



Dear Parishioners,

Reflecting on Lent which begins this Wednesday I recall how my Lenten practices have changed significantly over the years. When I was younger the Lenten season was the time I would *give up* something- usually candy or deserts. I remember my Dad would give up beer or his whiskey and soda on Saturday nights when the neighbors would get together to play cards. I would look forward to the Sundays of Lent when I could indulge in all the candy and cookies I wanted to. At times I even envied my Protestant mother who never had to give anything up. Friday was always fish day- although that was never a sacrifice for any Rhode Islander living just miles from the ocean. I would try to get to morning Mass once or twice a week- usually running in late just before Communion. And how I recall wanting to get the dirtiest black ash mark on my forehead on Ash Wednesday so that others in my public school would know that Dick went to church that day. Lent seemed to be more about me than about God and others.

Perhaps some of you “oldsters” reading this column might readily identify with my Lenten practices back in our day. Some of you may still be back where I was years ago. I’d like to think I have grown in my outlook on Lent. Now, for me, it is a time to get to know Jesus in my life and how I can best reflect that relationship with others. Giving up desserts and candy has been replaced with trying to give up my impatience, and at times my unkindness to others. I really believe that Jesus would be much more pleased with that attitude than giving up a candy bar. The early Fathers of the church remind us that when one would fast or abstain from certain food during Lent that the monies saved were to be given to those in need- the poor. And yet how many will not eat meat on the Fridays of Lent only to substitute it with a much more expensive salmon or shrimp dinner? Hardly a sacrifice. We will keep the regulation but usually with little to no personal inconvenience.

As you look at fasting the following might be a meaningful guide.

*A LENTEN PRAYER- HOW TO FAST* by Lisa Terneus

**FAST FROM JUDGING OTHERS; FEAST ON THE CHRIST DWELLING WITHIN THEM.**

**FAST FROM ANGER; FEAST ON PATIENCE.**

**FAST FROM COMPLAINING; FEAST ON APPRECIATION.**

**FAST FROM PESSIMISM; FEAST ON OPTIMISM.**

**FAST FROM NEGATIVES; FEAST ON AFFIRMATIVES.**

**FAST FROM WORRY; FEAST ON TRUST.**

**FAST FROM BITTERNESS; FEAST ON FORGIVENESS.**

**FAST FROM WORDS THAT POLLUTE; FEAST ON PHRASES THAT PURIFY.**

**FAST FROM SELF CONCERN; FEAST ON COMPASSION FOR OTHERS.**

**FAST FROM FACTS THAT DEPRESS; FEAST ON TRUTHS THAT UPLIFT.**

**FAST FROM LETHARGY; FEAST ON ENTHUSIASM.**

**FAST FROM UNRELENTING PRESSURES; FEAST ON UNCEASING PRAYER.**

**FAST FROM EMPHASIS ON DIFFERENCES; FEAST ON THE UNITY OF LIFE.**

**FAST FROM DISCONTENT; FEAST ON GRATITUDE.**

**FAST FROM HOSTILITY; FEAST ON NONVIOLENCE.**

**FAST FROM SUSPICION ; FEAST TRUTH.**

**FAST FROM DISCOURAGEMENT; FEAST ON HOPE**

**FAST FROM IDLE GOSSIP; FEAST ON PURPOSEFUL SILENCE.**

Excerpts taken from the St. Louis University Prayers

“A Time For God”

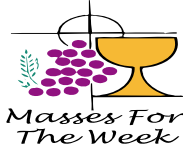
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As you look back on your past Lenten seasons has their been any maturity on your part? Can this lent be a time of growing in your relationship with Jesus? Many people know *about* Jesus and really don't know Him. We know the rules and regulations but don't know the cornerstone. I hope that these next six weeks will be a time of growth for all of us. *Giving up* sweets, desserts, TV is all well and good - that's where I was years go. For others, *giving away*, love, my time, forgiveness - just might be more meaningful. As the last line of the above reads, think how much happier people would be if we could just stop gossiping! Giving up candy is much easier. Whatever you do during this Lenten season may it bring you closer to Jesus and His message.

Enjoy - yes, enjoy - Lent. It can be a great time of spiritual growth.

