

Saint Theresa of Lisieux Parish

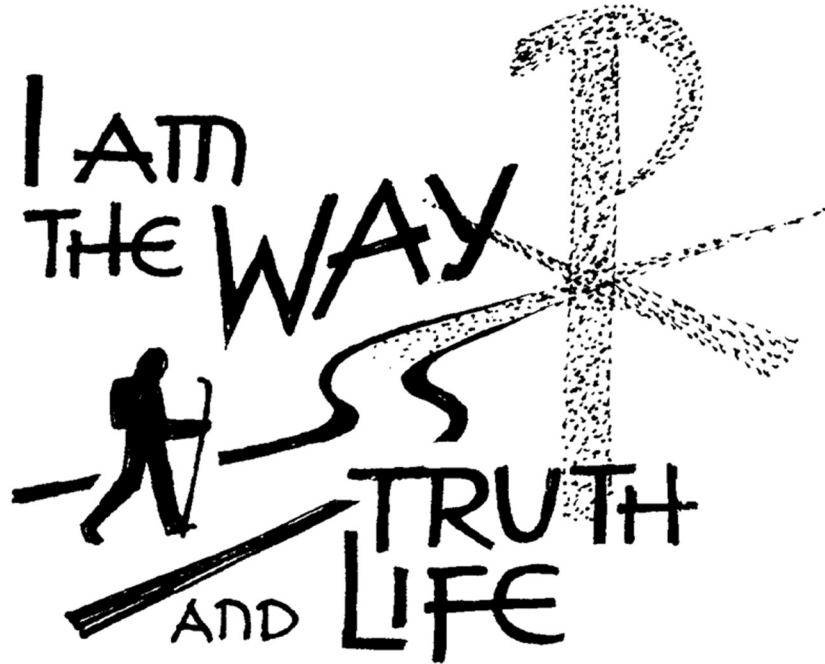
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May 10, 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



~ Masses are suspended temporarily.

All services will be STREAMED LIVE via our Facebook page. ~

<https://www.facebook.com/tahoecatholic/live> or
www.tahoecatholic.com

DAILY MASS IN ENGLISH

Monday-Friday 8am

DAILY MASS IN SPANISH

Monday-Friday at 7pm

SUNDAY MASS

10am in English and 12noon in Spanish

VIRTUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday-Friday at 3pm

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STEWARDSHIP IN OUR PARISH

May 3, 2020
\$2,145.00

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR 2020

<https://www.popesprayer.va/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/THE-HOLY-FATHERS-PRAYER-INTENTIONS-2020-ENG2.pdf>

MAY | Prayer intention for evangelisation ~ For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

A PRAYER IN GRATITUDE FOR OUR MOTHERS

Good and Gentle God,

we pray in gratitude for our mothers and for all the women of theory who have joined with you in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings.

Give them the strength to live and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly.

Give them the faithful support of husband, family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children.

Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood.

Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to you for help when they need it most.

- Author Unknown

JESUS, THE WAY

"How can we know the way?" —John 14:5

We rely on our phone or GPS (Global Positioning System) to tell us where to go. The GPS device knows your exact location on earth. You tell it where you want to go. Then the GPS talks to you in a voice that tells you each street to turn on, and exactly where to drive. People trust the voice on the GPS.

Each of us has problems in this life, and we want to know "the way" out of these problems. We'd like a GPS to show us "the way" to move from debt to financial freedom, from addiction to freedom, from discord to unity, etc. We want directions for the way out. We ask: "How can we know the way" out of our situation? (Jn 14:5)

We want a roadmap, but God has a better plan; He gives us directions in the form of a Person: Jesus, the Way (Jn 14:6). Jesus always knows our exact physical location on earth. Moreover, He knows exactly where we are spiritually, emotionally, and mentally. Finally, His plan for us is the perfect way to get to our destination!

