St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
Martinez, California
May 12, 2019. Fourth Sunday of Easter. Mother’s Day

St. Catherine of Siena Parish follows Jesus by welcoming all, sharing our gifts, and giving glory to God.

La parroquia de Santa Catarina de Siena sigue a Jesús dándole la bienvenida a todos, compartiendo nuestros dones y dando gloria a Dios.
MINISTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTS

Altar Servers
Jack Watkins...........................................925-957-0437
Art and Environment
TBD .............................................................925-228-2230
Beneath His Cross Apostolate
Jennifer Preciado ..........................925-354-1656
Bingo
Don Brocca............................................925-858-7330
Catholic Youth Organization - CYO
Gina Marks.................................925-817-9429
Communications
Eugene Dizon........................................925-370-8143
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Viviana & Marty Magee......925-228-6460
Faith Formation - Religious Education (PreK-8th Grades)
Andrea Watkins ...Ext 30 925-228-2230
Finance Council
Don Brocca...925-229-4158 and Dennis Koller...925-335-9395
Grief Ministry/Card Ministry
Mary Cook (in assoc with Legion of Mary)....925-229-2665
Guadalupe Society
Guadalupe Cruz .........................925-997-2432
Hospital/Sick/Homebound
Tom Greerty (in assoc with Legion of Mary)....925-228-4387
Hospitality
Mary Cook (in assoc with Stewardship).............925-229-2665
Ignite
Cindy Buscaglia........................................925-787-8396
Italian Catholic Federation - ICF
Tom Cook..................................................925-229-2665
Knights of Columbus - K of C
Rik Silva..................................................925-334-2429
La Communidad Latina
Lucia Cruz ..............................................925-348-2620
Lectors
Carlos Melendez...........................................510-385-0506
Legion of Mary
Bobby Kiefer...........................................925-658-1442
Loaves & Fishes
Denise Silva..............................................925-372-0740
Maintenance
Troy Killorn..............................................925-228-2230
Mary Help of Christians - MHC
Margarita Flores..........................925-812-1279
Pastoral Advisory Council
Karen Glen....925-788-7716 & Karen Sandri....925-370-7997
Respect Life
Linda Easterday.............................925-372-3845
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - RCIA
Pauline Porter/Karen Glen ...............925-228-2230
Safe Environment for Children Project - SECP
Andrea Watkins ........Ext 30 925-228-2230
San Lorenzo Ruiz Community - SLRC
Esther Concepcion .......................................925-381-1835
Social Awareness
Anne Crisp ................................................925-356-8822
Spark (young adult group ages 18 years to 35 years)
TBD .............................................................925-228-2230
Stewardship
Karen Glen..............................................925-788-7716
Sociedade Portuguesa Rainha Santa Isabel - SPRSI
Annette Liberty ........................................925-228-8428
St. Vincent de Paul Society - SVdP
Karen Green ..............................................925-788-7716
Ushers
James McLaughlin........................925-228-1051
Young Ladies Institute - YLI
Peggy Aiello-Hagerthy .........................925-228-2628
Youth Group/Confirmation (High School 9 to 12 Grades)
Paul & Jenny Holland ......................925-890-6229

Before serving or continuing in your ministry, complete the Diocesan required Safe Environment for Children Project Training @ www.virtusonline.org. Thank you.
WHAT IS YOUR JOY OF BEING JESUS’ DISCIPLE? by Jessica Griswold, Principal, St. Catherine of Siena School

“Joy is prayer; joy is strength, joy is love. God loves a cheerful giver. The best way we can show our gratitude to God and the people is to accept everything with joy.” –Mother Teresa

As we began this school year, our theme has been JOY. When I walk into classrooms, walk the hallways, and as I spend time with the children in the play yard, I am surrounded by joy. Joyful laughter, joyful teaching, joy in community, and joy in leading. As we celebrate new life this Easter and we experience the resurrection of Christ, I remain hopeful in the fruit that the St. Catherine of Siena community has to offer. There is true power in community and they are lifting the school in their prayers and support.

Three days after Jesus rises, He comes to the disciples saying, “Peace be with you.” The disciples are faced with doubt, fear of the unknown, and what is to come. In my own ministry as a wife, ministry as a mother, and ministry as a school leader, I sometimes walk in the unknown. But, I walk knowing that Christ is with me. My vision for the school as we move to the next school year is transformative and exciting. I am hopeful for what is to come and that brings me joy. I believe that is what the disciples felt after Jesus approached them. Being called to spread His mission and serve others. Being a maverick for Christ brings me joy because I can serve Him in the best way I know how. I serve Him by being an example for my children and to love each one of the students that are part of the St. Catherine of Siena School. I can radiant joy to others when I can share my passion and strengths with others.