Have a nice week!

**Monday, March 7**

Galo S. Tolentino 7:30am Fr. Martin

**Tuesday, March 8**

Donald Valentine 7:30am Fr. Martin

**Wednesday, March 9 Ash Wednesday**

Mary Cunningham 7:30am Fr. Martin  
 Thomas Brady 9:00am Fr. Martin  
 Frank Rocco 6:00pm Fr. Korpi  
 John Banscher 7:30pm Fr. Wilson

**Thursday, March 10**

Charles Taylor 7:30am Fr. Korpi

**Friday, March 11**

Gene Valentine 7:30am Fr. Korpi

**Saturday, March 12**

Frank Navarrete 9:00am Fr. Korpi  
 Special Intentions of  
 Jenn Hay 5:00pm Fr. Korpi  
 Spanish Mass 7:00pm Fr. Wilson

**Sunday, March 13**

Victor Bobrowski 7:30am Fr. Wilson  
 Christian Lengert 9:00am Fr. Wilson  
 Parishioners 11:00am Fr. Martin  
 Doris Dugan 12:45pm Fr. Martin

**Thought for the Week:**

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams”.

Eleanor Roosevelt



**Confirmation Penance Service** — Confirmation students **only** are to receive the sacrament of Penance on **Wednesday, March 16**, at 7:00pm in the church.

The **Inclement Weather Policy** can be viewed at [www.edu.nativityburke.org](http://www.edu.nativityburke.org); click on Weather Policy.



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Ash Wednesday, March 9th** is a day of **fast and abstinence**. Catholics **14 years** of age are obliged to **abstain from meat** and those **18-59 are also obliged to fast** (1 full meal and 2 smaller ones to maintain strength)

unless medical or serious reasons exist.

Masses and distribution of ashes will take place at 7:30 and 9:00am and 6:00 and 7:30pm.

PRAY THE ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE

**ALTAR FLOWERS**



In Loving Memory of  
 The Parebes Family  
 From

Andrés Parebes

And

In Loving Memory of

Our Dear Husband and Father, Louis DeFusco

From

Vera DeFusco and Lisa Dinackus

## Are Lent and Easter Late This Year?

If it seems to you that quite a while has gone by since we celebrated Christmas and there is no talk about Easter, you are correct. Lent and Easter are running later than usual this year. The Council of Nicaea in 325 AD made the decision that the celebration of Easter Sunday, and the beginning of the Easter Season, should fall on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox which occurs when the sun is directly above the earth's equator. Based on that, Easter Sunday may occur no earlier than March 22<sup>nd</sup> and no later than April 25<sup>th</sup> in any year. In 2008, three years ago, we celebrated Easter on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. This was the earliest since 1913 and will not happen again until the year 2228. In 1818, Easter fell on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, and it will not fall again on this date until the year 2285. As for occurring later than usual, the last time that Easter fell on April 24<sup>th</sup> was in 1859. It will not fall on this date again until the year 2095. When we take a look at the April 25<sup>th</sup> date, we see that the last time Easter was celebrated on that day was in 1943, and it won't fall that way again until 2038. Since the Lenten Season leads into the celebration of Easter and the Easter Season, what has been said about Easter holds true for Ash Wednesday and the celebration of Lent.



### Thank you advertisers!

Each week we will recognize one of our advertisers. Please support them, for without them our Bulletin would not be a success.

**Superior Project, Inc.**  
703-331-0950

## PRO-LIFE CORNER



It is never too late to get involved in the Pro-Life movement. There is no greater battle to be fought and no greater cause to get involved in than to stop the killing of innocent babies. Abortion is happening on our watch and we know it. The question is then, what are we doing to end the slaughter? **Choose Life Today. Choose Life Tomorrow. Pray Always. We Must Do No Less.**

Starting **Ash Wednesday, March 9, 2011 - 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil** at NOVA Women's Medical Center, 10400 Eaton Place, Fairfax, VA 22030. Daily 7 AM - 10 PM. Can you pray for 1-2 hours and witness for Life? Details at <http://www.40daysforlife.com/fairfax/>

**A WOMAN'S CHOICE** is a pregnancy resource center that provides free pregnancy testing, referrals for medical treatment, housing, social service assistance and tangible support for pregnant women, including clothing and equipment. (703-538-4305).

