Welcome to Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus, Friends of Jesus Catholic Church
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Senior Priest: Rev. Nick Pasadilla
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Richard McNeillie
Deacons: Mr. Jon Barfield, Mr. Tony Cardella, Mr. Ed Kleingueit, Mr. Bob MacFarlane, Mr. Al O’Brien, Mr. Guy T. Puglia, and Mr. John Schuster

Parish Office hours:
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Monday-Friday

Liturgy & Sacraments

Weekend Masses
First Saturday (Pro-Life Mass): .... 
Saturday Vigil: .................. 5:30 PM
Sunday: ............ 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM
En Español ...................... 1:00 PM
Life Teen:....................... 5:30 PM
Nursery at 9:00, 11:00 & 
1:00 Spanish Mass

Weekday Masses
Monday: ......................... 8:30 AM
Tuesday: ............... 8:30 AM & 7:00 PM
Wednesday: ... 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM
Thursday: ............ 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM
Friday: ......................... 8:30 AM

Sacrament of Penance
Tuesday:
Church 6:30 -7:00 PM
Saturday:
Church 10:30-11:45 AM
Church 4:30-5:20 PM

Perpetual Adoration
Adoration Chapel 24 hrs.

Anointing of the Sick
Please call for a priest if you are seriously ill at home, about to enter the hospital, or if someone is close to death.

Baptism
Classes and Ceremony: Call the Parish Office to register

Marriage
Preparation at least six months before the wedding. Register to attend an information meeting by calling 281-358-6637.

4301 Woodridge Parkway, Porter, TX 77365
281-358-6637 • fax 281-358-7973 • www.stmartha.com

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?
LUKE 10:29

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 10, 2016
To the parish family of St. Martha,

In the Gospel passage for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time St. Luke uses legal language to pose two questions that concern every human being: (1) “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” or how do we get to heaven? and (2) “Who is my neighbor?” or for whom and for what are we held responsible in the eyes of God? The response of Jesus is exceedingly clear and direct. To be saved we must love God and our neighbor, and our neighbor is anyone and everyone we may meet who is in need of our love. The context of the Gospel teaching is telling us that we must constantly resist the comforting temptation to excuse ourselves from active participation in building the Kingdom of God. Most of us do this by hiding behind lengthy theological explanations about difficult Church teachings, precise religious rituals, or even complicated bodies of laws. In order to be saved it is not all that important to understand the inner working of the life of the Trinity or to be able to quote the official regulation on every possible issue. Rather what is important is to understand the joys and hopes, the needs and the frustrations of human beings we will meet today, tomorrow, and every day of our life. Once we have made the effort to listen and try to understand the other person and go out of our way like the Samaritan in the Gospel did, then we are well on our way to salvation and are helping to build the Kingdom of God.

At the close of the Second Vatican Council a little over fifty years ago, Pope Paul VI used this parable of the Good Samaritan as a model to describe how Catholic Christians are called to live as disciples of Jesus in the world. This unforgettable story appears only in the Gospel of St. Luke and clearly teaches us how each disciple is called to action on behalf of God’s Kingdom. Pope Paul reminded us that this is a simple story about an ordinary man who really sees the other person, genuinely feels compassion for the one in need, and does practically whatever can be done at the time. Finally the Samaritan helps establish some system of sustained care so that the person in need will have the ongoing attention of the community of faith. This Gospel story teaches us why the Church is always concerned about the world and its citizens and why each parish community must be engaged in pastoral outreach to those in need. These parish social service activities are the means of carrying out our apostolic responsibility and missionary call of being neighbor to those in need. In addition, our own personal involvement in these activities will have the wonderful effect of transforming us into joyful, happy, and generous servants who reflect the compassion and mercy of God to those in need.

