Baptized into Christ Jesus, we worship as one and reach out to all.
COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE
Francine Puglia 281.713.8954

COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRIES CONT.
VOCACTIONS COMMITTEE
Phil & Diane Applegate 281.361.2913
YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON
Nancy Landvogt 281.358.6637, x202
Nancy Karpinski 713-594-4430

FAITH FORMATION
BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY
Carla Lewton 281-358-1959x213
CORNERSTONE BIBLE STUDY
Pam Rockwell 281.358.1959x230

MINISTERS OF LITURGY
DIRECTOR OF LITURGY
Gayle Hogwood 281.713.8959

MINISTERS OF MUSIC
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Dr. Rick Lopez @stmartha.com

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNION
Joy Ehrman 281.358.1959x251

MINISTERS OF REQUIEM
ALTAR SERVERS
Gayle Hogwood 281.713.8959
BAPTISM
281.358.6637
CANTORS
Dr. Rick Lopez @stmartha.com
CHILDREN'S ADORATION
Annette Salazar 281.358.1492
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Dr. Rick Lopez @stmartha.com
COMMUNION TO THE SICK
Hospital Visit
Angela Wemys 281.361.9720
Nursing Home & Homebound
Pat Timpanaro 281.361.9338
Pat Timpanaro 281.361.9338
Hispanic Community to the Sick
Amy Jamieson jamiesonamy23@gmail.com
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Pam Rockwell 281.358.1959x230
GREETERS
Nora Tworzydlo 713.814.5431
GREETERS-FASTER FAMILY MASS
Casey Levy caselevy@me.com

OUTREACH MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Don Alfredo Soto 281.713.8917

OUTREACH MINISTRIES CONT.
HOSPITAL MINISTRY
Sarah Clark 281.361.8832
Sheila Yepsen 281.358.5585
MARY GORIETTI NETWORK
Shannon Doitz 773-9213

ST. MARTHA'S KITCHEN
Sr. Maria Elena 713.224.2522
MOTHER TERESA MINISTRY
Paola Lam 832-284-1891
PRO-LIFE (GABRIEL PROJECT)
713.225.5826

PROJECT RACHEL
Bennie Develle 281.812.8641

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS FOOD DRIVE
Marie Burk 281.361.3650

ST. JOSEPH HELPERS
Bill Beck 281.360.7023

ST. MARTHA BETWEEN JOBS AND BEYOND
Bob Simpson 713.410.2844

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
281.358.6636

SECOND FAMILY MINISTRY
Peggy Wehle 281.380.3244
SOCIAL JUSTICE
Bob Simpson 713.410.2844

ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL PK-8TH
Tina Lewis 281.358.5523
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
Lynn Lucas 281.358.5523x326

REGISTRAR
Jan Rodine 281.358.5523x314

MINISTERS EN ESPAÑOL
FORMACION RELIGIOSA PARA ADULTOS
Ocn. Alfredo Soto 281.713.9817
COORDINADORA DE CATECISMO PARA JÓVENES Y SACRAMENTOS
Irene Soto 281.358.1959x269
CORO DE ADULTOS
Luis Valle 832.620.1888

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN
Carmen Ogando 832-767-8826

HOPEFULS
Gustavo Zapata 832.247.9955

LECTORES
Cristina Gabas 281.796.9084

MISIONES EXTRASACRAMENTALES
DE LA EUCARISTÍA
Juan Rius 945.439.1127

MONAGUILLOS
Pastor Pastor 832.514.7514/832.633.0145
RA
Jaime Gomez 281.973.1857

GIFTS OF STEWARDSHIP
For the weekend of June 13 & 14
your gifts of treasure resulted in:

Your gifts of treasure resulted in:
Weekly Budget $74,433
Sunday Collection $47,132
Faith Direct-Offertory $36,125
Over/(Under) $8,824

Year To Date:
Weekly Budget $3,721,650
Sunday Collection $3,605,016
Over/(Under) ($116,634)

Special collections:
Capital Campaign $21,204
Martha's Kitchen $8,431
St. Mary's Seminary $12,992
Peter's Pence $2,316