Our ultimate destination in this life is to spend eternity with God in heaven, and Jesus says: "No one comes to the Father except through Me" (Jn 14:6). Jesus is the Way. Follow Him (Jn 21:19).

Prayer: Lord Jesus, Your voice tells me whether to turn to the right or to the left (Is 30:20-21). I will do whatever You tell me and follow You the rest of My life (see Jn 2:5).

Promise: "The eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear Him." —Ps 33:18

Praise: "The Lord has been raised! It is true! He has appeared to Simon" (Lk 24:34). Father God, we are humbled by Your divine plan.

<https://www.presentationministries.com/series/obob/obob-2020-5-10-en>

"WASTE" YOUR TIME WITH GOD

John Eudes talked about that moment, that point, that lies before comparison, before the beginning of the vicious cycle or the self-fulfilling prophecy. That is the moment, point, or place where meditation can enter in. It is the moment to stop reading, speaking, socializing, and to "waste" your time in meditation. When you find your mind competing again, you might plan an "empty time" of meditation, in this way interrupting the vicious circle of your ruminations and entering into the depth of your own soul. There you can be with him who was before you came, who loved you before you could love, and has given you your own self before any comparison was possible. In meditation we can come to the affirmation that we are not created by other people but by God, that we are not judged by how we compare with others but by how we fulfill the will of God. <https://henrinouwen.org/meditation/waste-your-time-with-god/>

THE KNOW-IT-ALL

"The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit Whom the Father will send in My name, will instruct you in everything, and remind you of all that I told you." —John 14:26

Eternal life is to know God the Father and Jesus (Jn 17:3). Because love requires freedom and freedom requires some knowledge, knowledge is necessary to love. Therefore, we are created both to know and to love God. We can "perish for want of knowledge" (Hos 4:6).

Because knowing is so important for life and love, teaching is extremely important in God's plan. Although God the Father (see Jn 6:44-45) and Jesus teach us, in this post-Pentecost age the Holy Spirit is the Focus of teaching in that He teaches us everything (Jn 14:26) and guides us to all truth (Jn 16:13).

We have victory, freedom, love, and hope because we know what we need to know. We know all we need because the Holy Spirit teaches us and because we are docile, that is, teachable, to His teachings.

If you know millions of things, that means there are still many millions of things you don't know. You don't know the future, your heart, or others' hearts (see Jer 17:10). These are critical things not to know. So we are doomed to be impossibly ignorant. Our only hope is to know the One Who knows all and will teach us all we need to know (Jn 14:26). Our only Hope is the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Father, break through my pride to make me docile to the Holy Spirit.

Promise: "There was a man who was lame from birth; he used to sit crippled, never having walked in his life. On one occasion he was listening to Paul preaching, and Paul looked directly at him and saw that he had the faith to be saved. He called out to him in a loud voice, 'Stand up! On your feet!' The man jumped up and began to walk around." —Acts 14:8-10

Praise: All through the day Jim prays, "Jesus, I trust in You."

<https://www.presentationministries.com/series/obob/obob-2020-5-11-en>

GOD IS PEACE (EPH 2:14)

" 'Peace' is My farewell to you, My peace is My gift to you." —John 14:27

Peace is what Jesus left us in His last will and testament. Because of this, peace has a special significance for those who love Jesus. Peace is the binding force which unifies the Church, marriages, and families (Eph 4:3). Peace is the guard of our hearts and minds (Phil 4:7). Without peace, we will be subject to heart-failure and mind-games. Without peace, our God-given relationships begin to unravel and society begins to disintegrate. Zeal to propagate the Gospel of peace is our footgear and part of our spiritual armor (Eph 6:15). Without zeal to proclaim peace, the beautiful feet (Is 52:7) of Christians remain unprotected. Under these circumstances, we leave ourselves wide open for Satan to bind our feet, and in that state we will no longer be free to go to the nations with the Good News of Jesus.

