



On Wednesday, March 8, St. John hosted an Evening of Art and Adoration that concluded with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Eucharistic Adoration.

The night also featured music and two painting performances by artist and Archdiocese of KCK native Mike Debus.

You can see more pictures from the evening on page 9 of the bulletin.

3rd Sunday
OF LENT

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN

St. John the Evangelist, a Catholic Capuchin Franciscan Parish, welcomes all who are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and proclaims His Gospel through prayer, worship, His Word, the sacraments, and each other.

Members, inspired by the Holy Spirit through faith formation and spiritual renewal, witness to the Gospel in lives of justice and charity, build up families and children through education, hospitality and fellowship, and serve those in need with compassion and commitment.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor.....Fr. Jeff Ernst
Associate Pastor.....Fr. Barnabas Eichor
In Residence.....Fr. Mike Scully
Business Manager.....Cris Denning
Catecismo en español.....María Mota
Director of Liturgy & Music.....Lisa Roush
Stewardship Director.....Samantha Romero
Maintenance.....Jeff Jenicke
Administrative Assistants.....Meg Milburn (mornings)
.....Patty Guadian (afternoons)
RCIA.....Michael Podrebarac
Principal, St. John School.....Pat Newton
Religious Education Director.....Lois Mersmann
Technology.....Karen Dixon
Pastoral Assistant/Events Calendar.....Ellen Sickinger
Youth Director.....Kaylee Butler
Multimedia, Bulletin & Worship.....Pete Haack

St. John School.....Mrs. Pat Newton, Principal
1208 Kentucky St. (785) 843-9511
www.sjevangelist.com/school

Catholic Charities.....Frances Rico
1247 Kentucky St. (785) 856-2694

Rummage House.....13th & Kentucky.
Shop our second hand store of used items at discount prices.

Shopping Hours:

Wednesday — 11am-3pm
Thursday (first and last of month only) — 1pm-4pm
Saturday — 8:30am-12:30pm

Centro Hispano.....Lydia Diebolt
204 W. 13th St. (785) 843-2039

SIMON PARISH CENTER

Mailing Address.....1229 Vermont St., Lawrence, KS 66044
Phone.....(785) 843-0109

Spring Break Office Hours (March 20-24):

.....Monday-Thursday: 8:30am—12:30pm, closed Friday

Weekend Masses

Saturday.....4:30pm
Sunday.....7:00am, 8:30am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Weekend Spanish Mass

Sunday.....2:00pm

Weekday Masses

Monday-Friday.....7:30am
Saturday.....8:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Lenten Schedule)

Monday.....11:00am-1:00pm
Wednesday.....11:00am-1:00pm, 6:00-8:00pm
Friday.....11:00am-1:00pm
Saturday.....2:30-4:00pm
(and by appointment)

Adoration.....Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday,
6:00 a.m.—10:00 p.m. in the Padre Pio Chapel.

Bulletin Deadline. Submit info by noon on Thursday to bulletin@saint-johns.net ten days prior to the bulletin you wish info to appear. Please submit text electronically (via computer/email) as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.

Advertise in the Bulletin. Revenue from ads is what makes the bulletin possible at no cost to our parish. Please support your bulletin advertisers. For information call **Greg Proske**:

(800) 950-9952 x2551
GProske@4LPI.com
www.SeekAndFind.com

Lenten Friday Fish Fry

Join us Fridays during Lent from 5-7pm in the church basement for a Fish Fry hosted by the Knights of Columbus. The menu includes catfish filets, fish tacos, tilapia filets, vegetable lasagna and more! All are welcome!

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will also be held at 5:15pm in the church on Fridays during Lent. (6pm Taizé Stations of the cross on April 7, no Stations service on Good Friday.)