Fr. Chester Borski

St. Martha Women’s ACTS Retreat
September 15 - 18, 2016

Registration for the September Women’s (English) ACTS Retreat will be held Saturday, July 16, and Sunday, July 17, following all masses in the Narthex. The ACTS retreat is a 3 day/3 night retreat that focuses on Adoration, Community, Theology and Service and is presented by parishioners of St. Martha’s. Registration is limited and is on a first-come first-served basis, and must include a non-refundable deposit of $50.00. The cost of the retreat is $190.00 but do not let the financial considerations prevent you from attending the retreat. Please prayerfully consider attending this exciting retreat!! If you have any questions, you can contact the retreat director, Stacie Eakin, at 713-898-1335 or saeakin0409@icloud.com. God Bless!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FRIDAY, JULY 29th, FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT MARTHA. WE WILL HAVE MASS AT 7:30 PM FOLLOWED BY AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL IN THE NARTHEX.
**TODAY’S READINGS**

**First Reading** — Heed the voice of the Lord. It is something very near to you, already in your hearts; you only need to carry it out (Deuteronomy 30:10-14).

**Psalm** — Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live (Psalm 69) or Psalm 19.

**Second Reading** — All things were created through and for Christ Jesus (Colossians 1:15-20).

**Gospel** — To be a neighbor, show love by treating others with mercy, as did the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37).

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### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Is 1:10-17; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 10:34 — 11:1

**Tuesday:** Is 7:1-9; Ps 48:2-8; Mt 11:20-24

**Wednesday:** Is 10:5-7, 13b-16; Ps 94:5-10, 14-15; Mt 11:25-27

**Thursday:** Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Ps 102:13-14ab, 15-21; Mt 11:28-30

**Friday:** Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Is 38:10-12abcd, 16; Mt 12:1-8

**Saturday:** Mi 2:1-5; Ps 10:1-4, 7-8, 14; Mt 12:14-21

**Sunday:** Gen 18:1-10a; Ps 15:2-5; Col 1:24-28; Lk 10:38-42

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### **SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Sunday:** Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Monday:** St. Benedict

**Wednesday:** St. Henry

**Thursday:** St. Kateri Tekakwitha

**Friday:** St. Bonaventure

**Saturday:** Our Lady of Mount Carmel; Blessed Virgin Mary

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### **MASS INTENTIONS**

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† **PLEASE REMEMBER THE RECENTLY DECEASED AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS†**

Robert M. Toker (husband of Audrey Toker, father of Diane Steiner and Karen Pickard)

Ricardo Buendia (husband of Lorena Buendia)

David Wood (husband of Marie Wood)

Luigi de la Vega

Linda Arnold (wife of Jack Arnold)

Angel Barro (father of Mariel Parra)


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

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### **Year of Mercy—Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Could anyone object to Jesus’ supreme lesson in mercy, the parable of the Good Samaritan? Jesus’ devoutly religious audience certainly did! *Scant sympathy* for anyone foolish enough to travel crime-ridden “Jericho Highway” alone. *Much sympathy* for priest and Levite, hurrying to assigned temple ministry, unwilling to risk ritual impurity through hands-on mercy. *No sympathy* for Jesus’ scandalous hero. Samaritans were religious apostates and political enemies. Jesus challenges them—and us—to see God’s presence not in liturgical beauty but in a fellow traveler’s self-inflicted misfortunes. See God’s presence even in someone outside the law, whose hands-on mercy springs not from religious obligation but from the heart’s instinctive goodness. Since Jesus became our “Good Samaritan” despite our foolishness and sins, who are we to ration our mercy? “Who is my neigh- bor?” (Luke 10:29). The next person we see who needs hands-on mercy! No con- ditions, no limits, no exceptions. Especially in this *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, Jesus commands, “Go and do likewise” (10:37).

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
Are You Interested in Looking Into the Catholic Church or Completing your Sacraments?

The RCIA could be your answer!

RCIA is a process for adults: unbaptized and those baptized in another Christian faith

- Who wish to know more about the Catholic faith.
- For Catholics who need to complete their sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

Our Inquirer groups beginning in February, June and October.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Charles or Lisa Ferguson at the RCIA office via email at: rcia@stmartha.com or call 281-713-8972 x258.

