



Dear Parishioners,

Memorial Day....a day of pool openings, picnics, store sales, and a holiday from work and school. It was formerly called Decoration Day, which was first observed on May 30, 1868 and by the late 1800's many communities across the country began to celebrate Memorial Day. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated on the last Monday in May.

What is the real meaning of Memorial Day? It is a day to honor our military men and women who have died in defense of our country. National Cemeteries, both here and abroad, will be placing flags at their headstones as a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice made by those who have given their lives to preserve the freedoms that we so often take for granted. Some of our parishioners have experienced such a loss and I'm sure that this day is significant to them.

Many of our men and women are still serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world. They are continuing to serve our country so that we can enjoy countless blessings that have been bestowed upon us, especially our freedom.

This Monday, amidst our busy activities, let us offer a "thank you" to our God who has truly blessed us. This Monday if you meet a man or woman who is serving their country, thank them. This Memorial Day, remember those families whose son or daughter, husband or wife, father or mother made the ultimate sacrifice.

"Peace, if it ever exists, will not be based on the fear of war, but on the love of peace." (Herman Wouk, Writer)

"Nothing is lost by peace; everything may be lost by war." (Pope Pius XII)

Have a nice week.

J. Martin



Receiving From the Chalice –

On Saturday, April 30th, approximately 200 children here at Nativity made their First Communion. It was a beautiful day for such a happy event and our parish celebration was complete with an adorable little black and white lamb. In preparation for receiving First Communion, all the children tasted the unconsecrated hosts and practiced the ways of receiving the bread in communion. However, because receiving from the chalice is always an option and not required, they did not have the opportunity to taste the wine or practice how to hold the chalice. So Parents, if your young first communicants would like to receive from the Chalice at Mass, it would be very beneficial if they had the opportunity to taste the wine beforehand, as well as practice holding the chalice. Please feel free to stop in the sacristy before Mass begins and talk with one of the adults. We will be most happy to allow your child to taste the unconsecrated wine and also hold the chalice. It really is helpful that a child be aware of how to receive from the Cup, so that spills may be avoided and the Communion experience is all that it is intended to be.

**Monday, May 30**

Mother's Day Novena	7:30am	Fr. Wilson
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Tuesday, May 31

Cynthia Ann Michaud	7:30am	Fr. Wilson
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Wednesday, June 1

Choi Chan	7:30am	Fr. Martin
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Thursday, June 2

Philip Miller	7:30am	Fr. Korpi
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Friday, June 3

Bertha Kleinschmidt	7:30am	Fr. Korpi
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Saturday, June 4

Kathleen Poole	9:00am	Fr. Korpi
Dr. & Mrs. Hunter Robinette	5:00pm	Fr. Wilson
Hispanic Mass	7:00pm	Fr. Wilson

Sunday, June 5

Ruth & Gene Iannucci	7:30am	Fr. Martin
Parishioners	9:00am	Fr. Martin
John Redefer	11:00am	Fr. Korpi
Lucretia Rowley	12:45pm	Fr. Korpi



“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.



**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.

Thought for the Week:

What a man dislikes in his superiors, let him not display in the treatment of his inferiors.

Tsang Sin

The Altar Flowers this week are

In Loving Memory of
Zaven & Ruth der Boghossian
From
The der Boghossian Family



And

In Loving Memory of
My Loving Son, Patrick Custred
From
Judith Custred

PRAY THE ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE

PRO-LIFE CORNER



Just as the intimate connection between the family and society demands that the family be open to and participate in society and its development, so also it requires that society should never fail in its fundamental task of respecting and fostering the family.

— Pope John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio

Please support the **TEPEYAC FAMILY CENTER**, 11135 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-273-9440 x 107, with your prayers and financial resources. Info on this pregnancy resource center can be found at www.tepeyacfamilycenter.com

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

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, Daniel Linwood Michael O'Neill, Julio Ramos, Warner Scherer Noah Smith, Francis Strano, Alex Weeks and Jerry & Rosemary Wilhelm, June Zimmermann

For the deceased:

Josephine Maragioglio, Aunt of Ninamarie Maragioglio Kyle Rowley, Anthony Santarelli, Brother of Al Santarelli and Douglas Sullivan

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

Food for ECHO and the POOR CLARE SISTERS



The monthly food collection will take place next weekend, June 4th & 5th. Please bring non-perishable foods to the foyer of the church. In this time of need, food pantries are being rapidly depleted. Canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats, dry products (cereal, pasta, pancake mix, milk etc.), pancake syrup, vegetable oil (small), tuna helper, powdered milk, crackers, concentrated juices, sugar (2# portions) and quick oats are much needed items. Shaving cream, deodorant and OTC children's cold med.

