

**FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED:** Hearing aids for use are in the sacristy—please return them after Mass.

*With joy & happiness we welcome all of you who have come to pray and worship with us. We hope you will find friendship and fellowship in our community and encouragement to face whatever may come in the week ahead. For our guests & visitors, we pray that your stay in Tahoe is wonderful, that you have a safe journey home – and return to us soon.*

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — There is no other name under heaven by which we are to be saved than the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene (Acts 4:8-12).

**Psalm** — The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone (Psalm 118).

**Second Reading** — See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God (1 John 3:1-2).

**Gospel** — I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep (John 10:11-18).

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10  
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30  
 Wednesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20  
 Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20  
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6  
 Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14  
 Sunday: Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22:26-28, 30-32; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**

**WEEK AT A GLANCE**

<b>Saturday April 21 St. Anselm</b>	
<b>5:30 pm</b>	St. Theresa parishioners
<b>Sunday April 22</b>	
<b>8:00 am</b>	Joan Jack (dec) by Colleen & Moni
<b>10:00 am</b>	Karl Schmalfluss (dec) by the Hicks family
<b>12:00 pm</b>	St. Theresa parishioners
<b>7:00 pm</b>	
<b>Monday April 23 St. George; St. Adalbert</b>	
<b>8:00 am</b>	Lindy Hancpol (dec) by Judy & Tom Finn
<b>Tuesday April 24 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen</b>	
<b>8:00 am</b>	Barbara Roach (special intention) by family
<b>Wednesday April 25 St. Mark</b>	
<b>8:00 am</b>	Leo Wittwer, by Barbara Randall
<b>12:00 pm</b>	Danny Camello (dec) by Joe, Paula, April & Alison
<b>Thursday April 26</b>	
<b>8:00 am</b>	Agnes Villa (dec) by her family
<b>Friday April 27</b>	
<b>8:00 am</b>	Barbara Roach (special intention) by family
<b>12:00 pm</b>	Lance Oineza (healing) Cherry & Napoleon
<b>Saturday April 28 St. Peter Chanel; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort</b>	
<b>5:30 pm</b>	The Anthony family & Sophie Zimnox (dec) by Bob Anthony

<b>Monday, April 23</b>	8am Mass; 4pm-5:30pm Bread & Broth meal
<b>Tuesday, April 24</b>	8am Mass; 4:30pm Children Faith Formation; 6:30pm RCIA
<b>Wednesday, April 25</b>	8am Mass; 12noon Mass; 6pm Bread & Broth Board Meeting
<b>Thursday, April 26</b>	8am Mass; 10am Funeral
<b>Friday, April 27</b>	8am & 12noon Masses
<b>Saturday, April 28</b>	10am Quinceañera; 10am 2:30pm First Communion Retreat; 4pm Confessions; 5:30pm Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday, April 29</b>	8am, 10am, 12 noon and 7pm (in Spanish) Masses

**FORMED.org** FAITH FORMATION FOR PARISHIONERS!  
 Now every parishioner can experience hundreds of hours viewing, reading, and listening to the best Catholic content. Enjoy more than 300 episodes of beautiful and compelling video series, feature-length movies, motivating and spiritually-enriching eBooks, and over 40 hours of audio content. **Register your family account by going to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) > and use our parish account (case-sensitive) QKK7X3.**



**DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP**

Wednesdays 10:30a.m. in the Church with the Rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet, and novena prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**STEWARDSHIP IN OUR PARISH**

04/15	Regular Collection	4161.51
	<b>for New Boiler in the Rectory</b>	1395.03

Second collection THIS weekend: **NO SECOND COLLECTION**

Second collection **April 28/29: Catholic Home Missions Appeal (Shared with Black and Indian Missions)**

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**FOR PARISHIONERS ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY**

Phillip Gaston | Corbett Martin | Zachary Martin | Erik Townsend

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL**

Concordia Balong | Bill Barboni | Romie Enriquez | Gene Estepa | Steve Frick | Ophelia Kirvida | Kel Lohmeier | Matthew Morisky | Simon McQuarrie | Byron Melrose | Jamie O'Malley | Cecilia Ramirez | Tony Russo

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

If you would like to add to the prayer list, please send an email with your loved one's name along with your name and phone number to [tahoeatholicbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:tahoeatholicbulletin@gmail.com).

