

Saint James the Greater

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Serving the Community of Concord,

North Carolina and Beyond!

December 26, 2021
**The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary, and Joseph**



Pastor

Rev. Jerome Chavarria, C.Ss.R.

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil	5:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)
Sunday	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. (Spanish) 5:00 p.m.
Monday	7:00 p.m. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
Tuesday—Saturday	11:00 a.m.
Thursday (Spanish)	7:00 p.m.
Reconciliation	
Saturday	2:00 –3:30 p.m. or by request
Eucharistic Adoration	
Monday	10:00 a.m.—6:45 p.m.

Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Closed on Holy Days & Holidays

St. James Religious Articles & Bookstore

Open before and after all weekend Masses
Email: stjamescatholicbookstore@hotmail.com

Website & Social Media

Web: www.saintjamescatholic.org
Facebook: St. James the Greater Concord or
saintjamesthegreaterconcord

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to open “the door of faith” to our parishioners to make possible the life of communion with God and the transformation of the heart. The fruit of this transformation will be to unite in charity our diverse congregation and surrounding community; “breaking down the dividing wall” (Ephesians 2:14). As members of the one body of Christ, we accept our responsibilities as good stewards of His great gifts.



St. James the Greater Catholic Church

139 Manor Avenue SW
Concord, NC 28025
704-720-0600
FAX 704-720-0610

REDEMPTORIST FATHERS OF THE BALTIMORE PROVINCE SERVING ST. JAMES THE GREATER SINCE 1974

Rev. Jerome Chavarria, C.Ss.R., Pastor
jeromec@saintjamescatholic.org, x738

Rev. Fabio Marin, C.Ss.R., Parochial Vicar
Hispanic Ministry, 704-720-0602

Rev. Charles Donovan, C.Ss.R., Parochial Vicar
charlesd@saintjamescatholic.org, x737

Rev. Glenn Parker, C.Ss.R., Parochial Vicar
glennp@saintjamescatholic.org, x745

Rev. Mr. Todd Labonte, Deacon
tmlabonte@rcdoc.org, x755

PARISH STAFF

Dan Ward, Business Manager
danw@saintjamescatholic.org, x727
M-Th 8:30-3:00, F-8:30-1:00

Bonnie White, Admin. Assistant
bonniew@saintjamescatholic.org, x739
Office Hours M-Th 8:30-3:00, F-8:30-1:00

Miriam Morales, Admin. Office Asst.
miriamm@saintjamescatholic.org, x721
Office Hours M-Th 8:30-2:30, F-8:30-1:30

Kayla D'Allura, Pastoral Associate
kaylad@saintjamescatholic.org, x729

Michael Quinn, Youth Coordinator/Confirmation
michaelq@saintjamescatholic.org, x720

Chris Conrad—Middle School FF, Sacramental Asst.
edge@saintjamescatholic.org, x722

Beth Giddings—Middle School FF
edge@saintjamescatholic.org

Kitty McIndoe—Pre-K—5th FF
kittym@saintjamescatholic.org x730
(available to meet by appt.)

Maria Lopez Torres, FF Office Assistant
marialt@saintjamescatholic.org, x732

Yesica Viguera, Hispanic FF
yesicav@saintjamescatholic.org, 704-720-0602
Office Hours—T—Th 12:00-7:00, F 1:00-7:00,

Dr. Dylan Savage, Director of Music
dylans@saintjamescatholic.org, x728

Suzanne Carney, New Beginnings Preschool Director
suzannec@saintjamescatholic.org, x 740
704-262-3498 Office Hours M-F 9:00-1:00

If you are not receiving Flock Notes, email your email address or cell number to: BonnieW@saintjamescatholic.org to be added.

Offertory Collection—12/12/2021

Offertory.....\$25,310.50
Budget\$22,385.00
Surplus/Deficit.....\$ 2,925.50

Thank you for your continued generosity & support

If you have any questions, please contact communication@saintjamescatholic.org or the office at 704-720-0600.

New Parishioners: Please call the office as soon as possible. By Church Law, only registered parishioners can receive the Sacrament of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, and be Sacramental Sponsors.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Registration and Baptismal Preparation class are required. To schedule a Baptism date contact the parish office.

First Reconciliation & First Eucharist:

Contact Kayla D'Allura at 704-720-0600 x729

Confirmation:

Contact Michael Quinn at 704-720-0600 x720.