Seder Meal

The St. John Seder Meal will be on Tuesday, April 11, at 6:30pm in the St. John Church basement. All are welcome! A donation of a canned food item is suggested.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL ACTION

By Susan Tabor, Social Concerns Committee

In this Lenten time of self-examination and growth, it is also useful to examine our consciences in light of social sin. Below you will find an examination of conscience in light of Catholic social teaching from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

Supplementary Questions to Examine Conscience in Light of Catholic Social Teaching

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- Do I respect the life and dignity of every human person from conception through natural death?
- Do I recognize the face of Christ reflected in all others around me whatever their race, class, age, or abilities?
- Do I work to protect the dignity of others when it is being threatened?
- Am I committed to both protecting human life and to ensuring that every human being is able to live in dignity?

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

- Do I try to make positive contributions in my family and in my community?
- Are my beliefs, attitudes, and choices such that they strengthen or undermine the institution of the family?
- Am I aware of problems facing my local community and involved in efforts to find solutions? Do I stay informed and make my voice heard when needed?
- Do I support the efforts of poor persons to work for change in their neighborhoods and communities? Do my attitudes and interactions empower or disempower others?

Rights and Responsibilities

- Do I recognize and respect the economic, social, political, and cultural rights of others?
- Do I live in material comfort and excess while remaining insensitive to the needs of others whose rights are unfulfilled?
- Do I take seriously my responsibility to ensure that the rights of persons in need are realized?
- Do I urge those in power to implement programs and policies that give priority to the human dignity and rights of all, especially the vulnerable?

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

- Do I give special attention to the needs of the poor and vulnerable in my community and in the world?
- Am I disproportionately concerned for my own good at the expense of others?
- Do I engage in service and advocacy work that protects the dignity of poor and vulnerable persons?

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

- As a worker, do I give my employer a fair day's work for my wages? As an owner, do I treat workers fairly?
- Do I treat all workers with whom I interact with respect, no matter their position or class?
- Do I support the rights of all workers to adequate wages, health insurance, vacation and sick leave? Do I affirm their right to form or join unions or worker associations?
- Do my purchasing choices take into account the hands involved in the production of what I buy? When possible, do I buy products produced by workers whose rights and dignity were respected?

Solidarity

- Does the way I spend my time reflect a genuine concern for others?
- Is solidarity incorporated into my prayer and spirituality? Do I lift up vulnerable people throughout the world in my prayer, or is it reserved for only my personal concerns?
- Am I attentive only to my local neighbors or also those across the globe?
- Do I see all members of the human family as my brothers and sisters?

Care for God's Creation

- Do I live out my responsibility to care for God's creation?
- Do I see my care for creation as connected to my concern for poor persons, who are most at risk from environmental problems?
- Do I litter? Live wastefully? Use energy too freely? Are there ways I could reduce consumption in my life?
- Are there ways I could change my daily practices and those of my family, school, workplace, or community to better conserve the earth's resources for future generations?

STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING

WEEKLY PARISH GIVING

Our fiscal year is July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017
Information below reflects donations received
July 1, 2016 through March 12, 2017.

Budgeted weekly amount	\$27,403.84
Average weekly amount	\$28,189.75
Budgeted YTD	\$1,013,942.08
Actual YTD	\$1,043,020.84
Net OVERAGE	\$29,078.76
Change from last week.....	+7,755.01

ONLINE GIVING

We are grateful for your support of St. John Parish. Our online giving program allows you to make contributions to St. John without writing checks or worrying about cash donations. You may set up automatic contributions and change the timing or the amount of your gift at any time. You may also make pledges and manage your contributions to the pledge amount, and you may make one-time donations to special causes. Visit sjevangelist.com/giving for more information or to set up and manage your account today!

Contact Cris Denning at cdenning@saint-johns.net or by phone at **(785) 843-0109** if you have any questions.

FAITH FORMATION

THE MARRIAGE COURSE

Married and engaged couples, it's not too late to join in! Next meeting is **March 23**—see sjevangelist.com/marriage-course.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (aka Atrium) First Communion Extra sessions will meet on the following Thursdays evenings: March 30, April 6 and April 20 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. These sessions meet in the Paulina House located at 200 W. 13th Street. The children will need to attend their regular Atrium session as well as all the extra sessions.

