



Notes from the Pastor

Congratulations to all those who were presented for the Easter sacraments last weekend and experienced the Rite of Acceptance. They are willing and anxious to join the Church and hope that we will help them prepare for their life-long commitment to follow Jesus as Roman Catholics. They need the example of active members of our faith community to greet them each Sunday and be available to talk with them and answer questions. The role of a "sponsor" requires love of Jesus and his Church and a willingness to share it. Could you be one? Please contact me or Deacon Paul Lederman if you are willing to do so.

I join you in thanking Deacon Richard Albin for his inspiring mission last week. He led us from the Transfiguration to the Resurrection inviting us to walk with Jesus more closely each day. I also want to thank Pat Lederman and the Faith Formation committee for making available the recordings of the New Testament on CD's. Many of you have commented on how wonderful it is to hear the Word of God. Please hand on your copy to someone else after you have listened to it.

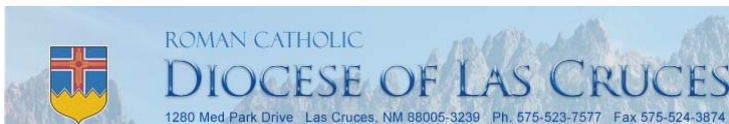
This third week of Lent we have two optional readings: one for the mass with catechumens (Year A) the gospel story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well and (year C) the parable of the fruitless fig tree.) Both help us walk more closely with Jesus during this Lent. The woman at the well was judged by everyone to be a sinner – a Samaritan and an adulteress. Jesus knew this and offered her salvation. She became the instrument for bringing her village to conversion.

In the parable the fig tree (Israel) bore no fruit (did not respond to Jesus' preaching.) However, it was fertilized and given an opportunity to try again. Jesus continued to preach to his people and mainly the poor and the sick believed in him.

Where are we in these figures? Do we "bear fruit" by our words and actions? Do we share our conversion story with others? Are we willing to forgive the sins of others? Are we willing to confess our sins and seek forgiveness this Lent?

Have a blessed Lenten journey. Pray for our catechumens and candidates.

Shalom, Fr. Albin



On behalf of the devastated populace of Haiti I wish to thank you for your collaboration in raising funds for the victims of the recent earthquake. I am happy to announce that as of February 19, 2010, \$96,921.43 have been collected and sent to Catholic Relief Services.

Continue to keep in your prayers the people of Haiti. Also, if anyone has not had the opportunity to donate money, they may still do so either through your parish or sent directly to the Pastoral Center. Checks are to be made out to CRS-Haiti earthquake. This collection has equaled the amount that was raised for the Mexico City earthquake in 1985. Thanks again.

Bishop Ricardo Ramirez

Pray for the sick of our Parish

Oren por los enfermos de nuestra Parroquia

Merciful Jesus, have compassion on all those who are sick or in pain. Grant them a healing of mind and body and restore their strength and spirit.

Jesús Misericordioso ten compasión de todos aquellos que están enfermos o en dolor. Concédeles su curación mental y corporal y renueve su fuerza y espíritu.

Gloria Montez ~ John Allen ~ Javier Pacheco ~ Eileen Curran ~ Placido Trujillo ~ Melissa Pincomb *Carol Mundy ~ Fr. Larry Reitmeyer ~ Nellie Flores ~ Jerry Rossi ~ Genevieve Munns ~ Dora Alejo ~ *Vera Chavez ~ Jose Terrazas ~ Elfigo Fajardo ~ Jesus Silva ~ Ernest Martinez ~ John Fleming ~ Virginia Young ~ Pedro Rios ~ Inez Santiago * Tammi Martinez ~ Tina Wood ~ Alvin Birmingham ~ Louis Freitas ~ Estella Gonzalez ~ Gene Brewitz ~ Mary Ross ~ Lorenzo Perez ~ Mark Miller.



*For the Repose of the Souls of
Ronald Yoder, Jorge Lopez*



Alberto Saenz

*And for the consolation of their
family and friends.*

Sunday Collection

Colecta Dominical



First Collection/Building Maintenance

Needed weekly	\$12,725.96
Received this week	\$13,134.76
Needed for this fiscal year '09-'10	\$661,750.00
Budget to date(67.31%) \$445,408.65
Received to date(67.28%) \$445,238.57
St. Vincent de Paul.	\$1,181.14
Next week "Bishop's Welfare CRS"	

Pope John Paul II Family Life Center	\$1,500,000.00
Pledged to date	\$702,185.28
Received to date	\$577,872.69
789 families/individuals pledge	

"Together in Faith & Hope" Campaign	\$900,000.00
Pledged to date	\$205,486.91
Received to date	\$61,071.91
272 families/individuals pledge	

FR. JUAN CAMILO THANKSGIVING MASS

AT HOLY CROSS

March 13, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

March 14, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

We invite you to Fr. Juan Camilo's Thanksgiving Mass on March 13th with a cake and punch reception after Mass & the 14th with a reception following the 1:30 Mass in the Rafaela Lucero Hall. Please bring a pot luck dish, according to the first letter of your last name, that will serve eight.