Peace is the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). Jesus, God Himself, is Peace (Eph 2:14). Therefore, pray for peace, make peace (Mt 5:9), and adore Jesus, our Peace.

Prayer: "Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace."

Promise: "We must undergo many trials if we are to enter into the reign of God." —Acts 14:22

Praise: Sts. Nereus and Achilleus were soldiers of the Roman army. They became Christians and, shortly after being baptized, were martyred.

<https://www.presentationministries.com/series/obob/obob-2020-5-12-en>



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Use this Parish code: **QKK7X3** (All capital) or URL: [sainttheresasouthlaketahoe.formed.org](https://www.sainttheresasouthlaketahoe.formed.org) FORMED is a subscription service offering access to thousands of studies, films, audios, and ebooks. Discover great digital media from over 40 of the best Catholic content producers including the Augustine Institute, Ignatius Press, the USCCB, Catholic Answers, EWTN, St. Paul Center, Marian Press, Sophia Press, Knights of Columbus, FOCUS, and many more. Through its online platform and free mobile apps for iOS and Android, FORMED has helped individuals and communities know, love, and share their Catholic faith. Enjoy!

TO YIELD FRUIT, YIELD

"The fruitful ones He trims clean to increase their yield." —John 15:2

Disciples of Jesus bear a lot of fruit, and they can grow weary. They need energy because they are consumed as they live out their calling. A major battleground of a veteran disciple is the temptation to invest time in people or things they enjoy, which "give them life" and re-energize them. After a while, the disciple can find himself or herself starting to be energized enough by this source that they come to it to get energized instead of coming to Jesus (cf Mt 11:28). At this point, the activity has become a "sucker branch" that not only bears no fruit, it also consumes the disciple's time so they don't have much time or energy to bear fruit.

These activities may be good or even religious. Yet if we won't yield these activities to the will of God for the purpose of bearing fruit, the Father will soon come with a sharp sickle to cut them off. "He prunes away every barren branch" (Jn 15:2) from our life. He insists we bear fruit for His glory (Jn 15:8).

Jesus is the Vine, our Energy, and our Strength (Ps 18:2). He knows we grow weary, so He invites us to come to Him to be refreshed (Mt 11:28). He consumes us (Heb 12:29). However, as we are consumed by Him, we are not burned out (see Ex 3:2). Instead, we receive sustaining energy (Col 1:29; Heb 1:3) and new life (Jn 10:10). In Jesus, the Source of our strength, we have strength for everything (Phil 4:13).

Prayer: Jesus, when I get tired for You, may I never get tired of You. Blow a cool, refreshing wind of the Spirit in my life so that I may bear abundant, enduring fruit for Your glory (Jn 15:8, 16).

Promise: "He who lives in Me and I in Him, will produce abundantly, for apart from Me you can do nothing." — Jn 15:5

Praise: Our Lady of Fatima appeared to three children in 1917. The message of Fatima is simple: Pray.

<https://www.presentationministries.com/series/obob/obob-2020-5-13-en>

BROKEN DOWN VEHICLES ON THE ROAD

"Then they prayed, 'O Lord, You read the hearts of men. Make known to us which of these two You choose for this apostolic ministry, replacing Judas, who deserted the cause and went the way he was destined to go.'"
"—Acts 1:24-25

Things break. People break and cry, and they break down and die. So many things and people break that we may give up fixing all the broken things, even the broken people. While we may take our time to fix broken things, we need to take broken people, broken hearts, broken relationships, and broken lives to the Lord immediately. He has fixed every person's brokenness through His death and Resurrection, and He wants to show His love for the broken right away (see Ps 34:19).

After Jesus' death, the apostles were broken. Judas had sold and betrayed Christ. Then he committed suicide. Peter denied Christ three times. All the apostles abandoned Christ. They all had sinned grievously. They were so broken that they refused to face their brokenness. But they began to turn to the Lord and pick up the pieces of their ruined lives when they sought the Lord's will in replacing Judas. Matthias, Judas' replacement, was the focal point of the apostles' repenting of their lethargy and bringing their brokenness to the Lord.

