

**Jesus said,
“I say to you, you are Peter,
and upon this rock
I will build my church,
and the gates of the netherworld
shall not prevail against it.”**

Matthew 16:18

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 23, 2020

TRUSTING GOD'S WISDOM

Over the past several weeks, Matthew's Gospel has shown us a variety of Jesus' miracles: multiplying fish and bread, walking on water, and expelling demons. Thousands of people have witnessed Jesus' miraculous powers. Yet today, when Peter professes his faith in Jesus as the Messiah, Jesus swears him to secrecy. We might wonder at Jesus' gag order after his very public miracles. Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans captures our curiosity: "How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!" Today's readings ask us to have faith in a marvelous God who guides us in ways we cannot fully understand. The readings from Isaiah and the Gospel both show us times when the Lord designates earthly leaders. Eliakim and Peter are fallible men, yet God entrusts them with far-reaching, even eternal, responsibility. Trusting God's wisdom, we pray for our leaders and join together to worship the Lord.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In a dramatic moment, Jesus gives Simon a new name: Peter, the rock. The account of Simon's new name is told differently in other Gospels. In John and Mark, Jesus renames Simon upon first meeting him and calling him to be one of the Twelve. Here in Matthew's account, however, Jesus changes Simon into Peter only after he professes his faith in Jesus as the Messiah. Peter's experience helps us reflect on dramatic moments in our own lives: "What is a personal moment that affected me so radically that I seemed to become a new person? What transformative experience changed my name, either literally or figuratively?"

Sometimes a name change is built into major life moments, naturally flowing from birth, adoption, Confirmation, profession of religious vows, or marriage. But imagine if someone gave you a new name, without any warning, and without consulting you. Renaming someone is an extraordinary act. Jesus surely knows this, and renames only one of his disciples. Simon is the only disciple Jesus sets apart in this way. While the Gospels gradually reveal many of Simon Peter's character flaws, we constantly keep in mind the day Jesus called him rock and entrusted him with the path to salvation.

CALLED BY NAME

Jesus never revokes Peter's keys to the kingdom of heaven, even after Peter denies him during the Passion of the Lord. Jesus' call is as immutable as stone. And so it is with each of us. At Baptism, the very first question the minister asks is "What name do you give your child?" As we are reborn in the waters of Baptism, in the name of Jesus, we receive God's call to live in the light of Christ. Our call is irrevocable. We can do nothing to erase God's personal call. Even if we should deny Christ himself, as Peter did, the Lord continues to love us and to desire our own love in return.

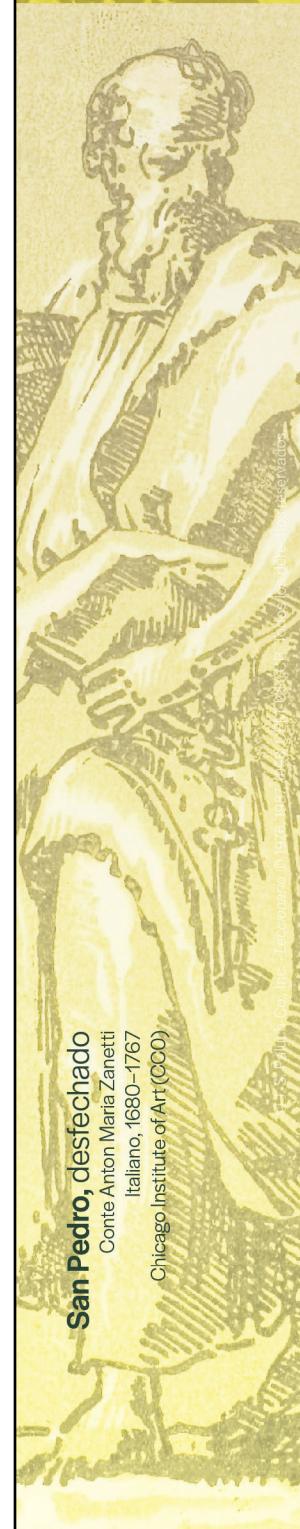
TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 22:19–23
Psalm 138:1–3, 6, 8
Romans 11:33–36
Matthew 16:13–20



Jesús dijo: "Yo te digo a ti que tú eres Pedro y sobre esta piedra edificaré mi Iglesia. Los poderes del infierno no prevalecerán sobre ella".

