tickets in the mail last week. Each \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all five 2011 vehicles from Koons of Manassas (Honda Civic, Honda Accord, GMC Sierra Truck, Honda CRV sport utility and Honda Odyssey Van) plus up to \$20,000 in cash. Proceeds will benefit charitable and youth programs here at Nativity. Please ensure your ticket stubs and payment are turned before the closing date. Thank you for your continued, generous support.

Come Join the Knights

Are you looking to be part of an organization that fills your heart and mind with the joy of giving to others and the feeling that comes with making a difference? Then the Knights of Columbus is for you. We Knights of Nativity Parish are Catholic men, 18 years of age and older, who are committed to making our community a better place, while supporting our Church. Our parish Council is one of the most active in the state and have been recognized for our support of the parish, our school, the youth ministry, the religious education program, and fellow parishioners among many other charities. We invite you to stop by and talk with one of the Brother Knights after the Masses on 5 & 6 March.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance

The Knights of Columbus invite all parishioners to join us for the 19th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance to be held in the Parish Hall at 6:30 PM on Saturday, March 12th. It is always a great evening of dining, dancing and entertainment. Bring your friends and reserve a table for 8 or 10 or meet fellow parishioners through open seating. You will enjoy the best corned beef dinner in town for \$25 per ticket. Tickets will be sold after all Masses beginning this weekend through March 7 or until sold out. Don't get "shut out" - please get your tickets early.



2011 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL

This year's Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) theme is "**Placing our Gifts at the Service of Others.**" Jesus calls on the collective strength of each of us who form the Body of Christ in our diocese. We all have a Christian responsibility to share our blessings with others in need.

Think about the many blessings in your life, including the gift of your faith. After reflecting upon the importance of the works of charity and outreach funded by the 2011 BLA, please give prayerful consideration to making a sacrificial pledge of support. The BLA requires financial support from every one of us to be successful.

Let us Place our Gifts at the Service of Others!

ECHO COLLECTION

Next Sunday, March 6th



The pantry at **ECHO** is running dry. They are in need of many products. Listed below is a list of the products that are needed: Mac & Cheese, boxed potato & stuffing mix, canned meats, baked beans, cooking oil, 6oz. tomato paste, canned tomatoes (14.5oz.), dry milk, canned pasta, sugar, bagged rice/beans, jello/pudding mix, tea bags. Personal items needed are: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, razors, feminine products, shampoo, paper towels & napkins, toilet tissue, over the counter pain meds. Please bring food to the Church foyer. **ECHO** also accepts small appliances, pots and pans, blenders, lamps, microwaves, etc. All household must be in good condition and taken to the **ECHO** Center at 7205 Old Keene Mill Rd.

For their hours call 703-569-9160. Thank you for helping the less fortunate.

The Victim Assistance Ministry is a program of outreach to victims/survivors of childhood sexual abuse by clergy, religious or lay employees of the Catholic Church, as well as those abused through incest, by acquaintances, or through violent attack. We encourage both victims/survivors and the entire Catholic community to join us at a Prayer Service to pray for healing for those who have been sexually abused. The Prayer Service will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2011 from 10:00am to 12 noon at St. Clare of Assisi Church, 12409 Henderson Road, Clifton, VA 20124. Rev. Mark Mealey, O.S.F.S., will preside./ For more information about the Prayer Service and other services offered through the Victim Assistance Ministry, please visit our website www.arlingtondiocese.org. You may also contact Patricia Mudd, victim Assistance Coordinator, at 703-841-2530. All calls are confidential.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Paul VI Catholic High School's award-winning Options Program serves students with mild-to-moderate intellectual disabilities and /or significant learning disabilities. A primary goal for each student is to be as fully integrated as possible into the total life of the school community. We invite you to join us for an **Open House, Thursday, March 3 @ 7:00 p.m.** The Options Program is accepting applications for the academic year 2011/2012. Information may be obtained by calling Mrs. M. Christina Desmarais, Director – PVI Options @ (703) 352-0952 ext 333 or online www.paulvi.net/academics/options

Congratulations to the following students registered at Church of the Nativity who are on the Second Quarter Honor Roll at Paul VI Catholic High School:



Principal's Honor Roll, at least a 4.0 grade point average
Maria del Rocio Barrios & Amanda Malloy.