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.” Revelation 3:20

Join us! NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR SINGLES AGES 40+, gathers on Wednesday, July 13, to talk/eat/drink at 7:00 P.M. at Pete’s Burger Place, 24626 Loop 494 in Kingwood (1½ mile north of Northpark Drive). For more info, contact Elizabeth Schields (281-441-2552 or elizabeths2@peoplepc.com) or Peggy Bryoles (281-359-4560 or peggybmom4@gmail.com) or subscribe to us on Flocknote at either St. Martha’s or St. Mary Magdalene’s website.

Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace Course: From Mon., Sept. 12th to Mon. Nov 7th the Financial Planning Committee will be offering Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University. There is no charge for the course other than the course materials which should be purchased directly from Dave Ramsey. Information about the class, registration and purchase of the course material can be done at the following link: http://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/class/1021340

For more information, please call Patty Schulze at 713-560-7444 or e-mail Patty at pattyschulze63@gmail.com.

Out of work? Looking for a change? We can help!

Meetings every Friday from 9:15am to noon in Room 2 on St. Martha’s Woodland Hills campus 3702 Woodland Hills Dr., Kingwood

St. Martha’s Between Jobs and Beyond ministry helps those who are looking for a new and more satisfying job.

- We can help with resume writing, interview preparation and networking.
- We also can help you get your head in the right place, spiritually and emotionally, which is critical for effective job seeking.
- We encourage a spirit of service to others. When we help others, we feel better.

Questions? E-mail stmarthabetweenjobs@gmail.com or call Bob Simpson at 713-410-2844.

YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON - SUMMER VACATION

The Young at Heart Luncheons held at St. Martha's on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday of each month will NOT be held during the Summer. We will resume on Wednesday, September 14. Have a great summer and check the bulletin in August for information on the September luncheons.

IF YOU ARE A PASSIONATE AND FAITH-FILLED EDUCATOR, ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC SCHOOL HAS OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

- Kindergarten Teacher
- Middle School Social Studies Teacher
- Part-time Middle School Spanish Teacher
- Part-time Prek-Gr 3 Music Teacher
- Substitute Teachers

For more information, please visit our website at www.stmarthacss.org or contact Principal Mrs. Tina Lewis at 281-358-5523.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

SUMMER HOURS FOR THE FAITH FORMATION OFFICE THROUGH FRIDAY, JULY 15:

THE OFFICE WILL BE OPEN MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM AND CLOSED ON FRIDAYS.

THE FAITH FORMATION OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF JULY BEGINNING 7/18 THROUGH 7/29.

THE OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN MONDAY, AUGUST 1, WITH REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

Tuesday Morning:

Breakfast & Bible Study
9:30 – 10:45 am – Faith Formation Center, Room 2
Reading, studying & sharing on the Sunday Scriptures
led by Carla Lewton. All are welcome.

NO BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY THE MONTH OF JULY.

St. Martha Adult Faith Formation Website:
www.stmarthacff.com
Recordings of previous adult classes, handouts, PowerPoints, schedules, important links, music, and more…check it out!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK - AFF Information
Click the Facebook icon on the website home page and join.

THE FAITH FORMATION LIBRARY IS NO LONGER TAKING BOOK DONATIONS AT THIS TIME. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SO GENEROUS, THE SHELVES ARE OVERFLOWING. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS.
Holy Hour of Adoration for Vocations Exposition & Benediction
- 2nd Tuesday – 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- 2nd Friday – 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Sponsored by Serra Club Northeast of Houston

Monica's Hope: Prayerful Support for Parents of Troubled Children

Attention! Changes for our monthly meeting.
Due to the holiday, Monica's Hope will meet on July 11, 7:30 p.m., in Room 3 the Woodland Hills Campus. Don't suffer in solitude. Within our Catholic Community there are many with troubled children of all ages. Problems like addiction, criminality, mental illness, etc. Find support, strength, and encouragement in a confidential environment. And in the example of St. Monica, you can pray for your child and find peace. If you have questions, call Paul and Marcia Aegerter at 281-812-1288, e-mail marciaaeg@aol.com or Kathy Czubik at 713-213-7173, e-mail kczubik@mac.com.