## WHAT'S THE SMOKE FOR?

Dear Johan,

***Would you please settle an argument I am having with my wife: did St. Francis invent the nativity scene or did he not?***

Gentle Reader,

I am all for settling arguments, especially between spouses. I cannot but wonder who will come out on the winning end.

Saint Francis is often credited with the initiation of such popular devotions as the Stations of the Cross and the nativity scene. Though it is true that this medieval saint and his enthusiastic followers popularized these devotions, he did not really invent them. Among some of the oldest depictions of the nativity are a third-century fresco in the Roman catacomb of Priscilla and a fourth-century stone carving on a Roman sarcophagus now housed in a church in Milan. Since those early depictions, the nativity has been ubiquitously frescoed onto church walls, carved into cathedral portals, and painted in prayer books.

The novelty of the nativity scene organized by St. Francis was that it was a living nativity scene and thus it was three-dimensional. According to his biographer, St. Bonaventure, Francis staged his first live nativity scene in the town of Greccio, Italy, in 1223. Francis's special devotion to the nativity scene had two basic reasons. On the one hand, he was inspired by a trip to the Holy Land, when he realized that one did not have to be there to celebrate the important moments in the life of Jesus. With the help of art one could do that fruitfully anywhere in the world. On the other hand, his devotion was encouraged by his disappointment with the celebration of Christmas in his homeland. Using the nativity scene, he wanted to refocus his contemporaries' attention on the reason for the celebration of Christmas. Doesn't that sound like a familiar problem?

Having received the papal blessing, the custom of live nativities spread with the Franciscans throughout the continent. Elaborate reenactments of the story of the nativity developed as a great teaching tool, especially for the illiterate masses. As with many good things, these well-intentioned reenactments quickly started overshadowing the celebration of Christmas. As a result, they were abolished, and the live scenes were replaced with statues. These gradually made their way from church yards and portals into our homes.

So, let's say you are both correct. Though Francis did not invent the nativity scene, he was very important in its popularization.

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Excerpted from What's the Smoke For? And Other Burning Questions about the Liturgy by Johan van Parys © 2014 Order of Saint Benedict, published by Liturgical Press, www.litpress.org. Used by permission.*



## BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASSES

Call or visit the Religious Education Office  
530.544.4788 Find the **2018 SCHEDULE**:  
<http://www.tahoecatholic.com/baptisms>



## PREGNANT ? NEED HELP?

We offer practical help to any women with a crisis pregnancy. We have a special concern for you and your unborn child. For any help with a troubled pregnancy, 544-3533.



## KNIGHT'S CORNER

*"What gifts should I give? To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To our veterans, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect..." Oren Arnold (paraphrased)*

Men of the Parish are you looking for something more in your life? We do men's Catholic Fellowship!

COMING SOON: ST THERESA COMMEMORATIVE KEEPSAKES  
AVAIL FOR SALE TO ALL PARISHONERS FOR A SMALL DONATION.

WATCH THE BACK OF THE CHURCH

MONTHLY MEETING—May 9<sup>th</sup> with Dinner @6pm

PANCAKE BREAKFAST—May 6<sup>th</sup> after the 8 & 10AM Masses  
It always tastes right when cooked by a Knight!

**Become a better version of yourself. Become a knight!**

George Westinghouse (530)-721-1753 will be happy to help you learn more about the Knights of Columbus

## THE AUTHORITY OF COMPASSION

Mostly we think of people with great authority as higher up, far away, hard to reach. But spiritual authority comes from compassion and emerges from deep inner solidarity with those who are "subject" to authority. The one who is fully like us, who deeply understands our joys and pains or hopes and desires, and who is willing and able to walk with us, that is the one to whom we gladly give authority and whose "subjects" we are willing to be.

It is the compassionate authority that empowers, encourages, calls forth hidden gifts, and enables great things to happen. True spiritual authorities are located in the point of an upside-down triangle, supporting and holding into the light everyone they offer their leadership to.