Honor Roll, 3.5 to 3.9 grade point average
Juan Barrios, Matthew Dovi, Megan Golinowski, Patrick Keane, Michelle Miller, Caroline Mooney, Steven Pollard, Abigail Prince, Colleen Riggins

Please join the Paul VI Catholic High School community for its **20th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**. It will be held Tuesday, March 8th from 5:30-8:30pm in the school cafeteria. The evening will feature entertainment, games, face painting, and fun for the entire family and of course the BEST Pancakes ever. Adults: \$6, children under 6: \$4 (under 4 free) Back by popular demand create your own omelet for an additional \$4. This year we are adding Sweets & Treats to our menu and there will be Live Music provided by our own PVI talented students. For more information contact Campus Ministry, campusministry@paulvi.net or 703-352-0925 ext. 330.



EVENTS OUTSIDE OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

SHARING HOPE, a support group for men and women going through separation and divorce, will meet this Friday, March 4th, at St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church Hall, off Rte 123. The topic will be "Good Grief/ Bad Grief". Newcomers are warmly welcomed and there is no fee. For further information, directions or encouragement, please call Barbara at 703-425-5467 or Maureen (work) 240-497-4279.

CALLING GRADUATES!

FORMER ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA and ST. PHILIP SCHOOLS AND CURRENT CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL, FALLS CHURCH
REUNION COMING IN MID-MARCH
Please come back for 2nd Annual Grad Reunion on Saturday, March 19th at Corpus Christi School, Falls Church. Meet classmates; tour school; enjoy refreshments; special Parish Sunday Vigil Mass; evening class gatherings afterward—3:30-6:30 P.M. For more info and registration contact WTobin@corpuschristischool.org or (703) 820-7450 Ext. 31.


An Evening of Praise, Worship and Adoration

Praise music will be provided by VISION. First Saturday of every month, 7:00pm to 8:30pm at St. Leo the great in Fairfax, 3700 Old Lee Highway.
The next Praise & Worship is Saturday, March 5th.

Camp St. Charles-Boys & Girls Catholic Overnight Camp Open House

March 6, April 10 & May 22 11am to 4pm
For more information and directions, call **301-934-8799** or visit the website www.campstcharles.com

Ignatian Volunteer Corps: The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) is a national volunteer organization of men and women who volunteer in their local community two days a week. They share their talents and life experiences with organizations that directly assist the poor or that address structural issues related to poverty. Interested parishioners are invited to contact the IVC/Northern Virginia Regional Director Patty Holley at 703-352-4140, nova@ivcusa.org and see www.ivcusa.org. Info sessions will be organized at your convenience.

 **MARCH BAND AND STRINGS MINI-CAMP**
PVI is offering a fun way for Diocesan 5ht-8th grade band and string students to spend their March teacher workday! Fully-staffed camp will be held **Thursday March 10, 6-8:30pm and Friday March 11th 9-4:30pm**, finishing out with concert and pizza party! \$35. fee, registration forms located at <http://www.pvimusicboosters.org> Questions, contact jsiegfried@paulvi.net

EVENTS OUTSIDE OUR PARISH COMMUNITY**LENTEN RETREAT**

March 2 ...A Fresh Look at Fasting, an evening reflection, directed by Fr. Tom Ryan, CSP, Wednesday. 7:30pm to 9:00pm

March 9 ...Miercoles de Ceniza (para mujeres), directed by Fr. Jose Hoyos, Wednesday. 7:30pm to 2:15pm

March 15 ...Lenten Day of Reflection for Women & Men, directed by Fr. Richard Martin, Tuesday 9:15am to 3:00pm

March 25-27 ...Weekend for Women "Make your home in me as I make mine in you", directed by Fr. Greg Salomone, OP, Friday 7:30pm to Sunday 3:00pm

LENTEN RETREAT FOR WOMEN, March 11-13
Celebrate Lent this year with a retreat. Join us the weekend of March 11-13, 2011 at the Dominican Retreat in McLean, VA. Fr. Scott Hurd will be the retreat director. For more information, please call...Terry Riviere at 703-922-2951 or the Dominican Retreat at 703-356-4243.

SILENT LENTEN RETREAT FOR WOMEN, Mar. 18-20
Come away for a rewarding weekend. Daily Mass, excellent talks, total acceptance, time for self, individual rooms, good food and no cooking. The peaceful Dominican Retreat House in McLean is the perfect place to get spiritual direction on your journey. Contact the Dominican Sisters at 703-256-4243,
www.dominicanretreat.org or Linda Lenertz at 703-455-2006 linlenertz@aol.com.