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend the parent sessions to be held the same days and times in the Good Shepherd House located at 202 W. 13th Street.

ST. JOHN CAFÉ

Join us **this Sunday, March 19, from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m.** in the St. Bosco Room, in the lower level of St. John School. St. John Café is an opportunity to have time in fellowship with your fellow parishioners in a relaxed environment with good coffee, pastries, and engaging conversation on the Catholic faith moderated by one of the parish priests.

THE WORLD JESUS KNEW

Class with Fr. Barnabas meets **Tuesday, March 128 at 7pm** (encore Thurs., March 30, at 2pm) in the church basement.

More information, including course dates and materials, can be found at www.sjevangelist.com.

STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE

ST. JOHN SERVES LINK

St. John next serves at LINK, the Lawrence Inter-denominational Nutrition Kitchen, on **Thursday, March 30**.

If you can help by donating food or serving, please find a sign-up sheet by the church entrances or contact Vicki McMurray at mcmurray@sunflower.com

GABRIEL PROJECT

On Saturday, April 8th, Gabriel Project will host a training/formation day for volunteers. Gabriel Project is a ministry of the Archdiocese Pro-Life Office, providing help to pregnant women in need. This "Good Samaritan" approach toward helping women in need is confidential and non-judgmental.

HIS HANDS MINISTRY

His Hands, St. John's ministry to those who are elderly and those who live with disability in our parish, is trying to find someone a ride to Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass. The person lives on John Doy Court, in the vicinity of Peterson Road. If you can help in this way, please contact Susan Tabor, the His Hands service coordinator, at **(785) 865-9949** or souljourner@sbcglobal.net. Thank you!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



THE LENTEN FISH FRY IS BACK! Every Friday during Lent, join us from 5-7pm in the church basement for a fish fry hosted by the Knights of Columbus!

The next Knights of Columbus Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 13, Social and dinner, provided by the Knights, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Location is the basement of St. John Church. Our council meetings are held the second Thursday of each month. Anybody interested in becoming a Knight should contact Grand Knight Darin Denning at **(785) 760-0788**.

On the first Friday of each month, the Knights host a rosary in St. John Church starting at 6:30 p.m. All are invited to attend!



Cemetery Clean Up



Tootsie Roll Fundraiser



Kitchen Duty



Mowing and Planting

The Knights of Columbus Council #1372 is very active in service to the St. John community and the city of Lawrence. If you are a male over the age of 18 and would like to join the Knights, contact Darin Denning at (785) 760-0788.

STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER

PARISH PRAYER LIST

The "Prayer List" includes the most recent information that the Simon Parish Center has about a parishioner and/or their family member. Contact the Simon Parish Center to request someone for the "Prayer List" and be sure to update the Parish Center monthly regarding their condition or the name will be removed.

Frank Acinger, brother of Bernadette West
Nicole Allensworth
Grace Austin
Gayla Barnes
Samantha Bell
Remi Brown
Chris Crandon
Matthew Decker
Linda Erp, mother of Emily Vigne
Mary Felton
Coleman File
Ed Garza
Kenneth Gilbert
Mark Grosdidier
Buddy Hadl
Terry Hadl
Betty Hanna
Jenny Hernandez
Jessie Hernandez
Dianne Hofman
Kevin Hoover
Bob Holek
Barb Marden
Theophilus Obiefule
Allan Otter, brother of Norb Otter
Julie Patterson, niece of Norb & Jeanette Otter
CB Riling
Mark Salaman
Natalie Salisbury
Julia Scott, friend of Monica Cordova
Mary Kay Seidl
Nikki Shrode
Gerald Simon
Chuck Umscheid
Angelica Villa
Cindy Vasquez, sister of Gina Hodges
Dick Volmer, uncle of Jane Arnold
Greg Walker, brother of Ted Walker
Christy Walters, friend of Bev Mater
Tasha Williams
John Woods