Adult Confirmation:

Contact Micki O'Connor at 980-621-5451.

Reconciliation Schedule:

Saturday 2:00—3:30 p.m. or anytime by request.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Registered Parishioners are required by Diocesan Policy to contact the office 6 months prior to the date of marriage. Marriage dates should not be set prior to meeting with the parish priest.

Sacrament of Anointing/Visiting Sick:

If you need a visit from a priest, please call the office. In case of an *EMERGENCY* call (704) 720-0608.

Letters of Eligibility:

Letters of Eligibility to act as Godparents or Sponsors can be issued only to active members of the parish who are registered and in good standing.

St. James Catholic Cemetery & Columbarium:

Plots and niches are available to all parishioners of St. James and St. Joseph, their families and practicing Catholics from other parishes. Contact Charlie Anzalone 704-490-3796.

Altar Servers:

Contact Robert Williams at rwilliams24@carolina.rr.com by phone at 704-467-3550.

RCIA Program:

Contact Ginny Lieto at 704-454-7561 or Virginalieto@gmail.com

Bulletin Information:

Deadline is: 10 days prior to publication date. Send to: communication@saintjamescatholic.org.

Parish Nurse:

Rosa Gonzalez, 704-720-0600 x754
Rosag@saintjamescatholic.org

Online Giving: <https://saintjamescatholic.weshareonline.org>

THE REVELLE GROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meeting in Gill Hall, Monday through Saturday mornings at 7:00 am. Alcoholism is a complex problem with physical, behavioral, and spiritual components affecting all aspects of life. A content & healthy, sober life requires commitment & effort, but the journey is easier with friends who know the way. Reveille members help each other achieve & sustain sobriety by sharing their strength, hope & practical experience. If alcohol has become a problem in your life, or to learn more about Alcoholics Anonymous, we invite you to join us.

REMINDER FROM THE OFFICE: There is no eating or drinking in the Church! We are having issues with drinks being spilled on the pews, finding food crumbs in the pews and gum being stuck to the back of the pews.

If your child needs food or drinks during Mass please take them to the cry room or the vestibule. Thank you!

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS –DEC.25—JAN. 2

Saturday, December 25

12:00 a.m. Intentions of Christmas Flowers
 10:00 a.m. Intentions of Christmas Flowers
 12:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish
 5:00 p.m. Intentions of Christmas Flowers
 7:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Sunday, December 26

8:00 a.m. For All Parishioners
 9:30 a.m. +John Llanio by The Llanio Family
 11:00 a.m. +Alice Walls by Linda Beauregard
 1:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish
 5:00 p.m. +Maureen Foley by Virginia Odon

Monday, December 27

7:00 p.m. +Roberta McCabe by Pat Hite & Family

Tuesday, December 28

11:00 a.m. +Anna Grix by Jaymee Floyd

Wednesday, December 29

11:00 a.m. +Casasnovas Maldonado Family by Norma Casasnovas

Thursday, December 30

11:00 a.m. +Maty Tauber by Pam & Garren
 7:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Friday, December 31

11:00 a.m. +Eleanor Waligora by Mary's Visitors
 7:00 p.m. +Patrick Joseph Keogh by Teresa Kemp
 8:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Saturday, January 1

11:00 a.m. +Eleanor Waligora by Philly Duval
 5:00 p.m. +Melia Belofski by Dad & Mom
 7:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Sunday, January 2

8:00 a.m. +Anna Grix by Art & Gen Rollin
 9:30 a.m. +Marie Howard by Martha Anderson
 11:00 a.m. +Judy Posen by Laura, Ed, Steve, & Michael
 1:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish
 5:00 p.m. For All Parishioners

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 26—JAN. 1

Sun, Dec. 26: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; 1Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Mon, Dec. 27: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tue, Dec. 28: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Wed, Dec. 29: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Thu, Dec. 30: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Fri, Dec. 31: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

Sat, Jan. 1: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Readings are also at: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>



The Knights of Columbus Council # 7450 (St. James the Greater- Concord, NC) would like to welcome all practicing Catholic men over 18 years of age to join our Council Family. If you would like to join an organization that assists our Parish and Community in many ways with a spiritual and humble emphasis to help others, we would like to meet and speak with you.