2015 DSF Goal $295,000
DSF Payments to Date $229,964

Contributions to reduce the debt: $55,454
Payments to reduce the debt: $90,555
Over/(short) ($35,101)

Current Loan Debt: $13,343,656

Recap for May 2015
From the Pastor

To the parish family of St. Martha,

The Gospel account for the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time uses a Scriptural literary device commonly known as “sandwiching.” It is the practice of inserting one story into the middle of another one. Both stories then play off of one another through parallel happenings, similarities, and contrasts. They are usually held together by a central theme or character in the stories. In today’s account we have the story of Jairus, a well-known synagogue leader, asking Jesus to come and heal his daughter. In the middle of this story the evangelist Mark inserts the incident about a nameless woman who has suffered for twelve long years from hemorrhages and who secretly touches Jesus’ garment, hoping to be cured. Finally the focus of the story returns to the synagogue official’s daughter who is at the point of death. Jesus is the one who holds the two stories together. Similar to last Sunday, the focus of the Gospel account is on the identity of Jesus and our need to have faith in him. Jairus is a public figure, an official at the synagogue, and probably rather well-to-do in terms of social status. By contrast, the woman with the hemorrhages is anonymous, isolated from social contact, and probably poor. Jairus boldly pleads the case of his daughter with Jesus while the woman with the hemorrhages meekly touches the cloak of Jesus hoping to go unnoticed. While both individuals experience some fear in the presence of Jesus, both are convinced through faith that Jesus has the power to heal.

The point of this lengthy story is that in order for healing to take place, fear has to be overcome with strong faith. It is the faith of both Jairus and the woman that helps to bring about the healings. And similar to last week’s story of Jesus quieting the storm on the sea, the account in Mark is more than just about miracles of physical healing. On a deeper level, both stories have resurrection overtones. Jesus took the little girl by the hand and said, “Arise!” Both the official’s daughter and the woman with the hemorrhages experience new life (“grace”) and are called “daughter.” In other words this language is reminiscent of what happens to all of us when are baptized. We become children of God, disciples of the Lord Jesus, and members of the Church. The Gospel account for today teaches important lessons about the power of faith and the need for all of us to trust in God’s grace as we involve ourselves in the mission and ministry of the Church. This teaching is echoed in the documents of the Second Vatican Council: “There is no such thing as a member (of the Church) that does not have a share in the mission of the whole Body.”

Fr. Chester Borski

Please note: The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd.

FAREWELL FR. ALFONSO TRAN
Beginning on July 1st, Fr. Alfonso will be assigned to Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral in downtown Houston. Fr. Alfonso has generously served St. Martha for three years and is much loved. Please join us in bidding him farewell after each Mass on June 27th and 28th.

NEWLY ORDAINED ASSIGNED TO ST. MARTHA
Cardinal DiNardo has assigned Fr. Richard McNeillie as the parochial vicar at St. Martha Church beginning July 1st. Fr. McNeillie attended St. Mary Seminary in Houston, TX and was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston on June 6, 2015. Please pray for Fr. McNeillie as he begins his priestly ministry with us.
**TODAY’S READINGS**

**First Reading** — God did not make death, nor does God rejoice in the destruction of the living (Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24).

**Psalm** — I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me (Psalm 30).

**Second Reading** — Your abundance should supply the needs of the others (2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15).

**Gospel** — Your faith has saved you (Mark 5:21-43 [21-24, 35b-43]).


**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Vigil: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 19:2-5; Gal 1:11-20; Jn 21:15-19
Day: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-9; 2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19

**Tuesday:** Gn 19:15-29; Ps 26:2-3, 9-12; Mt 8:23-27

**Wednesday:** Gn 21:5, 8-20a; Ps 34:7-8, 10-13; Mt 8:28-34

**Thursday:** Gn 22:1b-19; Ps 115:1-6, 8-9; Mt 9:1-8

**Friday:** Eph 2:19-22; Ps 117:1bc-2; Jn 20:24-29

**Saturday:** Gn 27:1-5, 15-29; Ps 135:1b-6; Mt 9:14-17; or, for Independence Day, any readings from the Mass “For the Country or a City,” nos. 882-886, or “For Peace and Justice,” nos. 887-891

