

Saint James the Greater

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Serving the Community of Concord,

North Carolina and Beyond!

January 16, 2022

Second Sunday In Ordinary Time



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—01/09/2022

Offertory.....\$22,624.00
Budget\$22,385.00
Surplus/Deficit\$ 239.00

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.

CHARITABLE DONATION STATEMENTS:

If you are in need of your statement of donations for tax purposes, please contact the office by email or phone and let us know. We can send them out via email, regular mail or you may pick them up. We will NOT automatically send these out, you must call. Email to bonnieW@saintjamescatholic.org or call 704-720-0600 and leave your name with Miriam.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS –JAN. 15—JAN. 23

Saturday, January 15

11:00 a.m. For Mike & Leslie Walter marriage by Rosmary Ruiz

5:00 p.m. +Theresa Stockdale by Gail Abraham

7:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Sunday, January 16

8:00 a.m. +Ellie Waligora by David Corbett

9:30 a.m. +Jenny Batish by The Kincaid Family

11:00 a.m. For all fallen police, firefighters & first responders by
The Labonte Family

1:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

5:00 p.m. For all parishioners

Monday, January 17

7:00 p.m. +Chris Widman by Micki O'Connor

Tuesday, January 18

11:00 a.m. +Gacoba Masias by Laura Masias

Wednesday, January 19

11:00 a.m. +Angie Facciolo by Mary's Visitors

Thursday, January 20

11:00 a.m. +Kathleen Stadler by Mary's Visitors

7:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Friday, January 21

11:00 a.m. +Eleanor Waligora by The Women's Guild

Saturday, January 22

11:00 a.m. Fred & Eleanor Krisch by Al & Ginger Curl

5:00 p.m. +Carol Pasquale by Russel Vera

7:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Sunday, January 23

8:00 a.m. +Eleanor & Eddie Waligora by Their Grandchildren &
Great Grandchildren

9:30 a.m. +Charles Kincaid by Tom & Cindy Kincaid

11:00 a.m. +Hunter Lee Hinson by The Hinson Family

1:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

5:00 p.m. For all parishioners

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 16—JAN. 22

Sun, Jan. 16: Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

Mon, Jan. 17: 1 Sm 15:16-23; Mk 2:18-22

Tue, Jan. 18: 1 Sm 16:1-13; Mk 2:23-28

Wed, Jan. 19: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Mk 3:1-6

Thu, Jan. 20: 1 Sm 18:6-9, 19:1-7; Mk 3:7-12

Fri, Jan. 21: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Mk 3:13-19

Sat, Jan. 22: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Mk 3:20-21

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

Adult Confirmation

Are you an Adult (19 and older) who is active in our Catholic faith but never received the sacrament of Confirmation? Please join us for this 10 week course of preparation. This course will guide you through your final initiation into the Catholic Church in June.

**Thursdays, 6:30-8:00PM in the Parish Conference Room
(located in the Office)**

Sessions begin February 24, 2022

For more information and to register, contact Micki O'Connor at mickio53@hotmail.com or 980-621-5451

CHILDREN'S MASS LECTORS & GREETERS:

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Betty Gann
James Gann
Stacy Gibbons
Maria Gross
Eileen Guttridge
Natalie Guys
Janies M. Hosson
Bill Hurst
Berniece Janke
Emilee Johnson
David Kelemecz
Florence Keogh
Lisa King
Irene McConnell
Patricia McGeady
Rachel McGirt
Rachel McNellie
Joyce Milliron
Mary Ann Nelson
Dorothy O'Leary

Sarah Ott
Evelyn Parker
Heidi Payne
Joe Piccirilli
Dawn D'Amat I. Ralston
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 Yarbrough

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.
Michelle Choromanski—Mar. Angela Crenshaw—Apr
Sarah Lasseter—Apr. Amanda Pisciotta—May.

