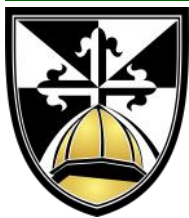


# 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 11, 2020

Isaiah 25:6-10a  
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20  
Matthew 22:1-14

**“I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days**





**St. Dominic's is a Catholic Parish Inspired by Dominican Spirituality Igniting the Faith for the Salvation of Souls**

## Mass Intentions

Sun	10/11	7:00 am	(D) Marilyn Mulcahy
		9:00 am	(B) Lori Telepak
		11:00 am	(T) Priestly Intention
		1:00 pm	(T) People of the Parish
		5:00 pm	(T) Bodenheimer Family
Mon	10/12	6:45 am	(T) Priestly Intention
		8:15 am	(D) Pilar Garcia
Tues	10/13	6:45 am	(B) Gracelee Chatman
		8:15 am	(D) Jim Guinasso
Wed	10/14	6:45 am	(T) Priestly Intention
		8:15 am	(B) Chato B. Angeles
Thurs	10/15	6:45 am	(T) Charles Hill
		8:15 am	(D) Margarita Marciniak
Fri	10/16	6:45 am	(T) Priestly Intention
		8:15 am	(H) Eric P. Aguirre
Sat	10/17	8:15 am	(B) Noelle Therese Orlina
		5:00 pm	(B) Jonathan Schilz
Sun	10/18	7:00 am	(D) Arsenia Dacapias
		9:00 am	(T) Priestly Intention
		11:00 am	(B) Andre Escala
		1:00 pm	(T) Priestly Intention
		5:00 pm	(T) People of the Parish

Legend: (D) Deceased (H) Health  
(A) Anniversary (B) Birthday (T) Thanksgiving

 **Mass & Flower Intentions available**   
Contact Alisa aaquino@stdombenicia.org

**Flowers in Memory of  
Roberto V. & Corazon A Merrera**



## Open Public Masses **Sunday**

7:00 am (church)  
9:00 am (small lot\*)  
11:00 am (small lot\*)  
1:00 pm (English/Spanish-church)  
**Monday-Saturday**  
8:15 am (church)

\*Weather permitting, otherwise inside church

## Live-Stream Masses

WatchStDom.com

### **Sunday**

7:00 am, 1:00 pm & 5:00 pm

### **Monday - Saturday**

8:15 am

### **Saturday**

5:00 pm



475 East I Street, Benicia, CA, 94510  
(707) 747-7220 [www.stdombenicia.org](http://www.stdombenicia.org)  
[@stdombenicia](https://www.instagram.com/stdombenicia) [#stdominicsbenicia](https://www.facebook.com/stdominicsbenicia)



## Pastor's Corner

Dear sisters and brothers of St. Dominic Parish,

Even during these challenging times, there is hope and Good News to spread! As you may recall, last weekend we invited everyone to participate in the Rosary Sunday: Dominican Student Appeal and asked for your help in supporting the education and formation of your future Dominican priests and religious brothers.

If you made a gift to the Appeal already, please accept my heartfelt thanks, and the thanks of all my Dominican brothers.

If your economic situation is stable and you have not, I ask you to please consider a gift at [www.opwest.org/rs](http://www.opwest.org/rs) or mail it directly to: Western Dominican Province, 5877 Birch Court, Oakland, CA 94618. Unfortunately, due to a COVID outbreak at the printer, the envelopes mailed directly to you will not arrive until next week. You can use those too.

Thanks be to God, the Western Dominican Province has been experiencing a vocation increase over the last 5 years, and we now have more men in formation than in the last 20 years. But the formation of these 36 good men is hard work and requires the support of many people. It costs, on average, about \$52,500 per student brother per year to fund their room, board, formation, graduate education and healthcare. (That means this year's costs will be around \$2 million.) These funds are stretched far, but without your support, we wouldn't have the means to train them for their lives of service.