**Sunday:** Ez 2:2-5; Ps 123:1-4; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Mk 6:1-6a

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday:** Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Monday:** Ss. Peter and Paul

**Tuesday:** The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

**Wednesday:** Blessed Junípero Serra

**Friday:** St. Thomas; First Friday

**Saturday:** Independence Day; First Saturday; Blessed Virgin Mary

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT OF THE WEEK**

“...as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality.” - 2 Corinthians 8:14

Not only are we responsible for our own lives, but we are responsible for the lives of those around us. Not only is it important that we grow, nurture and share our gifts, but we should teach our children this same lesson and encourage others to do the same.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

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<tr>
<th>Mon./June 29</th>
<th>Fri./July 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am †Sophie Giordano</td>
<td>8:30 am Kevin &amp; Alexandria Hudson</td>
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<th>Tues./June 30</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am †Hugh Evans</td>
<td>8:30 am Pro-Life Mass</td>
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<td>7:00 pm Art &amp; Emma Rocha</td>
<td>5:30 pm †Irene Mansfield</td>
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<th>Wed./July 1</th>
<th>Sun./July 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am †Julius Lidgus</td>
<td>7:00 am †Florence Kerrigan &amp; Sharon Kerrigan Koenig</td>
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<td>10:00 am †George Brown</td>
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<th>Thurs./July 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 am †Richard Bernal</td>
<td>11:00 am †Daniel Abat</td>
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<td>8:30 am †Javier Aguilar</td>
<td>1:00 pm †Michael Winslow</td>
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<td>5:30 pm †James Bradshaw</td>
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† PLEASE REMEMBER THE RECENTLY DECEASED AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS †

Minerva Salazar
William Brossart
Barbara Peck
Al Kriston
Hilda Peña (sister of Tom Sandoval)


(If you would like to add a loved one’s name to the recently deceased or sick list, please call the parish office, 281-358-6637 or e-mail jodis@stmartha.com)

Please pray for our active military as seen on the wreath in the Narthex.
To add a loved one call: Jodi at 281-358-6637 or e-mail jodis@stmartha.com
**Adult Organizations and Opportunities**

**Marianite Rosary Guild of St. Martha Catholic Church**

Our Rosary Guild meets every 2nd Sunday of the month at the Woodland Hills campus. E-mail JoAnna Loup, our coordinator, at jloup3@yahoo.com to join and help us bring more people closer to Jesus through Mary’s rosary and teach the life of Christ through the rosary prayers. View our website at **www.MarianiteRosaryGuild.com**. We offer beautifully made rosaries, rosaries with hangers and frames. We also accept donations for our ministry on the website or by mail. Your support enables us to continue our mission to provide twine rosaries to many parishes.

**Communion to the Sick:** If you or a loved one are in Kingwood Hospital, and would like a Communion Minister to visit, call the church office at 281-358-6637 to let us know. Hospital regulations require us to have the patient’s name and room number before we send someone.

**For Survivors of Abuse—Maria Goretti Network (MGN)**

A peer to peer self help support group for women and men focusing on healing and forgiveness. For information on monthly meetings, e-mail: stmarthamgn@gmail.com or call 713-775-9213.

**NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES**

Get out of the house! **NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR SINGLES AGES 40+**, gathers on Wednesday, July 1, to talk/eat/drink at 7:00 P.M. at Schlotzsky’s Deli, 9781 FM 1960 Bypass West in Humble. For more info, contact Peggy Broyles (281-359-4560 or peggybymom4@gmail.com) or subscribe to us on Flocknote at St. Martha’s or St. Mary Magdalene’s website.

**Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration**

Both regular adorers and substitutes are needed at this time. Even if you do not have a regular hour, please feel free to visit our Blessed Lord at any time knowing that He is always waiting for us with joyful anticipation.