**24-Hour Crisis Pregnancy Hotline: 1-800-395-HELP (4357)**  
**Project Rachel (healing after abortion): 1-888-456-HOPE (4673)**

### Pregnancy Resource Centers Phone Numbers:

Catholic Charities National: 1-800-CARE-002  
Catholic Charities Local: 703-425-0100  
A Woman's Choice: 703-538-4305  
Gabriel Project: 1-866-444-3553

## Parish Prayer List

Please remember, in your prayers, the sick of our Parish Community:

Elmer Brungardt; Wyatt Dean; Jimmy Francis;  
Jackie Gill; Alfrieda Goodwin; Missy Jones;  
Elaine McLain; Michelle Roggenbeck; Mary Lou Sheehan

For our deceased relatives and friends and especially for all who have recently died:

Dean Kopp; Teresa Lobo; and  
Joe Smith, Husband of Helen Smith

We also ask that you pray for our military men and women and their families. May God keep them safe and out of harms way.

**NATIVITY PARISHIONERS**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Fr. Martin's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Mass and Parish Picnic**

**Sunday, May 15, 2011**  
**11:00a.m. Mass**  
**Parish Picnic Noon 'til 4 p.m.**

**More details will be available in the coming weeks.**  
**For info call the Parish Office at 703-455-2400**

**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](mailto:bridgetmspencer@gmail.com).

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

During Lent, let us spend the gift of time seeking the wisdom of heart taught by self-sacrifice, so that, dead to sin, we may rise to new life in Christ in whom death has died.

Morning prayer for Ash Wednesday (Magnificat)

**High School and Jr. ViBe:**

The next Workcamp meeting will be on March 15th from 7:00-8:00pm in the Art Room.

If you are interested in participating in the Living Stations of the Cross this year, there is an initial meeting and casting session on March 13th in the Church from 4:00-6:00pm. If you have any questions you can contact Mike Giardina at 703-922-2789 or by email at [Mike.Giardina@mwa.com](mailto:Mike.Giardina@mwa.com)

Our Lenten Soup Suppers are about to begin!! They will be on Mondays from March 14th-April 18th. There will be 8 different soups to choose from and desserts will be available. Salad, carrots, bread, and drinks will also be offered. The cost is \$5.00 per person and \$20.00 per family. Please join the teens of Nativity and spread the word!

**THE WEEK AHEAD  
IN OUR PARISH**

**Sunday, March 6 ECHO COLLECTION**

2:00 pm.....Baptisms (CH)  
 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 pm .....CCD (S)

**Monday, March 7**

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

**Tuesday, March 8**

9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)  
 4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD (S)  
 7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)  
 7:30 pm.....Youth Choir (CH )

**Wednesday, March 9**

7:30 am.....Ash Wednesday Mass (CH)  
 9:00 am.....Ash Wednesday Mass (CH)  
 10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)  
 6:00 pm..... Ash Wednesday Mass (CH)  
 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)  
 7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)  
 7:00 pm.....RCIA (PH)  
 7:00 pm.....RCIC (Room 4,6)  
 7:30 pm.....Ash Wednesday Mass (CH)  
 7:30 pm.....Women of Nativity (APR)

**Thursday, March 10**

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

**Friday, March 11**

7:30 pm.....Stations of the Cross (CH)  
 8:30 pm.....Hispanic Stations of the Cross (CH)

**Saturday, March 12**

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)  
 7:00 pm.....KOC Irish Dinner (PH)

“Only the one who does the will of My Father” will enter the kingdom of heaven. Is your path to heaven that of proclaiming God’s kingdom as a priest of in the consecrated life? Call Father Brian Bashista (703) 841-2514, or write: [b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto: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.