ECHO is also in need of towels, drinking glasses, pots and pans (all sizes), Queen comforters and blankets, towels new and used clothing, especially white socks and underwear, men's small "casual" t-shirts, sweatshirts and pants (all sizes). For more information pick up a brochure in the bookrack by the sacristy or call 703-569-9160. ECHO Center is located at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on **Friday June 3rd from 8:00am to 11:00am** followed by Benediction. Come and spend some time with Our Lord.



Nativity's Grief Support Group, for all who have suffered the death of a loved one, and are in need of the comfort that sharing can bring, meets at **7:30pm** in our school building on the **First & Third Thursday of each month.** The next meeting is this **Thursday, June 3rd** and is open to all adults at no charge. Prior registration is not required. Contact Carol Mack for more information 703-455-2400, ext. 117.

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**.



Family Dance Party - All Ages Welcome

TEACH (Toward Educating America’s CHildren) and JustFaith Nativity invite everyone for an evening of fun. Square Dances, Line Dances, and many others will be led by Caller Mac McCall. Friday, June 3, Nativity Hall, 7:30pm. Party snacks and drinks provided. TEACH supports education in Mayan villages in eastern Guatemala. Families dancing here will help families there educate their children. Tickets are \$20 per person and \$40 per family if purchased in advance, or \$25 and \$45 at the door. Contact Joe Pettit, pettit@georgetown.edu. or call 703-455-4937.

There will be **NO ViBe** on May 29th. I hope you all have a wonderful Memorial Day weekend!! :) The next **ViBe** meeting will be on June 5th from 7:00-8:30pm in the APR! Please bring a friend and a snack or drink to share with the group. :)

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!

Services for Seniors

The Shepherd’s Center of Fairfax-Burke (SCFB) offers free *Accompanied Medical Transportation and Companion Shopping* services for those adults 50 years or older who no longer drive and who live in central Fairfax County, Fairfax City, or Burke. Volunteers drive seniors to medical appointments and to the grocery store, bank, library, hairdresser, barber and other locations. To get more information on these services, to request a ride, or to volunteer, call the SCFB office at [703-323-4788](tel:703-323-4788).

**THE WEEK AHEAD
IN OUR PARISH**

Monday, May 30 MEMORIAL DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

9:00 am.....Mass (CH)
8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Wednesday, June 1

10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)
7:30 pm.....Hispanic Baptism Class (Room 8)
7:30 pm.....Youth Choir (CH)
7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Thursday, June 2

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

Friday, June 3

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

Saturday, June 4

10:00 am.....Dog Obedience (PL)

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.



Annual Multi-Car Raffle We have a few winners! Congratulations go out to Mary Balberchak and Michael Campana who both won cash prizes at the All Saints Multi-Car Raffle drawing on Saturday, 14 May. The other winners, thru your generosity, will be our Youth Group and several charities that our Council supports. A special thank you to all those who supported our efforts here at Nativity and to our Council Raffle Committee.

Knights Call: Council Officer Installation & Family Dinner, Tuesday, 21 June at 7pm. All Knights and their families are invited to join us for a brief Council Officer Installation Ceremony in the Church followed by a FREE catered dinner in the Parish Hall. Each Knight's family is asked to bring a dessert to share. Please RSVP with the number of adults and children attending by email to Sam Morthland at Chancellor.KofC7992@gmail.com by 10 Jun.

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

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.

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK
BRENNAN'S TREE SERVICE
703-218-8003

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 or visit www.cbnnv.org or www.cbnnv.org

From the Office of Vocations...

"Those who love Me will keep my word." Is your love for the Lord leading you to grow in holiness as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Father Brian Bashista (703) 841-2514, or write: b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org

Prime Time Single Catholics (PTSC) is open to all single Catholics, 40 and older, who have never married, are widowed, or are divorced with a Church annulment.