As we celebrate new life during this Easter Season, I remain hopeful and excited for a year of truly transformative changes and providing joyful experiences with a community who believes in the mission of our school, the community, and to continue to build students who serve others, who are academic learners, involved Christians, and who Love one another.

WORSHIP
To facilitate a transforming encounter with God as we come together in worship.

DISCIPLESHIP
To empower a community of Christian people walking together as disciples of Jesus in order to share His good news.

STEWARDSHIP
To create a culture in the parish rooted in gratitude and generosity.

HOSPITALITY
To form a joyful family community that reaches out and receives one another as Christ reaches out and receives us.

FACILITIES
To assure that our Church and facilities testify to the greater honor and glory of God.

Introduction excerpted from: “The Parish: Mission or Maintenance?”

“Throw open the doors to Christ!” Pope John Paul II inaugurated his pontificate with this invitation to the world; now he inaugurates a new Christian millennium with the same invitation. And, throughout the Church, we are witnessing a remarkable convergence of signs of renewal of the Church in her mission to the world. The apostolic role of the laity has been resoundingly affirmed and promoted at the highest levels of the Church for the first time in our history. The Holy Father has called the whole Church to re-dedicate all her energies to the new evangelization. Lay Catholics who assume personal responsibility for the Church’s evangelical mission are emerging by the millions all over the globe. A dramatic shift in the historic relationship between clergy and laity is well underway, which has important implications for all Catholic leaders who work with lay people. It is our conviction that, through these historic developments, the Holy Spirit is both illumining and empowering the office of the ordained, and releasing the full vigor of the lay apostolate, for the sake of Christ’s redeeming purposes in the world. But something even more unexpected is happening. As the apostolic gifts and call of the laity have become evident, the apostolic potential of the parish – the one truly universal Catholic institution and the place where ninety-eight percent of Catholics have their only contact with the Church– has also been revealed in a whole new light. No longer can the parish be simply a place where the laity receive the spiritual goods of the Church. If all lay Catholics are apostles to the world as the Church teaches, then the institutions that nourish them must become places of apostolic formation, support, and consultation. The worldwide network of parishes that has sustained the faith of lay Catholics for centuries can and must become primary centers of lay formation and outreach to the world.

by Fr. Michael Sweeney, OP & Sherry A. Weddell, The Catherine of Siena Institute
St. Catherine of Siena School Mission Statement: St. Catherine of Siena School answers the call to nurture each child – spirit, mind and body – in a safe, caring environment by providing Christ-centered, challenging curriculum preparing each child for a future as people of faith, service, respect, and responsibility.

The May Crowning is a beautiful tradition at St. Catherine of Siena school and this year was no exception. Every student brings flowers which are arranged in vases surrounding the Virgin Mary on the altar. (picture left) The service ends with two students adorning the Blessed Virgin with a crown of roses.

—Diana Corsetti, St. Catherine of Siena Teacher Contributor

Are you looking to keep your child busy this summer? St. Catherine of Siena School is offering a summer camp planned with fun enrichment and academic activities to keep your child engaged while learning new skills. Camp Siena is open to all students! This year’s four-week program runs from Monday, June 17 to Friday, July 12 and includes STREAM, Makers Space, Creative Arts, Performing Arts, and K-4 Reading and Math remediation to help prepare students for the upcoming school year. Information is available in the school office and at http://stcatherinemartinez.com/.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA SUMMER CAMP
St. Catherine of Siena School . 604 Mellus Street, Martinez, California 94553
www.stcatherinemartinez.com/925-228-4140

Experience Faith, Fun, & Learning in a Loving Environment

June 17 through July 12

Crowning of Mary—May 1st

Tillie Miller

Ryleigh Fugate, Emmie Willbur

Alexis Zuniga

Evan Rodgers

Dominic Alvarado

John McLean

Alexa Travanino

Liam Tran

Gia Mallo

Emma Low

Cristina Strickland

Xander Becker

Arianna Rosselli

Owen Briley
TODAY IS THE 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

The purpose of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord’s instruction to, “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest” (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), to the Religious life in all its forms (male and female, contemplative and apostolic), to societies of apostolic life, to secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life, in the particular sense of mission “ad gentes.” Let us pray for vocations.

