



Dear Parishioners,

The words “Thank you” seem insufficient in response to the outpouring of support for the 45th anniversary of my ordination last week. There are so many reasons for me to be thankful:

- First and foremost the presence of my closest family members – my brother Jack, sister Madeleine, their spouses, my nieces, nephews, grand nieces and grandnephews
- The presence of my brother priests and deacons, including Abbott Cletus Meagher, O.S.B., who traveled from Alabama, and Fr. Duken Augustin from Haiti
- The many religious colleagues and friends who traveled from some distance to share the day with us
- The spiritual presence of those who are now with God, including my Mom and Dad
- The thousand plus parishioners and friends who filled the church with prayer, smiles, and song, and who enjoyed the parish picnic with us
- The many events and celebrations throughout the weekend, and all those who helped plan them and make them successful, especially the Anniversary Committee and our parish organizations
- Even the rainy weather held off so we could enjoy our time together even more

In my homily last week, I spoke of the theme of the Good Shepherd. My priesthood began with the Good Shepherd, in the Gospel of my first Mass, and on my ordination prayer card. This concept of the tender shepherd, sheltering, protecting, and guiding his flock has been an undercurrent of my 45 years of service to God and to you.

There is another side to the idea of shepherding; the flock can also minister to the shepherd. I found myself being shepherded throughout the anniversary weekend. And I found myself thinking about how often you have done the shepherding over the years, not only to me, but to those who reach out to us from across the street and around the world. Long after I leave this parish, I will carry with me the gift of knowing that you have embodied Christ’s lesson of the Good Shepherd in your own lives.

Another gift that I was reminded of this past weekend is that of diversity. I am so thankful for the openness and diversity of Nativity Parish. At my anniversary Mass, the diversity in the music, and the preparation of the altar by parishioners of many nations, were symbolic of our welcoming spirit. It reminded me of how people of different backgrounds and cultures feel comfortable here and how they contribute to our parish spirituality. One visiting deacon commented, "It was so beautiful to welcome to communion such a diverse group of people."

I was blessed with many beautiful cards, letters and gifts during this occasion. I thank you sincerely and gratefully for your thoughtful generosity, your heartfelt comments, and the outpouring of love I felt from you. Even more, I appreciated your presence. Sometimes God asks nothing more from us than to be present to each other. On my anniversary weekend, I certainly felt your presence. And it felt very, very good!

Many times (maybe more than you wanted to hear!), I have spoken about the importance of family. Having my personal family and my parish family with me, singing with me, celebrating with me, was a precious gift. Just as our church overflowed with happy people last weekend, my heart is overflowing with joy today.

And so I return to the simple words, "thank you." Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being the people you are, for hearing the message of Christ in the Gospels and making His message your own. For all you are and all you do, I simply say, "THANK YOU."

Have a nice week!




Parish Prayer List

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

Elaine Bitton, Frank Bott, Mary Perri Crawford,
Elaine David, Donna Eckenrose, Oscar Cordon Garcia
Michael O'Neill, Julio Ramos, Warner Scherer

For the deceased:

John Kovarovic, father of Sue Bomar, Ted Simms

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

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.



<u>Monday, May 23</u>		
Stephen F. Wasik	7:30am	Fr. Wilson
<u>Tuesday, May 24</u>		
Helena Bazzocchi	7:30am	Fr. Martin
<u>Wednesday, May 25</u>		
Mother's Day Novena	7:30am	Fr. Martin
<u>Thursday, May 26</u>		
Donna Stecker	7:30am	Fr. Korpi
<u>Friday, May 27</u>		
Mother's Day Novena	7:30am	Fr. Korpi
<u>Saturday, May 28</u>		
Aurea Rosales	9:00am	Fr. Korpi
Special Intentions for Jenn Hay	5:00pm	Fr. Wilson
Hispanic Mass	7:00pm	Fr. Wilson
<u>Sunday, May 29</u>		
Thomas Garrett	7:30am	Fr. Russell
Jack Finley	9:00am	Fr. Wilson
Elisa Benedicto	11:00am	Fr. Wilson
Lucretia Rowley	12:45pm	Fr. Korpi