### Knights Membership Blitz

The Knights of Columbus invite all the men of Nativity Parish who are 18 years of age or older to join us. Come join an organization of over 1.7 million Catholic men throughout the world, in nearly 12,000 local councils who serve the Church and live by the four principles of our order: charity...unity...fraternity...and patriotism. If this sounds interesting to you and you'd like to learn more, we will be outside the Church after each Mass on March 5 & 6 to answer any questions you may have. If you have any questions, please contact Phillip Thompson at [phillip-eileenthompson@msn.com](mailto:phillip-eileenthompson@msn.com) or (703)451-8626(leave message).



### **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 Golfweek'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](mailto:NativityGolf@gmail.com).

Check out the **new website of the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BSSCWoW)** at: <http://scwow.org>. A list of spring classes and activities – scheduled to start in early April – will be posted on the website in the near future. For more information, call (703) 250-9181.

## 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!**

### Why Just Fast -- Carbon Fast!

More than just giving up wasteful energy practices, a Carbon Fast links efficient use of energy to our spiritual renewal of Lent. Try some of these Carbon Fast ideas with your family.

"Give up" idling vehicles while at the ATM or while waiting for others. This increases energy efficiency and reduces harmful emissions. *Each time, reflect on how effectively we are using the gifts God has given us to help others.*

"Give up" using electric doors at stores, malls, and office buildings unless necessary. This saves electricity and keeps heated/air-conditioned air from literally being blown out the door. *Each time we open a door for ourselves, reflect on how many people, like those in Haiti, have no electricity at all.*

Take shorter showers or even turn off water when soaping. *Each time, reflect on how many people, like those in Haiti, live without fresh water for bathing and cleaning.*

Wash some laundry in cold water. *Each time, reflect on those who do not have clean clothes.*

Have a family night to discuss efficient ideas like keeping tires inflated. See more at [tearfund.org](http://tearfund.org) keyword: Carbon Fast

A green thought from the Creation Care Ministry.

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS


## NEW Bioethics series for adults

This new seminar focuses on key issues of bioethics, highlighting a few of the topics discussed in the higher-level Bioethics classes at Pope John Paul the Great Catholic High School.

Thursdays, February 10 – March 31. 7 – 8:30pm. Free. Please RSVP: [info@jpthegreat.org](mailto:info@jpthegreat.org) or (703) 445-0300. More info at [www.jpthegreat.org](http://www.jpthegreat.org).

Dates/Topics

March 10: Brain Death & Organ Transplantation  
 March 24: Contraception  
 March 31: Sexual Ethics

 **MARCH BAND AND STRINGS MINI-CAMP**  
 PVI is offering a fun way for Diocesan 5th-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](mailto:jsiegfried@paulvi.net)

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](mailto:campusministry@paulvi.net) or 703-352-0925 ext. 330.

### 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](http://www.campstcharles.com)

## EVENTS OUTSIDE OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

**RICHMOND WRAP-UP -- SALT (Social Action Linking Together)** announces that its annual forum to learn what happened during the Virginia General Assembly Session in Richmond is being held on Saturday, March 19, 2011 from 9:00-11:15 am at The American Legion Auxiliary Post 180, 330 Center Street North, Vienna, Virginia. There will be a Keynote on the topic: "Poverty in Virginia" by Michael Cassidy President & CEO of the Commonwealth institute. Legislators from Northern Virginia will discuss how well the General Assembly responded to social justice and human services needs facing Virginia and will answer questions posed by participants. This is an excellent opportunity to learn first-hand what transpired in Richmond. There is no charge for the program. All are welcome. For more information, contact SALT Coordinator, John Horejsi at [jhorejsi@cox.net](mailto:jhorejsi@cox.net) or visit the SALT web site at [www.S-A-L-T.org](http://www.S-A-L-T.org). For directions call (703) 938-9535.

Feeling a need to be refreshed and renewed? Seeking a deeper spirituality? Come and share with us the Palm Sunday Weekend Retreat April 15-17 at the Dominican Retreat in McLean, VA. This retreat emphasizes our traditional Lenten devotions and experiences. Fr. Scott Hurd will guide us on this weekend retreat. The theme is "Make your home in Me as I make mine in you." For reservations or more information, call Carole Bergin, retreat coordinator, at 571-257-5818 or Sr. Deborah Baker, contact Sister, at the Dominican Retreat 703-356-4243.