What's more, we Dominicans do not receive support from this or any diocese in which we serve for the formation of our student brothers (our "seminarians"). We rely entirely on friends like you.


Quite frankly, it is not possible for us to nurture and guide our Student Brothers' vocations without your support and God's grace. We are grateful that we receive both in abundance.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Carl Schlichte, OP

P.S. Giving online at [www.opwest.org/rs](http://www.opwest.org/rs) is secure and convenient. Our province respects your privacy and never sells or shares your information with third parties. Thank you!

**Fr. Carl Schlichte, O.P.**  
[frcarl@stdombenicia.org](mailto:frcarl@stdombenicia.org) 707.335.4668




# COME AND SEE

## Discernment Weekends


October 17-18, 2020 (VIRTUAL)  
 November 7-8, 2020 (VIRTUAL)  
 March 5-7, 2021

St. Albert the Great Priory | Oakland, CA

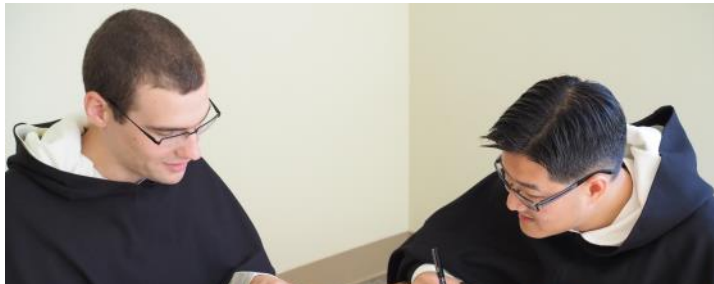
TO REGISTER, CONTACT:  
 Fr. John Marie Bingham, O.P., Director of Vocations  
[vocations@opwest.org](mailto:vocations@opwest.org) | (510) 658-8722 | [opwest.org/comeandsee](http://opwest.org/comeandsee)



**DOMINICAN FRIARS**  
 Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus



Western Dominican Province  
[opwest.org](http://opwest.org)

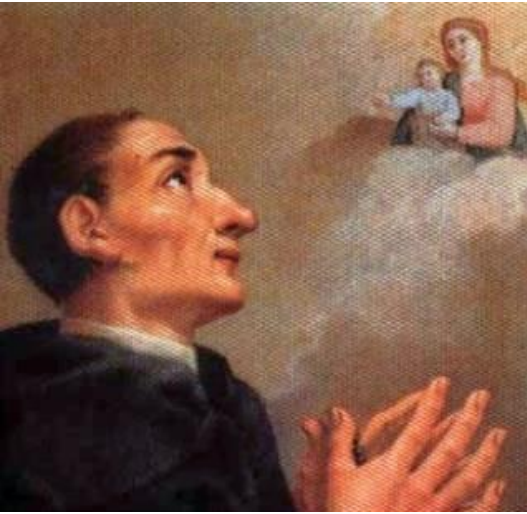


Parish Financial Report 7/1/2020-9/30/2020			
	YTD	YTD	+/-
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Sunday Offertory			
Total Operating Income	\$205,691	\$250,000	<b>\$(44,309)</b>
Operating Expense	\$243,210	\$318,193	<b>\$(74,983)</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>\$(43,710)</b>	<b>\$(2,434)</b>	<b>\$(33,707)</b>
Restricted Donations:			
Building Improvement	\$9,888	\$12,500	<b>\$(2,612)</b>
Faith Formation	\$1,915	\$2,750	<b>\$(835)</b>
SDS Tuition Assistance	\$2,129	-	-
St. Vincent de Paul	\$16,504	-	-



# Dominican Saints of the Week

October 11th - **Blessed James Griesinger** of Ulm,  
Friar and Religious



Blessed James was born in the year 1407 in Swabia, which is now a part of Germany. James became a soldier in Naples in 1432 after having stopped in Bologna. Then he

went on a pilgrimage to Rome to visit the tombs of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. After his visit to Rome, he became disillusioned with the soldiering life and became a private aid to a solicitor in Capua in 1437. He became a member of the order of preachers in Bologna in 1441. James spent the remainder of his life working in the art of stained glass and painting images on Church windows. He died on October 11th, 1491 and was buried in the Basilica of San Domingo. His remains were later moved in 1965 to another chapel in the same church. He was beatified by Pope Leo the 12th on August 3rd, 1825. Blessed James Griesinger of Ulm, pray for us.