**OPEN HOUR:** FIRST AND SECOND ADORERS ARE NEEDED ON MONDAY 2-3AM AND FRIDAY 7-8PM!

Second adorers are needed for the following hours:

- Sunday: 1-2 AM, 2-3 AM, Noon-1 PM, 2-3 PM, 3-4 PM, 7-8 PM.
- Monday: 1-2 AM, 6-7 PM, 8-9 PM, 10-11 PM, 11 PM-Midnight.
- Tuesday: 2-3 AM, 5-6 AM. Wednesday: 1-2 AM. Thursday: 1-2 AM, 3-4 AM, Friday: 1-2 AM, 6-7 PM, 10-11 PM. Saturday: 1-2 AM, 3-4 AM, 2-3 PM, 9-10 PM.

If you are interested in participating in this ministry or would like more information, please contact Robyn Laumbach at either 281-360-7897 or robynbfly@embarqmail.com. If you need a substitute, please call one of our division leaders: Robyn Laumbach at 281-360-7897 for Midnight-6 AM, Karen Ehlig at 281-361-7127 for 6 AM-Noon, Annunciata Hopkins at 281-360-1258 for Noon-6 PM, and Beth Beckham at 281-435-1439 for 6 PM-Midnight.

**NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING**

Married and engaged couples are excited and are registering to attend St. Martha’s Annual NFP class taught by parishioners Chris and Marion Dickson! If you are curious about this beautiful way to live out God’s call in marriage, please join us to learn more. Our first of three classes begin on Sunday, July 19th. Important for you to know: **this is not the rhythm method**. The Standard-Sympto Thermal Method, based on over 50 years of research primarily by Austrian doctor Dr. Josef Roetzer, is scientific and upholds the church’s sacred view of marriage and family. This method is safe and healthy, effective for planning a family (including for couples with low fertility), for postponing pregnancy, and is morally correct.

Details:
- The course consists of three classes, each taken in chronological order, and is on the Standard Sympto-Thermal Method type of NFP.
- Class dates for the course are the following Sundays from 2:00-4:00pm in Room 2 (next to the FLC at the Faith Formation Campus): July 19th, August 16th, and September 27th.
- The cost for the entire course is $70.00, which covers the cost of the course and materials. If there is an issue with the cost, please let us know.
- Registration with St. Martha Parishioners and Certified S.S.T. Instructors, Christopher and Marion Dickson, is completed through email, with **SST Registration** in the Subject Heading: dicksonfamily2001@gmail.com.

We welcome all who are interested, especially those preparing for marriage and those who are married, and are ready to learn more about this sacred and scientific offering of Natural Family Planning!

**Adult FAITH FORMATION**

**FAITH FORMATION SUMMER HOURS:**
Beginning Monday, June 22nd, Faith Formation Summer Office Hours will be 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday through Thursday. Closed Fridays.

**THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED BEGINNING MONDAY, JULY 20TH THROUGH FRIDAY, JULY 31ST.**
THE OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN, MONDAY, AUGUST 3RD WITH REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS, 9:00AM – 4:00PM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

**Tuesday Morning:** Breakfast & Bible Study 9:15 – 10:30 am – Faith Formation Center, Room 2
Reading, studying & sharing on the Sunday Scriptures led by Carla Lewton. All are welcome. Remaining June Date: 30. July Dates: 7 & 14

**St. Martha Adult Faith Formation Website:**
www.stmartha.com

Recordings of previous adult classes, handouts, PowerPoints, upcoming events, schedules, important links, music, and more...check it out!

Adult Faith Formation videos available for viewing on YouTube. Click the YouTube icon on the website home page to view.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK Up To The Minute AFF Information.
Click the Facebook icon on the website home page and join.

**Survivors of Abuse—Maria Goretti Network (MGN)**

For information on monthly meetings, e-mail: stmarthamgn@gmail.com or call 713-775-9213.