Do you have a breakdown of communication, discipline, freedom, love, or hope in your life? How long have you let your brokenness sit there untouched? Deal with your Judases by calling on the Lord. The Lord will send you Matthiases of healing and hope. Then with all the brokenness of your life in the healing hands of the Lord, you can receive the Holy Spirit in a new Pentecost.

Prayer: Father, may we make straight the way of the Holy Spirit.

Promise: "I no longer speak of you as slaves, for a slave does not know what his master is about. Instead, I call you friends, since I have made known to you all that I heard from My Father." —Jn 15:15

Praise: St. Matthias' appointment heralded the advent of apostolic succession (see Eph 2:20; Rv 21:14).

<https://www.presentationministries.com/series/obob/obob-2020-5-14-en>

THE GOD OF LIFESTYLE

"It is the decision of the Holy Spirit, and ours too, not to lay on you any burden beyond that which is strictly necessary." —Acts 15:28

The elders of the church of Jerusalem and the Holy Spirit decided Gentile Christians did not need to be circumcised, but rather had to change their lifestyle, "namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals, and from illicit sexual union" (Acts 15:29). Meat sacrificed to idols was a major item in the marketplace. Therefore, to abstain from this was, in part, an economic decision. The Gentiles were also told to change their eating habits and their attitude toward sexual relations. In other words, the Gentiles were required to make lifestyle changes in the areas of money, food, and sex. This is comparable to telling a modern person, even a Christian, to stop buying certain foods, to quit eating meat or drinking caffeine, and to quit watching prime time TV with its pornographic innuendoes.

When the letter containing these rules was read, "there was great delight at the encouragement it gave" (Acts 15:31). If a similar letter requiring lifestyle changes was read at your church, would the people be delighted or defiant? Lifestyle is the false god of the modern American church. Our comforts, pleasure, and entertainment mean more to us than loving God. That's where our time and money goes, and God gets the leftovers, if there are any. Repent!

Prayer: Risen Jesus, may I repent of living for selfish pleasure.

Promise: "This is My commandment: love one another as I have loved you." —Jn 15:12

Praise: St. Isidore was canonized in 1622. He's in good company: St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Francis Xavier, St. Teresa of Avila, and St. Philip Neri were declared saints at the same time.

<https://www.presentationministries.com/series/obob/obob-2020-5-15-en>

PENTECOST PROMISES AND EASTER COMMANDS

"Through all this, the congregations grew stronger in faith and daily increased in numbers." —Acts 16:5

Could you say that through this Easter season that "the congregations grew stronger in faith and daily increased in numbers"? If we don't see Jesus adding daily to the Church's number (Acts 2:47), it's not that His promises are not true but that we are not receiving them. Jesus said: "I — once I am lifted up from earth — will draw all men to Myself" (Jn 12:32). Jesus has been lifted up in His death, Resurrection, and Ascension; therefore, we should see people being drawn to Him and to His Body, the Church.

The fulfillment of God's promises is often conditioned on us obeying His commands. For example, the Lord will daily increase our numbers if we serve as His witnesses. He will give us victory if we obey Him and enter the battle. The Spirit will miraculously give us the right words to say if we expose ourselves to persecution (Mt 10:19-20). We will work signs and wonders if we profess our faith (Mk 16:17). We will rise from the dead into glory if we die in Christ (2 Tm 2:11). Easter will lead to a new Pentecost if we "let it be done" unto us according to God's Word (Lk 1:38). Obey God's commands and inherit His promises.

Prayer: Father, may my delight be to obey Your will (Ps 40:9).

Promise: "If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own; the reason it hates you is that you do not belong to the world. But I chose you out of the world. Remember what I told you: no slave is greater than his master." —Jn 15:19-20

Praise: Alice stepped out in faith and now her ministry is bearing great fruit.