[henrinouwen.org/meditation/the-authority-of-compassion-2/](http://henrinouwen.org/meditation/the-authority-of-compassion-2/)

## THE SHEPHERD AND THE SHEEP

Spiritual leadership is the leadership of the Good Shepherd. As Jesus says, good shepherds know their sheep, and their sheep know them (see John 10:14). There must be a true mutuality between shepherds and their sheep. Good leaders know their own, and their own know them. Between them is mutual trust, mutual openness, mutual care, and mutual love. To follow our leaders we cannot be afraid of them, and to lead our followers we need their encouragement and support.

Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd to show the great intimacy that must exist between leaders and those entrusted to them. Without such intimacy, leadership easily becomes oppressive.

[henrinouwen.org/meditation/the-shepherd-and-the-sheep/](http://henrinouwen.org/meditation/the-shepherd-and-the-sheep/)

## REFLECTIONS

### INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER

April 2018 | For Those who have Responsibility in Economic Matters

That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

MAY 2018 | Evangelization:

The Mission of the Laity That the lay faithful may fulfil their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.

<https://www.popesprayer.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/English-2018-def-temi-3.pdf>

### FILL UP | "Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke up." —Acts 4:8

At the first Christian Pentecost, "all were filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4). After Peter and John were released from prison, the first Christian community gathered to pray, and "the place where they were gathered shook as they prayed. They were filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 4:31). Stephen, the first deacon and the first martyr, was "a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5). Barnabas "was a good man filled with the Holy Spirit and faith" (Acts 11:24). The Lord commands us: "Be filled with the Spirit" (Eph 5:18).

We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit because we may have:

- rationed our reception of the Spirit due to sin, fear, or ignorance (cf Jn 3:34),
- quenched (1 Thes 5:19) or grieved the Spirit (Eph 4:30) through sin and selfishness, or
- had our capacity to receive the Spirit enlarged by the Spirit working in us. Thus, we have more room to receive the Spirit in greater ways, for the Spirit has changed us from petty, narrow, self-centered people to big-hearted, great-souled men and women of God with kingdom-vision.

Consequently, "receive the Holy Spirit" in fullness (Jn 20:22). "Stir into flame the gift of God" that you have received. "The Spirit God has given us is no cowardly spirit, but rather One That makes us strong, loving, and wise" (2 Tm 1:6, 7). Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer:** *Father, may I never limit the Spirit's presence and power in my life.*

**Promise:** *"See what love the Father has bestowed on us in letting us be called children of God! Yet that is what we are." —1 Jn 3:1*

**Praise:** *Praise our risen, eucharistic Lord and Savior! Glory, power, and might be to Him forever and ever.*  
[www.presentationministries.com/obob/obob.asp?lang=en&d=4/22/2018](http://www.presentationministries.com/obob/obob.asp?lang=en&d=4/22/2018)

### BEING HANDED OVER TO SUFFERING

People who live close together can be sources of great sorrow for one another. When Jesus chose his twelve apostles, Judas was one of them. Judas is called a traitor. A traitor, according to the literal meaning of the Greek word for "betraying," is someone who hands the other over to suffering.

The truth is that we all have something of the traitor in us because each of us hands our fellow human beings over to suffering somehow, somewhere, mostly without intending or even knowing it. Many children, even grown-up children, can experience deep anger toward their parents for having protected them too much or too little. When we are willing to confess that we often hand those we love over to suffering, even against our best intentions, we will be more ready to forgive those who, mostly against their will, are the causes of our pain.

[henrinouwen.org/meditation/being-handed-over-to-suffering/](http://henrinouwen.org/meditation/being-handed-over-to-suffering/)

### LAYING DOWN YOUR LIFE FOR YOUR FRIENDS

Good Shepherds are willing to lay down their lives for their sheep (see John 10:11). As spiritual leaders walking in the footsteps of Jesus, we are called to lay down our lives for our people. This laying down might in special circumstances mean dying for others. But it means first of all making our own lives – our sorrows and joys, our despair and hope, our loneliness and experience of intimacy – available to others as sources of new life.