Vocation Corner

Holy Hour of Adoration for Vocations Exposition & Benediction
- 2nd Tuesday – 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- 2nd Friday – 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Sponsored by Serra Club Northeast of Houston

LIFE AWARENESS RETREAT - FOR MEN AND WOMEN
A weekend devoted to providing information about religious life vocations to unmarried Catholic men and women between the ages of 18 and 45.
- Held at the Holy Name Retreat Center, July 22-24, 2016.
- Starts Friday afternoon at 5:00 PM and concludes Sunday at 2:30 PM.
- There is no charge to the attendees for the weekend.
- Since the inception of this program in 1983, 1150 men and women have attended.
- About 13% have entered religious life.
For more information please contact Denny Matranga, VP Vocations, 713-462-0136.
Registration: www.houstonvocations.com/life-awareness

CHALICE FOR Vocations: Please join the WALTERS FAMILY in prayer this week as they host the Chalice and pray for vocations. Interested? Please contact Karen Ehlig at 281-361-7127 or by e-mail at karenehlig@gmail.com to schedule a week.

Adult Organizations and Opportunities

Think there isn’t anyone pulling for your marriage?

Teams of Our Lady USA: A movement of conjugal spirituality
Marriage is a challenge. Whether a couple is newlywed, raising a family, or “empty nesting”, the call to grow together in love is ever present. Often couples find they are living in a social climate where forces and stresses are at work that can undermine both their marriage and their faith. All over the world, couples have found a way to meet their desire for growth in love and faith through the Teams of Our Lady (TOOL) movement.

A team is a group of five to seven couples that have decided to join together to find support in their efforts to lead Gospel lives. The team meets once a month, in each other’s homes, for a simple meal and in a spirit of friendship share their experiences of the previous month. After dinner, the mood shifts to the more obviously spiritual as the team reflects on scripture and prays. Finally, they discuss study material on married life and faith. The team meeting is truly a unique gathering – lively and enjoyable, yet structured and meaningful.

If you would like to join such a group, plan on attending a 45 minute Information Meeting on Sunday, July 24, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2 at the Woodland Hills Campus. Contact Donna at 281-360-9644 or e-mail dwokelley@gmail.com for more information and to reserve a spot.

The Second Family Ministry Needs Help:
The Second Family Ministry has recently received several new requests for assistance and is in need of additional people to fill these requests. Two requests are for someone to stay with family member with memory issue for 2 to 3 hours once or twice a month so that the care partner can have some respite time. The other request has been for someone to drive a family member to a doctor appointment, medical treatment or test occasionally at the medical center. If you would be available to help please contact Martha Busch, e-mail stmartha2ndfamily@gmail.com, phone or text 281-728-7159.

The Second Family is a ministry that reaches out to care for those who are living with long term or terminal illnesses or seniors in need. People of God are called to serve through the Care Team ministry, which provides a "second family" to congregational and community members who are in need of non-clinical support services. Care Team members work in pairs or as a group to provide the best possible support for each other and their care partners. Team members act as an extended family and friends, providing help that is determined by two equal considerations: What the care partner needs, and what the Team members can provide and are comfortable providing based on time, availability and skills.

The 2nd Family Ministry Needs Help: The Second Family Ministry has recently received several new requests for assistance and is in need of additional people to fill these requests. Two requests are for someone to stay with family member with memory issue for 2 to 3 hours once or twice a month so that the care partner can have some respite time. The other request has been for someone to drive a family member to a doctor appointment, medical treatment or test occasionally at the medical center. If you would be available to help please contact Martha Busch, e-mail stmartha2ndfamily@gmail.com, phone or text 281-728-7159.

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**Parenting/Youth**

**Collegian Moms Prayer Group:**
The Collegian Moms Prayer Group will meet on Monday, July 11th, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Adult Education Meeting Room 1 of the Family Life Center at the Woodland Hills Campus. All moms with children preparing for college, currently enrolled in college, or recently graduated from college are cordially invited.