<https://www.presentationministries.com/series/obob/obob-2020-5-16-en>

KEEP YOUR EYES FIXED ON JESUS

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and ask him more directly to give you joy, peace, and a pure heart. Purity of heart means a heart where God is the center of your attention. Take a simple sentence like "The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want," and repeat that quietly during the day until the truth of it enters the center of your being. You will always continue to have feelings of depression, anger, and restlessness, but when God dwells in the center of the storm, the storm is less frightening and you can live with trust that in the midst of all of the darkness you will be led to a place of joy and peace.

<https://henrinouwen.org/meditation/keep-your-eyes-fixed-on-jesus/>

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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MEDITATION BRINGS US TO THE SOURCE OF LOVE

Human withdrawal [for meditation] is a very painful and lonely process, because it forces us to directly face our own condition in all its misery as well as its beauty. But when we are not afraid to enter into our own center and to concentrate on the stirrings of our own souls, we come to know that being alive means being loved. This experience tells us that we can only love because we are born out of love, that we can only give because our life is a gift, and that we can only make others free because we are set free by the One whose heart is greater than ours.

And when we have found the anchor places for our lives in our own center we can be free to let others enter into the space created for them, and allow them to dance their own dance, sing their own song, and speak their own language without fear. Then our presence is no longer threatening and demanding, but inviting and liberating.

<https://henrinouwen.org/meditation/meditation-brings-us-to-the-source-of-love/>

Parroquia Santa Teresita del Niño Jesús

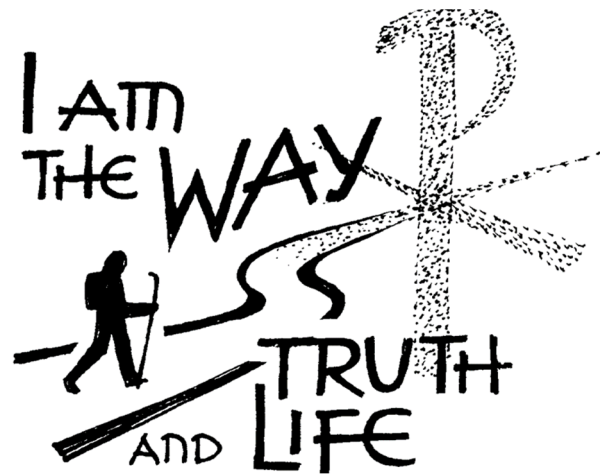
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10 DE MAYO DE 2020 | QUINTO DOMINGO DE PASCUA



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<https://www.facebook.com/tahoecatholic/live> o
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MISA DIARIA EN INGLÉS:

Lunes a viernes de 8 a.m.

MISA DIARIA EN ESPAÑOL:

De lunes a viernes a las 7 p.m.

MISAS DOMINICALES:

10am en inglés y 12 mediodía en español

ADORACIÓN EUCARÍSTICA VIRTUAL:

De martes a viernes a las 3 p.m.

¡GRACIAS POR
SU GENEROSIDAD!

3 de mayo
\$2,145.00

LA TENTACIÓN DE HACER EL BIEN

"De esa manera, podremos dedicarnos a la oración y al ministerio de la Palabra" (Hechos 6:4).

La palabra de Dios no está encadenada (2 Tim 2:9); pero los mensajeros de la palabra de Dios pueden ser encadenados. A menudo, estamos encadenados por el pecado, el egoísmo o el miedo. Sin embargo, podemos ser encadenados de maneras más sutiles. Por ejemplo, el diablo trató de encadenar a los apóstoles, haciéndoles pensar que necesitaban reducir temporalmente la oración y el ministerio de la Palabra, para hacer frente a un desacuerdo en la Iglesia primitiva (Hch 6:2ss). Los tentó, animándoles a hacer una obra buena y necesaria. Además, el diablo no les dijo que abandonaran por completo su ministerio de la Palabra, sino que solamente lo recortaran por un tiempo. Sin embargo, una vez que nos desviamos un poco, de nuestro llamado dado por Dios (incluso si lo hacemos mediante la realización de buenas acciones); ya no estamos haciendo la voluntad de Dios. Cuando damos una pulgada siquiera por un momento, nuestra pulgada se convierte en millas que pueden durar para siempre.