Please join our St. John prayer chain to lend your voices and thoughts for those in need. For more information contact Lois Mersmann at:

lmersmann@saint-johns.net

MASS INTENTIONS: MARCH 20—26

Monday: 7:30amMaureen Osborne †
Tuesday: 7:30am.....Elizabeth Denault †
Wednesday: 7:30am.....Edna Zillner †
Thursday: 7:30am.....John Carlos †
Friday: 7:30amYouth of Our Parish
Saturday: 8:00am Peace
4:30pmFr. Daniel Lynch
Sunday: 7:00am..... Susan Gelvin †
8:30am.....Don Shoulberg †
11:00amChildren in Need of Adoption
2:00pm (Sp.) St. John Parish
5:00pmUrban Simon †

ATTENTION WOMEN SINGERS

Threshold Choir is a national women's organization with a local chapter of women from several faiths here in Lawrence. We provide ease and comfort through singing to those on the threshold of living and dying. We seek to provide a calm, focused presence with gentle voices to various local senior homes and hospices. To join our simple practice sessions, contact Jean Drumm at **(785) 841-6067**.

WOMEN'S PRAYER & REFLECTION GROUP

Women's Prayer and Reflection Group meets at 6:30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month to be prayerfully inspired by biblical women and the third Tuesday of the month to be inspired by women saints. Join us any time, no preparation necessary. We meet in the St John School Library. For more information, please contact Beth Fox **785-840-5561** or Cheryl Hicklin **785-691-5607**.

QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER GROUP

Besiege Heaven with Prayer: Storm Heaven with the Rosary
Join us each Tuesday during Lent at 5:30 pm at the church for one hour. We have the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and other prayers. "When two or more are joined together, Our Lord is there with us."

ST. MONICA'S PRAYER GROUP

This prayer group meets every Monday at 12:00 noon in the Padre Pio Chapel to pray for our children and grandchildren. In addition to the prayers to St. Monica, we pray the rosary and other prayers for special intentions. Everyone is welcome!



St. John Garage Sale: Saturday, April 1

Please help us with our school garage sale. We need lots of good items to sell on April 1. We will be accepting all items in good shape but please, no adult clothing or large TV sets. More information to follow; collection of items starts March 27. Thank you!

St. John Trivia Night: Friday, April 21

Put together your team for a fun night of trivia on April 21 at St. John School in the St. Bosco Room. Beer and wine will be available for purchase as part of this fundraiser. If you don't have a team, we can put you with one!

2017-2018 School Council:

LeMarie Gilbert, President; Jimmy McDonald; Karen Peltier; Mike McDonald; Caroline Bennett
Mary Menendez, Parish Council representative; Fr. Jeff Ernst; Mrs. Pat Newton

Visit online at sjevangelist.com/school, call (785) 843-9511 or email Mrs. Pat Newton, Principal, at newton@saint-johns.net for more information and to schedule a tour for you and your student!

ST. JOHN YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Wednesday, March 29: The Rock Meets

No meeting over Spring Break—We will meet next on March 29 from 6:45-8:00pm in the Bosco Room; come as early as 6:30 to hang out!

HIGH SCHOOL

Saturday, March 25: DESTINATION: UNKNOWN

STUDENTS, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING ON THIS EVENT, RSVP NOW TO KAYLEE OR YOUR GROUP LEADER!
YOU don't know where we will be going, but we do, and it is going to be an AWESOME service experience!
We will meet at St. John in the morning and end our day together with dinner. Ask your group leader for more details, or text/call Kaylee at 316-644-5493.

Sunday, April 2: Discipleship Groups Meet

Students, contact your group leaders if you need to know when and where you are meeting this week!

Summer trip applications available now!

Visit sjevangelist.com/youth to register now for Steubenville South in Alexandria, Louisiana (June 23-27) and Prayer and Action in Osage City (July 9-14). If you're in a small group, turn your application into your group leader

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- Visit formed.org with a web browser
- Click on Register (lower right of page)
- Enter Parish Access Code: **adf3aa**
- Enter your email and create a password (you need this to login later)
- Enjoy and share with others in our local community!