One of the greatest gifts we can give others is ourselves. We offer consolation and comfort, especially in moments of crisis, when we say: "Do not be afraid, I know what you are living and I am living it with you. You are not alone." Thus we become Christ-like shepherds.

[henrinouwen.org/meditation/laying-life-friends/](http://henrinouwen.org/meditation/laying-life-friends/)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## APRIL

### COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL | APRIL 28-29

Next week, we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Right now, over 40 percent of dioceses in the US are considered home missions because they are unable to fund essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

## MAY

### STUDY PROGRAM: UNTOLD BLESSING: THREE PATHS TO HOLINESS

Tuesdays at 9am (We start on Tuesday May 1, 2018)

Our ultimate goal is to be a saint. It is our greatest calling and what is desired for us by our Creator. Bishop Robert Barron paints a beautiful and mysterious image of what it takes to be a follower of Jesus Christ. He lays out three intriguing paths to holiness:

1. *Finding the Center*
2. *Knowing You're A Sinner*
3. *Realizing Your Life is Not About You*

Please sign up for this **SEVEN-WEEK STUDY PROGRAM!** To register, please call Fr. Mauricio at (530) 544-3533 Ext. 102 or by e-mail: [mauricioh650@gmail.com](mailto:mauricioh650@gmail.com)

#### DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

Gael Gensler, ofsf. © 2017 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved.

**Q.** *What is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)?*

**A.** *In 1962 the Second Vatican Council directed that the ancient process for initiating adults be restored. The Church's description of the restored process and its liturgical rites, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA, became available in English in 1974, was revised in 1988, and by the authority of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has been used in parishes since then. Its vision is to accompany and provide formation for adults who wish to become disciples of Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic Church.*

The rite envisions a process that (1) takes place in the midst of the community of the faithful who provide prayer, support, and examples of a life of discipleship, (2) honors the journey of each person who, having heard the invitation from God, freely responds and seeks to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church, (3) is marked by celebrations that honor the journey, culminating at the Easter Vigil with the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, and (4) takes as long as it takes for each person to develop. The process consists of four periods and three steps.

**PERIOD ONE:** Evangelization or Precatechumenate.

A time when the Gospel is proclaimed and inquirers come to first faith and initial conversion to Jesus Christ.

**Step One:** Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens. At this formal rite in the midst of the assembly, inquirers declare their intention to accept the Gospel and follow Christ, their senses are signed with the Sign of the Cross, and they are now known as catechumens (listeners).

**PERIOD TWO:** The Catechumenate. In this period the catechumens are dismissed after the homily to reflect on the Word of God, they receive catechesis (deepening their understanding of Scripture and becoming acquainted with the teachings of the Church) and formation (participating in the life of the community, including service), and are nourished by prayer. This period should last at least one full liturgical year.

**Step Two:** The Rite of Election takes place at the diocesan cathedral on or near the First Sunday of Lent. When the catechumens and their sponsors and catechists discern that they are ready for the final preparation for the sacraments of initiation, they are declared by the bishop to be among "the elect."

**PERIOD THREE:** Purification and Enlightenment. During this period, which coincides with Lent, the elect engage in deep prayer, reflection, and self-searching.

At three rites, called scrutinies, on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the community prays that the elect will be freed of sin, healed of weakness, and strengthened in their preparations for initiation at the Easter Vigil.

**Step Three:** The sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) are celebrated at the Easter Vigil, the high point of the liturgical year. In the light of the Paschal Mystery, the elect are made new creations, joined to Christ, and incorporated into his body of disciples. Now fully initiated, they take their place at the Eucharistic table.

**PERIOD FOUR:** Postbaptismal Catechesis or Mystagogy. For the fifty days of Easter the neophytes (newly planted Christians) will continue to meet to ponder the mysteries of the new sacramental life they are experiencing and to integrate it into their daily lives. They participate (now fully) in liturgy, continue to ponder Scripture, join with parish groups to serve in the world, and witness to the Gospel with their new lives of faith. The parish welcomes them with joy and helps them find their place in the community. In some sense these are lifelong activities for all disciples.