If you are interested in joining our Family, have any questions about our organization and mission, or would like to find out more about our organization, please feel free to contact Joe Amodeo (GK) at # 980-781-4428 or Joe Ernst at # 314-368-2853. We look forward to meeting you.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Machala Anderson
 Ramona Baudion
 Larry Brantley
 Michelle Belofski
 Charlotte Bond
 Danielle Buckner
 Melissa Carl
 Megan Carney
 Donna Carrow
 Alden Chapman
 Ralph Clark
 Angela Colbert
 Mona DanDunk
 Pete Delaney
 Denny Dicky
 Jane Drake
 Sherry Earnhardt

Gary Emblar
 Peter Franzese
 Yvonne Gandron
 Betty Gann
 James Gann
 Maria Gross
 Eileen Guttridge
 Bill Hurst
 Berniece Janke
 Emilee Johnson
 David Kelemecz
 Florence Keogh
 Lisa King
 Irene McConnell
 Patricia McGeary
 Rachel McGirt
 Rachel McNellie
 Joyce Milliron
 Memorie Munson

MaryAnn Neilson
 Sarah Ott
 Evelyn Parker
 Heidi Payne
 Joe Piccirilli
 Bo Riggins
 Brian Schlemmer
 Barbara Sedegren
 Angela Sherrill
 Ashley Sibley
 Daniel Sibley
 James Sibley
 Patricia Sibley
 Victoria Sibley O'Keefe
 Florence Smelkoff
 Albertine Smith
 Robert Wadman
 Beth Wilson
 Laura Yarbough

Please remember to contact the office when we can remove your loved one from our prayer list or St. Gerard list. We will remove names periodically to free up space. Thank you!

ST. GERARD LIST: let us pray for these mothers and their babies through the intercession of St. Gerard.



Brenda Calarza—Mar. Kristin Keidel—Mar.
 Sarah Lasseter—Apr. Angela Crenshaw—Apr

Please contact the office to be put on the St. Gerard List.

BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

01/01/2021, Saturday

5:00 p.m. **CLOSED**

7:30 p.m. **CLOSED**

01/02/2021, Sunday

8:00 a.m. Stacy Tenaro & Pati Servicky

9:30 a.m. Peyton Smallwood & Charlotte Schomberg

11:00 a.m. Robby & Charlotte Schomberg

1:00 p.m. Deanna Glenn, Kaylee Vasquez, & C.Schomberg

5:00 p.m. Kim Lane & Charlotte Schomberg

LECTOR SCHEDULE:

01/01/2021, Saturday:

5:00 p.m. Charlotte Ohsowski

01/02/2021, Sunday:

8:00 a.m. Chuck Oxford

9:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy

11:00 a.m. Teresa Sibley

5:00 p.m. Teen Ministry

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Continue to sign up on Sign-up Genius from email sent out. If you would like to begin serving again, please contact Tanya Sastoque at tanyadimarco@hotmail.com.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED:

We will be closed Wednesday, December 22nd through Monday, December 27th for Christmas.

We will be closed Friday, December 31st for New Years.

CHILDREN'S MASS LECTORS & GREETERS:

Contact Mike Boteilho at mboteilho13@gmail.com to begin serving.



2021-2022 NEW YEARS MASS

December 31—New Years Eve

7:00 PM-English 8:30 PM-Spanish

January 1— New Years Day

11:00 AM-English

7:30 PM-Spanish

Life Teen will be running a fundraiser board in the Narthex of the Church after the Advent Giving Tree has finished.

This weekend, our parish youth group "Life Teen" is hosting an "Envelope Board" fundraiser in the narthex. Please stop by and talk to a teen about our upcoming summer camp retreat. This summer camp retreat is in July of 2022. It will be a great opportunity to grow spiritually and come back renewed to serve in our parish and local community. Please consider donating one of the amounts on the envelopes by taking it and placing it in the collection or you can place it in the donation box located next to the Envelope Board after Mass. We will be praying for you and thank you for your generosity. The board will remain in the narthex throughout the Christmas season if you would like to donate at a later time.

The St. James Women's Guild will not be holding a meeting in December. Our next meeting will be January 11th at 6:30 pm in Geiger Hall. Our speaker for the evening will be Michelle Briggs. Michelle is a member of St. James and teaches Zumba classes, both at St. James and the Senior Center. Her topic for the evening will be "A Matter of Balance". Michelle is a course instructor for this class. Masks will be required.