### Will you speak for a child? Volunteers Needed!

A new case of child abuse or neglect enters the Fairfax County Domestic & Juvenile Relations Court system once every 38 hours. These children need caring advocates to help ensure that they grow up in safe and permanent homes. Fairfax CASA trains volunteers to advocate for a child's best interests in Court.

If you seek a volunteer role with real purpose that can create real change, please attend Fairfax CASA's upcoming information session at the Burke Centre Library on Saturday, March 19, from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. For reservations or information, contact Elisa Kosarin, Associate Director – Recruitment and Training, at (703) 273-3526, ext. 22, [ekosarin@casafairfax.org](mailto:ekosarin@casafairfax.org), or visit [www.casafairfax.org](http://www.casafairfax.org).

**EVENTS OUTSIDE OUR PARISH COMMUNITY**

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 9, 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](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org). You may also contact Patricia Mudd, victim Assistance Coordinator, at 703-841-2530. All calls are confidential.

**Men of the Diocese are invited to join the 2011 Diocesan Men's Conference!**

On the Feast of St. Joseph, Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, the second annual Men's Conference will take place at St. Joseph parish in Herndon. The conference will be an opportunity for men to reflect on their vocations, gain practical tools to be better Catholic men, be inspired by Catholic speakers, and gather with their brothers in Christ. Confirmed speakers include: Fr. Arne Panula, Director of the Catholic Information Center; Art Bennett, President of Catholic Charities CDA as well as author and therapist; and Joseph Campo, Director of the St. Francis Home for boys and CEO of Grassroots Films. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Paul Loverde. For more information or to register go to [www.arlingtondiocese.org/men](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/men).

**A BIT OF HUMOR**

Sunday after Church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about.

The daughter answered, "don't be scared, you'll get your quilt."

Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about.

He said, "Be not afraid, thy Comforter is coming."

"Solo el que hace la voluntad de Mi padre" entrara al reino del cielo. Es tu camino al cielo el de proclamar al reino de Dios como cura en la vida consagrada? Llama a Padre Brian Bashista (703-841-2514) [bashiata@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:bashiata@arlingtondiocese.org)

**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](mailto: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**

### Relaciones sólidas

**El que escucha estas palabras mías y las pone en práctica, se parece a un hombre prudente, que edificó su casa sobre roca. Vino la lluvia, bajaron las crecientes, se desataron los vientos y dieron contra aquella casa; pero no se cayó, porque estaba construida sobre roca.**

Mateo 7:24-25

EN LOS CAPÍTULOS PRECEDENTES Mateo detalla las enseñanzas de Jesús sobre cómo debemos vivir nuestra vida de fe. Cumplirlas es como construir nuestra relación con Dios con ladrillos y cemento, mientras que desoír las es edificar una existencia con cosas vanas y valores huecos que, como la casa construida sobre la arena, no soportará los tiempos tormentosos.

Carmen es una madre soltera que vive sola en una gran ciudad. Ha forjado vínculos fuertes con vecinos y amistades que viven solos. Celebran cumpleaños, logros y obras de bien. Pero también se turnan para atender a los que han sido hospitalizados y cuando se recuperan en casa. Este mutuo apoyo ha edificado una robusta solidaridad en medio de la gran ciudad.

*Señor, que nuestras vidas se solidifiquen con amor que expresamos en ayuda concreta y personal.*