## 22 DE ABRIL DE 2018 | CUARTO DOMINGO DE PASCUA

PARA PROBLEMAS DE ESCUCHA: hay audífonos disponibles en la sacristía. Favor de devolverlos después de Misa.

¡Bienvenidos a todos! Nos reunimos con Jesús. Cristo es quién nos invita al banquete celestial. Qué esta liturgia les traiga paz. Si están visitando nuestra iglesia por la primera vez, ójala que se sienten como en familia, una parte de la familia mundial del Señor. Les damos la bienvenida cordialmente y celebramos y contemplamos el misterio de la Eucaristía y rezamos que su viaje a su casa será seguro y que regresen pronto.

### LECTURAS DE HOY

**Primera lectura** — Sólo en Jesús encontrará el mundo la salvación (Hechos 4:8-12).

**Salmo** — La piedra que desecharon los arquitectos, es ahora la piedra angular (Salmo 118 [117]).

**Segunda lectura** — Nos hemos convertido en hijos de Dios por el amor que el Padre nos tiene (1 Juan 3:1-2).

**Evangelio** — El Padre ama a Jesús, el Buen Pastor, que da la vida por sus ovejas (Juan 10:11-18).

### LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Hch 11:1-18; Sal 42 (41):2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10

Martes: Hch 11:19-26; Sal 87 (86):1b-7; Jn 10:22-30

Miércoles: 1 Pe 5:5b-14; Sal 89 (88):2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mc 16:15-20

Jueves: Hch 13:13-25; Sal 89 (88):2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20

Viernes: Hch 13:26-33; Sal 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

Sábado: Hch 13:44-52; Sal 98 (97):1-4; Jn 14:7-14

Domingo: Hch 9:26-31; Sal 22 (21):26-28, 30-32; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

### SALVADOS POR AQUEL QUE FUE RECHAZADO |

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Algunos adolescentes de la ciudad suelen menospreciar y rechazar a los chicos del campo. Sin embargo, no sería una exageración decir que la humanidad les debe la vida a los agricultores que cuidan los cultivos y el ganado por todo el mundo. La Sagrada Escritura para esta semana nos recuerda que Jesús fue rechazado como pastor, como chico del campo, sin embargo, a él le debemos la vida. En la lectura de los Hechos de los Apóstoles de este domingo, Pedro les dice a las personas que la salvación viene por Jesucristo, que fue rechazado y crucificado. En la carta del apóstol san Juan escuchamos que nos hemos convertido en los hijos amados de Dios por Jesús, a quien el mundo no conoció. Por último, en el Evangelio Jesús se describe como el buen Pastor: “yo doy la vida por las ovejas” (Juan 10:11). ¿Te unirás a Jesús para dar tu vida por el rebaño amado de Dios?

### INTENCIONES PARA LAS MISAS

**21 de abril | sábado | San Anselmo**

**5:30 pm** St. Theresa parishioners

**22 de abril | domingo |**

**8:00 am** Joan Jack (dec) by Colleen & Moni

**10:00 am** Karl Schmalfluss (dec) by the Hicks family

**12:00 pm** St. Theresa parishioners

**7:00 pm**

**23 de abril | lunes | San Jorge; San Adalberto**

**8:00 am** Lindy Hancpol (dec) by Judy & Tom Finn

**24 de abril | martes | San Fidel de Sigmaringa**

**8:00 am** Barbara Roach (special intention) by family

**25 de abril | miércoles | San Marco**

**8:00 am** Leo Wittwer, by Barbara Randall

**12:00 pm** Danny Camello (dec) by Joe, Paula, April & Alison

**26 de abril | jueves |**

**8:00 am** Agnes Villa (dec) by her family

**27 de abril | viernes |**

**8:00 am** Barbara Roach (special intention) by family

**12:00 pm** Lance Oineza (healing) Cherry & Napoleon

**28 de abril | sábado | San Pedro Chanel;  
San Louis Grignon de Montfort**

**5:30 pm** The Anthony family & Sophie Zimnox (dec) by Bob Anthony

### ¡GRACIAS POR SU GENEROSIDAD!

04/15	<i>Colecta Regular</i>	4161.51
	<b><i>New Boiler in the Rectory</i></b>	1395.03