The board of the St. James Women's Guild would like to wish the members of the parish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Blessed New Year.



REGISTER FOR OUR NEW YEAR'S RETREAT

For more information call 828.327.7441.

QUOTE

"Fewer women would have abortions if wombs had windows." Dr. Bernard Nathanson, former abortionist turned Pro-Life, in his 1979 book *Aborting America*

"Hubiera menos mujeres teniendo abortos si la matriz tuviera ventanas". Dr. Bernard Nathanson, former abortionist turned Pro-Life, in his 1979 book *Aborting America*

ST. JAMES & CCM PANTRY NEEDS FOR THE MONTH:

Our current big needs are:

Cereal	Canned Carrots
Canned Green Beans	Canned Potatoes
Canned Corn	Canned Pinto Beans (15 or 16 oz.)
Peanut Butter & Jelly	Canned Pork & Beans (15 or 16 oz.)
Whole Grain Items	Low Sodium Items
No-added Sugar Items	Soup
Pasta Sauce	Rice (1 or 2 lbs.)
Diapers (all sizes)	

We have plenty of the following:

Dried Beans

We thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Crusader's Stations of the Cross: My name is Gabe Glass, I am a sophomore student at Christ The King looking to raise money for funds for my Eagle Scout project and need your help. In order to gain that rank I must complete a service project where I will build 14 Stations of the Cross behind Christ The King. In order to accomplish that, I ask for your donation to spread the precious openness of prayer. Thank you, Gabe Glass.



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SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING TODAY IN MINUTES:

- 1 Visit saintjamescatholic.weshareonline.org and click on any collection.
- 2 Select your donation amount and frequency.
- 3 Enter in your account and payment information.

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. — C. S. Lewis



Job Opening:

Little Way Preschool is Seeking a Lead Teacher for Pre-K

This part-time paid position works 27 hours per week and reports to Little Way Preschool Director.

Hours are 8:30am to 1:30pm plus two hours per week planning. Includes paid Holy Days, holidays, vacation and sick time.

For qualifications and more information, please visit:

sainttherese.net/st-therese-is-hiring

Defending Conscience Rights Against Vaccine Mandates

This Christmas many Catholic employees and families are concerned over the potential loss of employment, income, and livelihood due to employer vaccine mandates which go against their conscience and pro-life beliefs. To support Catholic workers and families and their conscience rights, the Carolina Family Coalition (CFC) is organizing a special *Defend Your Conscience Rights* event on Monday December 20 at 7pm at St. Thomas Aquinas parish – Aquinas Hall (1400 Suther Road, Charlotte). The event will feature talks by an attorney, impacted workers, and a reflection by a priest on how to suffer for Christ and His teachings. The event is free. CFC is an organization founded in 2018 by Catholic pro-life leaders in Charlotte to defend the family against the secular culture.

For questions contact: info@carolinafamilycoalition.org

JOB POSTING – STAFF ACCOUNTANT

The Diocese of Charlotte is seeking a full-time Staff Accountant for Parish Accounting Services. Areas of responsibilities include general bookkeeping and accounting for parishes, missions and parish schools: monthly close, financial statement preparation, general ledger maintenance and reconciliations, journal entries, accounts payable and cash receipts processing, payroll entries, budgeting, sales tax and year-end tax reporting.

Requirements include:

Education with a focus in Accounting, Finance or related field.

Experience in accounting or bookkeeping, preferably for a parish.

Excellent computer skills - specifically with Excel.

Experience with ParishSOFT software - a plus.

Please send resume and salary history/requirements by December 31, 2021 to: Mason Beaumont, Controller, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003, or email to mtbeaumont@rcdoc.org.

The Diocese of Charlotte is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to provide encouragement and to help you rebuild your life after the death of a loved one. We know it hurts and we want to help. There is no fee. Optional is the purchase of a \$15.00 workbook. If interested, please register.