PARISH INFORMATION

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Come receive the sacrament of reconciliation in the Padre Pio chapel during any of the following times during Lent:

- Monday:** 11:00am-1:00pm
- Wednesday:** 11:00am-1:00pm, 6:00-8:00pm
- Friday:** 11:00am-1:00pm
- Saturday:** 2:30-4:00pm

Or by appointment. Call (785) 843-0109 to schedule, or email:

frjeff@saint-johns.net fbarnabas@saint-johns.net

ST. JOHN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pastoral Council

Frank Lemus, chair	Sarah Hartsig	Chris Wenger
Mary Menendez	Sean Smith	Nancy Albrecht
Brian Walter	Lily Romero	Bob Trepinski

Finance Council

Brad Finkeldei, chair	Teresa Kempf	Brian Green
Vince Romero	Meredith Lang	Chris Wenger

2017 ST. JOHN MEXICAN FIESTA SCHOLARSHIP

These scholarships are offered to qualifying students of Mexican descent from the Lawrence Catholic community who wish to pursue or continue a higher education either at a college, technical or trade school.

Applicants must complete the financial assistance application form that is available at the St. John Parish office or by contacting Michael Ramirez either at 843-3801 or ramirezmarj@hotmail.com.

These forms must be completed and returned to the parish office by April 3, 2017.

MINISTERS MAR. 25-26

LECTORS

Saturday
4:30pm..... L1: M Head; L2: MJ Hobbs

Sunday
7:00amL1: B Kish; L2: C Winkelbauer
8:30am L1: J Wyatt; L2: E Dvorske
11:00am..... L1: M Head; L2: T Edgecomb
5:00pm..... L1: MJ Hobbs; L2: C Phipps

ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday
4:30pm.....G Ohlmacher

Sunday
7am.....Volunteers
8:30am..... S Liu, R Dvorske
11:00am..... J Green, M Green
5pmL Schmidt, O Schmidt

CANTORS

Saturday
4:30pm..... C Watgen

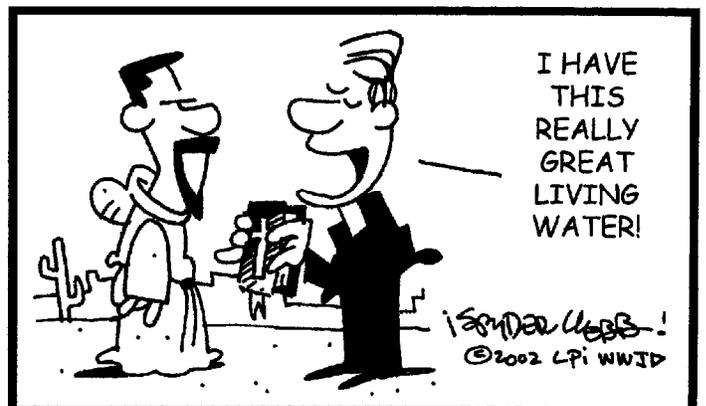
Sunday
7:00am M Conn
8:30am J Krones

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Saturday
4:30pm..... D&K Guth, L Heiserman, A Hewitt,
..... B Johnson, J Koster

Sunday
7:00am L Wustefeld, J Grzymala-Busse, B Harmon
8:30am K Kohnke, K Ostrander, Y Ruder, L Scott,
..... M Steichen, B Volz, J Dvorske
11:00am.....A Brill, C Buchheister, B DeWitt, C&D Ehrlich,
..... J Evers, C Garcia
5:00pm..... M LeGresley, C Malone, A McCabe,
..... S Murray, J Weeks, VOLUNTEER

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



EVENING OF ART & ADORATION



See a full gallery of images from the evening at the website: www.sjevangelist.com — photos by Kaylee Butler

JUSTICE MATTERS

WORKING FOR JUSTICE IN LAWRENCE AND DOUGLAS COUNTY

Apologies to Russ Johnson, CEO of Lawrence Memorial Hospital, who was incorrectly identified as the author of the March 12th Justice Matters bulletin article. The article which was not complete in the bulletin was written by Pat Lechtenberg and would have mentioned Russ Johnson of LMH and Dave Johnson of Bert Nash as having announced improved and expanded services at LMH for those with mental illness who go to the Emergency Department. The following is the rest of the article from the March 12 bulletin.