Bread and Wine – Our Offertory Gifts



Three weeks ago, over 200 children received their First Communion here in our parish. This along with the Gospel reading from last Sunday, which focused on the Good Shepherd and the feeding of the flock, draws our attention to the gifts which are brought to the altar in the offertory procession. For many years these gifts were the hosts, wine and water. However, according to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, the gifts that “the faithful are to present are the bread and wine and money or other gifts for the church or poor brought by the faithful” (n. 49). Water is not included. The bread and wine represent our human labor and self sacrifice, even though we do not bake the bread, or grow the grapes used in the Eucharistic wine (which was done years ago). They are a sign in the Mass of our dedication and willingness to offer our time and our talents for the good of others. As Christ, present in the Bread and the Wine, is broken and poured out for all to eat and drink, symbolically we too offer ourselves to go out into the world to be Christ for others.

The Altar Flowers this week are

In Loving Memory of Henry Krynick
From
The Tomasetti Family



Thought for the Week:

You cannot live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.

John Wooden
College basketball coach

Help Homeless Families; Donate Furniture to St. Margaret Transitional Housing

Catholic Charities' St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional Residences in Woodbridge is looking for the following furniture and home items in gently used condition for new families moving in: twin bed frames (no mattresses), toddler bed frames, couches, chairs, small dining room sets, cookware, glassware, towels, televisions, television stands, book shelves, dressers, night stands, end tables, cocktail tables, decorative wall art, twin sheets, comforters and blankets, pillows and pillow cases, kitchen utensils, coffee pots, toasters, etc. If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact Paula Hummel at (703) 910-4845 or e-mail her at phummel@ccda.net.

Getting Married?

Have you started your Marriage Preparation (Pre-Cana) yet? Part of your requirement is to attend a Conference for the Engaged. They fill up quickly, so please sign up a few months in advance! For more information please call the Office for Family Life at (703) 841-2550 or visit: www.arlingtondiocese.org/familylife/marriage_engaged.php. Before registering, please get approval from your marriage prep priest or deacon.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK

ELHADY ORTHODONTICS
(703)440-0100

“Deliberation is the work of many men. Action, of one alone.”
Charles de Gaulle

BABY SHOWER—This year WON is conducting its annual collection of new and gently used baby items on the **weekend of June 4th-5th only**. Several of the local and community organizations that provide for families in need are: Lorton Community Center, Catholic Charities, Women’s Choice, Echo, and Birthright to name but a few of the numerous organizations that we serve. Suggested donations are diapers, wipes, blankets, clothing, bath items, and bedding (new only), and furniture. We cannot accept car seats due to state regulations. As always your generosity is gratefully appreciated by the members of WON, the families, and the babies. If you have any questions please contact **Donna Gomez at 703-426-9230**.



PRO-LIFE CORNER



Ultrasounds reveal the lies of those who claim that the baby is not a person, not a human being. This is the time for a new abolitionism, the time to abolish the horrible practice of abortion. We must insist on the right to life, for the born and the unborn. **Choose Life Today. Choose Life Tomorrow. Pray Always. We Must Do No Less.**

The **GABRIEL PROJECT** supports women who are facing a crisis pregnancy and need help. Contact 1-866-444-3553 or gabrielproject@arlingtondiocese.org You are not alone! (Gabriel Project is a crisis pregnancy program open to all and sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington.)

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**

Monday, May 23

8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, May 24

9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
 7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Wednesday, May 25

10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)
 7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)
 7:30 pm.....Youth Choir (CH)

Thursday, May 26

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

Saturday, May 28

10:00 am.....Dog Obedience (PL)
 10:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5, 6, 7, 8)
 5:00 pm.....Hispanic CYO (Room 4)

Conference for Religious Educators

“Alive in Christ” will be the theme of the 2011 St. John Bosco Conference for Catechists and Religious Educators, which will be held July 20-24 at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. The conference provides separate tracks for DREs, catechists, RCIA team members, and those involved with campus or youth ministry. Participants can also choose not to enroll in a track, but instead to attend a variety of workshops from multiple tracks. Additional information about the conference, including housing and meal plans, is available online at www.franciscanconferences.com.

Catholic Charities

Looking for Volunteer Daytime Receptionists

With so many looking to the Church for assistance during this difficult time, our phone lines at Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington are busier than ever. Do you have a few daytime hours to spare during the week to help us get vital information to the people who need it most? Consider volunteering as a receptionist at our 200 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia offices. For more information contact Beth Fitzpatrick at (703) 841- 3835 or email her at bfitz@ccda.net.