JOIN US AT THE BEAUTIFUL Annual Outdoor Memorial Mass at the old Siena Historic Cemetery Honoring our Pioneer Parishioners Saturday, May 25, 9 AM

The St. Catherine Cemetery is located on the Carquinez Scenic Route passed Rankin Park. Gates open 8:30 AM
Bring a hat and water. Folding chairs will be available. Refreshments courtesy of CFCS Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services

IRENITIONS FOR THE WEEK

SAT 5/11 4:30 Michael & Walter Narodzonek †
SUN 5/12 7:00 Patricia Santos †
8:30 Swieszcz & Bratten Families †
10:30 Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish
12:30 Dolores Cardenas & Julia Polina †
MON 5/13 8:00 Int. Anthony Torres
TUE 5/14 8:00 Kirk & Brydie Kuykendall †
WED 5/15 8:00 Int. St. Catherine of Siena School
THU 5/16 8:00 Special Intention
FRI 5/17 8:00 Stacey Bellato †
SAT 5/18 4:30 Kerry Marie Nakosone †
SUN 5/19 7:00 Int. St. Catherine of Siena Parish
8:30 Int. Lily Quisunbing
10:30 Erlinda & Agapito Bonafacio †
12:30 Louisa Dona, Otto Dona †

Call the Parish Office for Mass Intentions

MOTHER BLEST
Though she was the Mother of the Lord, yet, she desired to learn the precepts of the Lord, and she who brought forth God, yet, desired to know God.
—St. Ambrose

IGNITE BIBLE STUDY: What was Christ’s mission, really, and what does He mean when He talks about the “Kingdom of Heaven?”

Join us for Matthew: The King and His Kingdom, a Bible study from Ascension Press that dives into the personhood and kingship of Christ.
You will see Jesus as the awaited Messiah who fulfills the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, establishes the New Law, and inaugurates the Kingdom of Heaven. Set in the rich context of Jesus’ life, Matthew shows us who Jesus is and what His life and teachings mean for us today.

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom Bible Study
24 Sessions
Wednesdays in the Parish Hall beginning
May 22 @ 6:15 PM to 8:15 PM

Saturdays in the Parish Center Library beginning
May 25 @ 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM

Cost is $30 for registration and book.
Spanish discussion group available at Wednesday sessions.
For more information or to register for the study, call Carolyn Susin 925-408-5496 to leave a message or via email: cdsusin@gmail.com

If you have to miss a session, no problem, once again, as long as you are registered, you can catch up and watch it online. It’s a wonderful way to carry the joy of Easter beyond the Easter Season.

Five altar servers along with Deacons Dave & Albert accompany concelebrants Fr. Anthony Le and Fr. Carl Seewald, who served our community 20 years ago.
SHEPHERDS LIKE JESUS

Each year this Fourth Sunday of Easter celebrates Jesus the Good Shepherd. Today’s Gospel seems especially timely, for as Christians worldwide suffer persecution like Paul and Barnabas, Jesus promises His sheep enduring, invincible safety: “They shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand.” But we who are free to live our faith peacefully sometimes take our membership in Jesus’ flock for granted, wandering astray to seek our own pleasure and prosperity. The simple cross that Pope Francis always wears seems to show us how Jesus responds to that. Francis’s cross features an image of Jesus, who has sought and found a lost sheep, then joyfully set it on his shoulders to carry it gently home. May Good Shepherd Sunday inspire us, so often lost and found ourselves, to assist Jesus in seeking, finding, and gently carrying home our fellow precious lambs.
MAY 5, 2019 CONTRIBUTIONS

Sunday Collection           $5,309.00
Easter                     $95.00
Feast Day                  $1,457.00
Fulfilling the Promise     $93.33
Holy Land                  $50.00
Rice Bowl                  $215.61

Thank you for your continued generosity!

REMEMBER ST. CATHERINE PARISH IN YOUR WILL & LIVING TRUST

STEWARDSHIP
To create a culture in the parish rooted in gratitude and generosity.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

PRAY, HOPE, AND DON'T WORRY. WORRY IS USELESS. GOD IS MERCIFUL AND WILL HEAR YOUR PRAYER.
—St. Pio

Gr ADUATION

Class of 2019

Saint Catherine of Siena Parish congratulates all of our parishioner graduates from universities and colleges, and our neighboring Alhambra, Carondelet, College Park, De La Salle, and Salesian High Schools. May God continue to accompany you on your educational journeys. God bless you always.

You can't blend in when you were born to stand out—Anonymous

Stewardship
/st(y)oer.dSHip/

noun. The job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property.