Russ Johnson, CEO of LMH, and Dave Johnson, CEO of Bert Nash, announced at the March 1 County Commission meeting they will be cooperatively providing improved and expanded services in a 1,500 sq. ft. area within the hospital near the present Emergency Department in September of this year. This space will be a calming area with recliners in an observation area and 4 beds in safe rooms that will be more comfortable and safer than what is now available.

This is a good first step. Is it enough? There is an urgent need for immediate and appropriate short-term responses to mental health crises for stabilization and coordinated treatment leading to recovery.

Possible solutions will be proposed at the Nehemiah Action Assembly this year on five issues: Mental Health, Affordable Housing, Childhood Trauma, Alternatives to Incarceration and Racial Equality. For more information www.justicemattersinkansas.org or contact Joe Snyder joesnyder42@gmail.com or Pat Lechtenberg plek10berg@aol.com Parishioners, if you have not yet been invited to the Nehemiah Action Assembly, please consider this your invitation and let us know how many tickets you need. The doors open at 6 pm and the program begins at 6:30 pm at the Lied Center on Thursday, March 30.

For more information about Justice Matters and the issues we are currently researching and studying visit the website www.justicemattersinkansas.net. You can also contact either Joe Snyder joesnyder@gmail.com or Pat Lechtenberg plek10berg@aol.com.



MUSICA, CORO, MUSICA

¿Te gusta cantar? ¿Tocas algún instrumento musical, o te gustaría aprender? Ven a practicar con nosotros, comunícate al **(785) 218-1511**.

CADA LUNES EN TODO EL AÑO

A las 8 de la noche rezamos el Santo Rosario, para pedir por nuestras necesidades y por los que amamos; también si alguno de sus parientes fallece podemos hacer el novenario, nos vemos los lunes en LA CAPILLA DEL PADRE PIO, frente a las veladoras.

PLATICAS PARA BAUTIZAR

Cada primer sábado del mes de 6:00 a 9:00 de la noche, sin niños, llamar antes para anotar su asistencia.

RECICLAGE

Trae tus latas de aluminio y ayuda a tu Parroquia, por un mundo más limpio, déjalas atrás de la oficina y ponle para María Mota. Gracias.

LA FE SE PUEDE ALIMENTAR

Hermano, a veces te sientes triste o con necesidad de Dios, ven yo te puedo acompañar a orar, nos podemos ver en la Iglesia o en la oficina. Estoy para ayudarte. Oro por todos, bendiciones María Mota.

CLASE PREBAUTISMAL

La clase pre-bautismal es **cada segundo sábado del mes** en un salón del Ministerio Hispano. Es obligatorio registrarse primero en la oficina parroquial llamando a Jessie al tel. 913 321 1958.



Las lecturas de la semana del 19 de marzo de 2017

- Domingo:** Ex 17, 3-7/Sal 95, 1-2. 6-9/Rom 5, 1-2. 5-8/Jn 4, 5-42 o 4, 5-15. 19-26. 39. 40-42
- Lunes:** 2 Sm 7, 4-5. 12-14. 16/Sal 89, 2-5. 27. 29/Rom 4, 13. 16-18. 22/Mt 1, 16. 18-21. 24 o Lc 2, 41-51
- Martes:** Dn 3, 25. 34-43/Sal 25, 4-5. 6. 7. 8-9/Mt 18, 21-35
- Miércoles:** Dt 4, 1. 5-9/Sal 147, 12-13. 15-16. 19-20/Mt 5, 17-19
- Jueves:** Jr 7, 23-28/Sal 95, 1-2. 6-9/Lc 11, 14-23
- Viernes:** Os 14, 2-10/Sal 81, 6-11. 14. 17/Mc 12, 28-34
- Sábado:** Is 7, 10-14; 8, 10/Sal 40, 3-4. 18-21 /Heb 10, 4-10/Lc 1, 26-38
- Domingo siguiente:** 1 Sm 16, 1. 6-7. 10-13/Sal 23, 1-6/Ef 5, 8-14/ Jn 9, 1-41 o 9, 1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