Por lo tanto:

- Haz las obras de Dios, no buenas obras.
- No hagas otra cosa, sino Su voluntad.
- No interrumpas o pospongas el trabajo de Dios. Hazlo ahora.
- No dejes de proclamar del todo su Palabra a tiempo y fuera de tiempo (2 Tim 4:2).

Oración: Padre, por Tu gracia voy a vivir mi vocación a plenitud.

Promesa: "No se inquieten. Crean en Dios y crean también en Mí" (Jn 14:1).

Alabanza: Alabado sea Jesús resucitado, nuestro Hermano, por elevarnos a una nueva vida en Ti. ¡Gracias a Dios!

<https://www.presentationministries.com/series/obob/obob-2017-5-14-es>

LOS PACIENTES RECIBIRÁN LA TIERRA EN HERENCIA (MATEO 5:5)

"El Espíritu Santo, que el Padre enviará en Mi Nombre, les enseñará todo y les recordará lo que les he dicho" (Juan 14:26).

Así como Jesús es un Paráclito y Maestro (ver Jn 20:16), así el Espíritu Santo es "otro Paráclito" (Jn 14:16) y otro Maestro (Jn 14:26). La actitud correcta que se debe tener hacia un maestro es dejarse enseñar, es decir, ser dócil. El Papa san Juan Pablo II ha enseñado que el Espíritu Santo es "acogido por el corazón humilde y dócil del creyente" (El esplendor de la Verdad, 108). El Papa profetizó que tendríamos una "nueva primavera de vida Cristiana", si "somos dóciles a la acción del Espíritu Santo" (En el Umbral del Tercer Milenio, 18, énfasis adicionado).

En esta misma carta, el Papa san Juan Pablo II ha descrito a María como "la mujer dócil a la voz del Espíritu" (48). Ella fue dócil porque fue una mujer de silencio, de escucha y esperanza (48). Para ser dócil debemos estar silenciosos, minimizar las distracciones, y esperar que lo que el Espíritu nos está enseñando renovará la faz de la tierra (Sal 104:30).

En este mes de María, pide la intercesión de tu madre de modo que permitas que el "hágase" en ti "según la palabra de Dios" (Lc 1:38). Sé dócil, conoce la verdad, cambia el mundo.

Oración: Padre, así como mi orgullo da paso a la docilidad, que esta cultura de muerte de paso a una civilización de amor y vida.

Promesa: "Había en Listra un hombre que tenía las piernas paralizadas. Como era tullido de nacimiento, nunca había podido caminar, y sentado, escuchaba hablar a Pablo. Este mirándolo fijamente, vio que tenía la fe necesaria para ser curado, y le dijo en voz alta: ¡Levántate, y permanece erguido sobre tus pies! Él se levantó de un salto y comenzó a caminar" (Hch 14:8-10).

Alabanza: San Isidro fue favorecido con muchos milagros, tanto antes como después de su muerte.

<https://www.presentationministries.com/series/obob/obob-2017-5-8-es>

CUESTIONANDO LA HERENCIA

"Les dejo la paz, les doy Mi paz" (Juan 14:27).

En el testamento y la última voluntad de Jesús, les dejó a Sus discípulos el don de la paz. Esto quiere decir que nos dejó un plan de orden y armonía para nuestras vidas. La Iglesia de Jesús es la albacea de Su voluntad ya que le ha dejado la responsabilidad de enseñarnos los detalles de la paz. Si aceptamos la herencia del Señor y le obedecemos a Su Iglesia, tendremos paz, gozo y la libertad que dura para siempre.