Questions? E-mail Gloria Gâmêz at mornglor@yahoo.com

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**Save the Date!!!**

**Saturday, October 8, 2016**

**St. Martha Fall Festival & Market**

**4501 Woodridge Parkway ❄ Noon to 8:00 p.m. ❄ Rain or Shine**

**Limited Openings for the 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR!**

Visit our school website at www.stmarthacs.org for more information or contact Registrar Jodie Richter at richterj@stmarthacs.org.

**School Office Summer Hours:**

- June 6 – July 22 * T-W-TH only *
- 8 a.m. – 12 noon (Closed July 5)

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**College Students**

**Houston Aggie Catholics!**

Please join us for an Aggie Catholic Maroon Mass to welcome our new Aggie Catholic freshman, transfer students and their families and learn about all of the great things happening at St. Mary’s!

Date: Saturday, July 30th

Mass Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1111 St. Joseph Parkway, Houston 77002

Light dinner and program will follow at Cathedral Centre. RSVP to Beth Ogden, 979-846-5717, ext. 110 or bogden@aggiecatholic.org.

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**This Weekend!!!**

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

**Archdiocese Black Bag Collection This Weekend**

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.

The **ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE** for HAAM is being conducted **this weekend, July 9 and 10.**

Thank you for your generosity!
Our parish is incredibly blessed to have Perpetual Eucharistic Adorers for the following hours:

The Blessed Sacrament is always waiting for us with joyful anticipation. We are free to visit our Blessed Lord at any time knowing that He is always present there in the Blessed Sacrament patiently waiting for us to come and spend time with Him. Because of His infinite love for each one of us, and He is always present there in the Blessed Sacrament patiently waiting for us to come and spend time with Him. Listed below are hours that are most in need of adorers at this time. It is impossible for us to give an exact number of hours devoted by them. However, their presence is still a huge statement to the power of prayer and the devotion of our parish to this ministry. We are also so proud of the children who come to pray on Tuesday mornings during their weekly adoration hour! All involved in Eucharistic Adoration bring blessings to the entire parish through their devotion and prayer. Your family is encouraged to attend together at any time.

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration is personal time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in our Adoration Chapel, located in the back of the church. Adorers commit to one hour each week to spend time in the presence of Christ, strengthening their personal relationship with Him. In the month of May, we had 1,149 hours logged with our regular committed adorers. In addition to this, we had 622 visitors pray for varying amounts of time.

Listed below are hours that are most in need of adorers at this time.

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We are pleased to announce the birth of a healthy 10 pound baby boy. Please continue to pray for all our mothers and babies that God will watch over them.

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 281-813-3285 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.
Christians Struggle to Find Refuge in the Middle East

Mary and Joseph found no room in the inn when Jesus was born. Today, Christians are finding no place in the region where the earliest Christian communities emerged. Extreme religious persecution threatens and disrupts the lives of Christians and other religious minorities.

The so-called Islamic State’s brutality against Christians, other religious minorities, and Shia Muslims is well documented. Recently, Secretary of State Kerry named it for what it is - genocide. ISIS sensationalizes its cruelty to intimidate “infidels” and to gain new recruits. In February 2015, an ISIS-affiliated group in Libya publicized the beheading of 21 Coptic Christians from Egypt. A few weeks later, ISIS kidnapped hundreds of Assyrian Christians in Syria. Their rampage through the region, including Qaraqosh, the largest Christian city in Iraq, has been devastating. Women and girls have been kidnapped and forced into sexual slavery. While air attacks by the United States and allies aided local forces in pushing back some of ISIS’ territorial gains, groups claiming some allegiance to ISIS have cropped up in North Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

In Syria, the civil war has weakened the rule of law. Christians and minorities in Syria have been kidnapped, held for ransom, tortured and often brutally killed. Even bishops and nuns have been taken hostage. Since 2011, it is estimated that many minorities are among the 250,000 to 470,000 people killed, the over 7 million internally displaced within Syria, and the 4.7 million who are refugees or asylum seekers in other countries.