For further information call Dominican Retreat at 703-356-4243 or check www.dominicanretreat.org

Food for thought..... **"BE-Attitudes"**

BE humble enough to realize you still have a lot to learn.
BE ambitious enough to know you can be anything you want to be.

BE easy enough on yourself to enjoy, laugh, to have fun.
BE mature enough to take care of your body, your mind and your spirit.

BE confident enough to see that who you are inside is more important than how you look outside.

BE wise enough to choose your friends carefully.

BE absolutely sure that wherever you go whatever you do

YOU ARE LOVED BY GOD.

Taken from bulletin from St. Clement Church
Rockaway, NJ

Actividades de la Comunidad Hispana

**Iglesia de la Natividad 6400 Nativity Lane
Burke, VA 22015
Teléfono 703-455-2400
Rev. Cedric Wilson**

SANTA MISA EN ESPAÑOL:

Todos los sábados a las 7:00pm

CONFESIONES: Los sábados antes de la Santa Misa de 6:15pm a 6:55pm

Catequesis Para niños y Jóvenes: Sábados de 5:00pm a 6:45pm Informes: 703-455-2400, ext 116
Sr. Ponciano 202-262-6659

Catequesis Para niños y Jóvenes: Inscripciones para el año escolar septiembre 2010 a mayo 2011 están abiertas.

Catequesis para adultos: Bautismo, Comunión, y Confirmación, Sábados de 5:15pm a 6:15pm
Contacto: Tito Pinto 703-912-9220

Charla para el Bautismo: Primer Miércoles del mes 7:30pm, aula 8

Sacramento del Bautismo: Tercer Sábado del mes. 1:30pm
Contacto: Diacono Pardo 703-455-2400

Grupo de Oración: Miércoles 7:00pm a 9:00pm.
Están todos invitados. Marco Camacho 703-968-5585

Grupo de Liderazgo Juvenil reuniones:
Domingo 11:00am-1:00pm aula 5 Contacto: Nelson Pineda 571-234-3664

Reunión del Grupo de los Jóvenes Sábados: a partir de las 5:00pm aula 4. contacto: Juan Carlos Chávez 703-473-6941

Solidaridad Cristiana: Mayor información llamar Mirian Ponciano 703-913-5494.

Para mas información: María Guevara 703-444-5716

Anuncios para el boletín: debe ser presentado por escrito el viernes a las 9 de la mañana (10 días antes de su publicación). Pueden enviar su información electrónico a nativitybulletin@aol.com

Charlas de Convalidación para recibir el Sacramento del Matrimonio: cada otro domingo del mes 9:00am – 10:45am aula 4. Contacto: Antonio y Maritza Di Paolo 703-493-8719

Reunión de Matrimonios: domingo 9:00am – 11:00am aula 5. Contacto: Segundo y María Guevara 703-444-5716

EL DIACONO JOSE PARDO OFRECERE' SERVICIOS PASTORALES EN:

**CONSEJERIA PERSONAL
CONSEJERIA MATRIMONIAL
ANULACION DE MATRIMONIO**

**DIAS: LUNES Y JUEVES DE 1 A 4 PM
703.455.2400 703.998.5161**

Se acerca el tiempo de podar

No se recogen higos de los espinos ni se sacan uvas de las zarzas.

Lucas 6:44

POR PRIMERA VEZ DESDE QUE vine a Estados Unidos hace veinte años, encontré higos frescos en la tienda de comestibles. Con entusiasmo, compré una bolsa esperando que me llevaran mentalmente a la higuera de mi niñez, que dicen que es tan vieja (500 años) como la casa de mis padres en Malta. Esa higuera daba fruto abundante dos veces al año. Los higos solían ser grandes como una pera, jugosos y sabrosísimos. Pero sufrí un chasco; la mayoría de los higos que compré se habían dañado dentro del envoltorio, lo que me llevó a preguntarme si ya habían empezado a echarse a perder cuando fueron recolectados.

Jesús emplea la imagen de un “buen árbol”, uno cuyo fruto es la medida de su valor. Nos acercamos a la Cuaresma y llega el tiempo de evaluar nuestra propia cosecha. ¿Le permitimos a Dios ser la fuente de todo lo que somos y hacemos, o está la imagen divina oscurecida por espinos y zarzas? ¿Producimos una cosecha que mueve a otros a la fe, o está nuestro fruto podrido como los higos que compré? ¿Le permitimos a Dios que pude las ramas secas, o nos resistimos a la transformación?

