

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 9, 2015

La Historia y Usted: Domingo XIX del Tiempo Ordinario

¿Qué? No hay amargura, furia, ira, gritos, o agravios? ¿Cómo vamos a sobrevivir la temporada de futbol americano, y ni hablar de los debates presidenciales? De algún modo es revelador saber que los Cristianos en el antiguo Éfeso tenían el mismo temperamento agresivo y comportamientos groseros que caracterizan mucho de lo que se hace pasar por nuestra platica adulta en estos días.

El autor de la carta a los Efesios tuvo que deletrear los ABCs de cómo deben de comportarse unos con otros aquellos que han aceptado a Cristo. Si, tenían que ser regañados, si, debían ser educados en las virtudes que transforman el alma que son la compasión y el perdón. Pero las buenas noticias son que la ingeniería radical y social que es la vida Cristiana echó raíces y dio frutos que perduran.

La iglesia Cristiana de los primeros tres siglos después de la resurrección provocó la transformación más increíble de diversas culturas sociales y religiosas que nunca se había logrado de modo pacifico en la historia mundial. El sociólogo Rodney Stark analizó la sobrevivencia y el crecimiento de la iglesia temprana durante los primeros siglos. Él ofreció las siguientes observaciones:

Para las ciudades que estaban llenas de desamparados y pobres, la Cristiandad ofreció caridad tanto como esperanza. A las ciudades llenas de inmigrantes y desconocidos, la Cristiandad ofreció una base inmediata para pertenecer. A las ciudades llenas de huérfanos y viudas, la Cristiandad ofreció un nuevo y extendido sentido de familia. Y a las ciudades que enfrentaban epidemias, incendios, y terremotos, la Cristiandad ofreció servicios de enfermería eficaces.

Tertulian, escribiendo desde el Norte de África alrededor de 197 después de Cristo, citó a sus vecinos paganos diciendo, “Estos Cristianos, miren como se aman los unos a los otros!”

Seguimos trabajando en eso. Pero Cristo ya ganó la victoria. Solamente debemos llevarla a cabo.

Si usted fuera llevado a juicio por ser Cristiano, ¿*Habría suficiente evidencia para condenarlo?*

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The Story and You: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
What? No bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, or reviling? How will we ever get through football season, not to mention the presidential debates? Somehow it’s enlightening to know that the Christians in ancient Ephesus had the same trigger tempers and rude behaviors that mark so much of what passes for adult discourse in our day.

The author of the letter to the Ephesians had to spell out the ABCs of how those who have embraced Christ should behave towards each other. Yes, they had to be scolded. Yes, they had to be schooled in the soul-changing virtues of compassion and forgiveness. But the Good News is that the radical social engineering that is the Christian life took root and bore fruit that remains.

The early Christian church in the first three centuries after the resurrection brought about the most amazing transformation of diverse social and religious cultures ever achieved by peaceful means in the history of the world. Sociologist Rodney Stark analyzed the survival and growth of the early church in the first few centuries. He offers the following observations:

To cities filled with the homeless and impoverished, Christianity offered charity as well as hope. To cities filled with newcomers and strangers, Christianity offered an immediate basis for attachment. To cities filled with orphans and widows, Christianity provided a new and expanded sense of family. And to cities faced with epidemics, fire, and earthquakes, Christianity offered effective nursing services.

Tertullian, writing from North Africa around 197AD, cited his pagan neighbors remarking, “These Christians, see how they love one another!”

We’re still working at it. But Christ has won the victory. We have only to carry it out.

If you were tried as a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

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Please Pray for the Sick of our Parish-

Alicia Aguilar, Manuel Bencomo, Melissa Pimental, Lucia Pimental, Gaylene Allen, John Long, Barbara Deaguero, Clarence Kunz, Helen Abeyta, Ben Reese, Chuck Bauer, Emma Rosa Olivas, Robert Prado, Tate Hallahan, Helen Abeyta, Mary Maes, Patricio Sáenz, Clarita Rubio, Rosi Cervantes, Lucia Pimental, Bowina Burbank

Around the Parish and the Community

PARISH EVALUATION

With the help of our Core Team for the Parish Evaluation, we have started the process of developing volunteer opportunities in our parish that will help both the staff and the greater faith community. In the weeks ahead, we will be asking you to consider how you might be able to offer your time and talent to help serve our faith family. There are many ways to help that don't involve a great deal of time or money. Thank you for always being so willing to help and for giving prayerful consideration to offering your gifts to our parish!

PARISH PICNIC

Mark your calendars now and make plans to attend our annual Parish Picnic at Huston Lake Park on Sunday, August 23 following the 11am Mass! Come join us for a day of fun with games and face painting for the whole family. Our Knights of Columbus have generously offered their time and considerable skill to cook our picnic lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs, but we are asking that each family **bring a side dish to share**. Please see the signup sheet in the vestibule.

LECTORS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

The Lector and Eucharistic Minister Schedule is available in the vesting sacristy for your convenience. Please note that the schedule is for one month only and ends on Sunday, August 23, as our Mass times will change on Sunday August 30. Our new Mass times will be Saturday at 4 pm, Sunday at 9 am (English) and 11:30 am (Bilingual/Spanish). Those of you who now attend the 8:30 and 11:00 am English masses will need to consider at which Mass you would like to serve, either the 4 pm Mass on Saturday or the 9 am on Sunday. **A signup sheet will be available in the sacristy this weekend through August 12.** We will schedule only those people who have signed up for the next two month schedule, which will begin on August 30. If you have not yet decided by that date, you can continue to think about it and let us know at a later time. **Those of you who already serve at the 4 pm Mass need not sign up again.**

FAITH FORMATION

ADULTS

We are very excited to be able to offer the CATHOLICISM series by Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, hosted by Fr. Robert Barron, now Bishop-Elect of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The series will begin on Wednesday, October 7, 2015. **Please see the insert in the bulletin for more details. CHILD CARE IS PROVIDED!** Some of you may be familiar with Word on Fire, as we have a YouTube playlist on the homepage, which features brief videos of Bishop-Elect Barron's commentary on a variety of topics. We will begin taking registrations in the next few weeks.

RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The RCIA process enables adults to complete all their sacraments, those who wish to convert to Catholicism from another faith tradition, but more importantly, guides adults on a journey that encourages a relationship with the risen Lord. If you or someone you know would like to learn more, please contact Laurie at the parish office. Our first sessions is on Wednesday, August 26, so register soon!

SECRETS OF SCRIPTURE will resume on Sunday, September 13, at 10:15am. Please join us for an informal discussion on the day's readings. Coffee and tea, and the occasional sweet treat are provided!

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Registration for Children's Faith Formation and Sacramental preparation begins in August. This year we will be implementing a family centered, home-based program, with families meeting at the parish once-a-month for catechesis. Families will receive a monthly packet of lessons to be completed at home. We are hopeful that this new paradigm will allow parents greater flexibility helping their children learn more about their Catholic faith and forming them as young disciples. The fees are \$45 per student, with a \$10 discount per student if fees are paid before the start of our sessions, which will be October 4.

