



Dear Parishioners,

Today is Mother's Day, a day of love and gratitude for all of our mothers, living or deceased. The title of an Irish ballad is so true: "*A Mother's Love's A Blessing*". This day is one that honors those who have given us the greatest of all gifts - life itself, and mothers who have adopted their little son or daughter out of love. Years ago I received a wall plaque that reads: "*I am because of my parent's love.*" Those words resonate more with me the older I get and the more I revisit my childhood days. Growing up in Providence, we never got everything we wanted - but we indeed got everything we needed - and there is a big difference. Not for one moment did our home or our family lack love - a love that emanated always from a united team - Mom and Dad.

This day we honor our Mothers who gave us life, as well as women who became mothers through foster care or adoption. We honor single mothers who for one reason or another try to be mom *and* dad. It is a day to look back with gratitude and fond memories of our mothers who are now with the Lord and to show our appreciation to mothers who continue to give that sacrificial love that only a mother can give to her children. The following is so true of my own Mom and I'm sure it's true of your Mom as well.

A MOTHER'S LOVE

A Mother's love is something that none can explain,
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away...
It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking...
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all beauty of the rarest, brightest gems...
It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation...
A many splendored miracle man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand.

Helen Steiner Rice

With gratitude to my Mom and with sincere congratulations and thanks to all of you, who hold that most distinguished name - Mother!

Have a wonderful week!



THE EASTER SEASON

We are well into celebrating the “50 Days of Easter”, that period of time which will last up until the celebration of Pentecost. During this time the glorious colors and decorations will remain, and “Alleluia” will be heard throughout the Mass. Also you might notice that the scripture readings have changed. Up until the Feast of Pentecost, the first Reading of the Mass will be from the Acts of the Apostles, not from the Books of the Old Testament. The Acts of the Apostles, written by St. Luke, describes the very first days of Christianity and gives witness to the actions of the Holy Spirit through Peter and Paul and all the Disciples of Christ. It tells the story of how the fledgling Church reached out to help orphans and widows, the needy and those who were ill. It even describes some of the tensions that arose concerning just who could become a follower of Christ. Very importantly, it describes the origin of Deacons, those men who were, and are, called to aid in the ministry of the Church. With this in mind, we take this opportunity to remind all of our parishioners that if you know of someone who is unable to come to Mass because of illness or disability, please notify the parish office to make arrangements for that individual to receive the Sacraments. This is one way that we continue the work of the Holy Spirit just as in the early days of the Church.



<u>Monday, May 9</u>		
Anthony De Ferdinando, Jr.	7:30am	Fr. Martin
<u>Tuesday, May 10</u>		
Mother’s Day Novena	7:30am	Fr. Martin
<u>Wednesday, May 11</u>		
Honorable Stephen Solarz	7:30am	Fr. Martin
<u>Thursday, May 12</u>		
Janice Ann Scharkowski	7:30am	Fr. Wilson
<u>Friday, May 13</u>		
Mother’s Day Novena	7:30am	Fr. Korpi
<u>Saturday, May 14</u>		
Leo V. Muldoon	9:00am	Fr. Korpi
Robert J. Ferketic, Sr.	5:00pm	Fr. Wilson
Hispanic Mass	7:00pm	Fr. Wilson
<u>Sunday, May 15</u>		
John Mullin	7:30am	Fr. Hann
Karl & Sheila Posch	9:00am	Fr. Wilson
Parishioners	11:00am	Fr. Martin
Mr. Pierre Mercier	12:45pm	Fr. Wilson

Parish Prayer List

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

Elaine Bitton, Dot Bradshaw, Pearl Bragg,
Bob Gabrielli, Oscar Cordon Garcia, Phyllis Kerns
Ann Marie Rondeau, Ted Simms

For the deceased:

Lucy DePasquale, Grandmother of Anne Pritz
Anna Devane, Nick Franca
Maureen Geiger, Sister of Ginger Kinzer
Dorothy Kelch, Mother of Douglas Kelch
Kirby McCasland, Brother of Craig McCasland
Terrance William McGarry, Father of Veronica Miller

Pray for our military men and women and their families. May God keep them safe and out of harm’s way.