Mateo 16:18



Vigésimo Primer

Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

23 de agosto de 2020

CONFIAR EN LA SABIDURÍA DE DIOS

En las últimas semanas, el Evangelio de Mateo nos mostró una variedad de milagros de Jesús: multiplicar pescado y pan, caminar sobre el agua y expulsar demonios. Millas de personas han sido testigos de los poderes milagrosos de Jesús. Sin embargo, hoy, cuando Pedro profesa su fe en Jesús como el Mesías, Jesús le ordena que lo mantenga en secreto. Podríamos preguntarnos sobre la instrucción de Jesús de guardar silencio después de sus milagros muy públicos. La Carta de San Pablo a los Romanos captura nuestra curiosidad: “¡Cuán inescrutables son sus juicios y cuán inescrutables son sus caminos!” Las lecturas de hoy nos piden que tengamos fe en un Dios maravilloso que nos guíe de maneras que no podemos entender completamente. Las lecturas de Isaías y del Mateo nos muestran momentos cuando el Señor designados a los líderes terrenales. Eliakim y Pedro son hombres falibles, sin embargo, Dios les confía una responsabilidad de largo alcance, incluso eterna. Confiamos en la sabiduría de Dios, oramos por nuestros líderes y nos unimos para adorar al Señor.

¿QUÉ HAY EN UN NOMBRE?

En un momento impresionante, Jesús da a Simón un nuevo nombre: Pedro, que significa piedra. La historia del nuevo nombre de Simón se cuenta de manera diferente en otros evangelios. En Juan y Marcos, Jesús da el nuevo nombre a Simón después de su primer encuentro e invitándolo para ser uno de los Doce. Sin embargo, aquí en la historia de Mateo, Jesús cambia el nombre de Simón a Pedro solo después que Simón profesa su fe en Jesús como el Mesías. La experiencia de Pedro nos ayuda a reflexionar en momentos impresionantes de nuestra propia vida: “¿Qué momento personal me afectó radicalmente que parecía que me convertía en una nueva persona? ¿Qué experiencia transformadora cambió mi nombre, ya sea literal o figurativamente?”

Algunas veces un cambio de nombre sucede en momentos importantes, naturalmente después del nacimiento, adopción, Confirmación, profesión de votos religiosos, o el matrimonio. Pero imagina si alguien te dio algún nombre, sin ningún aviso o sin consultártelo. Renombrar a alguien es un acto extraordinario. Jesús seguramente sabía esto, y renombra solo a uno de sus discípulos. Simón es el único discípulo al que Jesús le hace esto. Al tiempo que vamos leyendo los evangelios, podemos notar varias de las debilidades y defectos de Pedro, y también constantemente recordamos el día que Jesús lo llamó “piedra” y le confió el camino de la salvación.

LLAMADO POR NOMBRE

Jesús nunca le quita a Pedro las llaves del Reino de los Cielos, aún después que Pedro lo negó durante su Pasión. La llamada de Jesús es inmutable, como una piedra. Y así es con cada uno de nosotros. En el Bautismo, una de las preguntas que el sacerdote o celebrante hace es: “¿qué nombre quieren darle al niño?” Al renacer de las aguas del Bautismo, en el nombre de Jesús, recibimos la llamada de Dios para vivir en la luz de Cristo. Nuestra llamada es irrevocable. No podemos hacer nada para borrar la llamada personal de Dios. Aun cuando debamos negar a Cristo mismo, como Pedro lo hizo, el Señor continúa amándonos y deseando nuestro amor a cambio.