- A-D Bread
- E-J Potatoe Salad, Maccaroni Salad or Beans
- K-O Desserts
- P-S Fruits or Vegatable Plates
- T-Z Salsa & Chips

Un message del Diacono Juan Camilo Montoya

Domingo 7 de Marzo de 2010
Domingo 3° de Cuaresma Ciclo C

*Tú palabra es una lámpara a mis pies y una luz
en mi camino
Salmo 119.105*

La Palabra de Dios que hoy compartimos se encuentra sólo en el Evangelio según San Lucas. Ni Mateo, ni Marcos, ni Juan han recogido este episodio del Señor. El texto evangélico de este Domingo se puede subdividir en tres partes íntimamente relacionadas entre sí. Las tres se dan en un "in crescendo" que lleva a la síntesis final como enseñanza en este camino de la Cuaresma. Las tres partes son:

- La muerte de los galileos (versículos 1 al 3).
- La muerte por el derrumbe de la torre (versículos 4 y 5).
- Parábola de la higuera (versículos 6 al 9).

No se dice expresamente, pero pareciera que los que traen las "últimas noticias" al Señor, quieren embrollarlo y confundirlo con algunas cuestiones que tienen un matiz claramente político. Le pone a Jesús un ejemplo trágico de muertes de personas. El Señor agregará un segundo ejemplo. Para ambos casos el Señor responderá lo mismo: no murieron dramáticamente porque fueran más malos que el resto. Jesús dice esto porque en su época, y lamentablemente hoy en algunos casos también, se considera que alguien que padece alguna desgracia es por su responsabilidad y pecado. Queda claro que esto no es así: ni los galileos asesinados por Pilato, ni las dieciocho personas que quedaron debajo de la torre derrumbada en el barrio de Siloé de Jerusalén, eran más malos que el resto de los habitantes de Galilea y de Jerusalén respectivamente... Como hace muchas veces, en este contexto el Señor, aprovecha la situación para dejar una enseñanza más profunda. La "desgracia" sufrida por estas personas puede ser signo de la "desgracia eterna" que va a padecer aquel que no se convierta y obedezca a Dios. Jesús rompe con la mentalidad de su tiempo y, a la vez, aprovecha la circunstancia para dejar una enseñanza sobre la conversión. Para completar su reflexión, el Señor, agrega una parábola que sirva de ejemplo. El dueño de una higuera decide, luego de tres años, hacer cortarla dado que no da frutos. Pero el encargado le pide un año más para trabajar la tierra e intentar que pueda dar fruto. Se lee aquí la perspectiva de la paciencia de Dios que da una nueva oportunidad. Sin embargo es necesario decidirse dado que si no da frutos será inexorablemente cortada. Como síntesis final podemos decir que la muerte trágica que aquí se relatan sirven como advertencia para todos: si el que no es necesariamente culpable de algo particular puede padecer de esta forma, cuanto más padecerá un final terrible el que no quiera obedecer a Dios y convierta su corazón.

Juan Camilo M.

MISA DE ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS DEL PADRE JUAN CAMILO EN HOLY CROSS

13 de marzo de 2010 a las 5:30 p.m.

14 de marzo de 2010 a las 1:30 p.m.

Los invitamos a la Misa de Acción de Gracias del Padre Juan Camilo el 13 de Marzo, donde tendremos una pequeña recepción con pastel y ponche después de Misa. Y el 14 de Marzo habrá una recepción después de la Misa de 1:30 p.m. en el gimnasio de la escuela. Por favor traigan un platillo de acuerdo con la primera letra de su apellido según la lista anexa. Hay que traer para ocho personas.

A-D	Panecitos
E-J	Ensaladas de papa, macarron o frijoles
K-O	Postres
P-S	Platillos de frutas o verduras
T-Z	Salsas y chips

REPRESENTACIÓN DE LA ÚLTIMA CENA

Sábado 27 de marzo de 2010 a las 6:30 p.m.

Gimnasio de la Escuela Holy Cross

dirigido por

Monseñor John Anderson

Donación \$3.00 por persona

Los boletos están disponibles en la oficina parroquial o los domingos a la salida de Misa.

Oberammergau

In 1634, the bubonic plague was sweeping through Europe, claiming thousands of lives and obliterating hundreds of villages. In the Bavarian region of Germany about 60 miles south west of Munich) was the village of Oberammergau. Because of its remote location in the Alps, the residents felt they could protect themselves from the plague by prohibiting outside visitors. But, despite their efforts, 84 people died when a traveling villager snuck back to Oberammergau and unwittingly infected the village. Desperately, the villagers turned to God and vowed that if God would safeguard them from the plague, every 10 years they would re-enact the story of Christ's death and resurrection.

The town was spared, and the tradition of the Oberammergau Passion Play was born. Its first performance was on Pentecost Sunday in 1634.

Today the play is performed on an open stage with seating for nearly 5,000 spectators. Member of the huge cast (there are 1,700 parts) must be Oberammergau natives or have lived there for 10 years. The production lasts a whole day, with only a three hour break for lunch and is performed five times a week.

This year, on the 41st Passion Play of Oberammergau, I will be in attendance at the Passion Play during my pilgrimage of Europe in May 25-June 5, I will be one of the lucky 5,000 seeing this Passion Play. Please join me. The cost is \$4,299.00. The tour includes: Air transportation from Houston. Make your reservation today, as space is limited. For more information or reservations, please call 523-0167 or contact NAWAS International, (203) 656-3033.

ONLY ROOM FOR 6 PEOPLE LEFT!!!