A biblical world view of stewardship can be consciously defined as: "Using and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation."

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1)

The same fence that shuts others out, shuts us in.—Anonymous

Saint Gianna Molla is the patron saint for mothers, physicians, and unborn children. St. Gianna was a physician, a working mom, professional woman, and a loving wife. The canonization of Saint Gianna is the first of its kind. Many mothers have been beatified for their heroic virtues but they entered religious life after becoming widowed. In St. Gianna’s case, the very condition of her being a spouse and mother is being exalted and highlighted. St. Gianna is the first canonized woman, physician, and professional who was also a “working mom.”
This biographical drama tells the true story of Pedro Poveda (1874 – 1936), a tenacious and innovative priest who opened new paths in education and pioneered the rights of women in the early twentieth century. A victim of intolerance, he was murdered at the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. In 1974, he was awarded the title of “Educator and Humanist” by UNESCO and was canonized a saint by Pope John Paul II in 2003.

Poveda’s success in educating and promoting poor illiterate children living in the Caves of Guadix in Southern Spain received staunch opposition. He had to move to Covadonga, in the Northern mountains. There, with the help of young women, he started a new Christian movement focused on educational opportunities for women, which became the Teresian Association that continues his work today. For its development and growth, he relied on young Pepita Segovia, one of the first women of her time to receive a university degree in education.

Poveda continued his work in spite of the social and political turmoil that intensified in the beginning of the thirties and escalated into a civil war. Caught in the middle of the conflict, Poveda, a man of peace and dialogue, gave his life for his faith, leaving behind a legacy of light and hope.

This feature can be enjoyed through the SCS Access: Go to internet explorer and click http://formed.org, enter code: XPTJK8 (case sensitive)
May 13 is the anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady to three shepherd children in the small village of Fatima in Portugal in 1917. She appeared six times to Lucia, 9, and her cousins Francisco, 8, and her sister Jacinta, 6, between May 13, 1917 & Oct 13, 1917.

Fatima Prayer. O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell and lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat offers a safe time and place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreat offers a supportive and non-judgmental environment to transform the pain of the past into love and hope. Women, men, and couples are encouraged to attend.

Next retreat is in Danville from May 17-19. For details and to register, contact Gloria Maldonado at afterthechoice@oakdioadmin.org or call 510-485-2574, or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org
### READINGS & REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**SUN, MAY 12, 2019: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**
**Hear my voice**

We call this “Good Shepherd Sunday,” but these days you don’t see many shepherds in this part of the world, at least not the kind of scripture is talking about. But it can still help to think about good shepherds, even if you don’t see any of them tending sheep in your neighborhood. The key is twofold: knowing who is in your care and having those in your care know and believe in you, and laying down your life for them. Sacrifice for others and mutual trust: It’s how our relationship with God works, and these values are the ones you can cultivate when people look to you for leadership.

**Today’s readings:** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17 (564).

“Whoever believes in Me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these.”

**TUE, MAY 14, 2019: FEAST OF MATTHIAS, APOSTLE**
**Apostle out of nowhere**

Matthias is the pop-up saint of the New Testament. He came out of nowhere in the Acts of the Apostles to be counted among the 12 apostles, filling the vacancy left by Judas. Not having even been named before the appointment, he’s not mentioned again. Tradition has him afterward preaching in several different places, and also buried in several different places. Safe to say he got around. There is a lost second-century gospel falsely attributed to Matthias. But that’s about it. He’s the patron saint of alcoholics, tailors, and the diocese of Gary, Indiana. Where will they say your sainthood comes from?

**Today’s readings:** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17 (564).

“I have told you this so that My joy might be in you and your joy might be complete.”

**WED, MAY 15, 2019: MEMORIAL OF ISIDORE THE FARMER**
**The holy work of human hands and hearts**

Catholic Rural Life (CRL) was founded in 1923 to focus on the economic, social, and religious issues that face rural Catholics in the United States. Throughout its history, CRL has provided spiritual support to Catholic farmers as well as advocacy on topics ranging from environmental concerns to economic and trade policies. In the 1950s, CRL claimed Saint Isidore as the official patron saint of farmers and of the organization. A day-laborer in 11th-century Spain, Isidore attended Mass each day, worked diligently in the fields, had an affinity for animals, and cared for the poor despite his own poverty. Historians say he was a simple man. We might do well to imitate his trust and dependence on God.

**Today’s readings:** Acts 12:24—13:5a; John 12:44-50 (281).

“I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in Me might not remain in darkness.”