LECTURAS DE HOY

- Isaías 22:19–23
- Salmo 138 (137):1–3, 6, 8
- Romanos 11:33–36
- Mateo 16:13–20

Our Parish Financial Corner

Update

Sunday 8-16-2020:

Envelopes/checks:	\$ 7,342.00
Plate:	629.00
Online Giving 8-16-2020:	\$ 13,861.00
Total for 8-16-2020:	\$ 21,832.00
JPII Debt Envelopes/checks:	\$ 631.00
JPII Debt online:	\$ 2,083.00
Total JPII 08-16-2020:	\$ 2,714.00
Total Misc. Income:	\$ 300.00
Feast of the Assumption:	\$ 1,206.00

JPII
Parish Debt Elimination Campaign
August payment: \$19,200.00
Balance on Debt: \$179,028.72



Prayer to Saint Joseph for intercession in
Financial Difficulty

Dear Saint Joseph, You were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with fatherly compassion upon those parish families in their anxiety over their present inability to support their families.

Please help them to find gainful employment very soon, so that this heavy burden of concern will be lifted from their hearts and that they are soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to their care. Help us to guard against bitterness and discouragement, so that we may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessings from God. Amen.

Dear Parishioners,

For your convenience we have provided several ways you can send us your offering.

- Safely drop off in the office between the hours 9 am to 2:30 pm Mon-Thurs.
- Drop in the mail slot in the Serra Building which is checked daily
- Mail in to St. Peter & St. Paul, 9135 Banyan St. Alta Loma, 91737
- Online giving via our website stpeterstpaul.com
- Through your bank

Thank you for your continued support of our parish and we all pray that we will be back together in our pews very soon. May God bless you and keep you and your families safe.

In Christ's Service

Father Henry



Diocesan Development Fund

Diocese Goal: \$99,975.00
Pledges Made: \$130,393.00
Gifts Received: \$97,485.20
Donors: 433
Percent of Goal: 97.51 %
As of: Aug 16, 2020 6:52PM

23 August 2020

Catholic Spirituality	Mass Schedule & Intentions
 <p>Susan Vogt—Author, Speaker, Coach Helping couples & families foster their deepest beliefs.</p>	<p>Saturday, August 15 8:00 AM †Alex & Army Centurioni 4:00 PM †Erminda Cruz Ang †Peter & Lilian Collins †Rafael Contreras</p>
<p>Marriage Moments & Parenting Pointers</p>  <p>TIME: During Covid-19 you may feel you have more free time or the opposite, "I don't have enough time." Either way, we all have 24 hours in a day. It's a matter of prioritizing. What's the most important thing you can do for your beloved today?</p>	<p>Sunday, August 16 7:30 AM Carmen & Leo 9:00 AM †Laura Kaup Purna Seri Chandra 11:00 AM †Patricia Gallardo †Paula Catharina †Arthur Madril Valencia Martin & Lorene Santoyo - Happy Anniversary 1:00 PM †Angelina Rodriguez †Jaime Rodriguez 5:00 PM People of the Parish</p>
<p>Heaven on Earth ... Friday's from 7 pm to 8 pm</p>  <p>Sign Up for Adoration During the COVID - 19 pandemic</p>	<p>Monday, August 17 7:30 AM †Aurora Torres †Evangeline Angeles</p> <p>Tuesday, August 18 7:30 AM Bob & Diana Linden - Happy Anniversary †Jeanie Shelton</p> <p>Wednesday, August 19 7:30 AM †Paulino Gutierrez †Mary Polimeni</p> <p>Thursday, August 20 7:30 AM †Patricia Holder Rene Dijamco - Happy Birthday</p> <p>Friday, August 21 7:30 AM †James Bertsch †Charles H. Creighton</p> <p>Saturday, August 22 4:00 PM People of the Parish</p> <p>Sunday, August 23 7:30 AM Pam Jipp †Roberto C. Urete Jr. 9:00 AM Albino Valenzuela †Beatrice Escobar 11:00 AM †Julia Ramirez Tagorda †Bernardino Oliveira †Ralph (Ralfi) Delgado 1:00 PM Maria Quiroz y Familia †Jaime Rodriguez †Angelina Rodriguez 5:00 PM Alexis Zarate - Happy Birthday †Roberto C. Urete Jr.</p>
 <p>Divine Mercy in My Soul from the Diary of</p> <p>(337) November 22, 1934. +On one occasion, my spiritual director [Father Sopocko] told me to look carefully into myself and to examine whether I had any attachment to some particular object or creature, or even to myself, or whether I engaged in useless chatter, "for all these things," [he said,] "get in the way of the Lord Jesus, who wants complete freedom in directing your soul. God is jealous of our hearts and wants us to love Him alone."</p>	<p>Tagalog</p> <p>Matthew 16:18</p> <p>At sinasabi ko sa iyo, ikaw ay si Pedro,^[a] at sa ibabaw ng batong^[b] ito ay itatayo ko ang aking iglesia at ang kapangyarihan ng kamatayan ay hindi magtagumpay laban sa kanya.</p> <p>You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.</p>