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

Seats Remain for Pilgrimage to Poland and Prague

Some seats remain for Fr. Tom Mattingly's (Pastor at Blessed Sacrament Church in Harrisonburg, VA) 11 day pilgrimage to Poland and Prague from Nov. 7-17, 2011. The itinerary includes 2 nights in Warsaw, 1 night in Czestochowa, 3 nights each in Krakow and Prague. Visits to Niepokalanow and Wadowice (Home of Blessed Pope John Paul II) are planned. Cost is \$2750 per person with deposit of \$450 and final payment by Aug. 1, 2011. Package includes round-trip air from "Dulles AP", Airport Taxes (\$510), Superior tourist class hotels, fees, Escorted guides, AirCond motorcoaches, daily breakfast and dinners, and overnight at Dulles AP hotel on Nov. 17. For additional information and brochures, contact **John Tagnesi Toll free 1-888-544-4461** or jtag1964@verizon.net

The monthly peer support group for survivors of clergy abuse and others affected by the abuse will meet on Wednesday, May 25, from 6:30-8:00 pm in the conference room of the Tysons-Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7684 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA. This group is sponsored by Voice of the Faithful-Northern Virginia affiliate and meets on the last Wednesday of every month. Free.

Campus Ministry at George Mason University is having a summertime barbeque for college age students and graduating high school seniors on Thursday, June 2nd at 6:30pm. St. Robert Bellarmine Chapel, 4515 Roberts Road, Fairfax. *It's a great way to meet college students from different schools!* Our student center will also be hosting events every Thursday night in June and July. Like us on Facebook: College Summers with GMU CCM. Follow us on [Twitter@GMUCCM](https://twitter.com/GMUCCM). Find out more at www.gmuccm.org or email choran1@gmu.edu.

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us not to let our hearts be troubled. This is not always easy to do as we struggle with all the stresses of everyday life. God in His mercy and love has given us the gift of a help-mate, a partner in this life, our spouse. Take time to appreciate this special gift and nurture your marriage relationship. Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending the next local **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** September 16-18 in Herndon, September 23-25 in Rockville, MD or June 3-5 in Richmond. Ensure you don't get left out by registering early. For more information call Mark and Cathy Stangler (703)378-4150 or visit <http://wwme-nova.org>

From the Office of Vocations...

"Who has faith in Me will do the works I do, and far greater than these." Are you being called to do the work of the Lord as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? If you are considering this possibility, call Father Brian Bashista (703) 841-2514, or write:

b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org

The Catholic Healing Ministry of the Diocese of Arlington will have a service on **Thursday, May 26th at 7:30pm** at Church of the Nativity, Burke. For further information call 540-347-0809 or visit www.healingministry.net.

An Evening of Praise, Worship and Adoration

Praise music will be provided by *VISION*, the first Saturday of every month from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at St. Leo the Great, 3700 Old Lee Highway. The next Praise & Worship is June 4th.

BISHOP IRETON HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMPS

Bishop Ireton High School announces it's 2011 summer camp offerings at its Alexandria campus. The variety of camps includes theater, basketball, soccer, football, baseball, lacrosse and crew. For a brochure and a registration form please email hamerp@bishopireton.org or call (703)212-5190.

CAMP ST. CHARLES-Boys & Girls Catholic Over-night Summer Camp - Open House - May 22, 11am to 4pm

Drop in during our Open House to see how your children, boys and girls, can experience two fun filled weeks at Camp St. Charles for a reasonable price and it's close by. Each summer children have been making friends, learning to work together and developing an appreciation for Creation while camping out, riding horses, working their way through a challenge course, trying archery, petting snakes, making ceramics and lots of other activities in beautiful Southern Maryland. Fully Accredited with the American Camp Association and certified by the State of Maryland, Camp St. Charles has been run by the Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers and Lay Salvatorians for over 57 years. Camp is located two hours from Baltimore, Northern Virginia and Washington, DC. We also offer a "dry run" weekend called the Parent-Child Weekend and a volunteer weekend. Please join us. For more information and directions, see our website: www.campstcharles.com or call us at 301-934-8799.