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

BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE:

01/22/2022, Saturday

5:00 p.m. Robby & Charlotte Schomberg

7:30 p.m. Robby & Charlotte Schomberg

01/23/2022, Sunday

8:00 a.m. Robby & Charlotte Schomberg

9:30 a.m. Laura Woodard & Yasmin Pauls

11:00 a.m. Robby & Charlotte Schomberg

1:00 p.m. Kaylee Vasquez & Charlotte Schomberg

5:00 p.m. Valerie & Gabe Glass

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.

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!

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.



St. James the Greater

Family Dinner



RESERVATIONS MANDATORY:
Make your reservation by calling the parish office by Monday, January 17th by 2 P.M.
First 100 will be accepted!

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

St. James Geiger Hall
5:15pm UNTIL 6:30pm

Featuring: Chicken Parmesan, Pasta, Veggie, Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert, and Drink

Adults Just \$8.00 Children under 12 \$4.00

Incredible meal! Incredible fellowship! Incredible Price!

Please make your reservations by Monday, January 17th



St. James Hospitality Committee 2022

ST. JAMES & CCM PANTRY NEEDS FOR THE MONTH:

Our current big needs are:

Cereal	Canned Carrots
Tomato Soup	Canned Potatoes
Canned Mixed Vegetables	Canned Pinto Beans (15 or 16 oz.)
Canned fruit	Canned Baked Beans (15 or 16 oz.)
Whole Grain Items	Low Sodium Items
No-added Sugar Items	Canned Peas
Diapers (all sizes)	

We have plenty of the following:

Pasta	Macaroni & Cheese
Rice	Tuna
Chicken & Rice soup	Pasta Sauce
Diced Tomatoes	Canned Green Beans & Corn

We thank you for your continued support and generosity.

CATHOLIC DOCUMENTARIES @ ST. JAMES:

St. James Adult Education will begin the monthly Catholic Documentaries. Most documentaries are approximately 90 minutes in length. For more information, please contact Kayla D'Allura at 704-720-600729 or kaylad@saintjamescatholic.org. This is a great way to get involved and learn!

January Documentary – A Free Night at the Movies:

Extreme Mercy II

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 6:45 p.m.
Gill Hall – Boscoe (Youth Room)

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 POSTING – AUDITOR/SR. ACCOUNTANT

The Diocese of Charlotte is seeking a full-time Auditor and Senior Accountant. Essential areas of responsibility include:

Performs annual school audits for compliance with established diocesan financial policies, procedures and practices.

Prepares detailed reports on findings and makes appropriate recommendations.

Oversees the accounting functions for the Seminary College – including monthly reconciliations and reporting, coordinating with personnel regarding accounting inquiries, assisting with the annual budget process and year-end reporting.

Assists with selected Central Administration accounting functions – various monthly account reconciliations, posting month-end journal entries, health insurance billings, processing semi-annual sales tax refund requests and other accounting assistance, as needed.

Requirements include:

Bachelor's degree or equivalent in Accounting, Finance or related field.

At least three years' experience in accounting and auditing; preferably with a not-for-profit organization.

Strong written, verbal, analytical and interpersonal skills.

Excellent computer skills - specifically with Excel.

Experience with ParishSOFT software - a plus.

This position requires moderate travel; may require some evening or weekend work.

CPA or MBA preferred.

Please send resume and salary history/requirements by January 28th, 2022 to: Meredith Paul, Director of Internal Audit, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003, or email to mmmpaul@rcdoc.org.

The Diocese of Charlotte is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Rediscover the Power in Catholic Spirituality”

Lunch and Learn for February

Wednesdays beginning February 2

Come to any or all sessions



Feb. 2nd—Knowledge of self leading to knowledge of God.

Feb. 9th—Sharing the divinity of Christ.

Feb. 16th—Praying for the Kingdom of God.

Feb. 23rd—Growing in Grace & Peace

Our “Lunch and Learn” sessions begin with a light lunch at 12:00 PM, followed by a presentation and discussion. For those who choose, the learning could begin with an hour of adoration and a blessing by Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The topics are chosen for Lunch and Learn are meant to be both transformative and informative. For those who want to dive deeper into the material, there is a companion book available.