Thought for the Week:

How you spend your time is more important than how you spend your money. Money mistakes can be corrected, but time is gone forever.

David B. Norris

MOTHER’S DAY NOVENA

A Novena of nine Masses will be said during the month of May for Mothers, living and deceased. Spiritual Bouquet cards may be found in the Church vestibule. Mother’s names will be placed on the Altar during the month of May. The Novena Masses will be said at **9:00 am** on the following days: **May 8th and 30th**. The remainder of the Novena Masses will be at 7:30am on **May 10th, 13th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 25th and 27th**.



The Altar Flowers this week are

In Loving Memory of Our Mothers
Theresa Coursey & Josephine McDaniel

And

In Loving Memory of Warren Wahl
From
Monica and Jim





Mother's Day, May 8 — Sunday classes only are cancelled; classes will be held on Monday, May 9 and Tuesday, May 10.

Final Religious Education classes — Sunday, May 15; Monday, May 16; and Tuesday, May 17. Report cards will be distributed.

Student Registration for 2011-2012 is now open. Session assignments are based on first-come, first-served basis – register early to increase the chance of getting the time slot you need! Forms are available in the Religious Education Office, on the community board in the church vestibule, and at website: www.edu.nativityburke.org; on the Nativity CCD tab click on Student Registration.



During the month of April, we joyfully welcomed into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Ryan Edward Kownacki, Brynn Elise McHale, Jerick Andrew Naca, Daniel Michael Becker, Selma Jo Terrazas, Regan Grace Fearson, Nicol Joana Orellana Cruz, Alexa Avelar, Larissa Silva Oliveira, Dylan Wood Jackson, Sean Christian Jackson, Gabriel Michael Sebastiano Briulotta, Sophia Valeria Izaguirre, Isabella Camila Izaguirre,

Welcome to Our New Catholics

Congratulations to 51 candidates who entered into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, and now have become disciples of Jesus Christ! We welcome you and look forward to getting to know you as you worship and become involved in the various ministries here at the Church of the Nativity

PRAYER SHAWL MEETING....The next daytime meeting will take place in the APR on **Monday, May 16th at 9:30am.** The evening meeting will take place on **Wednesday, May 18th at 7:00pm** in the APR. For more information call Toni Rausch, 703-455-3260; Flo Grike, 703-250-7799 or Joanne Dezzutti, 703-455-5702.



PRAY THE ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE



We still have some openings for Altar Flowers. The following dates and slots are available: May 22 (1), July 3 (1), July 31 (2), Aug. 7 (2), Aug. 14, 21 & 28, Sept. 4 (1 each), Oct. 30 (2), Nov. 6 (1) and Dec. 4 & 11 (1 each).

THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS, Court Kavanaugh No. 54, invite all interested Catholic women to come to our next regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2011, upstairs in St. Mary's Lyceum Auditorium located at 313 Duke Street. The meeting will immediately follow our annual Education Awards Ceremony and May Crowning of Mary. Join us as we congratulate these talented students and stay to hear about our calendar of summer events. Please contact Helen Lynch for additional information on [703.582-5722](tel:703.582-5722). or helenlynch21@gmail.com .

KID'S STUFF SALE

The Mothers' Group at St. Mary of Sorrows will be holding their annual Kids' Stuff Sale on Saturday, May 14. The sale supports the Mothers' Group, local charities, and individual families in need. They welcome any child-related donations, including infants' and children's clothing, toys, books, gear, and maternity and nursing items. Donations may be dropped off at St. Mary's from May 8-May 13. Or shop the sale on May 17 from 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. (half price after noon). The church is located at 5222 Sideburn Road in Fairfax. If you have any questions, call Patty at (703)426-9191

The weekend of **May 14-15**, the basket will be in the back of Church for donations for our **Retired Diocesan Priests.** Currently there are 15 retired priests who served our diocese and an additional 21 diocesan priests who are anticipating retirement within the next 10 years. Please consider donating to this special cause. Thank you for your support.