There will be **NO ViBe** on May 29th. I hope you all have a wonderful Memorial Day weekend!! :)

Vacation Bible School: If you would like to sign your child up for our VBS program this summer please pick up a form in the church office or call Meghan O'Connor at 703-455-2400 for more information. VBS will be from June 27th-July 1st. We hope to see you this summer!

The CYO would like to thank all who gave to the second collection benefiting our summer Workcamp trip. Your prayers and generosity make it possible for us to serve the Lord and those less fortunate. We can't thank you enough for your support

Change your thoughts and you change the world.
Harold R. McAlindon, Writer



“We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

Please answer God's call and extend the love for the Lord and his Church to the children of Nativity. Plans are being made for the 2011-2012 religious education school year. Catechists, Assistant Catechists, Substitutes, and Babysitters are needed. The *Volunteer Application* form is available in the Religious Education Office, at website: www.edu.nativityburke.org; on the Nativity CCD tab click on Volunteer, or call the Religious Education Office at 703-455-0372.

Student Registration for 2011-2012 is now open. Class placement is on a first-come, first-served basis according to the date the registration form is received in the Religious Education Office. Return a completed Student Registration form with payment as soon as possible to increase the chance of placement in your first choice session.

Important: registrations will not be processed without a copy of a student's baptismal certificate included with the form (including students baptized at Nativity) unless the baptismal certificate is already on file in the Religious Education Office. 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.

Join the Catholic Business Network's Alexandria Chapter for breakfast as Dr. Greg LaNave leads an interactive discussion on what it means to be a Catholic Business person. June 2, 2011 from 7:30-8:45am at Café Aurora in Alexandria. For more information call or email Philip Leopold (703-658-2943; peleopold@firstcommand.com<mailto:peleopold@firstcommand.com> or visit www.cbnnv.org<<http://www.cbnnv.org>>

Join with Priests for Life in praying a Pentecost Novena Prayer for Life, June 2-12. Find the Pentecost Novena prayer at www.PrayerCampaign.org. You can also order *free prayer cards* with the Novena Prayer on one side and helpful resources for pro-life activity on the other side. Also, please join the *Pray to End Abortion* prayer effort on facebook at www.ProLifePrayers.com

Chili Dinner: If you were a fan of the CYO soup suppers, come and check out our chili dinner! On June 20th from 6:30-7:30pm we will be serving 8 types of chili. Come and taste test them all! The cost is \$5 per person and \$20 per family.



Due to the worldwide increase in coffee bean prices, Larry's Beans of Raleigh, NC, has had to increase the price of the coffee sold in our gift shop. Larry's Beans works in partnership with Catholic Relief Services to promote **FAIR TRADE** coffee. **FAIR TRADE** betters the lives of growers and their families in developing countries by letting them earn a living wage for their labors. We can all agree that "earning your own way" grants dignity to the producer. Even though the coffee prices have risen in our gift shop, you are still getting gourmet organic coffee at a lower price than the supermarket. Many thanks to Natasha Hines, Gift Shop Manager, for forgoing a profit on **Fair Trade** coffee and chocolate to support the **Fair Trade** idea and to Jay Hoffmeier, Knights of Columbus, for serving **Fair Trade** coffee to our fellow parishioners.

Tending the Lawn.... “The grass is not, in fact, always greener on the other side of the fence,” writes Robert Fulghum in *It Was on Fire When I Lay Down on It* (Villard Books). “Fences have nothing to do with it. The grass is greenest where it is watered. When crossing over fences, carry water with you and tend the grass wherever you may be.”

¿Y QUÉ NOS APORTA LA FE?

5° de Pascua

Javier Leoz



Ni todos valemos para todo, ni unos pocos, pueden hacerlo todo. Y, la primera lectura de este domingo quinto de Pascua, nos instala ante una gran realidad: hay que contar con los demás para llevar adelante nuestra misión de constructores del Reino de Jesús en la tierra.