The format includes a brief presentation by Deacon Scott Gilfillan, throughout which all are invited to share their own observations.

Here is a typical lunch and learn schedule:

Lunch and Learn Schedule

11:00 AM Holy Hour of Adoration (optional)

11:50 AM Benediction (optional)

12:00 PM Light lunch

12:30 PM Program

1:30 PM Final Blessing

Any questions, contact Deacon Scott Gilfillan at sdgilfillan@catholicconference.org, or call 828.328.7441. PRICING: No charge. Suggested donation \$15 per session.

The Center would like to get as many people as possible to enter into a deeper spiritual experience and relationship with God. Donations will be kindly accepted to defer the cost of the meals and the books, but not necessary. **Please register Monday for the Wednesday session.** Space is limited to 25 participants.

Over Community, Close
Consider the Lillies...
1st & 3rd Tuesday: 1-5 PM
4th Friday: 3-6pm
4th Saturday: 9am-2pm

FREE gently used & new clothing (pants, shirts, dresses, pajamas, coats, etc) and shoes for men, women, teens and children!!

Sizes and availability are not guaranteed. We operate on a first come, first serve basis.

Please join us & spread the word to ANYONE in need;
NO income verification is required



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

WELLNESS ROCKS!
FREE EVENT
21st Annual Senior Health and Wellness EXPO
Cabarrus County Active Living and Parks

Wednesday, March 9th
10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Cabarrus Arena & Events Center
4751 NC Highway 49 N, Concord, NC

CABARRUS COUNTY Active Living & Parks

For more information:
704-920-3484
@CabCoALP
www.cabarruscounty.us/seniors

Health Screenings
Educational Sessions
Exhibitors
Healthy Food
Door Prizes
Medication Disposal

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

Enero 17 (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 - OLG

Enero 18 (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

Enero 20 (jueves)

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

7:45 p.m. Adoración a Jesús Sacramentado

Enero 21 (viernes)

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

Enero 22 (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 23 (domingo)

11:30 a.m. Catequesis para Padres en el Guadalupe Hall - Asamblea. Todos invitados.

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

SERVIDORES - SANTO ROSARIO

JUEVES ENERO 20	SÁBADO ENERO 22	DOMINGO ENERO 23
Ivonne Erion	Fanny Gonzales	Leticia Lopez

SERVIDORES - MINISTROS EXTRAORDINARIOS - JUEVES ENERO 20

EUCARISTÍA	LECTORES
Eusebia Martinez, Lupita Villagomez, Virginia Valtierra	1. Ivonne Erion S. Olga Blanco

SERVIDORES – MINISTROS EXTRAORDINARIOS – SABADO ENERO 22

EUCARISTÍA	LECTORES	UJIERES	ACÓLITOS
Raul Macias Araceli Hernandez Maria Ortiz Eliana Oviedo Jose Oviedo	M. Rosita Rivera 1. Katia Caballero S. Jaime Mejia 2. Margarita Morales	Luz G., José A., Clementa P., Juan M., Desiderio M., Bertha U., Leodegario S., Marcos B., Kayla H., Cornelio H.	Marcos Baños Andres Sosa

SERVIDORES - MINISTROS EXTRAORDINARIOS – DOMINGO ENERO 23

EUCARISTÍA	LECTORES	UJIERES	ACÓLITOS
Blas Quiterio Elizabeth Victorino Gloria Narvaez Adela Nolasco Yesenia Soto	M. Gerardo Gomez 1. Armando Estrada S. Raymundo Galvan 2. Eduardo Quesada	Roxana, Paula H., Filiberto S., José S., Marisol A., Marcos C., Yolanda T., Yadira G., Yael V.	Pierre Martinez Angel Viguera Leonardo Rivas

LA PALABRA DE DIOS CADA DIA DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Mc. 2,18-22- “Nadie le echa un remiendo de paño sin remojar a un manto pasado...”