**Hospital regulations require us to have the patient’s name and room number before we send someone.**

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St. Martha School Scoops
St. Martha Catholic School is a fully accredited school for students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Our curriculum builds strong academic skills, Catholic values and moral character in a safe, secure, and caring environment. Our students attend weekly Mass and celebrate Reconciliation during the school day throughout the school year. We are blessed to have the involvement of our parish priests in many of our school activities. We offer the sports of soccer, basketball, baseball, track, volleyball and girls' softball. We also support a drama club, a band program, Rosary Guild, Student Council, BETA Club and other student activities.

Visit our school website at www.stmarthacs.org for more information or contact Registrar Jan Rodine at 281-358-5523 for a tour.

The Mission of St. Martha Catholic School is to provide a quality education sharing in the total Catholic formation of each person by developing mind, heart and spirit.
In today’s Gospel we see how in faith, Jairus asked Jesus to heal his daughter and how Jesus then answered his prayer. In prayer we also come to know that we are loved by God, and in that trust we ask for healing for ourselves, our loved ones and all those who are suffering. The annual Black Bag Collection for the Archdiocese Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be held on July 11-12. This collection is the only major collection for the Archdiocese Council during the year, and is a major source of support for programs like the SVDP Food Depot, Youth Programs and Disaster Relief Services. Through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brings the love and care of Jesus to the poor by assisting families, providing food, utility, rent and other financial support. Consider a donation to the Annual Archdiocese Black Bag Collection on July 11-12, 2015.
We are asked to take care of the earth as good stewards would. We cultivate and protect the earth, using its resources for the benefit of everyone. We live in gratitude and respect for all creation.

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<td>14th Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>7:30 pm Monica’s Hope Support Group, Rm 2</td>
<td>9 am—1 pm EDGE Summer of Service</td>
<td>10:30 am Martha’s Quilters, Rm 3</td>
<td>6:15 pm RCIA</td>
<td>9:15 am Unemployment Ministry, Rm 2</td>
<td>8:30am Pro-Life Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>9 am—1 pm EDGE Summer of Service</td>
<td>9:15 am Breakfast &amp; Bible Study</td>
<td>10:30 am Martha’s Quilters, Rm 3</td>
<td>7 pm Young Adults Bible Study, Borski Room</td>
<td>SVdP Black Bag Collection</td>
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<td>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>2-4 pm Rosary Guild, Rm 2</td>
<td>3 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy</td>
<td>9:15 am Unemployment Ministry, Rm 2</td>
<td>9:15 am Unemployment Ministry, Rm 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Baptism class</td>
<td>3 pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy</td>
<td>St. John of the Cross Food Drive</td>
<td>11 am-12:30 pm SVdP, Rm 1</td>
<td>9:15 am Unemployment Ministry, Rm 2</td>
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<td>7 pm Young Adults Bible Study, Borski Room</td>
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The *Fortnight for Freedom: Freedom to Bear Witness* will take place from June 21 to July 4, 2015, a time when our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power—St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. The theme of this year's Fortnight will focus on the "freedom to bear witness" to the truth of the Gospel.

![Image of various religious buildings]

**USCCB Fact Sheet 2015**

**The Last Christians in the Cradle of Christianity?**

Today, the Cradle of Christianity, where Christ lived and the earliest Christian communities emerged, is sadly a place where extreme religious persecution threatens and disrupts the lives of all who live there. Reports of the self-proclaimed Islamic State's brutality against Christians and other religious minorities have dominated international news coverage for much of the last year. The group has captured large swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria, forcing anyone who refused to support their ruthless rule to flee their homes, often leaving behind everything they owned.

ISIL has killed many, sometimes using shocking methods such as beheadings. Reports of kidnappings of those from religious minority groups as well as Sunnis who oppose the group have been all too common, with many women and girls being forced into sexual slavery. Those Christians who did not flee were compelled to convert or pay a tax that would ultimately fuel the violence of ISIL. The threat extends throughout the region. Its reach now extends to extremists in North Africa and Afghanistan who have pledged their allegiance to the "Islamic State."