1. Seguimos en Pascua. ¡Feliz Pascua de Resurrección! ¿Dice algo la muerte de Jesús al hombre contemporáneo? ¿Transmitimos que, seguir a Jesús, es un camino, una verdad y una vida? Los primeros seguidores de Jesús no pensamos que lo tenían fácil ni claro. Había que optar por Jesús. Estaban un tanto desconcertados con sus palabras y, para colmo, ya no era que Cristo tuviera que ser el eje fundamental de su vida sino que, dando una vuelta más a la tuerca, habría de convertirse en el único camino, en la auténtica verdad y en la referencia más absoluta para su vivir. Pero ¿y cómo llevar este ideario a las nuevas generaciones? Tenemos que empezar desde abajo. En primer lugar hemos de colocar a Jesús en el lugar que se merece. Es un ejemplo que, con el servicio y el amor totalmente entroncados en Dios, nos interpela: ¿Amas como yo? ¿Te entregas como yo? ¿Perdonas como yo? ¿Vas por los caminos que te indico yo?

-Frente a las confusiones de las ideologías dominantes, Jesús, es un camino que aporta seguridad y confianza

-Frente a las falsedades, maquilladas con la crema del modernismo, se alza la verdad de un Jesús sustentada en Dios y no, como la del mundo, en los intereses de algunos en contra de otros

-Frente a la muerte, a veces pregonada como avance (el aborto, la eutanasia o muerte asistida), Cristo nos recuerda que su proyecto es un plan de vida y que nadie, excepto el Padre, puede considerarse dueño de la vida de los demás.

2. Como siempre nos queda una asignatura pendiente: creer y conocer a Jesús. Para testimoniarlo primero hay que sentirlo (como María en sus entrañas), reconocerlo (como los de Emaús) e imitarlo (como los apóstoles) desde el convencimiento y no como si fuera un simple disfraz semanal. El mayor peligro y contradicción que muchos católicos podemos tener es hacer de Jesús un insignificante atajo (no camino) por el que nos colamos cuando queremos para recibir simplemente unos sacramentos; cuando lo entendemos como un consejo (no como verdad suprema) y, por lo tanto, su mensaje no es indicativo ni imperativo para nuestro pensamiento (ahí la causa primera de la debilidad del cristianismo de Europa). ¿Dónde están los “Tomás y Felipes de nuestro tiempo” que pregunten, en las estructuras políticas y decisivas de nuestro mundo, sobre la vigencia y necesidad del mensaje del cristianismo? ¡Casi nada! Brillan por su ausencia.

Ya sabemos que una famosa sentencia aquello de “existen muchos caminos que conducen a la única verdad”. Pero ello no nos quita para que, como cristianos, estemos convencidos de que el único CAMINO (certero, limpio, justo, y comprometido) que nos lleva a Dios es precisamente Jesucristo Salvador. Decir lo contrario es caer en una religión a la carta: recojo esto que me conviene y dejo

**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**

**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**

POR TU CAMINO, SEÑOR

Aunque me tiemble el pulso,
seré de los tuyos, anunciaré tu Palabra
apoyaré, con mis débiles fuerzas,
la Verdad que tu camino me indica.

POR TU CAMINO, SEÑOR

Creeré y esperaré en la eternidad que me brindas
Soñaré que, más allá de la noche incierta,
aguarda un paraíso de felicidad y de plenitud

POR TU CAMINO, SEÑOR

Entenderé que, más allá de la casa en la tierra,
me esperas con un sitio cerca del Padre
volverás para cumplir, como siempre lo haces,
con tus promesas que superan

las nuestras, humanas, caducas y falsas

POR TU CAMINO, SEÑOR

Descubriré que, avanzando Tú por delante,
eres la vía que lleva al rostro del Padre
eres el sendero iluminado por el Espíritu Santo
eres Aquel que, cuando se mira,
encuentra frente a frente al que en el cielo espera

POR TU CAMINO, SEÑOR

Te veremos y cantaremos la grandeza de creer en Ti
Te conoceremos y, contigo, sabremos de Dios
Te conoceremos y, contigo, viviremos en Dios
Te conoceremos y, contigo, marcharemos al Padre
Viviremos y, viviendo contigo,
sentiremos que vivimos Aquel que te envió
Amén



Nosotros le pedimos a nuestro Señor Jesucristo que bendiga de manera especial a todos estos niños que compartirán con nosotros el Pau de Vida. Que la Pas y la gracia de Dios Padre y de nuestro Señor Jesucristo este con ustedes siempre.