**THU, MAY 16, 2019: What makes for faith?**

Before the stories that would become scripture were written down, one wonders what ordinary daily life was really like for those who had heard, were touched by, believed in, even loved and followed Jesus. Scripture would one day testify to the Resurrection, but in those first years what made believers so adamant that they were able to stand up to rejection and persecution was a trust in God and the witness of others, an act of abandonment to love. Everyone has a story of how they came to believe, of persons and experiences that challenged their faith and of those who deepened and confirmed it. Remember your story and thank those who supported you today.

**Today’s readings:**

“Whoever receives the One I send receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the One who sent Me.”

**SAT, MAY 18, 2019: MEMORIAL OF JOHN I, POPE, MARTYR**
**The spirit of sacrifice**

You might think that martyrs always mean dying violently for faith. Some deaths, however, are slow—but they are martyrdom nonetheless. Take Pope Saint John I’s death, for example. In the sixth century he got caught up in the rivalry between two emperors. As a result he was put in prison, where he died slowly of starvation. Whatever form it takes, martyrdom involves the willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for what you believe and to remain faithful to what you hold to be important. Let some of that spirit into your life.

**Today’s readings:**

“Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?”

**SUN, MAY 19, 2019: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
**Life is hard—find a community!**

Moving day is proof positive that we could all use some friends. Who else is going to lift the other end of that piano? But the rewards of community go beyond bearing the physical burden. We need folks to celebrate the victories, cheer us on during the contests, hold onto us when the bad news comes, and weep with us when we grieve. We also need encouragement and challenge to do the right thing even when it’s hard or costly, and to shine a light when the path ahead is dark. Welcome to the church.

**Today’s readings:**

“They strengthened the spirits of the disciples and exhorted them to persevere.”
CUARTO DOMINGO DE PASCUA; DOMINGO DEL BUEN PASTOR Escucha mi voz

Llamamos a este el “Domingo del Buen Pastor,” pero en estos días no se ven muchos pastores en esta parte del mundo, por lo menos no de la clase de que hablan las escrituras. Pero todavía es útil pensar en buenos pastores, aun cuando no ves a ninguno cuidando ovejas en tu vecindario. La clave es doble: conocer quién está a tu cuidado y hacer que quienes están a tu cuidado te conozcan y crean en ti, y ofrecer tu vida por ellos. Sacrificio por los demás y confianza mutua: Así es como funciona nuestra relación con Dios, y estos valores son los que puedes cultivar cuando la gente busca tu liderazgo.

Lecturas de hoy:
Hechos 13:14-43; Revelaciones (Apocalipsis) 7:9, 14b-17; Juan 10:27-30 (51).
“¿Estas escuchando?”

13 MAY 2019 MEMORIAL DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE FÁTIMA; SEMANA DE PASCUA

Es difícil destilar toda la maravilla de la aparición de Nuestra Señora de Fátima a tres niños pastores en Portugal en 1917. Sus revelaciones han estado rodeadas de misterio, especulación e interpretación durante más de 100 años. Pero la esencia del mensaje de María era lo mismo que siempre: orar y expiar. Dí el rosario, haz sacrificios por los pecadores. Veneran su corazón inmaculado, junto con el Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. De hecho, consagra todo el mundo a ello. Peticiones sencillas, en circunstancias especulables. ¿Puedes honrarlos?

Lecturas de hoy:
“Las ovejas lo siguen, porque reconocen su voz”.

14 MAY 2019 FIESTA DE MATTIAS, APÓSTOL Apóstol de la nada.

Mattías es el santo emergente del Nuevo Testamento. Salió de la nada en los Hechos de los Apóstoles para ser contado entre los 12 Apóstoles, llenando la vacante dejada por Judas. No habiendo sido nombrado antes de la cita, no se le vuelve a mencionar. La tradición lo tiene después predicando en varios lugares diferentes. Es seguro decir que se movió. Hay un evangelio perdido del siglo segundo atribuido falsamente a Matías. Pero eso es todo. Es el santo patrono de los alcohólicos, sastres y la diócesis de Gary, Indiana. ¿De dónde dirán que viene tu santidad?

Lecturas de hoy:
Hechos 15:17, 20-26; Juan 15:9-17 (564).
“Te lo he dicho para que mi alegría esté en ti y tu alegría esté completa”.