The expanding threat of ISIL builds upon already tumultuous situations that threaten religious freedom. In Syria, the civil war has turned into a sectarian conflict. The Assad regime has primarily targeted members of the Sunni Muslim community, with Christians often caught in the cross-fire between the military and anti-government forces. Christians and minorities in Syria have been kidnapped, held for ransom, tortured and often brutally killed. At the end of 2014, it was estimated that 200,000 people (mostly civilians and many Muslims) had been killed and nearly 11.5 million were displaced within Syria or as refugees in other countries. In Iraq, in the wake of the 2003 U.S. invasion that led to political instability, Christians have been among those targeted by extremists. There have been terrorist attacks on churches and systematic kidnappings of priests and bishops for ransom. In Egypt, Coptic Christians and religious minorities have been victims of attacks, especially as Christians were blamed for former President Morsi's removal from power and the government's subsequent violence against his supporters. Christians have been victims of violent attacks on people and property while the State has failed to protect them or hold perpetrators accountable consistently.

While Christians suffer the very real consequences of these attacks on their dignity, their livelihoods and their lives, they are also confronted with the harsh reality that their culture, dating back some 2000 years, is being systematically destroyed. The region has historically been religiously and ethnically diverse, but Church leaders throughout the region fear the indigenous Christian presence in the region will be lost since Christians are emigrating disproportionately large numbers. In December 2014, Pope Francis captured the vibrant contributions made by Christians, saying, “Your very presence is precious for the Middle East... Even more than the many contributions which the Church makes in the areas of education, healthcare and social services, which are esteemed by all, the greatest source of enrichment in the region is the presence of Christians themselves...” It is clear that the loss of the Christian presence in the Cradle of Christianity would be harmful for all.

In March of this year the U.S. Bishops said: “Upon learning of the death of 21 Coptic Christians at the hands of ISIL terrorists, Pope Francis called their murder a "testimony which cries out to be heard." On behalf of America’s Catholic Bishops, we pause to listen and invite people of all faiths to join us in prayer for those facing the stark reality of religious persecution in the Middle East and elsewhere... In union with the local Churches and the Holy See, we call upon our nation to: work with the international community to intervene and protect the rights of religious minorities and civilians within the framework of international and humanitarian law; address political and economic exclusion that are exploited by extremists; and increase humanitarian and development assistance...”

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**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops**

[www.fortnightforfreedom.org](http://www.fortnightforfreedom.org)
La Quincena por la Libertad: La libertad para dar testimonio tendrán lugar desde junio 21 hasta julio 4, 2015, un momento en que nuestro calendario litúrgico celebra una serie de grandes mártires que permanecieron fieles en medio de la persecución por el poder político-S. Tomás Moro y S. Juan Fisher, S. Juan Bautista, SS. Pedro y Pablo, y los primeros mártires de la Iglesia de Roma. El tema de la Quincena de este año se centrará en la “libertad para dar testimonio” a la verdad del Evangelio.

¿LOS ÚLTIMOS CRISTIANOS EN LA CUNA DE LA CRISTIANDAD?

Hoy día, la cuna de la cristiandad donde vivió Jesús y donde surgieron las primeras comunidades cristianas, es lamentablemente un lugar donde las persecuciones religiosas extremas amenazan y perturban la vida de todos los que viven allí. Durante la mayor parte del último año las noticias de la brutalidad del autoproclamado Estado Islámico contra los cristianos y otras minorías religiosas han dominado la cobertura periodística internacional. El grupo ha capturado grandes franjas de territorio en Iraq y Siria, obligando a quienes se negaban a apoyar su despiadado dominio a huir de sus hogares, y por lo general debían dejar todas sus posesiones.

ISIS ha asesinado a muchas personas, a veces con métodos extremadamente violentos y decapitaciones. Han sido muy comunes las denuncias de secuestros de personas pertenecientes a minorías religiosas como así también sujetas a maltrato y violencia sexual. Los cristianos que no huyeron fueron obligados a convertirse o pagar un impuesto que a larga acabaría en la muerte. La amenaza se extiende por toda la región. Su alcance ahora incluye a extranjeros en el Este de África y Afganistán que han jurado alianza al “Estado Islámico”.