Upcoming weekly sessions:

St. James Catholic Church – Geiger Hall Classroom

139 Manor Avenue, SW

Concord, NC 28025

Mondays, January 17 - April 18, 2022

Contact: Toni Swick (732) 330- 9744 or toniswick@gmail.com

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. sessions

Contact: Fran Vogelien (704-918-4010) or vogelien@hotmail.com

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. sessions

Avisos desde la oficina

Horario de la Oficina del Ministerio Hispano: de martes a viernes 1:00 p.m. a 7:00 p.m. Si tiene alguna pregunta, puede llamar al 704-720-0602

BAUTISMO

Próximos Bautismos: 26 de febrero a las 12:00 p.m. en el templo. La próxima plática bautismal será el 19 de febrero de 4:00 p.m. a 6:00 p.m. en el Gill Hall. Deben asistir padres y padrinos. Llegar entre 3:30 y 3:50 para efectos de registración. Por favor no traer niños.



GRUPO DE ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS "LA ALEGRÍA DE VIVIR"

¿Tiene usted problemas con el alcohol o con otras adicciones? El Grupo de Alcohólicos Anónimos (AA) aquí en St James, ha reiniciado las reuniones y está aquí para ayudarle a usted a enfocarse en su bienestar, le invitamos a que se una al grupo. Para más información se puede comunicar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas: Lázaro Cruz 704-701-9179, José Oviedo 704-490-9562, Gustavo Gallo 704-491-0876, o también es bien venido a la reunión sin previo aviso. Los domingos y viernes de 7:00pm-9:00pm en el Guadalupe Hall.

NUESTRA AGENDA

Diciembre 27 (lunes)

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Exposición del Santísimo y Adoración

6:00 p.m. Ensayo de coro G.H

7:00 p.m. Reunión Hombres y Mujeres CRSP en OLG

Diciembre 28 (martes)

6:00 p.m. Ensayo Coro. Templo.

7:00 p.m. Reunión Mujeres CRSP. OLG Hall.

7:00 p.m. Consagrados a Jesús por María – Capilla

Diciembre 30 (jueves) No habrá Catecismo.

6:30 p.m. Rosario 7:00 p.m. Eucaristía

7:45 p.m. Adoración a Jesús Sacramentado

Diciembre 31 (viernes)

7:00 p.m. Reunión de Mujeres y Hombres CRSP. OLGH. Ensayo Coro en G. H.

8:00 p.m. Rosario 8:30 p.m. Eucaristía

Enero 1 (sábado)

6:00 p.m. Reunión Hombres CRSP. OLG Hall. Ensayo Coro. G. H

7:00 p.m. Rosario 7:30 p.m. Eucaristía

Enero 2 (domingo) No habrá Catecismo.

12:30 p.m. Rosario 1:00 p.m. Eucaristía

SERVIDORES - SANTO ROSARIO

JUEVES DICIEMBRE 30	SÁBADO ENERO 1	DOMINGO ENERO 2
Luciana Jimenez VIERNES DICIEMBRE 31 Cristina Montoya	Katia Caballero	Raquel Miranda

SERVIDORES - MINISTROS EXTRAORDINARIOS - JUEVES DICIEMBRE 30

EUCARISTÍA	LECTORES
Adela Nolasco, Fanny Gonzaez, Eusebia Martinez	1. Katia Caballero S. Socorro Medina
VIERNES DICIEMBRE 31	VIERNES DICIEMBRE 31
Enmanuel Juarez, Lupita Villagomez, Elidio Bustos, Eusebia Martinez, Ernesto Landaverde Misa a las 8:30 p.m.	M. Rosita Rivera 1. Mayra Marino S. Olga Blanco 2. Adriana Mejia

SERVIDORES – MINISTROS EXTRAORDINARIOS – SABADO ENERO 1

EUCARISTÍA	LECTORES	UJIERES	ACÓLITOS
Anibal Perez, Elidio Martinez, Pedro Martinez, Angel Vargas, Juan M Rangel	M. Raymundo Hernandez 1. Jaime Mejia S. Edmundo Rivas 2. Gustavo Gallo	Luz G., José A., Clementa P., Juan M., Desiderio M., Bertha U., Leodegario S., Marcos B., Kayla H., Cornelio H.	Elidio Bustos Andres Sosa

SERVIDORES - MINISTROS EXTRAORDINARIOS – DOMINGO ENERO 2

EUCARISTÍA	LECTORES	UJIERES	ACÓLITOS
Raul Hernandez, Marina Hernandez, Cristina Montoya, Jose Oviedo, Eliana Oviedo	M. Rosta Rivera 1. Lourdes Perez S. Martha San Juan 2. Jennifer Vigueras	Roxana, Paula H., Filiberto S., José S., Marisol A., Marcos C., Yolanda T., Yadira G., Yael V.	Allesandro Martinez Pierre Martinez Angel Vigueras

LA PALABRA DE DIOS CADA DIA DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Jn. 20,2-8– “Se han llevado del sepulcro al Señor y no sabemos dónde lo han puesto.”