*Annelise Alvarado
Joselin Avelar
Ytxel Castro
Jennifer Chavez
Angela Chavez
Tatiana Chavez
Carlos Crespo
Gexbelin Duran
Gabriela Estradá
Elizabeth Flores Peñarrieta
Dahiana Florez
Julian Galicia
Valerie Giordano
Karina Lucas
Romel Terrazas
Matias Montenegro
Eduardo Castillo*



Kimberly Rivas

*Wilmer Guevara
Alessandro Herrera
Larissa Oliveira
Leonardo Olivera
Nicholas Pinto

Geraldine Rivera
Janell Ruiz Barrios
Guillermina Sosa
Juliana Yanez
Carlos Castro
Walter Duran
Juan Diego Grillo Duran
Katharine Najarro
Viviana Zurita
Juan Parada*

Aprende tu fe...

No juzgar para no ser juzgados

Autor: P. Fernando Pascual LC



Condenar es fácil. Tan fácil como beber un vaso de agua. Porque la sed nos lleva a buscar una bebida que nos alivie, y porque la condena, aparentemente, sirve para desahogar rencores que corroen nuestras almas.

Pero las condenas pueden ser injustas, o desproporcionadas, o amargas. La facilidad con la que juzgamos a otro como despreciable, como enemigo, como indigno, nos lleva a cometer errores graves de apreciación, nos arrastra en ocasiones a condenar a inocentes.

Otras veces la condena es acertada: censuramos a alguien por sus fallos reales, por sus cobardías, por sus omisiones, por sus delitos. Pero, ¿sirven siempre este tipo de condenas? ¿Ayudan al delincuente a mejorar su vida? ¿Alivian a las víctimas y restablecen la justicia herida? ¿Nos convierten en mejores seres humanos?

Antes de condenar, podríamos preguntarnos si estamos seguros respecto del mal supuestamente cometido y de la mejor manera de avanzar hacia la justicia. No sirven las condenas cuando son simples desahogos llenos de amargura. Sirven cuando están unidas a un profundo respeto hacia las víctimas y a un sincero deseo de rescatar a los verdugos.

Junto a la condena, es importante mirar la propia alma para ver si no tenemos una viga en el propio ojo cuando queremos eliminar la paja del ojo ajeno. Es señal de incoherencia condenar a unos por hechos no muy graves mientras tenemos, como un peso del corazón, la certeza de haber dañado a otros en sus bienes o en su buena fama.

En la historia humana hubo quien, desde una justicia perfecta y un corazón bueno, tenía pleno derecho a condenar. Sabía lo que estaba escondido dentro de cada uno. Conocía las hipocresías y las miserias de los seres humanos.

Ese Hombre, que se llamaba Jesús, emitió juicios severos sobre quienes condenaban y perseguían a otros, mientras no hacían nada por eliminar sus propios delitos. Al mismo tiempo, dijo con serenidad que no había sido enviado para juzgar al mundo, sino para salvarlo (cf. Jn 3,17; 12,47), aunque tenía pleno poder para emitir sentencias (cf. Jn 5,27).

‘Lo sagrado del presente’

Y después de ir y prepararles un lugar, volveré para tomarlos conmigo...Juan 14:3

LA PROMESA DE REGRESAR de Jesús es a la vez tranquilizadora y confusa. Por más de 2000 años, los cristianos han esperado este momento, a veces con consecuencias desastrosas como cuando los cultos intentaron instaurar “El día del Señor” por la violencia. Pero hay varias maneras de interpretar el regreso de Jesús: las traducciones del término bíblico “parousia” -palabra griega para “presencia” - incluyen “venida”, “adviento”, “retorno”, “aparición”, “llegada” y “reaparición”. Sí, tenemos fe en que Jesús vendrá de nuevo, regresará, llegará, reaparecerá, etc., pero también en que Él ya está entre nosotros. Podemos estar en nuestro hogar con él en tiempo presente, pero otra morada nos espera en el futuro.

Ya que esto es muy complejo, nuestra mayor línea de acción es simplemente vivir el Evangelio sin especular tanto con la venida de Jesús. Los visionarios apocalípticos pueden leer los signos; en lo que a nosotros concierne, el camino más seguro al “hogar” es concentrarse en lo sagrado del presente.

Elizabeth-Anne Stewart