Since the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq that led to political exclusion of Sunnis, Christians have been among those targeted by extremists. In 2014 ISIS militants took Mosul, home to a large Christian population that fled with little more than what they could carry. The Archbishop of the Syriac Orthodox Church lamented the loss of manuscripts dating back to the first century and cried that for the first time in almost 2000 years, no Mass would be celebrated in Mosul. Churches and mosques have been desecrated as ISIS seeks to eradicate Christian symbols and Shia sites. Priests and bishops have been kidnapped for ransom. All of this has resulted in a mass emigration of Christians from Iraq.

In Egypt, Coptic Christians have traditionally not been able to build or even repair their churches. After the 2011 revolution that ousted President Hosni Mubarak and the 2012 election of Muslim Brotherhood-backed Mohamed Morsi as President, Egypt’s blasphemy law was increasingly used as a tool against Christians and fellow Muslims to settle personal disputes and undermine those considered a political threat. When President Morsi himself was overthrown, Christians were often blamed and the State failed to protect them and hold perpetrators accountable. Under Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, elected president in 2014, the rule of law has improved, but many Coptic Christians still face considerable discrimination.

In July 2015, Pope Francis said, “Today we are dismayed to see how in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world many of our brothers and sisters are persecuted, tortured and killed for their faith in Jesus. … In this third world war, waged piecemeal, which we are now experiencing, a form of genocide is taking place, and it must end.” In September 2015, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops supported a Congressional resolution that calls what is happening to Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities in the Middle East a “genocide.” In March 2016, the resolution passed the House unanimously and Secretary of State Kerry condemned ISIS for genocide.

The Middle East’s 2000 year old Christian heritage is threatened. Church leaders throughout the region fear for the future of the Christian indigenous presence. Given the contributions that Christians have made in education, health care and social services, it is clear that the loss of the Christian presence in the Cradle of Christianity would harm all in the region.
Los cristianos luchan para encontrar refugio en el Medio Oriente

María y José no encontraron posada el mesón cuándo Jesús nació. En la actualidad, los cristianos no encuentran un lugar en la región donde emergieron las primeras comunidades de cristianos. La persecución religiosa extrema amenaza y perturba la vida de los cristianos y de otras minorías religiosas.

La brutalidad del así llamado Estado Islámico contra cristianos, otras minorías religiosas y los musulmanes chiitas está bien documentada. Recientemente, el secretario de estado Kerry la llamó por su nombre: genocidio. ISIS sensacionaliza su crueldad para intimidar a los “infieles” y para ganar a nuevos adeptos. En febrero de 2015, un grupo afiliado al ISIS en Líbia hizo pública la decapitación de 21 cristianos coptos de Egipto. Unas semanas después, ISIS secuestró a cientos de cristianos asirios en Siria. Su masacre por la región, incluida Cooch, la mayor ciudad cristiana en Iraq, fue devastadora. Secuestraron y forzaron a la esclavitud sexual a mujeres y niños. Aunque los ataques aéreos de Estados Unidos y aliados ayudaron a las fuerzas locales a hacer retroceder a algunas de las conquistas de ISIS a territorios, los grupos que afirman alianza al ISIS han aflorado en África del Norte, Asia meridional y Asia sudoriental.

En Siria, la guerra civil ha debilitado el estado de derecho. Muchos cristianos y minorías en Siria han sido secuestrados para pedir rescate, torturados y asesinados de forma brutal. Incluso obispos y monjas han sido tomados como rehenes. Desde el año 2011, se estima que muchas minorías están entre las 250 mil a 470 mil personas asesinadas, los más de 7 millones de desplazados internos dentro de Siria, y los 4,7 millones que son refugiados o solicitantes de asilo en otros países.

Desde la invasión de Estados Unidos a Iraq en 2003 que llevó a la exclusión política de los suníes, los cristianos han sido el blanco de extremistas. En 2014, los militantes de ISIS tomaron Mosul, donde residía una población cristiana grande que huyó con un poco más de lo que podía llevar encima. El arzobispo de la Iglesia Ortodoxa Siria lamentó la pérdida de manuscritos que databan del siglo primero y lloró porque por primera vez en casi 2000 años, no se celebraría misa en Mosul. Las iglesias y mezquitas fueron profanadas porque el ISIS busca erradicar los símbolos cristianos y los sitios chiitas. Sacerdotes y obispos han sido secuestrados para pedir rescate. Esto ha tenido como resultado una emigración masiva de cristianos desde Iraq.