REVISED ROMAN MISSAL TRANSLATION

On November 27, 2011, Catholics throughout the United States and in other English-speaking countries will begin praying the mass with a revised translation of the Roman Missal. To aid the faithful in preparing for this revised translation, a workshop on the Roman Missal will be held at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Annandale on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. All are welcome to attend in order to explore the revised translation and deepen our understanding of the Mass.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

Fischer ACE Hardware
(703) 451-3700

Catholic Charities Thrift Shop Needs Spring and Summer Clothing Donations

The Catholic Charities Thrift Store is in urgent need of spring and summer clothing donations. In the heart of Old Town Alexandria, the Catholic Charities Thrift Shop provides clothing and other items at no charge to those in need, and sells items inexpensively to help the poor. Conveniently located at 131 South West Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, the Thrift Shop is open every day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call shop manager Ms. Ana Gutierrez at (703) 548-4881.

Looking for Work?

Catholic Charities' Christians are Networking (CAN) ministry can help you find a job! CAN assists people who are unemployed or under-employed and provides free professional career counseling – including resume reviews and practice job interviews. Thursday evenings, from 7- 9 p.m. at the St. Martin de Porres Senior Center, 4650 Taney Ave. in Alexandria. For more details, contact Elizabeth Lucas at (703) 683-7704 or elizabeth22305@verizon.net.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO MOTHERS EVERYWHERE

PRO-LIFE CORNER

Thanks, Mom, for choosing LIFE! It was, it is and it will always be the natural choice. May God bless all mothers on this very special day.



Happy Mother's Day!

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).

Pro-Life Rosary and Witness - Nativity Parishioners are invited to pray for both an end to abortion and healing for those suffering from abortion at NOVA "Healthcare", 10400 Eaton Place, Fairfax, VA 22030, from 7:30 - 8:30 AM on Saturday mornings. This is the busiest hour of an active abortion clinic; it is not uncommon for over 10 women/couples to arrive during this time. Peacefully pray for Our Lady's intercessions and lovingly encourage calls to the numbers below. For more info, please contact Josh Reynolds, 703-470-8978, josh.reynolds.01@gmail.com

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

**THE WEEK AHEAD
IN OUR PARISH**

Sunday, May 8 **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**
2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 pmCCD Classes (S)

Monday, May 9
4:00 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, May 10
9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Wednesday, May 11
10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
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.....Women of Nativity (APR)
7:30 pm.....Youth Choir (CH)

Thursday, May 12
9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
7:00 pm.....Spanish Class (Room 2)
7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)
7:30 pm.....Adult Choir (CH)
7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)

Saturday, May 13
10:00 am.....ESL (Room 5, 6, 7, 8)
11:00 am.....Hispanic First Holy Communion (CH)
5:00 pm.....Hispanic CYO (Room 4)
5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)

Options Open House ~ Preview to High School! Paul VI Catholic High School's **Options Program** serves students with intellectual disabilities and 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. **Join us Thursday, May 12 @ 7:00 p.m. for a Preview to High School** and see what PVI and the Options program is all about. To RSVP for **Preview to High School** or for more information regarding admission contact Mrs. Chris Desmarais, Director of Options @ **(703) 352-0952 ext 333** or via email cdesmarais@paulvi.net or visit us on the web at www.paulvi.net/academics/options



SOCIAL JUSTICE REFLECTION: POVERTY IN VIRGINIA

FACTS. Although Virginia is a comparatively prosperous state—it had the ninth lowest poverty rate among the fifty states in 2009—many Virginians live in poverty. How many? 14.3 percent of all Virginians in 2009, according to the American Community Survey. To put that in perspective, Virginians living in poverty could fill the Richmond International Raceway, the largest sports arena in the state, with a seating capacity of more than 107,000, every day for more than a week. Poor children in Virginia could more than fill the Raceway for two days.