Olga Pavisich-Ryan

### LECTURAS PARA LA SEMANA DEL 6 DE MARZO

#### 9 Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario:

**Domingo:** Deuteronomio 11:18, 26-28 ° Salmo 31:2-4, 17, 25 ° Romanos 3:21-25,28 ° Mateo 7:21-27

**Lunes:** Tobías 1:3; 2:1-8 ° Salmo 112:1-6, ° Marcos 12:1-12

**Martes:** Tobías 2: 9-14 ° Salmo 112:1-2, 7-9 ° Marcos 12:13-17

**Miércoles:** Joel 2:12-18 ° Salmo 51:3-6, 12-14, 17 °

2 Corintios 5:20—6:2 ° Mateo 6:1-6, 16-18

**Jueves:** Deuteronomio 30:15-20 ° Salmo 1:1-4, 6 °

Lucas 9:22-25

**Viernes:** Isaías 58:1-9 ° Salmo 5:3-6, 18-19 ° Mateo 9:14-15

**Sábado:** Isaías 58:9-14 ° Salmo 86:1-6 ° Lucas 5:27-32

**CENIZA MIÉRCOLES:** La ceniza el miércoles 9 de marzo es un día de rápido y de abstinencia. Obligan a los católicos 14 años de edad a abstenerse de la carne y eso 18-59 también se obliga a ayunar (1 comida completa y 2 unas más pequeños para mantener fuerza) a menos que existan las razones médicas o serias. Las masas y la distribución de cenizas ocurrirán en el 7:30 y el 9:00 y el 6:00 y el 7:30 P.M.



Deuteronomio 11,18.26-28; Romanos 3,21-25a.28; Mateo 7, 21-27



### LA CASA EN LA ROCA

Todos sabían, en tiempos de Jesús, que es de necios construir la propia casa sobre arena, en el fondo de los valles, en lugar de hacerlo en lo alto de la roca. Después de cada lluvia abundante se forma, en efecto, casi de inmediato un torrente que barre las casitas que encuentra a su paso. Jesús se basa en esta observación, que probablemente había hecho en persona, para construir a partir de ella la parábola de este domingo sobre las dos casas, que es como una doble parábola.

"Así pues todo el que oiga estas palabras mías y las ponga en práctica, será como el hombre prudente que edificó su casa sobre roca; cayó la lluvia, vinieron los torrentes, soplaron los vientos y embistieron contra aquella casa; pero no cayó, porque estaba cimentada sobre roca".

Con simetría perfecta, variando sólo poquísimas palabras, Jesús presenta la misma escena en negativo: "Y todo el que oiga estas palabras mías y no las ponga en práctica, será como el hombre insensato que edificó su casa sobre arena; cayó la lluvia, vinieron los torrentes, soplaron los vientos, irrumpieron contra aquella casa y cayó, y fue grande su ruina".

Construir la propia casa sobre arena quiere decir volver a poner las propias esperanzas y certezas en cosas inestables y aleatorias que no se sustraen al tiempo y a los vuelcos de fortuna. Tales son el dinero, el éxito, la propia salud. La experiencia lo pone ante nuestros ojos cada día: es muy poco lo que basta -un pequeño coágulo en la sangre, decía el filósofo Pas - para que todo se derrumbe.

Construir la casa sobre roca quiere decir, al contrario, fundar la propia vida y las propias esperanzas en aquello que "los ladrones no pueden robar ni la polilla deshacer", sobre lo que no pasa. "Los cielos y la tierra pasarán -decía Jesús--, pero mis pal bras no pasarán".

Construir la casa en la roca significa, muy sencillamente, construir en Dios. Él es la roca. Roca es uno de los símbolos preferidos de la Biblia para hablar de Dios: "Nuestro Dios es una roca eterna" (Is 26,4); "Él es la Roca, perfecta es su obra" (Dt 32,4).

La casa construida sobre la roca ya existe; ¡se trata de entrar en ella! Es la Iglesia. No, evidentemente, la que está hecha a base de ladrillos, sino la formada por las "piedras vivas" que son los creyentes, edificados en la "piedra angular" que es Cristo Jesús. La casa en la roca es aquella de la que hablaba Jesús cuando decía a Simón: "Tú eres Pedro y sobre esta piedra (literalmente 'roca') edificaré mi Iglesia (Mt 16, 18).

Fundar la propia vida sobre la roca significa por lo tanto vivir en la Iglesia; no quedarse fuera apuntando sólo el dedo contra las incoherencias y los defectos de los hombres de Iglesia. Del diluvio universal se salvaron sólo pocas almas, las que habían entrado con Noé en el arca; del diluvio del tiempo que todo engulle se salvan sólo los que entran en el arca nueva que es la Iglesia (cf. 1 P 3, 20). Esto no quiere decir que todos los que están fuera de ella no se salven; existe una pertenencia a la Iglesia de otro tipo, "conocida sólo a Dios", dice el Concilio Vaticano II respecto a quienes, sin conocer a Cristo, obran según los dictados de la propia conciencia.