June 5, Sun. 8:15AM Mass at St. Rita's in Alexandria then Brunch at IHOP, call Kay, [703-399-1155](tel:703-399-1155)

June 5, Sun. 5 PM Dinner and Dance at the Elks Lodge in Fairfax, call Lenore, [703-787-5784](tel:703-787-5784)

June 11, Sat. 5 PM Dinner and Movie at Fair City Mall in Fairfax, call Mary, [703-912-6441](tel:703-912-6441)

June 12, Sun. 5:30 PM Dinner at Guapo's, Shirlington in Arlington, call Tom, [703-313-8388](tel:703-313-8388)

June 17, Fri. 6:30 PM Dinner at P. J. Skidoos in Fairfax, call Pat, [703-250-3143](tel:703-250-3143)

June 19, Sun. 6 PM Mini-Golf at Jefferson Golf Course in Falls Church, call Alice, [703-979-2332](tel:703-979-2332)

June 26, Sun. 11 AM PTSC Annual Picnic at Bluemont Park in Arlington, call Tom, [703-313-8388](tel:703-313-8388)

Anyone with questions about PTSC may call Jack Emery [703-971-8665](tel:703-971-8665), for more information.

White Elephant Sale**St Mary of Sorrows Church**

5222 Sideburn Rd Fairfax

PREVIEW \$5 Fri. June 3(5-8pm)**FREE Sat. June 4(8am-8pm)****FREE Sun. June 5(8am-1:30pm)**[703.323.0345](tel:703.323.0345)**Marriage Help**

Retrouvaille has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning the weekend of July 15th call 703 351 7211 or www.HelpOurMarriage.com

Questions - please email Steve and Brigitte Coonen at bcoonen@cox.net or call (703) 842-7504. Thank you for your support!

**DOMINICAN RETREAT 703-356-4243
JUNE 2011**

June 3-5.....General Weekend for Women, Directed by Fr. Greg Solomone, O.P., Fri. 7:30pm to Sun. 3:00pm
June 7.....Special evening program on the Spirituality of Sports, Presented by Fr. Tom Ryan, CSP, Tues. 7:00pm to 9:00pm
June 8.....Creative Spirituality Day Discovering your Heart's Desire through words, images and movement. Presented by Ann Marie Mack, Janet Servis and Mora Solano Lavin
June 10-12.....Lessons from the Mystics (for women and men) Directed by Fr. Tom Ryan, CSP, Fri. 7:15pm to Sun. 1:00pm
June 12.....50th Anniversary Picnic-Celebrate with food, fun and family, 4:00 to 7:00pm (Rain date: June 26) Suggested offering \$10 adult, \$5 child, \$30 family, in advance; \$12 adult, \$6 child, \$35 family at the door (No pets)
June 14.....Living in the Spirit, Directed by Brother Malachy Broderick, FSCI, Fri. 7:30pm to sun. 3:00pm
June 17-23.....Intercommunity Preached Retreat for Sisters, Directed by Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM, fri. 6:00pm to Thurs. 10:30am.

For more information call Dominican Retreat or check www.dominicanretreat.org

**The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax –Burke
Two Dementia Care Givers Support Groups**

When:

2nd Tuesday of each month, noon - 1:15 pm

4th Tuesday of each month, noon - 1:15 pm

Note: There are two groups, each meeting monthly - register for one of these groups

Where:Lord of Life Lutheran Church (park at rear of bldg, meet in parlor)
5114 Twinbrook Rd.

Fairfax, VA 22032

Who should attend: Those caring for someone with dementia - spouse, other family member, friend, etc. Those who would like to learn more about providing caregiving to a person with a disorder that affects memory and cognition and may also impact behavior and physical abilities.

Alzheimer's disease (AD), Frontotemporal dementia (FTD), Lewy body disease DLB), Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA), Parkinson's disease with dementia (PDD), and vascular dementia are among the most common disorders causing the changes in memory, cognition, and behavior referred to as dementia.

Why:

To learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges.

Facilitator: Eileen Thompson

Please call or email the facilitator before attending. 703-451-8626 (*leave a message*) or eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

SHARING HOPE, a support group for men and women going through separation and divorce, will meet this Friday, June 3rd, at 8:00 p.m., in the Historic Church Hall. Our topic will be "Manipulation." Please feel free to join us. Newcomers are warmly welcomed. For further information please call Maureen at 703-978-6318 or Barbara at 703-425-5467.

The Positive Aging Coalition invites you to attend: Exploring the Bonus Years June 11, 2011 at George Mason University
 Ever wonder what you might want to do with your time... as you encounter your Bonus Years?
 Are you a Northern Virginian who is, or soon will be, entering your post-career years.... Redefining yourself as you approach this exciting time of life?