REFLECTION. Try to visualize that: the Richmond International Raceway, full to capacity every day for more than a week, full of people who are struggling in poverty. Here in Virginia. Try to consider: is there anything we can do to notice the poor in our midst more clearly, and to respond to their needs more mercifully and more justly?

The American bishops, in urging Catholics to practice “faithful citizenship,” tell us, “*responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. This obligation is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do.*” As Catholics, we have an obligation to think about our responsibilities as citizens.

The bishops also remind us of Pope Benedict’s teaching: “*Love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to the Church as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel.*” We have a responsibility to love the disadvantaged. What does it mean—concretely—to love the poor and the lowly?

From the Office of Vocations....

Do you recognize Christ in your life and hope to make Him known to others? Perhaps you are being called to the priesthood or consecrated life. If you are considering this possibility, call Father Brian Bashista at (703) 841-2514, or write: b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org.



TWO WORDS: “THE YARD SALE IS COMING!”

During your annual spring clean-up and before tossing out your former “treasures”, please consider storing them in a corner of your garage or basement for donation to the Yard Sale.

Nativity’s Annual Yard Sale for Charity sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Father Vincent S. Sikora Council 7992, is Saturday, July 23, 2011, from 9 AM until 3 PM. Collections will begin Thursday, July 14, 2011 and continue through Thursday July 21, 2011. Your donations are tax-deductible and appreciated,

MEMORIAL DAY MASS

At 11:00 am on Monday, May 30, 2011, Holy Mass will be celebrated at Fairfax Memorial Park, formerly Calvary Cemetery, 9900 Braddock Road, Fairfax, by Rev. Terry Specht. If outdoor services at the Cemetery are cancelled due to inclement weather, Father Specht will offer an 11:00 am Mass at Holy Spirit

The Women’s Club of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Vienna is sponsoring a **Career Fashion Show** on Tuesday, May 10th at 7:30 pm. The show will be held in DeSales Hall and is open to adults only. Tickets are \$7.00 and proceeds will support the Artemis House, Fairfax County’s Shelter for Women and Families who are victims of domestic violence and abuse.

The Show is focused on career clothing that is affordable, appropriate, and fashionable. Kohl’s has generously donated all the fashion pieces. During the show there will be commentary related to networking, interviewing, training, and job search. There will be a “Career Corner” staffed by Career Counselors to answer questions. There will be opportunities prior to the show, during the break and afterwards to visit and pick up complimentary materials. There will be wonderful door prizes!

For ticket information, call Merle Senyk at [703.938.2828](tel:703.938.2828) or e-mail olgcwomen@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 27th to July 1st. Forms are in the Church office.



CELEBRATING FAITH IN ACTION

FR. MARTIN'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY Sunday, May 15, 2011

ALL ARE WELCOME NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 15TH, AS WE CELEBRATE THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF FR. RICHARD MARTIN'S ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD.

The celebration will begin with a beautiful liturgy at the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. All of Nativity's music groups will be involved.

Mass will be followed by an open house picnic reception on the parish grounds until 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome – food and drinks are complimentary, and there will be clowns for the children and music for all.

Your **PRESENCE** is the most important ingredient in making this event a success, so regardless of what Mass you attend on Saturday or Sunday, please stop by in the afternoon for something to eat and drink, and to wish Fr. Martin well.

Summer Theology Courses at Christendom Graduate School

Enrich your life and learn more about the Faith by taking a summer course at the Christendom Graduate School! The six-week session runs from June 20 – July 30. At our convenient Alexandria campus (on Queen of Apostles Parish grounds) we are offering New Testament (Mon & Fri evenings), Holy Spirit/Ecclesiology (Tues & Thurs evenings), and Introduction to New Testament Greek (Saturdays). At the Front Royal residential program we are offering God the Father, Apologetics, Theological Anthropology, Philosophy of God and Man, Church History I, The Culture of the Renaissance, and Theology of the body. We welcome both degree-seeking and casual students, on either a part-time or full-time basis. We have low tuition rates and discounts for seniors, catechists, and Catholic school teachers. **WE ALSO HAVE ONLINE COURSES.** For more information, please visit www.christendom.edu/grad, call 703.658.4304, or email us at NDGS@Christendom.edu.