En Egipto los cristianos coptos tradicionalmente no pueden construir o reparar sus iglesias. Después de la revolución de 2011 que expulsó al presidente Hosni Mubarak y la elección de 2012 de presidente de Mohamed Morsi apoyado por los Hermanos Musulmanes, la ley anti-blasfemia de Egipto cada vez se usaba más como herramienta contra los cristianos y hermanos musulmanes para resolver disputas personales y perjudicar a quienes eran considerados una amenaza política. Cuando el presidente Morsi mismo fue derrocado, a menudo se culpaba a los cristianos, y el Estado no los protegió y no acusó a los perpetradores. Con Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, elegido presidente en 2014, mejoró el estado de derecho, pero muchos cristianos coptos aún se enfrentan a gran discriminación.

En julio 2015, el Papa Francisco dijo: "Hoy vemos con espanto cómo en el Medio Oriente y otros lugares del mundo se persigue, se tortura, se asesina a muchos hermanos nuestros por su fe en Jesús. ... dentro de esta tercera guerra mundial en cuotas que vivimos, hay una especie –fuerza la palabra– de genocidio en marcha que debe cesar". En septiembre de 2015, la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos apoyó una resolución del Congreso que llama lo que les está sucediendo a los cristianos y a otras religiones y minorías étnicas en el Medio Oriente un "genocidio". En marzo de 2016, la resolución se aprobó en la Cámara de Representantes por unanimidad y el secretario de estado Kerry condenó a ISIS por genocidio.

El patrimonio cristiano del Medio Oriente de 2000 años de antigüedad está amenazado. Los dirigentes de la Iglesia en toda la región temen por el futuro de la presencia cristiana nativa. Dado el aporte de los cristianos a la educación, el cuidado de la salud y los servicios sociales, está claro que la pérdida de la presencia cristiana en la “Cuna de la Cristiandad” causaría un daño a todos en toda esa región.
Para la familia de la parroquia de Santa Marta,

En el pasaje del Evangelio para el domingo 15 del tiempo ordinario San Lucas usa un lenguaje legal para plantear dos cuestiones que conciernen a todos los seres humanos: (1) “¿Qué debo hacer para heredar la vida eterna?” o ¿Cómo podemos llegar al cielo? y (2) “¿Quién es mi prójimo?” o ¿para quién y por qué somos responsable a los ojos de Dios? La respuesta de Jesús es muy claro y directo. Para ser salvado hay que amar a Dios y al prójimo, y el prójimo es cualquiera y todos podemos conocer quien está en necesidad de nuestro amor. El contexto de la enseñanza del Evangelio nos dice que debemos resistir la tentación constante de excusarnos de la participación activa en la construcción del Reino de Dios. La mayoría de nosotros hacemos esto ocultándonos tras largas explicaciones teológicas sobre las difíciles enseñanzas de la Iglesia, los rituales religiosos precisos, o incluso leyes complicadas. Con el fin de ser salvado no es tan importante entender el funcionamiento interno de la vida de la Trinidad o, ser capaz de citar la regulación oficial sobre todos los temas posibles. Más bien lo que es importante es entender las alegrías y esperanzas, las necesidades y frustraciones de los seres humanos que conoceremos hoy, mañana y todos los días de nuestra vida. Una vez que hemos hecho el esfuerzo de escuchar y tratar de comprender al otro y salir de nuestro camino como el samaritano en el Evangelio lo hizo, entonces estamos en camino a la salvación y estamos ayudando a construir el Reino de Dios.