15 MAY 2019 MEMORIAL DE ISIDORE EL GRANJERO; SEMANA DE PASCUA La santa obra de manos y corazones humanos

Catholic Rural Life (CRL) se fundó en 1923 para centrarse en los problemas económicos, sociales y religiosos que enfrentan los católicos rurales en los Estados Unidos. A lo largo de su historia, CLR ha brindado apoyo espiritual a los agricultores católicos, así como la promoción de temas que van desde las preocupaciones ambientales hasta las políticas económicas y comerciales. En la década de 1950, CLR afirmó a Saint Isadore como el santo patrono oficial de los agricultores y de la organización. Trabajador diurno en la España del siglo XI, Isadore asistía a misa todos los días, trabajaba diligentemente en los campos, tenía afinidad por los animales y cuidaba a los pobres a pesar de su propia pobreza. Los historiadores dicen que era un hombre sencillo. Podríamos hacer bien en imitar su confianza y dependencia en Dios.

Lecturas de hoy:
Hechos 12: 24—13: 5a; Juan 12: 44-50 (281).
“Vine al mundo como luz, para que todos los que creen en mí no permanezcan en la oscuridad”.

16 MAY 2019 SEMANA DE PASCUA ¿Qué hace para la fe?

Antes de que se escribieran las historias que se convertirían en las escrituras, uno se pregunta cómo era realmente la vida cotidiana de aquellos que habían escuchado, fueron convocados, creyeron, incluso amaron y siguieron a Jesús. Las escrituras algún día darían testimonio de la Resurrección, pero en esos primeros años lo que hizo a los creyentes tan inflexibles que pudieron resistir el rechazo y la persecución fue la confianza en Dios y el testimonio de los demás, un acto de abandono al amor. Todos tienen una historia de cómo llegaron a creer, de personas y experiencias que desafiaron su fe y de quienes la profundizaron y confirmaron. Recuerda tu historia y agradece a quienes te apoyaron hoy.

Lecturas de hoy:
“Quien recibe el que yo envío, me recibe, y quien me recibe, recibe al que me envié”.

17 MAY 2019 SEMANA DE PASCUA Sorpresas por delante.

Los apóstoles no sabían quiénes estaban destinados a ser cuando comenzaron a seguir a Jesús. Lo mismo podría decirse de todos los que iniciamos el camino de la fe con pasos vacilantes e inciertos. Tal vez algún día seamos parte del canon de santos como Tomás, quien hasta la Última Cena todavía le preguntaba a Jesús hacia dónde se dirigía este camino. Obviamente, todavía no se le había ocurrido que él sería uno de los 12 fundadores de nuestra tradición apostólica. Tampoco podemos imaginar en quién podamos convertirnos si continuamos de esta manera.

Lecturas de hoy:
Hechos 13: 26-33; Juan 14: 1-6 (238).
“Señor, no sabemos a dónde vas. ¿Cómo podemos saber el camino?”

18 MAY 2019 MEMORIAL DE JUAN I, PAPA, MARTYR El espíritu del sacrificio.

Podrías pensar que los martirios siempre significan morir violentamente por la fe. Sin embargo, algunas muertes son lentas, pero no obstante son martirios. Tomemos como ejemplo la muerte del Papa San Juan I. En el siglo VI quedó atrapado en la rivalidad entre dos emperadores. Como resultado, fue puesto en prisión, donde murió lentamente de hambre. Cualquiera que sea la forma que tome, el martirio implica la voluntad de hacer el máximo sacrificio por lo que crees y permanecer fiel a lo que consideras importante. Deja que algo de ese espíritu entre en tu vida.

Lecturas de hoy:
Hechos 13: 44-52; Juan 14: 7-14 (284).
“Quien cree en mí hará las obras que yo hago, y las hará más grandes que éstas”.

QUINTO DOMINGO DE PASCUA La vida es difícil—¡encuentra una comunidad!

El día de una mudanza es una demostración de que todos necesitamos amigos y que podemos convertirnos en ellos. Podemos compartir nuestras alegrías, soledades, problemas, experiencias, felicidades, tristezas. Un amigo nos hace sentir menos solos, menos aislados. Podemos dejar que alguien nos ayude a resolver un problema de una manera que sólo podíamos hacerlo nosotros. Pero esto no significa que debamos tener un amigo para todo, porque lo importante es que tengamos algunas personas que estén ahí para nosotros cuando necesitemos su ayuda.

Lecturas de hoy:
Hechos 14:21-27; Revelaciones (Apocalipsis) 21:1-5a; Juan 13:31-33a, 34-35 (54).
“Fortalecieron los espíritus de los discípulos y los exhortaron a perseverar.”

LECTURAS Y REFLEXIONES DE LA SEMANA
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