Martes: Mt. 2,13-18– “Un grito se oye en Ramá, llanto y lamentos grandes; es Raquel que llora por sus hijos, y rehúsa el consuelo, porque ya no viven.”

Miércoles: Lc. 2,22-35– “Porque mis ojos han visto a tu Salvador, a quien has presentado ante todos los pueblos: luz para alumbrar a las naciones y gloria de tu pueblo Israel.”

Jueves: Lc. 2,36-40– “El niño iba creciendo y robusteciéndose, y se llenaba de sabiduría; y la gracia de Dios lo acompañaba.”

Viernes: Jn. 1,1-18– “En el principio ya existía la Palabra, y la Palabra estaba junto a Dios, y la Palabra era Dios.”

Sábado: Lc. 2,6-21– “le pusieron por nombre Jesús, como lo había llamado el ángel antes de su concepción.”

EXHORTACIÓN APOSTÓLICA POSTSINODAL EL AMOR EN LA FAMILIA DEL PAPA FRANCISCO (Continuación)

«Aun a riesgo de simplificar, podríamos decir que existe una cultura tal que empuja a muchos jóvenes a no poder formar una familia porque están privados de oportunidades de futuro. Sin embargo, esa misma cultura concede a muchos otros, por el contrario, tantas oportunidades, que también ellos se ven disuadidos de formar una familia». En algunos países, muchos jóvenes «a menudo son llevados a posponer la boda por problemas de tipo económico, laboral o de estudio. A veces, por otras razones, como la influencia de las ideologías que desvalorizan el matrimonio y la familia, la experiencia del fracaso de otras parejas a la cual ellos no quieren exponerse, el miedo hacia algo que consideran demasiado grande y sagrado, las oportunidades sociales y las ventajas económicas derivadas de la convivencia, una concepción puramente emocional y romántica del amor, el miedo de perder su libertad e independencia, el rechazo de todo lo que es concebido como institucional y burocrático». Necesitamos encontrar las palabras, las motivaciones y los testimonios que nos ayuden a tocar las fibras más íntimas de los jóvenes, allí donde son más capaces de generosidad, de compromiso, de amor e incluso de heroísmo, para invitarles a aceptar con entusiasmo y valentía el desafío del matrimonio.

Los Padres sinodales se refirieron a las actuales «tendencias culturales que parecen imponer una afectividad sin límites, [...] una afectividad narcisista, inestable y cambiante que no ayuda siempre a los sujetos a alcanzar una mayor madurez». Han dicho que están preocupados por «una cierta difusión de la pornografía y de la comercialización del cuerpo, favorecida entre otras cosas por un uso desequilibrado de Internet», y por «la situación de las personas que se ven obligadas a practicar la prostitución. En este contexto, «los cónyuges se sienten a menudo inseguros, indecisos y les cuesta encontrar los modos para crecer. Son muchos los que suelen quedarse en los estadios primarios de la vida emocional y sexual. La crisis de los esposos desestabiliza la familia y, a través de las separaciones y los divorcios, puede llegar a tener serias consecuencias para los adultos, los hijos y la sociedad, debilitando al individuo y los vínculos sociales». Las crisis matrimoniales frecuentemente «se afrontan de un modo superficial y sin la valentía de la paciencia, del diálogo sincero, del perdón recíproco, de la reconciliación y también del sacrificio. Los fracasos dan origen a nuevas relaciones, nuevas parejas, nuevas uniones y nuevos matrimonios, creando situaciones familiares complejas y problemáticas para la opción cristiana».

«Asimismo, el descenso demográfico, debido a una mentalidad antinatalista y promovido por las políticas mundiales de salud reproductiva, no sólo determina una situación en la que el sucederse de las generaciones ya no está asegurado, sino que se corre el riesgo de que con el tiempo lleve a un empobrecimiento económico y a una pérdida de esperanza en el futuro. El avance de las biotecnologías también ha tenido un fuerte impacto sobre la natalidad».
(Continuará).



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