Plan to join us this spring for **"Exploring the Bonus Years."** Learn from two prominent speakers about this stage of life that Boomers are finding themselves entering in record numbers. Be among the first to learn about, and participate in, development of a Next Chapter— a community valuing and supporting the bonus years – right here in Northern Virginia.

Speakers:

Abigail Trafford, Washington Post Columnist and author of My Time: Making the Most of the Bonus Decades.
 Doug Dickson, President of Discovering What's Next, a successful Next Chapter in Newton, Massachusetts.

Share your experience and ideas! Help build our Next Chapter.

Registration: This event is free and open to the public. Space is limited and registration is required. Register by email: msouder@gmu.edu**Time and Place:** Saturday, June 11, 2011 8:30 – 12:00 noon

George Mason University, the Cinema in the Johnson Center, on the Fairfax Campus Directions to Fairfax Campus

Parking: Paid Parking at Mason Pond and Sandy Creek Parking Decks

EXCEPT FOR THOSE IN CHARGE, PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE OR CHANGE ANYTHING ON THE BULLETIN BOARDS. THANK YOU.

Nativity's Charismatic Love is Given Prayer Group meets every Thursday night from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the All Purpose Room for an evening of Spirit-filled faith sharing, praise and worship and prayer in a Christ-centered community. For more information call Anne Rother at 703-644-1278.



EL AMOR COMO MANDAMIENTO

VI Pascua (A)

Javier Leoz



Fácil, relativamente cómodo nos lo puso el Señor: “*Un mandamiento nuevo os doy*” (Jn 13:34). Y hasta nos parece posible el cumplirlo. Pero cuando, Jesús, añade “*como yo os he amado*” vemos que, amar como El exige, entre otras cosas, vivir de cara y no de espaldas a su deseo antes de marchar hacia el cielo: ¡Guardad mis mandamientos! Y, esos mandamientos, no son otros que los del Padre.

1. Nos acercamos a la solemnidad de la Ascensión del Señor. Y, porque el Señor se va, nos deja sugerentes palabras en el evangelio de este domingo. ¿A qué mandamientos se refiere Jesús? ¿A los la Antigua Alianza? ¿Al resumen de todos ellos basados en el amor a Dios y al prójimo?

No estamos huérfanos para llevar a cabo esa pretensión de Jesús. El Espíritu nos acompaña para que, lejos de elegir el atajo para dar rienda suelta a nuestra propia voluntad, podamos dar aquel camino con el cual poder agradar a Dios y –sobre todo- aguardando sus promesas.

No estamos solos, aunque muchos se empeñen en recordarlo, a la hora de defender con la Iglesia y dentro de ella que el amor a Dios es el motor que nos impulsa a miles y miles de católicos a trabajar por los demás.

¿Qué diferencia hay entre el amor humano y el amor divino? Preguntaba un párroco a sus fieles. Y, una anciana, al finalizar la misa le respondió: “que el amor humano es limitado, sirve a quien quiere y pronto se agota; el amor divino no mira a quien se hace el bien y, cada vez que lo hace, tiene necesidad de seguir haciéndolo aunque no sea recompensado”.

2. Necesitamos un poco de ardor en nuestra acción apostólica, un poco más de ilusión y hasta de coraje. A veces nos quejamos demasiado de que no nos comprenden a los católicos o que ser cristiano es algo poco menos que imposible en una sociedad en la que todo ya está diseñado, pensado y acotado de cara a la galería, con multitud de leyes nacidas como setas para satisfacer la sociedad del bienestar.

Es en esas situaciones, donde tanto cuesta “ver al Invisible”, donde como amigos de Jesús, hemos de optar por El, fiarnos de El y saber que sigue vivo en medio de nosotros:

-cuando salimos al encuentro de alguien que se encuentra perdido y sin horizonte

-cuando miramos a nuestro alrededor y ayudamos a superar dramas y vacíos, miserias y complejos.

El Señor, lejos de ser talla de madera que desfila en una procesión, es Alguien vivo y operativo en lo más hondo de nuestras entrañas. Alguien que, en el día a día, lo vamos descubriendo en multitud de signos que nos hablan de su presencia y, al cual, amamos en otros tantos símbolos que aún siendo misterios sabemos que nos llevan a El, que nos hablan de El y que nos hacen estar en permanente apertura hacia El.