In today's Gospel, after Jesus had vanished from their sight, the two disciples admitted that their hearts were burning within them as He spoke with them on the way to Emmaus. Do you have a



burning within your hearts, passion and love for your spouse? Do you really communicate with each other and make the time for your relationship that you deserve? Take some well deserved time for just the two of you to deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend **September 16-18** in Herndon, **May 20-22** in Rockville, MD or **June 3-5** in Richmond. Early registration is highly recommended, as dates fill up quickly. For more information call Mark & Cathy Stangler 703-378-4150 or visit <http://wwmc-nova.org>.

Discovering the Art of Prayer—Four-Part Series on Saturdays (May 21, June 4, July 2, Aug. 20) \$30 per session or \$100 for the entire series.

Father Sam Vaccarella, T.O.R., director of the retreat center, will be facilitating the above days of reflection. Please consider using the diocesan retreat center for your group, parish councils, bible study, or ministry and service organizations. To register for upcoming programs, to schedule a retreat or for additional information call us at (540) 868-9220 or email us at San-Damiano@arlingtondiocese.org. We look forward to serving you.

Are You 50 or Better? Please join us for an entertaining history lesson at the *Lunch N' Life* sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on Thursday, May 19, 2011, (12:00-2:00 p.m.) at St. Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax. Historical re-enactor Bonnie Fairbank will portray Martha Washington. For reservations, call Bea Stephenson, (703) 273-5730, by May 12. The cost is \$8.00; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office (703) 323-4788. See www.fairfax-burkesc.org for more information.

¡DESCUBRAMOS A JESUS!
3º de Pascua
Javier Leoz



¡Feliz Santa Pascua! Cuando todavía muchos cientos de miles de peregrinos –al igual que los de Emaús- tienen sus corazones enardecidos por el encuentro personal con Jesucristo en el marco de la Beatificación de Juan Pablo II, seguimos intentado también nosotros descubrir a ese Jesús que nos sorprende, que marcha en paralelo a nosotros, que nos seduce y nos muestra claras señales de que, su presencia, es garantía y esperanza para creer firmemente en su resurrección.

1. En multitud de ocasiones, la soledad y el pesimismo, nos agobian y se convierten en una pesadilla en nuestro vivir. Alguien, con cierta razón, ha llegado a decir que “el hombre mira más hacia el suelo que hacia el cielo”.

Los discípulos de Emaús estaban un poco de aquella manera; se encontraban desconcertados y cabizbajos. Vuelven desazonados y sin muchas perspectivas de una experiencia idílica hacia una “nada” que les hace sentir su fragilidad, orfandad y desesperanza.

2. Lo mismo, en distintas ocasiones y con muchos matices, nos ocurre al hombre de hoy: pensábamos que todo estaba a nuestro alcance y el reciente terremoto (con sus consecuencias posteriores en Japón) nos desestabiliza; creíamos dominar la naturaleza y, cualquier tsunami, pone patas arriba años y años de progreso y hasta las más atrevidas edificaciones. ¡Pensábamos que...y resulta que...!

¿Dónde está el Señor? ¿Ya le dejamos avanzar y transitar a nuestro lado? ¿No estaremos dibujando un mundo a nuestra medida sin trazo alguno de su resurrección? ¿Se dirige nuestro mundo hacia un bienestar permanente y duradero o sólo a corto plazo? Son interrogantes que surgen constantemente como fruto del desazón de los discípulos del Emaús de nuestros días: regresamos decepcionados de muchos panoramas que se nos presentan en nuestra vida corriente como fantásticos...y resultan que eran ruinosos.