Sin embargo, Satanás trata de convencernos de que lo que hemos heredado de Jesús no es muy bueno o que no debemos confiar en Él y Su Iglesia en la ejecución de Su voluntad. Satanás quiere que nos rebelamos contra su voluntad. Por ejemplo, algunos cristianos creen que con el control de la natalidad pueden tener mejores relaciones sexuales en el matrimonio. Cada día se hace más claro que estos cristianos están equivocados y por el contrario han traído un desorden destructivo en sus matrimonios, sus familias, sus vidas y la sociedad. Otros, en su inseguridad, han rechazado la paz que nos da la generosidad del diezmo, la caridad y nuestra donación de tiempo y talento a la Iglesia. También ha demostrado que el Señor tenía razón de nuevo acerca de la paz, la vida y la felicidad.

La paz que el Señor nos ha dejado en Su voluntad es un don tan grande y completo, que es mayor de lo que podemos comprender. Por lo tanto, debemos humildemente y con gran diligencia seguir las direcciones del Señor mediante Su Iglesia. De lo contrario, nos privaremos de las eternas bendiciones, de la vida y del amor. No cuestionemos la voluntad del Señor; más bien, aceptemos el misterio de Dios completamente.

Oración: Padre, hazme un instrumento de Tu paz, no importa lo que tenga que sufrir (ver Mt 5:9).

Promesa: "Apedraron a Pablo y lo arrastraron fuera de la ciudad, creyendo que estaba muerto. Pero él se levantó y rodeado de sus discípulos, regresó a la ciudad" (Hch 14: 19-20).

Alabanza: Marcos y Patricia confiaron en Dios y fueron bendecidos con seis hijos.

<https://www.presentationministries.com/series/obob/obob-2017-5-16-es>

LLEVAR EL FRUTO MÁS ABUNDANTE

"El que permanece en Mí y yo en él, da mucho fruto" (Juan 15:5).

Debemos dar frutos:

- los frutos de santidad y de evangelización,
- ser "como el sarmiento que se tira y se seca; después se recoge, se arroja al fuego y arde" (Jn 15:6; también 15:2),
- y ser recortados para aumentar nuestro rendimiento (Jn 15:2),
- al estar unido a Jesús, la vid (Jn 15:4-5),
- abundantemente (Jn 15:5),
- y por lo tanto glorificar a Dios el Padre (Jn 15:8),
- y se convierten en discípulos de Jesús (Jn 15:8),
- Jesús nos ha elegido "para ir adelante y dar fruto" (Jn 15:16),
- que perdura (Jn 15:16).

Debido a su amor perfecto para nosotros, Jesús quiere que todos se salven (1 Tim 2:4). Debemos dar fruto en abundancia, o para muchas personas la muerte y resurrección de Jesús será en vano. Debido a que Dios es amor (1 Jn 4:16), Él debe insistir en que llevemos fruto tan abundantemente como sea posible. Si vivimos en Jesús y Él en nosotros, llevaremos automáticamente fruto. Debemos dar frutos.

Oración: Padre, pódame tanto como sea necesario para dar tanto fruto como me sea posible.

Promesa: "La iglesia los vio fuera y se dirigieron por Fenicia y Samaria, contando a todos acerca de la conversión de los gentiles a su paso. Su historia causó gran alegría"(Hch 15:3).

Alabanza: Juan y Sara, que crecieron dentro de una comunidad basada en el hogar, están empezando su propia comunidad.

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CÓMO TOMAR BUENAS DECISIONES

"Al cabo de una prolongada discusión, Pedro se levantó" (Hechos 15:7).