Teniendo las palabras de Jesús, sus promesas y su garantía de que está a nuestro lado...no tenemos derecho al desencanto ni a la duda, a la desesperanza o al abatimiento.

El Señor, desde el sagrario, nos acompaña

El Señor, en la adoración eucarística, nos consuela

El Señor, en la oración, nos habla

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

POR TI, SEÑOR, LO HARÉ

Guardaré tus mandamientos, porque al hacerlo así,
soy consciente de que cuido lo más santo y noble
que Dios, en tu comunión contigo, nos legó.

Amaré tus mandamientos, porque al amarlos,
sabré que amó lo que Tú, estando con nosotros,
amaste, defendiste y llevaste en tu mente y corazón
Esperaré al Espíritu Santo, porque en esa espera,

residirá la fuerza que me auxiliará
en el duro combate de mi vida y de mis luchas
Viviré, bajo el soplo de tu Espíritu,
porque en la carrera de mis días

siento que no puedo llegar al final si, ese Espíritu,
lo dejo de lado agarrándome a otros huracanes.

POR TI, SEÑOR, LO HARÉ

Miraré hacia el cielo cada vez que me encuentre
en cruel batalla con mi soledad
Buscaré respuestas en tu Palabra
cuando el discurso del mundo sea promesa hueca
Aceptaré tus mandamientos,

porque al aceptarlos, reverenciarlos y vivirlos
sé que se encuentra el secreto para dar contigo
para amar al Padre y vivir en el Espíritu

POR TI, Y PORQUE LO NECESITO, LO HARÉ SEÑOR

Javier Leoz



29 de mayo...6° Domingo de Pascua

No los dejaré huérfanos, sino que volveré a ustedes Juan 14:18

MI NIETO VINO AL MUNDO con 8lbs. 3oz. A pesar de su saludable peso, terminó en la incubadora con oxígeno hasta que pudo respirar por su cuenta. En la cuna de al lado había un bebé premature, que pesaba menos de 1 1/2 lbs. Sus padres lo observaban con ansiedad, sin poder alzarlo ni tocarlo mientras él luchaba por vivir; todo lo que podían hacer era hablarle, con la esperanza de que sus voces le hicieran sentir que no estaba solo. La presencia de los padres es clave en el desarrollo de los recién nacidos; sin ella, los bebés pueden enfermar o morir.

Jesús, como un padre devoto, les promete a sus discípulos que no los dejará huérfanos. Incluso cuando anuncia su partida, promete enviar el Espíritu de la Verdad para guiarlos y confortarlos. Lejos de abandonarlos, los hará parte de su vida y de la vida de la Trinidad. Solo entonces, confortados por el sonido de su voz, ellos tendrán fuerzas para continuar su ministerio.

Ayúdamos a sentir tu presencia, oh Señor, incluso cuando no podamos verte.

Elizabeth-Anne Stewart

Hechos 8:5-8, 14-17.....Salmo 66:1-7, 16, 20.....1Pedro 3:15-18.....Juan 14:15-21

Aprende tu fe...

La esencia del cristianismo Romano Guardini

La doctrina de Jesús es doctrina del Padre. Pero no como en un profeta que recibe y da a conocer la revelación, sino en el sentido de que su punto de partida se halla en el Padre, pero, a la vez, también en Jesús. Y en Jesús de una manera que sólo a Él le es propia y que determina su más profunda esencia: por el hecho de ser el Hijo del Padre. Jesús puede enseñar la verdad, porque *"está en el Padre y el Padre está en Él"*. Esta relación no significa simplemente presencia amorosa de Dios en el hombre a Él rendido, sino una forma de existencia única, exclusiva y sólo dada aquí, que fundamenta la divinidad de Jesús: *"Al principio era el Verbo, y el Verbo estaba con Dios, y el Verbo era Dios. Estaba al principio con Dios"* (Jn. 1, 1-2). Partiendo de aquí habla Cristo.

Sin embargo, Cristo no habla sólo con palabras, sino con todo su ser. Todo lo que Él es, es revelación del Padre. Sólo ahora alcanza el concepto cristiano de la revelación toda su entera plenitud. El racionalismo, que ha influido profundamente el pensamiento cristiano, sitúa la esencia de la revelación en el pensamiento que se revela y en la palabra que lo expresa. La palabra que la boca habla no es, empero, más que una parte de una palabra más amplia, de aquella palabra que consiste en la plenitud del ser. Cristo es la palabra, incluso cuando "no abre su boca y habla". Toda su esencia es palabra, sus gestos, sus ademanes y actitud, su acción y su obra, los motivos de su comportamiento y la conexión de su destino. Nos las habernos aquí con un concepto óptico de la palabra que se halla en la base de aquel "ser Verbo" en que consiste la esencia del Hijo: Jesús es "logos", aun cuando nada diga en concreto.