Elizabeth-Anne Stewart

OCTAVA SEMANA DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO Ciclo A

La primera lectura nos invita a saber que Yahvé no abandona a su pueblo. Por un parte encontramos en los versículos anteriores, la visión teológica del profeta, que vislumbra tiempos de felicidad para Israel, una vez regrese a Jerusalén. Otra muy distinta es la que tiene el pueblo, donde si bien eran esclavos, poseían tierras, altos cargos en el gobierno, etc. pero pensar en el retorno no les hacía ninguna ilusión. La tarea del profeta será infundirles esperanza y usan todo tipo de imágenes que hablan de la protección divina, que faciliten el regreso de los exiliados. Les preocupaba la falta de agua para ellos y sus ganados, comida, pastos, buenos caminos... Yahvé será su pastor. Lo más importante será adquirir tierras, como en tiempos de Josué, será Yahvé quien restablezca el país y repartirá las herencias ahora devastadas. Hasta los presos recuperarán la libertad y los que habitan mazmorras, verán la luz. La reunión de todos los desterrados, desde el lugar en que se encuentren en Jerusalén, es otro elemento a considerar. Todo esto ha preparado para su pueblo y Sión había pensado que Dios la había abandonado. Si la madre no abandona a su bebé que amamanta en sus brazos, tampoco Yahvé olvida a su pueblo. No hay en el Antiguo Testamento, expresión más profunda, íntima y cercana, del amor de Dios por sus hijos.

Pablo, quiere que en cada apóstol se vea servidores de Jesucristo y buenos administradores de sus misterios (v. 3). El discípulo es tal en la medida que sirve a su Señor que está presente en su Iglesia. Con esto se quiere advertir que el siervo no es un remedo, sustitución de Cristo, como si éste no estuviera presente o muy alejado de la comunidad, Pablo insiste en la presencia de Cristo resucitado en la comunidad. Si el discípulo tiene claro esto primero, también debe saber, que es un administrador de los misterios de Dios, no es inventor o descubridor de nada. Lo que debe hacer es estar atento a la voz de su Señor, esperar en la oración la palabra oportuna y serena de Dios. Se le pide encarecidamente que sea fiel, porque los fieles pueden criticarle precisamente en si ha sido fiel al ministerio recibido. Pablo no teme ser juzgado, por la

Comida para ECHO y las Hermanas Clarisas

La colección mensual de comida se llevará a cabo el próximo domingo, (FECHA). Por favor traigan comidas no perecederas a la entrada de la iglesia. En estos momentos de tanta necesidad, las despensas de las caridades locales se están vaciando rápidamente. Los productos muy necesitados son frutas y vegetales en lata, carne enlatada, productos secos (cereales, pasta, harina de panqueques, etc.) sirope de panqueques, aceite de vegetal, pasta para mezclar con atún (tuna helper), leche en polvo, galletas, jugos concentrados, y avena instantánea. ECHO también acepta pequeños aparatos eléctricos tales como tostadoras, licuadoras, lámparas de mesa, cazuelas y sartenes, microondas, y ropa nueva o usada. Para mas información tome un folleto de los estantes al lado de la sacristía o llame 703-569-9160. El Centro ECHO está en la calle Old Keene Mill Road, número 7205.

“Así uno debería vernos, como servidores de Cristo.” Estas llamado/a a servirle al Señor y a otros en la vida consagrada o el sacerdocio? Llama a Padre Brian Bashista (703-841-2514)