3. Necesitamos volver hacia el encuentro con el Señor. No para que nos resuelva de un plumazo nuestras peticiones o inquietudes. En principio es necesario regresar de la desesperanza. Cristo salió fiador por nosotros, por nuestra salvación, por nuestra felicidad eterna y....seguimos huyendo cabizbajos concluyendo que, el Señor, se ha desentendido de nosotros. Que, el Señor, tal vez murió y....nunca resucitó.

Necesitamos regresar hacia aquellas situaciones y gestos que hicieron grande nuestra fe; la eucaristía y la oración, la confesión personal y los momentos de piedad sincera. El mes de mayo, dedicado a María, nos puede ayudar –con su mano intercesora- a encontrarnos cara a cara con Jesucristo Resucitado.

No es necesario anhelar signos extraordinarios para dar con el Señor. En el camino, allá por donde discurre nuestra vida, podremos alcanzar, sentir y palpar la presencia de Jesús. Sólo una cosa es necesaria: nos fiemos de El. Para que Jesús camine junto a nosotros es necesario que le hagamos sitio y, cuántas veces, reducimos tanto el espacio para las cuestiones de la fe que a duras penas Cristo puede hablarnos y recordarnos el inmenso amor que siente por nosotros.

QUEDATE, SEÑOR, NO PASES DE LARGO

Que, si ahora todo es luz,
sin ti y cuando te vayas, volverá a
ser oscuridad

Que, si ahora veo tu grandeza,
sin Ti y cuando te vayas, sólo tocaré mi pobreza

QUEDATE, SEÑOR, NO PASES DE LARGO

Porque, mis dudas con tu Palabra,
se convierten en seguras respuestas
Porque, mi camino huidizo y pesaroso
se transforma en un sendero de esperanza
en un grito a tu presencia real y resucitada

QUEDATE, SEÑOR, NO PASES DE LARGO

Que, contigo y por Ti,
merece la pena aguardar y esperar
Que, contigo y por Ti,
no hay gran cruz sino fuerza para hacerle frente
Que, contigo y por Ti,
la sonrisa vuelve a mi rostro
y el corazón recuperar su vivo palpitar

QUEDATE, SEÑOR, NO PASES DE LARGO

Porque, contigo, mi camino es esperanza
Porque, contigo, amanece la ilusión
Porque, contigo, siento al cielo más cerca
Porque, contigo, veo a más hermanos
y siento que tengo menos enemigos
Porque, contigo, desaparece el desencanto
y brota la firme fe de quien sabe
que Tú, Señor, eres principio y final de todo.
Amén.

Javier Leoz



APRENDE TU FE



Emaús:
ida y vuelta

Emaús: ida y vuelta

Autor: Pablo Cabellos Llorente

Debemos a San Lucas el conocimiento amplio de lo sucedido el mismo día de la Resurrección a Cleofás y su compañero en el camino de Emaús. Andan entristecidos por una esperanza perdida. Cuando Jesús resucitado se hace el encontradizo con ellos, no salen de su asombro ante la pregunta del Señor sobre la conversación que traen. Al tratar de explicar lo sucedido al que se ha sumado como compañero de viaje, ellos mismos confiesan su desesperanza: "nosotros esperábamos que él sería quien redimiera a Israel. Pero con todo, es ya el tercer día desde que han pasado estas cosas".

Esperábamos, afirman en un pasado que suena a fiasco. Tal vez no esperaban nada, o no esperaban rectamente porque su idea de la redención de Israel era muy otra. No nos extraña porque, en demasiadas ocasiones y a demasiados cristianos, nos viene a suceder lo mismo cuando pensamos que Dios no está a nuestro lado, o no nos escucha o, si nos escucha, no atiende a nuestras necesidades. No tenemos en cuenta aquello de San Pablo a los Romanos: "el Espíritu acude en ayuda de nuestra flaqueza: porque no sabemos lo que debemos pedir como conviene; pero el mismo Espíritu intercede por nosotros con gemidos inefables". Nuestra oración ha de ser guiada por el mismo Dios, porque no siempre pedimos bien.