19 de marzo de 2017

3er DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

Por propia experiencia nos damos cuenta de que en nuestra sociedad actual es muy difícil conversar cara a cara a causa de la tecnología moderna. Por esa razón cabe que nos preguntemos lo siguiente. ¿Qué tan seguido durante el día me detengo simplemente a conversar con alguien? ¿Cuántos mensajes envío por mi celular al día? ¿Cuántas veces escucho atentamente a la otra persona? Conversaciones genuinas son difíciles de tener en estos tiempos, estamos perdiendo la oportunidad de encontrarnos el uno con el otro. Lo moderno de la tecnología nos está arrastrando muchas veces a solo vernos por "FaceTime".

Esto no fue así con la samaritana del Evangelio, ella y Jesús si se detuvieron a conversar y a escucharse uno al otro en un diálogo genuino. "Si conocieras el don de Dios y quién es el que te pide de beber, tú le pedirías a él, y él te daría agua viva" (Jn 4, 10). La conversación continuó hasta llegar al punto de que la mujer fue a su pueblo llevando la buena noticia de lo que había descubierto. Pero, a nosotros ¿qué nos dice todo esto? ¿Cómo tener una conversación con Jesús? Bueno, seguramente el primer paso es salir de nuestra comodidad para buscar un espacio para el diálogo. Los samaritanos lo hicieron y llegaron a la siguiente conclusión. "Ya no creemos por lo que tú nos has contado, pues nosotros mismos lo hemos oído y sabemos que él es, de veras, el salvador del mundo" (Jn 4, 42). Hoy es el tiempo para encontrarnos y conversar en familia, con amigos y de escuchar a los que más nos necesitan. ¡No perdamos el tiempo, la mujer samaritana es nuestro ejemplo a seguir!

3er DOMINGO DE CUARESMA

Recuerdo con gran alegría cuando conocí a su Santidad el Papa Juan Pablo II. Fue en Guadalajara, Jalisco, México. Era su primer viaje a este país y para mí un encuentro que cambió mi vida para siempre. Yo jamás pensé que conocería a tan importante personaje. Su figura, sonrisa y carisma me arrebataron el corazón. Me imagino que te habrá pasado lo mismo alguna vez que has conocido a alguien importante. Todo cambia y nunca te olvidas. Son los grandes regalos que Dios nos concede para poder transformar nuestra vida y verlo a él en el camino. La liturgia de hoy en este Tercer Domingo de Cuaresma nos ilumina con un gran encuentro.

La mujer samaritana tiene un encuentro con una persona formidable: Jesús. Y veamos que él no era un simple viajero con sed. Por esta simple razón la mujer jamás olvida este encuentro. ¿Qué vio ella en él? ¿Por qué no tuvo miedo al diálogo? ¿Cuándo nos ha pedido Jesús agua? Año tras año escuchamos este relato, pensando quizá que este Evangelio es largo pero sin darnos cuenta de que toma tiempo conocer a Jesús: ¡toda nuestra vida! La enseñanza ahora es saber que, si de verdad hacemos diálogo con Jesús, nunca seremos los mismos. La oración, el ayuno y las buenas obras que estamos invitados a hacer todos los días en esta Cuaresma son claves para continuar o dar comienzo a un encuentro vivo con Dios. Por experiencia propia sabemos que con frecuencia simplemente hablábamos por hablar. Analicemos el diálogo de Jesús y la samaritana y tomemos nota de la gran apertura de corazón; de lo genuino de la conversación. De hecho, esta apertura es la clave de la transformación.



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