La creciente amenaza de ISIS se basa en situaciones de devastación y turbación que amenazan la vida misma. En Siria, la guerra civil se convirtió en un conflicto sectario. El régimen de Assad principalmente atacó a miembros de la comunidad musulmana suní, y a menudo había cristianos que quedaban en medio de la violencia entre fuerzas militares y antiguerreros. Cristianos y musulmanes en Siria fueron secuestrados, capturados para pedir un rescate por ellos, torturados y a menudo asesinados brutalmente. A finales de 2014, se estimaba que 200 mil personas (mayormente civiles y muchos musulmanes) habían sido asesinados y casi 11.5 millones fueron desplazados dentro de Siria o como refugiados en otros países. En Iraq, tras la invasión estadounidense de 2003 que llevó a la inestabilidad política, los cristianos han sido blancos de extremistas. Hubo ataques terroristas en iglesias y secuestros sanguinarios de sacerdotes y obispos para pedir rescatar. En Egipto, los cristianos coptos y las minorías religiosas han sido víctimas de ataques, en especial porque los cristianos fueron culpados por la remoción del poder del expresidente Morsi y la posterior violencia del gobierno contra sus partidarios. Los cristianos han sido víctimas de ataques violentos a personas y bienes mientras que el Estado no los ha protegido ni ha responsabilizado a los autores equitativamente.

Mientras los cristianos sufren la consecuencia de estos ataques a su dignidad, su sustento y su vida, también se enfrentan a la severa realidad de que se está destruyendo sistematicamente su cultura, que data de unos 2000 años. Históricamente la región ha sido diversa en términos religiosos y étnicos, pero los dirigentes de la Iglesia por toda la región temen que la amenaza de cristianos indígenas en la región se pierda porque los cristianos están emigrando en números desproporcionadamente grandes. En diciembre de 2014, el Papa Francisco captó los vivos aportes de los cristianos, diciendo: “Vuestra presencia es valiosa para Oriente Medio… Antes que cualquiera de las actividades de la Iglesia en el ámbito de educativo, sanitario o asistencial, tan valoradas por todos, la mayor riqueza para la región son los cristianos…”. Está claro que la pérdida de presencia cristiana en la cuna de la cristiandad será perjudicial para todos.

En marzo de este año, los obispos de Estados Unidos dijeron: “Aquellos de la muerte de 21 cristianos coptos en manos de terroristas de ISIS, el Papa Francisco apuntó estos asesinatos “un testimonio que guía”. En nombre de los Obispos católicos de Estados Unidos, nos detenemos a escuchar e invitar a las personas de todas las religiones a unirse a nosotros en oración por quienes enfrentan la dura realidad de la persecución religiosa en Medio Oriente y en otros lugares… Unidos con las Iglesias locales y la Santa Sede, llamamos a nuestra nación a: trabajar con la comunidad internacional para intervenir y proteger los derechos de las minorías religiosas y los cristianos dentro del marco de la ley internacional y humanitaria; abordar la exclusión política y económica de ser explotados por extremistas; y aumentar la asistencia humanitaria y de desarrollo…”.
Todo el Cuerpo

La Sociedad de San Vicente de Paul
Archdiocese “Bolsa Negra”
Julio 11-12, 2015

En el evangelio de hoy vemos cómo Jesús, en medio de la gente, no sólo curó a un niño que estaba muriendo, sino que también resucitó a una niña que había muerto. Esta es una muestra de que la fe es lo que importa, que la fe en Dios puede cambiar la realidad y que nada es imposible si tenemos fe.