Esto nos lleva al importante concepto de la Epifanía en el Nuevo Testamento. La Epifanía significa la revelación y publicidad de la verdad y realidad divinas, hasta entonces ocultas. En los discursos polémicos se dice: *"Jesús, gritando, dijo: El que cree en mí, no cree en mí, sino en el que me ha enviado, y el que me ve, ve al que me ha enviado. Yo he venido como luz al mundo, para que todo el que cree en mí no permanezca en tinieblas"* (Jn. 12, 44-46). Lo mismo dice San Juan con esa fuerza para penetrar hasta lo esencial, que es su más constante característica: *"Y el Verbo se hizo carne y habitó entre nosotros, y hemos visto su gloria, gloria como de Unigénito del Padre, lleno de gracia y de verdad"* (Jn. 1, 14). Un eco de estas palabras vuelve a hallarse también en el comienzo de la primera Epístola: *"Lo que era desde el principio, lo que hemos oído, lo que hemos visto con nuestros ojos, lo que contemplamos y palparon nuestras manos tocante al Verbo de vida, porque la vida se ha manifestado y nosotros hemos visto y testificamos y os anunciamos la vida eterna, que estaba en el Padre y se nos manifestó. Lo que hemos visto y oído os lo anunciamos a vosotros, a fin de que viváis también en comunión con nosotros. Y esta comunión nuestra es con el Padre y con su Hijo Jesucristo"* (1 Ep. Jn. 1, 1-3). La recóndita plenitud de sentido que es el Padre mismo con su amor, se da accesible a todos en Cristo; es decir, "en verdad" entre los hombres.

Es, por tanto, consecuente que San Pablo hable de Dios como de *"Dios, Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo"* (Col. 1, 3). Dios no es Padre en sí y por sí, sino en relación con Cristo, y sólo desde Cristo puede ser comprendido. De igual manera, tampoco el Espíritu Santo es espíritu en sí, aliento religioso que manara libremente, sino en relación con Jesús. Es el espíritu que Jesús "envía". *"El Abogado que Yo os enviaré de parte del Padre, el Espíritu de verdad que procede del Padre... dará testimonio de mí"* (Jn. 15, 26). El contenido de su misión es Cristo. *"Pero cuando viniere aquél, el Espíritu de verdad, os guiará hacia la verdad completa, porque no hablará de sí mismo, sino que hablará lo que oyere y os comunicará las cosas venideras. Él me glorificará, porque tomará de lo mío, y os lo dará a conocer"* (Jn. 16, 13-14). La divinidad del Nuevo Testamento se halla, pues, referida a Cristo, y sólo desde Él puede llegarse a ella. El Dios en que cree el cristiano es "el Dios Jesucristo".

Teniendo esto presente se pone de manifiesto la tremenda decisión ante la que Cristo pone al mundo: *"Podéis conocer el espíritu de Dios por esto: todo espíritu que confiese que Jesucristo ha venido en carne, es de Dios; pero todo espíritu que no confiese a Jesús, ése no es de Dios, es del Anticristo, de quien habéis oído que está para llegar, y que al presente se halla ya en el mundo... Quien confiese que Jesús es Hijo de Dios, Dios permanece en él y él en Dios... Todo el que cree que Jesús es el Cristo, ése es nacido de Dios, y todo el que ama al que le engendró, ama al engendrado en Él... ¿Y quién es el que vence al mundo, sino el que cree que Jesús es el Hijo de Dios?... El que cree en el Hijo de Dios, tiene este testimonio en sí mismo. El que no cree en Dios le hace embustero, porque no cree en el testimonio que Dios ha dado de su Hijo"* (Ef. 4, 2-3, 15; 5, 1, 5, 10). Desde esta perspectiva, y sólo desde ella, se pone de manifiesto la significación del mensaje redentor del Nuevo Testamento.

(**Romano Guardini** , *Das Wesen des Christentums (La esencia del cristianismo)*, ensayo publicado en 1929 en la revista "Die