Y esto hace Jesús con aquellos dos desesperanzados, también impacientes y poco comprensivos con los tiempos de Dios porque se van a Emaús cuando ya tienen bastantes rumores acerca de la Resurrección o, mejor dicho, más que rumores tienen el testimonio de las mujeres y de alguno de los suyos, pero como a Él no lo han visto, no les basta. Una vez más nos encontramos pensando con criterios exclusivamente humanos y, seguramente por eso, de vuelo corto.

Por fortuna -como a aquellos dos caminantes desalentados- Jesús se nos acerca mucho más de lo pensamos y de variadísimas maneras. Con Cleofás y su amigo empleó la misma paciencia que con nosotros. En su caso, para explicarles desde Moisés a los Profetas a fin de que comprendieran que todo había sucedido como estaba previsto.

En nuestras situaciones hará también cuanto necesitemos para calentar nuestro corazón o dar luz a nuestra mente. La luz es enseñarnos a ver nuestra vida y lo que nos sucede con los ojos de la fe, tan distintos de nuestras miradas cortas. Estamos habituados a razonar de modo que comprendamos todo con silogismos bien contruidos, pero con frecuencia nos olvidamos de la premisa mayor: Dios, que ve las cosas de otro modo, sub especie aeternitatis, con la vista puesta en la eternidad. Las cosas son como las ve Dios. Y nos caldeará el corazón, como hizo con aquellos dos hombres de modo casi imperceptible, porque acaban de darse cuenta al final: "¿no es verdad que ardía nuestro corazón dentro de nosotros, mientras nos hablaba por el camino y nos explicaba las Escrituras?".

Hemos de tener el oído atento para escuchar al Señor, que nos habla también a través de las Escrituras, en la Eucaristía, a través de un amigo, en el acompañamiento o dirección espiritual, en una homilía u otros medios de formación, en un rato de oración ante el Señor sacramentado o en otro lugar cuando no es posible acercarse a un sagrario, en las incidencias de la vida corriente o siendo nosotros ese cristiano que "debe hacer presente a Cristo entre los hombres, debe obrar de tal manera que quienes le tratan perciban el bonus odor Christi (Cfr. 2 Cor II, 15), el buen olor de Cristo; debe actuar de modo que, a través de las acciones del discípulo, pueda descubrirse el rostro del Maestro". Así lo afirmaba San Josemaría Escrivá, comentando este pasaje de Lucas en la homilía Cristo presente en los cristianos.

Así, un camino de ida para quienes parecen "estar de vuelta" se convirtió, por la misericordia de Jesús, en el camino del encuentro, un sendero en el que, por obra de Dios, el desaliento se convierte en luz y calor. A pesar de nuestras debilidades, todos tenemos la posibilidad de ser el amable compañero de viaje que haga pronunciar a nuestros familiares, amigos, compañeros, vecinos... las mismas palabras de los discípulos de Emaús que, como se lee en Camino, "debían salir espontáneas, si eres apóstol, de labios de tus compañeros de profesión, después de encontrarte a ti en el camino de la vida".

Esa vía de ida, que facilita el camino de vuelta a nuestro sitio, a la casa del Padre, está en nuestra manos para cada uno de nosotros y para los demás. Antes cité algunos medios. Quiero ir finalizando recordando algo capital: la confesión sacramental, el sacramento de la misericordia y el perdón, que quita nuestras costras y durezas para que la voz del Espíritu resuene más clara en nuestra conciencia, ese sagrario de nuestra intimidad en el que escuchamos la voz de Dios siempre que nuestras auto-disculpas no la conviertan en el sonido de la propia subjetividad.

Se levantaron de la mesa que habían compartido con el Señor y regresaron a Jerusalén, volvieron a su sitio, al redil de Dios, donde encontraron reunidos a los once y a los que estaban con ellos. Volvieron para ser cada uno apóstol de apóstoles. Termino con otras palabras de San Josemaría tremendamente animantes: "Camino de Emaús. Nuestro Dios ha llenado de dulzura este nombre. Y Emaús es el mundo entero, porque el Señor ha abierto los caminos divinos de la tierra" (Amigos de Dios, 314).