Please visit my blog www.priestmbp.com

To stay connected with you, the People of God.

May God help you to find whichever is lost in your life.

I just found some words and sentences instead of that missing back pack.

THE PRIEST OF THE MISSING BACK PACK

"I DID NOT FIND MY BACK PACK, BUT I FOUND MANY REASONS TO WRITE ABOUT THE LORD..."



St. Vincent de Paul's Corner

National SVDP has asked that our helpline be closed
For the safety of everyone due to the pandemic

For immediate assistance, dial 211 or Catholic Charities (909) 880-3625
Questions about SVDP? Contact:

Scott, sandnsky8@gmail.com or Fred, Firetruckfreddy@earthlink.net

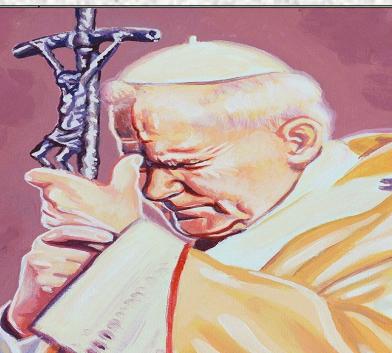
Food donations for those in need in our community can be placed at any time in the container in front of the office. A portion will be distributed to the food pantry at His Hands at St. Joseph's church in Upland. Questions about food donations? Sherry B. Busiabaer@outlook.com

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

Matthew 25: 31-46

*I plead with you,
never give up on hope,
never doubt,
never tire,
and never become
discouraged.
Be not afraid.*

{Pope John Paul II}



FOR PEACE

Lord God, our Father,
you seek the welfare of your children
and not their destruction:
direct our wills towards the peace
for which we yearn;
and let there be peace among the nations,
peace in our land,
peace in our homes,
and peace in our hearts.

Amen.



The Military Ministry at St Peter St Paul is currently seeking parishioners with family members serving in the military.



Military Ministry Request

The Military Ministry at St. Peter & St. Paul is seeking anyone interested in being part of our team, which will be made up of parishioners who have family members actively serving in the military. As well as, those who have a love for our military and are dedicated to keeping those who have served in our prayers. Activities of this ministry will consist of mailing care packages to military family members of our parishioners, support for families that have a loved one serving in active duty, coordinating with past and present military families for parish events, organizing special Masses and events for the Military holidays and celebrations. If you are interested in being involved in this ministry, please contact: Jonathan & Lynde Peralta (Jonathan @ 951-285-0270, Lynde @ 909-938-3243)

Military Prayer List Please pray for those serving our country

(PFC) Jacob Beaty (AMN) Jacob Beckham (MC) Hadji Cabangcalan (MSG) Carlos Carrasco (LTC) Jeffry Combalecer (PFC) Candace Cordero (SGT) Christian Cortez (SGT) Kurt Rehnburg (SMCCA) Raymund Alvaran (E3) Alexander Jimenez (PFC) Jacob Rivas	(PFC) Christian Lopez (SSG) Kamrin Pavlos (PO) Matthew Peralta (MSG) Victor Sanez (SSG) Jordan Stone (Specialist) Nathan Taylor (Sgt) Riley Villapando (SR) Nicole Woodall (USMC) Joseph Luzzini Daniel Duarte III
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ST. PETER & ST. PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL • WHERE FAITH MEETS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE!