b.bashiata@arlingtondiocese.org

comunidad, es consciente de sus malas actuaciones, pero tampoco él se juzga, decide esperar a que venga el Señor que iluminará los corazones y se descubrirán las intenciones; sólo entonces cada cual recibirá la alabanza del Señor. Toda una lección de sabiduría y humildad, de perseverancia en el bien para no ambicionar puestos y cargos en la comunidad eclesial, como tampoco juzgar intenciones de los hermanos. El evangelio nos habla del servicio a Dios y de la confianza en la Providencia. Sólo Dios puede exigir el corazón del hombre, todo su ser, en exclusiva, el otro señor es el dinero, un ídolo que exige adoración del corazón humano, con lo cual se olvida al verdadero Señor, para servir al ídolo. El gran argumento para confiar plenamente en Dios es saber que El cuida de la vida del hombre, este no debe preocuparse, porque hay Alguien que se ocupa de ello (vv. 25. 27. 28. 34). No hay que agobiarse por el alimento y el vestido, aviso para todos los creyentes, ricos y pobres, para evitar la obsesión del poder, porque Dios sabe de las necesidades de sus hijos. Buscar sobre todo o primero el reino de Dios y su justicia, no excluye lo demás, trabajo y bienes materiales. Jesús, sabe que no somos ni pájaros ni flores, sino hombres necesitados de bienes, de trabajo para ganarse la vida y descubrir la Providencia divina a cada paso que cada jornada. Hay que estar atentos al culto al dinero que propicia nuestra sociedad, casi una nueva religión, en cuyo altar se sacrifica de todo: vida, trabajo, principios éticos, familia, etc. Todo por alcanzar poder, éxito, consumo, placer, etc. Si vemos el dinero no cómo medio de subsistencia, sino como fin obsesivo de la vida, entonces quiere decir que la persona se convierte en esclava del ídolo, dios tiránico, absorbente. Las consecuencias de esta condición son fatales: degradación de la dignidad humana, objeto de de producción y consumo de bienes, frena el compartir con el prójimo por el egoísmo lo consume; el dinero no hace más feliz ni más libre, lo esclaviza. Jesús nos invita a optar por el Reino de Dios de su amorosa voluntad en nuestra vida y de la sociedad. El seguimiento a que nos invita Jesucristo, es una prueba para nuestra fe y confianza en Dios diariamente ya que ella tiene mucho de paradoja y aventura, riesgo en el desierto y peregrinación para la vida. La fe y confianza que pide Jesús es abandono en las manos del Padre providente porque le servimos con amor por sabernos, a su vez amados. En este caso la mejor oración es decir: Danos hoy el pan de cada día. Teresa de Jesús, aprende a pedir el verdadero Pan del cielo para enfrentar la jornada diaria: “¿Pensáis que no es mantenimiento aun para estos cuerpos este santísimo Manjar y gran medicina aun para los males corporales? Yo sé que los es, y conozco una persona de grandes enfermedades, que estando muchas veces con graves dolores, como con la mano se le quitaban y quedaba buena del todo. Esto muy ordinario, y de males muy conocidos que no se podían fingir, a mi parecer. Y porque de las maravillas que hace este santísimo Pan en los que dignamente le reciben son muy notorias, no digo muchas que pudiera y su justicia, es decir, optar por la soberanía decir de esta persona que he dicho, que lo podía yo saber y sé que no es mentira. Mas ésta habíala el Señor dado tan viva fe, que cuando oía a algunas personas decir quisieran ser en el tiempo que andaba Cristo nuestro Bien en el mundo, se reía entre sí, pareciéndole que teniéndole tan verdaderamente en el Santísimo Sacramento como entonces, que ¿qué más se les daba?” (CV 34,6).

Padre Julio Gonzalez Carretti OCD

LECTURAS PARA LA SEMANA DEL 27 DE FEBRERO

8 Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario:

Domingo: Isaías 49:14-15 ° Salmo 62:2-3, 6-9 ° **1 Corintios**
4:1-5 ° Mateo 6:24-34

Lunes: Sirácides 17:20-24 ° Salmo 32:1-2, 5-7 °
Marcos 10:17-27

Martes: Sirácides 35: 1-12 ° Salmo 50:5-8, 14, 23 °
Marcos 10:28-31

Miércoles: Sirácides 36:1,4-5, 10-17 ° Salmo 79:8-9, 11, 13 °
Marcos 10:32-45

Jueves: Sirácides 42:15-25 ° Salmo 33:2-9 ° Marcos 10:46-52

Viernes: Sirácides 44:1, 9-13 ° Salmo 149:1-6,9 °
Marcos 11:11-26

Sábado: Sirácides 51:12-20 ° Salmo 19:8-11 °
Marcos 11:27-33

La santidad se encuentra en el camino que nos abre cada uno de nuestros días, en que se ofrecen a nosotros, con atractivo desigual, los deberes de nuestra vida cotidiana. **San Francisco de Sales**

Todas las grandes empresas de santidad de la Biblia y de la historia de la Iglesia reposan sobre un “sí” dicho a Dios en el momento en que Él revela personalmente a alguien su voluntad.

Juan Pablo II

Un gran deseo de ser santo, es el primer peldaño para llegar a serlo; y al deseo se ha de unir una firme resolución. **San Alfonso María de Liguorio**