En una situación extremadamente divisiva y volátil, los líderes de la Iglesia primitiva discernieron correctamente la voluntad del Espíritu Santo (ver Hch 15:28). Ellos fueron capaces de hacer esto porque:

- fueron sumisos a la autoridad de los líderes de la Iglesia (ver Hch 15:2),
- escuchaban aun a aquellos con quienes estaban en desacuerdo (ver Hch 15:12),
- basaban su discernimiento en la Biblia (Hch 15:15ss), y
- vivían en comunidad cristiana (Hch 2:42).

Hoy vemos mucha gente a la que le falta el discernimiento, que están muy confundidas, y toman decisiones terribles en relación al matrimonio, a la crianza de los hijos, al trabajo, las finanzas y al estilo de vida. Aquellos que en nuestra cultura de la muerte usualmente son independientes. Algunos consideran la sumisión a la autoridad como un vicio. Tenemos la tendencia a ser polémicos y a malinterpretar la opinión de aquellos que no están de acuerdo con nosotros. En general, somos bíblicamente iletrados. Más aun, la vida comunitaria se ha deformado en un aislamiento generalizado. Estamos programados para el fracaso en el discernimiento y en la toma de decisiones. Para evitar ser confundido, abusado y engañado, debemos arrepentirnos y dedicarnos a la enseñanza "de los apóstoles" y la vida comunitaria, a partir el pan y a las oraciones (Hch 2:42).

Oración: Padre, haz de mi vida un buen contexto para escucharte.

Promesa: "Les he dicho esto para que mi gozo sea el de ustedes, y ese gozo sea perfecto" (Jn 15:11).

Alabanza: El Papa san Juan I se opuso al emperador herético y fue martirizado eventualmente.

<https://www.presentationministries.com/series/obob/obob-2017-5-18-es>

CÓMO SER ENCANTADOR

"Esta fue leída y todos se alegraron por el aliento que les daba" (Hechos 15:31).

Los líderes de la Iglesia primitiva enviaron una carta a los cristianos gentiles de Antioquía. Los líderes les dijeron que el Espíritu Santo y los líderes de la Iglesia habían decidido que los cristianos gentiles se "abstengan de la carne inmolada a los ídolos, de la sangre, de la carne de animales muertos sin desangrar y de las uniones ilegales" (Hch 15:29). Cuando la carta fue leída "todos se alegraron por el aliento que les daba" (Hch 15:31). ¿Estaban los cristianos gentiles, en gran medida, encantados y alentados porque las instrucciones expresadas en esta carta eran fáciles de aceptar? Probablemente no, porque sabemos que algunos cristianos gentiles tenían gran dificultad con la primera y última instrucción de esta carta (ver Rom 14:13ss; 1 Co 8:1ss; 1 Tes 4:3ss). Los cristianos gentiles se alegraron y fueron alentados porque no se salieron con la suya o una forma fácil, sino porque eran dóciles al Espíritu Santo y expresaron esto con su sumisión a la autoridad a los líderes de la Iglesia. Los cristianos gentiles de Antioquía se alegraron porque estaban desinteresados (ver Fil 4:4-5). Se deleitaban en la obediencia a la ley del Señor (Sal 40:9), tal como fue revelado por el Espíritu Santo por medio de los líderes de la Iglesia.

La verdadera delicia y el estímulo no se basan en hacer lo que queremos, sino en la búsqueda de la voluntad de Dios. Al igual que Jesús, derivamos nuestra comida, cumplimiento, y gozo al hacer la voluntad de Dios el Padre (Jn 4:34).

No siempre podemos conseguir lo que queremos, pero siempre podemos hacer la voluntad de Dios. Por lo tanto, el encanto y el estímulo están siempre disponibles para nosotros. Busca la voluntad de Dios. Sométete a la autoridad. Estemos encantados y animados siempre.

Oración: Padre, que pueda ser Tú encanto.

Promesa: "Lo que yo les mando es que se amen los unos a los otros" (Jn 15:17).

Alabanza: Desde que se sometió a las enseñanzas de la Iglesia por completo, la confusión y la ira de Marta se han disipado

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