Martes: Mc. 2,23-28- “El sábado se hizo para el hombre y no el hombre para el sábado; así que el Hijo del hombre es señor también del sábado.”

Miércoles: Mc. 3,1-6- “¿Qué está permitido en sábado?, ¿hacer lo bueno o lo malo?, ¿salvarle la vida a un hombre o dejarlo morir?”

Jueves: Mc. 3,7-12- “Tú eres el Hijo de Dios.”

Viernes: Mc. 3,13-19- “A doce los hizo sus compañeros, para enviarlos a predicar...”

Sábado: Mc. 3,20-21- “En aquel tiempo, Jesús fue a casa con sus discípulos y se juntó de nuevo tanta gente que no los dejaban ni comer.”

EXHORTACIÓN APOSTÓLICA POSTSINODAL

EL AMOR EN LA FAMILIA DEL PAPA FRANCISCO (Continuación)

Las experiencias migratorias resultan especialmente dramáticas y devastadoras, tanto para las familias como para las personas, cuando tienen lugar fuera de la legalidad y son sostenidas por los circuitos internacionales de la trata de personas. También cuando conciernen a las mujeres o a los niños no acompañados, obligados a permanencias prolongadas en lugares de pasaje entre un país y otro, en campos de refugiados, donde no es posible iniciar un camino de integración. La extrema pobreza, y otras situaciones de desintegración, inducen a veces a las familias incluso a vender a sus propios hijos para la prostitución o el tráfico de órganos». «Las persecuciones de los cristianos, así como las de las minorías étnicas y religiosas, en muchas partes del mundo, especialmente en Oriente Medio, son una gran prueba: no sólo para la Iglesia, sino también para toda la comunidad internacional. Todo esfuerzo debe ser apoyado para facilitar la permanencia de las familias y de las comunidades cristianas en sus países de origen».

Los Padres también dedicaron especial atención «a las familias de las personas con discapacidad, en las cuales dicho hándicap, que irrumpe en la vida, genera un desafío, profundo e inesperado, y desbarata los equilibrios, los deseos y las expectativas [...] Merecen una gran admiración las familias que aceptan con amor la difícil prueba de un niño discapacitado. Ellas dan a la Iglesia y a la sociedad un valioso testimonio de fidelidad al don de la vida. La familia podrá descubrir, junto con la comunidad cristiana, nuevos gestos y lenguajes, formas de comprensión y de identidad, en el camino de acogida y cuidado del misterio de la fragilidad. Las personas con discapacidad son para la familia un don y una oportunidad para crecer en el amor, en la ayuda recíproca y en la unidad [...] La familia que acepta con los ojos de la fe la presencia de personas con discapacidad podrá reconocer y garantizar la calidad y el valor de cada vida, con sus necesidades, sus derechos y sus oportunidades. Dicha familia proveerá asistencia y cuidados, y promoverá compañía y afecto, en cada fase de la vida». Quiero subrayar que la atención dedicada tanto a los migrantes como a las personas con discapacidades es un signo del Espíritu. Porque ambas situaciones son paradigmáticas: ponen especialmente en juego cómo se vive hoy la lógica de la acogida misericordiosa y de la integración de los más frágiles.

«La mayoría de las familias respeta a los ancianos, los rodea de cariño y los considera una bendición. Un agradecimiento especial hay que dirigirlo a las asociaciones y movimientos familiares que trabajan en favor de los ancianos, en lo espiritual y social [...] En las sociedades altamente industrializadas, donde su número va en aumento, mientras que la tasa de natalidad disminuye, estos corren el riesgo de ser percibidos como un peso. Por otro lado, los cuidados que requieren a menudo ponen a dura prueba a sus seres queridos». **(Continuará...)**



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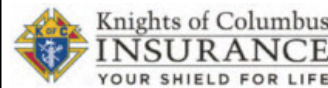
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