*Segunda colecta— 21/22 de abril: NO COLECTA*

*Segunda colecta— 28/29 de abril: **Catholic Home Missions Appeal (Shared with Black and Indian Missions)***

### PETICIONES POR ESTAS PERSONAS

#### POR LOS FELIGRESES—ACTIVOS CON EL SERVICIO MILITAR

Phillip Gaston | Corbett Martin | Zachary Martin | Erik Townsend

#### POR LOS QUE ESTÁN ENFERMOS

Concordia Balong | Bill Barboni | Romie Enriquez | Gene Estepa | Steve Frick | Ophelia Kirvida | Kel Lohmeier | Matthew Morisky | Simon McQuarrie | Byron Melrose | Jamie O'Malley | Cecilia Ramirez | Tony Russo

#### LISTA DE LOS ENFERMOS

Si desea conservar su ser querido en la lista, por favor, envíe un correo electrónico con el nombre de su ser querido, junto con su nombre y número de teléfono a [tahoecatholicbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:tahoecatholicbulletin@gmail.com)



#### DEVOCIÓN A NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PERPETUO SOCORRO

Cada miércoles a las horas de 10:30 am con la “coronilla de la Divina Misericordia”. Rosario y oraciones special a Peretuo Socorro.

#### “EL LLAMADO PARA LAS MISIONES CATÓLICAS” 28 y 29 de abril

La próxima semana, realizaremos el Llamado para las Misiones Católicas. Ahora mismo, más del 40 por ciento de las diócesis en Estados Unidos es considerado territorio misionero nacional porque a esas diócesis no les es posible financiar las labores pastorales esenciales y necesarias en sus comunidades. Su apoyo a este Llamado ayuda a aliviar los esfuerzos que hacen estas diócesis. Por favor, en oración, consideren la manera de apoyar este llamado. Pueden encontrar más información entrando a [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

## DISCÍPULOS HACIENDO DISCÍPULOS

**Pregunta:** ¿Qué es el Rito de la iniciación cristiana de adultos (RICA)?

**Respuesta:** En 1962, el Concilio Vaticano II ordenó que se restaurara el antiguo proceso de iniciar a los adultos en la fe. La descripción del proceso restaurado y sus ritos litúrgicos se publicó como Rito de la iniciación cristiana de adultos; apareció en inglés en 1974, y fue revisado en 1988 por la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos, y desde entonces se ha usado en las parroquias. Su visión es acompañar y formar a los adultos que desean convertirse en discípulos de Jesucristo en la Iglesia Católica Romana.

El Rito visualiza un proceso que (1) se realiza en la comunidad de los fieles, que ora, apoya y da ejemplo de vida discipular; (2) respeta el caminar de cada persona que, habiendo escuchado la invitación de Dios, responde libremente y quiere desarrollar una relación con Jesucristo y su Iglesia; (3) está marcado con celebraciones que pautan cada etapa del proceso hasta culminar en la Vigilia Pascual con los sacramentos de iniciación: bautismo, confirmación

y Eucaristía; (4) dura tanto cuanto cada persona lo necesite.

El proceso consta de cuatro etapas y tres pasos.

PRIMERA ETAPA: Evangelización y precatécumenado.

Es el tiempo en que el Evangelio es proclamado a los interesados hasta que llegan a la primera fe y a una conversión inicial a Jesucristo.

Primer paso: Rito de admisión en la orden de los catecúmenos.

Es un rito formal que se realiza en medio de la asamblea de los fieles. Los candidatos declaran su intención de aceptar el Evangelio y seguir a Cristo; sus sentidos son marcados con el signo de la cruz, y pasan a ser reconocidos como catecúmenos.

SEGUNDA ETAPA: El catecumenado. En esta etapa los catecúmenos son despedidos después de la homilía para meditar la palabra de Dios, recibir la catequesis (profundizan en la Escritura y se familiarizan con las enseñanzas de la Iglesia), y se van educando en la fe (participan en la vida de la comunidad y realizan algún servicio), se nutren con la oración personal y comunitaria. Esta etapa dura, al menos, un año litúrgico completo.