El relato del Evangelio para el domingo 13 del Tiempo Ordinario utiliza un recurso literario bíblico conocido comúnmente como "emparedado". Es la práctica de la inserción de una historia en el centro de otra. Ambas historias se complementan una a otra a través de acontecimientos paralelos, similitudes y contrastes. Por lo general, se mantienen unidas por un tema central o personaje en las historias. En el relato de hoy tenemos la historia de Jairo, un líder muy conocido de la sinagoga, pidiéndole a Jesús que fuera a sanar a su hija. En medio de esta historia, el evangelista Marcos inserta el incidente sobre una mujer sin nombre que ha sufrido durante doce largos años de hemorragias y que en secreto toca el manto de Jesús, con la esperanza de ser curada. Por último, el foco de la historia vuelve a la hija del jefe de la sinagoga, que está a punto de morir. Jesús es el único que mantiene las dos historias juntas. Al igual que el domingo pasado, el foco de la narración evangélica es sobre la identidad de Jesús y nuestra necesidad de tener fe en él. Jairo es una figura pública, un funcionario de la sinagoga, y probablemente muy bien relacionado en términos de su estatus social. Por el contrario, la mujer con las hemorragias es anónima, aislada del contacto social, y probablemente pobre. Jairo audazmente declara el caso de su hija con Jesús, mientras que la mujer con las hemorragias toca mansamente el manto de Jesús con la esperanza de pasar desapercibida. Mientras los individuos experimentan algún temor con la presencia de Jesús, ambos están convencidos por la fe que Jesús tiene el poder de curar.

El punto de esta larga historia es que para que la curación tenga lugar, el miedo tiene que ser superado con una fe muy fuerte. Es la fe de ambos, Jairo y la mujer, que ayuda a llevar a cabo las curaciones. Y al igual que la historia de la semana pasada Jesús calmando la tormenta en el mar, la historia en Marcos permite que tocó el manto de Jesús para ser curada, como de la mujer que tenía el flujo de sangre que tocó el manto de Jesús para ser curada, como de la hija del oficial que acudió a Jesús para causar a su hija. Su hija había muerto pero Jesús la resucitó, dando respuesta a la fe de Jairo.

¿Es mi fe tan grande como la de la mujer o la de Jairo? Pediré a Jesús que me dé las manos para que en mi vida también realice muchos “hechos milagrosos” proporcionando ayuda a los más necesitados. Por favor sepá que a travez de su bondad en la donación a la colecta anual “Bolsa Negra” que se llevará a cabo la próxima semana, alguien que está sufriendo será tocado por Dios de una manera milagrosa.

Recibimos sus comentarios a esta columna o al contenido en español de este boletín en el correo electrónico: boletin@stmartha.co

Encuentro de familias de St. Martha
Queremos extenderles una invitación para el fin de semana del 11 y 12 de julio donde tendremos un encuentro para todas las familias de Santa Martha, habrán actividades para las parejas y sus niños, también tendremos servicio de guardería para los pequeños, pero deben registrarlos para apártelos cupo.

Así mismos importante el registro de las familias con el número de integrantes para tener un estimado de cuánto comida se necesitará. Para mayor información comuníquese con: Jannette Manosalva al 281-706-5068
Monaguillos:
Si su niño/a está interesado/a en servir de Monaguillo, Favor de llamar al Sr. Pastora al 832-514-5741 o por email al: monaguillos@stmartha.co.

Proyecto Gabriel—
¿Está embarazada? ¿Necesita ayuda durante su embarazo? No importa su edad! Para más información favor de llamar a 713-225-5826.

Cáliz de Vocaciones:
Está interesado de tener el Cáliz de Vocaciones en su hogar. Para más información favor de llamar al Sr. Tony Lasalle al 646-489-1554 o por e-mail al: comitecalizdevocaciones@stmartha.co.

Ministerio Hispano

Monaguillos:
Si su niño/a está interesado a servir de Monaguillo, Favor de llamar al Sr. Pastora al 832-514-5741 o por email al: monaguillos@stmartha.co.

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Noches de Adoración y Alabanza
Praise and Worship Night
"Busqueme a mi y Viviran"
Amos 5:9

Ven a dejar tus peticiones a los pies de Jesucristo
Cada cuarto Martes de mes:
Come join us every fourth Tuesday of the month:

Martes:
JUNIO 23
JULIO 28
Iglesia Católica Sta. Martha
4301 Woodridge Parkway
Porter, TX 77365

Te invita: Grupo de Oración e Intercoción Sta. Martha
email: oracioneintercasions@stmartha.co.uk