El tema de la palabra de Dios, que está en el centro de las lecturas de este domingo y sobre el que se celebrará en octubre el próximo Sínodo de los obispos, me sugiere una aplicación práctica. Dios se ha servido de la palabra para comunicarnos la vida y revelarnos la verdad. ¡Los seres humanos usamos a menudo la palabra para dar muerte y esconder la verdad! En la introducción a su famoso Dizionario delle opere e dei personaggi, Valentino Bompiani relata el siguiente episodio. En julio de 1938 tuvo lugar en Berlín el congreso internacional de los editores, en el que él también participó. La guerra se palpaba ya en el aire y el gobierno nazi se mostraba maestro en la manipulación de las palabras con fines de propaganda. El penúltimo día, Goebbels, que era ministro de Propaganda del Tercer Reich, invitó a los congresistas al aula del Parlamento. Se pidió a los delegados de los distintos países una palabra de saludo. Cuando llegó el turno a un editor sueco, éste subió al estrado y con voz grave pronunció estas palabras: "Señor Dios, debo pronunciar un discurso en alemán. Carezco de vocabulario y de gramática, y soy un pobre hombre perdido en el género de los nombres. No sé si la amistad es femenino o si el odio es masculino, o si el honor, la lealtad y la paz son neutros. Así que, Señor Dios, recobra las palabras y déjanos nuestra humanidad. Tal vez lograremos comprendernos y salvarnos". Estalló un aplauso, mientras Goebbels, que había captado la alusión, salía airado de la sala.

Un emperador chino, interrogado sobre qué era lo más urgente para mejorar el mundo, respondió sin dudar: ¡reformular las palabras! Quería decir: devolver a las palabras su verdadero significado. Tenía razón. Hay palabras que, poco a poco, han sido vaciadas completamente de su significado original y colmadas de un significado diametralmente opuesto. Su uso no puede más que resultar perjudicial. Es como poner en una botella de arsénico la etiqueta "digestivo efervescente": alguien se envenenará. Los Estados se han dotado de leyes severísimas contra los falsificadores de moneda, pero de ninguna contra la falsificación de las palabras. A ninguna palabra le ha ocurrido lo mismo que a la pobre palabra "amor". Un hombre abusa de una mujer y se justifica diciendo que lo ha hecho por amor. La expresión "hacer el amor" frecuentemente representa el acto más vulgar de egoísmo, en el que cada uno piensa en su satisfacción, ignorando totalmente al otro y reduciéndole a simple objeto.

La reflexión sobre la palabra de Dios nos puede ayudar, como se ve, también a reformar y rescatar de la vanidad la palabra de los hombres.

P. Raniero Cantalamessa, ofmcap

### “Simula hasta poder hacerlo - 9 de marzo ° Miércoles de Ceniza

Cuando ayudes a un necesitado, no lo publiques al son de trompetas; no imites a los que dan espectáculo en las sinagogas y en las calles, para que los hombres los alaben. Mateo 6:2

UN LETRERO FRENTE A LA iglesia dice: “No te alejes de la iglesia los domingos porque haya tantos hipócritas; ¡siempre cabe uno más!”. Me gusta este dicho porque, en cierta medida, todos somos hipócritas. ¿Quién de entre nosotros tiene motivos completamente puros, incluso al hacer el bien? La Cuaresma nos recuerda que no debemos dejar que el temor a la hipocresía se interponga en el camino de hacer el bien. Hago buenas acciones no para mostrar que he alcanzado la santidad, sino porque me estoy esforzando para alcanzarla. Sí, como dicen algunos psicólogos, “podemos actuar como si tuviéramos una nueva manera de pensar”, entonces, seguramente podemos actuar como si tuviéramos una nueva manera de ser. Si actuamos como si ya fuéramos personas devotas, generosas, compasivas, de buen humor y de una profunda fe, llegaremos finalmente a convertirnos en quienes deseamos ser.

*Jesús, ¡ayúdame a actuar y a tomar decisiones hoy como si ya fuera el buen discípulo que quiero ser!*

Sor Melannie Svoboda, S.N.D.