JULY CALENDAR

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY—WEDNESDAY | 8:30 AM—1:30 PM
6-10: SCHOOL OFFICE IS CLOSED



Do you need a *Gift Card* for a Birthday, Anniversary, Clothing, Gas, Food or Everyday items? 

We sell Scrip gift cards for many retailers like Target, Arco, Walmart, Panera Bread, Arco, Starbuck's, etc. Stop by our school office from 8:30-9:30 am Mondays. The gift card rebates (% varies per gift card purchase) support our school. **Not a school family?** **No problem!** You may still buy gift cards to help our general fund or support a school family with their Tuition Support Obligation. See the Office for details.



ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Burt—Principal
Joann Losiale—Preschool Director
Laura Onopa—Business Manager
Maria Trujillo—Administrative Assistant

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE! #SPSPSAINTS

Thank You for Supporting our 31st Saints Gala Online Auction

All proceeds will directly benefit our academic & athletic programs.

In Smaller Classes Students...

Are Part of a Close-Knit Community ♦ Process More & Participate Frequently ♦ Speak Up & Are Higher Achievers Have More One-to-One Time w/Teachers ♦ Are More Likely to Excel in H.S. & Beyond ♦ Help Your Child Succeed in Life.

ENROLL NOW!



† FAITH IN OUR FUTURE! †



**Now Enrolling for SY 2020-21
Preschool - 8th Grade**



"TO BE SAINTS IS NOT A PRIVILEGE FOR THE FEW, BUT A VOCATION FOR EVERYONE" - POPE FRANCIS

Smaller Class Sizes

- Preschool Classes = 12
- Average Grade School Classes = 16:1

Co-curricular Subjects:

- Computers, Music, Art, Spanish, and Sparks®
- Physical Education
- School Library & RC Book Mobile

WCEA/WASC Accredited

- Diocesan & CA Common Core Standards
- Credentialed Teachers
- Weekly School Mass

Accelerated Reader & Math

- ICSL Sports Program
- Before & after school 7 a.m.—6 p.m.
- Catered hot lunch program

Renovated classrooms

- New S.T.E.A.M. Lab
- 100 Mile Club®
- AHA Kids Heart Challenge
- Community Service and Outreach



August

Youth Ministry and Confirmation

Sign up now for all ministries!
 Forms available online at stpeterstpaul.com

Ministries offered by the Youth Office:

Youth Groups:

EDGE

Middle School

Edge is a Catholic middle school youth ministry program. It provides a safe fun place for youth to find solid Catholic community.

LIFE TEEN

High School

Life Teen is a movement within the Roman Catholic Church, Life Teen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

For more information please contact Maggie

Catechism:

Sacramental Prep.



Sacramental Preparation is available for all high school and middle school teens who are seeking to receive their First Communion.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is open for all teens ready to take a step forward in their faith and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your teen must be 14 at the time of enrollment.

For more information please contact Daniel

Young Adults:

RENEWED

Renewed is a young adult group for anyone in their early stage of adulthood.

For more information please contact Maggie

Staff/Hours

Maggie Kelledy-Paroski - Youth Minister ext. 301

Daniel Manriquez - Youth Confirmation Coordinator ext. 300

Suzy Metzgar - Youth Ministry Admin. Assistant ext. 225

(909) 987-9312

Office Hours:

Mon & Tues: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm

Wed & Thurs: Through phone only, use ext. 301 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fri-Sun: CLOSED