Al cierre del Concilio Vaticano II hace un poco más de cincuenta años, el Papa Pablo VI usó esta parábola del buen samaritano como modelo para describir cómo los católicos cristianos están llamados a vivir como discípulos de Jesús en el mundo. Esta inolvidable historia sólo aparece en el Evangelio de San Lucas y claramente nos enseña que cada discípulo está llamado a la acción en nombre del Reino de Dios. El Papa Pablo nos recuerda que esta es una historia simple sobre un hombre corriente que realmente ve a la otra persona, y genuinamente siente compasión por el necesitado, y hace prácticamente todo lo que se puede hacer en el momento. Finalmente, el samaritano ayuda a establecer algún sistema de atención sostenida de manera que la persona necesitada tendrá la atención constante de la comunidad de fe. Esta historia del Evangelio nos enseña por qué la Iglesia está siempre preocupada por el mundo y sus ciudadanos y por qué cada comunidad parroquial debe estar consciente en la asistencia pastoral a las personas necesitadas. Estas actividades de la parroquia de servicios sociales son los medios para llevar a cabo nuestra responsabilidad apostólica y misionera al vecino y a los necesitados. Además, nuestra propia implicación en estas actividades tendrá el efecto maravilloso de transformándonos en servidores alegres, felices y generosos que reflejan la compasión y la misericordia de Dios a los necesitados.

Padre Chester Borski

15º Domingo Ordinario
Reflexión sobre el Jubileo de la Misericordia:

La cuarta obra de misericordia corporal es: Vestir al desnudo. La época de Invierno es cuando mayor necesidad hay de proveer ropa a los que menos tienen, sobre todo para que no sufran del clima frío. Pero la ropa no es solamente para cubrirnos de la intemperie, la ropa ayuda a las personas en su autoestima. Aunque nuestra dignidad nos viene por ser hijos de Dios y todos somos igualmente dignos, a los seres humanos nos gusta tener una buena apariencia cuando estamos con los demás. La mayoría de la gente que yo conozco, compra ropa, no solo para protegerse del clima y proteger su desnudez, sino que lo hacen con el objetivo de verse bien y eso los hace sentir mejor. Tomemos esto en cuenta cuando demos ropa a la gente más necesitada. Compartamos ropa en condiciones en las que nosotros mismos la usaríamos, o aún mejor, compremos ropa nueva a esa gente que tanto lo necesita. Cuando vestimos al nuestro prójimo, estamos vistiendo a Jesús mismo.

Compromiso de la semana: Escombré mi closet y donaré toda la ropa que pueda a la gente necesitada.
Ministerio Hispano

RITO DE INICIACIÓN CRISTIANA PARA ADULTOS
Los Sacramentos son medidas, herramientas, gracias que Jesús nos dejó para poder seguirlo por el camino de nuestra vida diaria, que no siempre es fácil, por eso nos invita a tomar nuestra cruz y seguirle hacia la vida eterna. Estas medidas-sacramentos están aquí en la Iglesia y son para todos a nadie se le pueden negar si está dispuesto a seguir a Jesús. Pero muchos de nosotros solo nos bautizaron y no tenemos todos nuestros Sacramentos de iniciación que son:
- El Bautismo
- La Confirmación
- La Eucaristía

Sobre todo no importa su edad!

Para más información favor de llamar a 713-225-5826.

RITO DE INICIACIÓN CRISTIANA PARA ADULTOS

MARIA GORETTI NETWORK
ESPANOL PARA TODO VICTIMA DE ABUSO
MGN es Un grupo de apoyo formado por personas que han vivido cualquier tipo de abuso en algún momento de su vida y que están buscando sanación y perdón. Para mayor información llamar al teléfono 281-389-1210 o enviar un email a mariagorettiespanol@gmail.com. Allí le darán más información sobre el lugar y hora de las reuniones y contestaremos sus preguntas.

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

La Sociedad de San Vicente de Paul
Archdiocese La Colecta “Bolsa Negra”
Julio 9-10, 2016
Considere una donación a la colecta anual “Bolsa Negra” de La Sociedad de San Vicente de Paul los días 9-10 de julio, 2016.

“Un poco de misericordia hace que el mundo sea menos frío y más justo.”
-Papa Francisco

 Ministerio Legión de María:
Están cordialmente invitados todos los viernes a las 7:00 PM en el salón 2 de las instalaciones de Woodland Hills Dr. Mayores informes con la Sra. Veronica Reyes (281.728.9843) o por e-mail: legiondemaria@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.