Segundo paso: El rito de elección se realiza en la catedral diocesana hacia el primer domingo de Cuaresma. El obispo declara a los catecúmenos "elegidos", dado que ellos mismos, sus sponsors o tutores en la fe y sus catequistas, han discernido que están bien dispuestos para la preparación final de los sacramentos de iniciación.

TERCERA ETAPA: Purificación e iluminación. El período coincide con la Cuaresma. Los elegidos se adentran en la oración, la reflexión y la búsqueda interna. Los domingos tercero, cuarto y quinto de Cuaresma se celebran los escrutinios. La comunidad reza para que los elegidos sean liberados del pecado, curadas sus debilidades y sean fortalecidos para su iniciación en la Vigilia Pascual.

Tercer paso: Los sacramentos de iniciación (bautismo, confirmación y Eucaristía) son celebrados en la Vigilia Pascual. A la luz del Misterio Pascual, los catecúmenos han venido a ser una creación nueva, unidos a Cristo, e incorporados a su cuerpo de discípulos, quedan plenamente iniciados. Ahora ocupan su lugar correspondiente en la mesa eucarística.

## LLÉNATE

**"Pedro, lleno del Espíritu Santo, dijo" (Hechos 4:8).**

En el primer Pentecostés cristiano, "todos quedaron llenos del Espíritu Santo" (Hch 2:4). Después de que Pedro y Juan fueron liberados de la prisión, la primera comunidad cristiana se reunió para orar y "cuando terminaron de orar, tembló el lugar donde estaban reunidos; todos quedaron llenos del Espíritu Santo" (Hch 4:31). Esteban, primer diácono y primer mártir, era "un hombre lleno de fe y del Espíritu Santo" (Hch 6:5). Bernabé "era un hombre bondadoso, lleno de Espíritu Santo y de mucha fe" (Hch 11:24). El Señor nos manda: "Llénense del Espíritu Santo" (Ef 5:18).

Necesitamos ser llenados del Espíritu Santo porque podremos haber:

- limitado nuestra recepción del Espíritu debido al pecado, miedo o ignorancia (ver Jn 3:34),
- apagado (1 Tes 5:19) o afligido al Espíritu (Ef 4:30) por el pecado y el egoísmo, o
- tenido nuestra capacidad de recibir al Espíritu ampliado por el Espíritu que obra en nosotros. Y por lo tanto, tener más espacio para recibir al Espíritu de varias maneras, puesto que el Espíritu nos ha cambiado de gente mezquina, estrecha y egocéntrica a hombres y mujeres de Dios con gran corazón, alma y con visión del reino.

En consecuencia, "reciban al Espíritu Santo" en plenitud (Jn 20:22). "Te recomiendo que reavives el don de Dios" que has recibido. "El Espíritu que Dios nos ha dado no es un espíritu de temor, sino de fortaleza, de amor y de sobriedad" (2 Tim 1:6, 7). Llénate del Espíritu Santo.

**Oración:** *Padre, que nunca limite la presencia y el poder del Espíritu en mi vida.*

**Promesa:** "¡Miren cómo nos amó el Padre! Quiso que nos llamáramos hijos de Dios, y nosotros lo somos realmente" (1 Jn 3:1).

**Alabanza:** *¡Alabado sea nuestro Señor y Salvador resucitado y eucarístico! Que la Gloria, el poder y la fuerza sean Suyos por siempre.*

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CUARTA ETAPA: Catequesis posbautismal o mistagogia. Durante los cincuenta días de Pascua, los neófitos (cristianos recién iniciados) se reúnen para meditar los misterios de su nueva vida sacramental que ahora experimentan, a fin de ir integrando a su vida cotidiana. Participan plenamente en la liturgia, reflexionan sobre las Escrituras, uniéndose a los grupos parroquiales que ofrecen servicios a la comunidad, dando testimonio del Evangelio con sus nuevas vidas de fe. La parroquia les acoge con alegría y les ayuda a encontrar su lugar en la comunidad. En sentido más amplio, estas son actividades de toda la vida para todos los bautizados.

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