Ministry ZOOM Meeting Contacts

St. Joseph Covenant Keepers

Saturday @ 7:30-9:00 am

Contact: Chuck Denise. cfdinise@gmail.com

Adult Bible Study

Wednesday @ 9-10:30 am and 7-8:30 pm

Contact: Jenny Campbell. jcampbell@stpeterstpaul.com

Boy Scout Troop

Monday @ 6:55 pm

Contact: Marc Cobb. Marccobb@verizon.net

*Note: Knights of Columbus meetings are for members only Contact Marc Cobb

Catholic Daughters- Our Lady of Fatima Court #1387

3rd Monday @ 7 pm with rosary at 6:30 pm

Contact: Yvette Weilacker. yweilacker@gmail.com

Hispanic Community

Daily rosary in Spanish

Friday June 5 at 7pm

Contact: Mercedes Aschenbrenner. mercedesasch@icloud.com

St. Vincent de Paul Member Meeting

Wednesday @ 7:00 pm

Contact: Scott Schwartz. sandnsky8@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday @ 10:30-12:00

Contact: Mary Jo Kunkel. mjkunkel55@gmail.com

ACTS

Women - 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 7:00 pm

Men - 3rd Thursday of the month @ 7:00 pm

Contact: Tiffany Wulkopf. tiffanywulkopf@gmail.com or 909-565-3348

Virtual pre-baptism classes

Once a month beginning June

Contact: Aileen Gamalinda for more information. agamalinda@stpeterstpaul.com

**REV. HENRY SSERIISO
PASTOR**

**REV. JUAN SANDOVAL
PAROCHIAL VICAR**

**DEACON
JOHN BARNA**

**DEACON
ROBERT BEIDLE**

Saint Peter and Saint Paul Roman Catholic Church
9135 Banyan Street, Alta Loma, Ca 91737
909-987-9312 FAX 909-980-9404

Faith Formation for Children (Grades 1-5)
Baptism (909) 980-9423

School (Preschool - Grade 8)
(909) 987-7908

During hours the office is closed, call
909-477-3362 for Emergencies.

<http://www.stpeterstpaul.com>
<https://app.flocknote.com/spspaltaloma>
www.facebook.com/spspaltaloma

Regular Parish Office Hours (909) 987-9312

Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - 2:30 pm
Friday Closed

Children's Faith Formation & Baptism (909) 980-9423
Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Or by appointment
CLOSED Fridays

Youth Ministry

Sun: Closed/Mon: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm/ Tues. 1:30 pm 4:30 pm /
Wed: Closed / Thurs: 1:30 pm -
4:30 pm/ Fri: By Appointment / Sat: Closed

**Pray for the dead
and
Fight to the end for the living**

Our Pastoral Clergy / Staff 987-9312

Fr. Henry Sseriiso Ext. 223
sseriiso@stpeterstpaul.com

Fr. Juan Sandoval Ext. 304
jsandoval@stpeterstpaul.com

Deacon John Barna
john.w.barna1969@gmail.com
Deacon Bob Beidle
bob.beidle@gmail.com

Our Parish Office Staff 987-9312

Business Manager	Karen Hein	Ext. 230
IT (Support Specialist)	Jason Cary	
	jcary@stpeterstpaul.com	
Liturgy Administrative Assistant	Carolina Menendez	Ext. 303
Life Teen Music Coordinator	Melissa Acosta	Ext. 227
Matrimonial Sacraments	Aileen Gamalinda	Ext. 231
Music Director	Audrey Donaldson	Ext. 227
Pastoral Care	Debby Leonardo	Ext. 302
	Gloria Rivera	Ext. 222
Parish Admin. Assistant /Bulletin	Alex Zarate	Ext. 242
Parish Office Secretary	Ann Hogan	Ext. 221

Kindness is the Language

Which

THE DEAF CAN HEAR AND THE BLIND CAN SEE

Parish School / Preschool through – 8th grade: 987-7908

Principal – Preschool Director	Kelly Burt	Ext. 235
Business Manager	Laura Onopa	Ext. 245
Administrative Assistant	Maria Trujillo	Ext. 234

Parish Mission Statement

We the people of St. Peter and St. Paul Parish, as members of the Roman Catholic Church, are a sacramental, worshiping community on a journey towards the fulfillment of Christ's Kingdom. We strive to provide a spiritual haven for all people without distinction. We are equally committed to the challenges of the gospel message. We accept its call to ongoing conversion, the use of our gifts for the benefit of our community, and loving service to one another.



We at Saint Peter and Saint Paul Catholic Church are excited and feel very blessed with the arrival of one of our seminarians, Arinze Ezeoke. Arinze will be serving his internship here at St. Peter & St. Paul during his final year of preparation for the priesthood.

Arinze came to join his mother in California in 2009 and with the help of the Holy Spirit, Young Adult Ministry and the Charismatic Renewal movement, he said yes to a call to the priesthood. He began to learn how to listen to God and how God speaks to him in prayer. In his own words, Michael explains: "Without a prayer life, I never would have imagined choosing to discern where God is calling me." During his seminary studies, he has participated in the RCIA process, as well as ministering to those in nursing homes and prisons. He learned about meeting people where they are.

He is a member of Sacred Heart Parish here in Rancho Cucamonga and he has also participated in several events at our parish, including our Corpus Christi Processions. During this coming academic year, Arinze will be an active member of our staff and will be introducing himself as well as participating in the various ministries and apostolates within our parish community.

Please give a warm welcome to our future holy priest, Arinze Ezeoke.



Pope at Mass: “May the Lord help us conquer our fear”

Pope Francis expresses his concern for all of us who are coping with various fears and prays for them during Mass

26 March 2020

By Sr Bernadette M. Reis, fsp

“In these days there's so much suffering. There's a lot of fear.” Pope Francis' thus began the Sacred Liturgy which he offered in the chapel of the Casa Santa Marta on Thursday morning. Then he went on:

“The fear of the elderly who are alone in nursing homes, or hospitals, or in their own homes, and don't know what will happen. The fear of those who don't have regular jobs and are thinking about how to feed their children. They foresee they may go hungry. The fear of many civil servants. At this moment they're working to keep society functioning and they might get sick. There's also the fear, the fears, of each one of us. Each one knows what their own fears are. We pray to the Lord that He might help us to trust, and to tolerate and conquer these fears.”

During his homily, he reflected on how idolatry affects all of our lives. He based his thoughts on the first reading from Exodus 32:7-14.

From the Living God to idols

Pope Francis explained how the chosen people turned into idolaters. They lose patience waiting for Moses to return from the mountain. They “get bored”, the Pope said. A “nostalgia for idolatry” overtakes them.

“It was a true apostasy. From the Living God to idolatry....not knowing how to wait for the Living God. This nostalgia is an illness, which is ours. We begin to walk enthusiastically toward freedom, but then the complaining begins: ‘This is really difficult. It's a desert. I'm thirsty. I want water. I want meat... In Egypt we ate good things. There's nothing here’ .”

Idolatry is selective

The Pope then described how idolatry is “selective”. “It makes you think of the good things that it gives you. But it doesn't allow you to see the bad things”, he said. The chosen people remembered all the good things that were on their tables when they were in Egypt. “But they forgot that it was the table of slavery”, Pope Francis pointed out.

Idolatry takes everything

Idolaters lose everything, the Pope continued. The chosen people handed over all of their gold and silver to make the golden calf. They constructed the golden calf with gifts God had given to them. It was He who had to ask the Egyptians for their gold before they took flight.

“This mechanism also happens to us. When we do things that lead us to idolatry, we become attached to things that distance us from God. We make another god with the gifts that the Lord has given us: with our intelligence, our will, our love, our heart. We use God's very gifts to make idols.”

Idols in our hearts

The crucifixes or images of Our Lady that we have in our houses are not our idols. “They are in our hearts”, the Pope said. Each of us should ask ourselves what idols we have hidden in our hearts. Idolatry can even affect our prayer. After all, the chosen people wanted to worship the idol they made. One way we do this is by changing “the celebration of a sacrament into a secular celebration”, the Pope suggested.

The question today

“What are my idols?” “Where do I hide them?” These are the questions to ask ourselves today, the Pope said, concluding his homily.

“May the Lord not find us at the end of our lives and say to us: ‘You apostatized. You deviated from the way that I marked out. You prostrated yourself before an idol’. We ask the Lord for the grace of recognizing our own idols.”