October 13th - **Blessed Magdalen Pannatieri**,  
Lay Dominican and Virgin

Blessed Magdalen was born in Torino in 1443 and as a child, she fostered a great devotion to Saint Catherine of preachers in 1463 as a tertiary. She made a private vow as a child to remain chaste. She was very fond of children and had a way of explaining Christian dogma simply. Magdalen's talks attracted priests, nuns, and other lay people as she made the gospel easy to understand. She spent her mornings in Eucharistic adoration while her afternoon she was administering to both the ill and the poor. She became noted for her austerities which included wearing a rough woolen shirt and her very long fasts. She was said to have received the stigmata although this was kept secret until after her death. Blessed Magdalen died on October 13th, 1503 in Torino on her deathbed she said: "I could not be happy in heaven if you were not with me there too", to those assembled near her bedside. She was beatified by Leo the 12th, on September 26th, 1827. Blessed Magdalen Pannatieri, pray for us.

October 14th - **Blessed Marie Poussepin**,  
Sister and Virgin

Blessed Marie was born October 14th, 1653 in France. She spent her early childhood caring for her mother who died at the age of 22. She was going to join a contemplative order, but then her father became ill requiring her to stay at home. After his death she became an active Tertiary of the Dominican Order. She tried to form a branch of the Dominican Sisters of Charity in Angerville, but due to the dislike of a local Bishop the congregation was not immediately formed or affiliated with the Dominican order. The group instead became known as Jacobines. As leader of the group, Mary opened many elementary schools and reformed Healthcare in rural France. Despite her efforts, Mary was never able to have the Jacobines recognized by the Dominican order in her lifetime. She died in 1744. Finally in 1897, the Jacobines were formally recognized and became officially named the Dominican Sisters of Charity of the Presentation of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II November 20th, 1994. Blessed Marie Poussepin, pray for us.



**RCIA**

*A Journey in Faith*

**Rite of Christian  
Initiation for  
Adults**

[RCIA@stdombenicia.org](mailto:RCIA@stdombenicia.org)

RCIA is an ongoing ministry for those seeking the Sacraments in the Catholic church or have questions about the Catholic faith. Please contact Shannon Carter by email [RCIA@stdombenicia.org](mailto:RCIA@stdombenicia.org) for more information. New sessions starting now!

## ST. DOMINIC'S TEEN MINISTRIES

FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, & FUN

### YR I Confirmation

Confirmation began this past week with a parent orientation meeting. The Confirmation team is looking forward to meeting all the teen candidates at the small group meeting that will take place on **Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 pm.** Parents, please check your email one week prior for more details.

### YR II Confirmation

YR II Confirmation will begin with a **parent** orientation meeting that will take place from 6:00-7:00 pm in the amphitheater behind the Church on the following dates:

Monday, October 12 - **Marlene's Small Group**  
Tuesday, October 13 - **Aouie, Grace & Kaia's Small Group**  
Wednesday, October 14 - **Dalia's Small Group**  
Thursday, October 15 - **Barry's Small Group**

Congratulations to Valentina Dover-Mora who was confirmed at the 9:00 Mass on September 27<sup>th</sup> and Natalia Guerrero who was confirmed at the 11:00 Mass on October 4<sup>th</sup>. May God bless you both.

### Youth Ministry Rosary Walk & Knots 4 Love

There will be a youth rosary walk in downtown Benicia on **Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-6:30 pm.** Grab your beads and your mask and join us as we pray the rosary at sunset.

The Knots 4 Love service project is back! There will be a gathering on **Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00 pm.** Join us as we make blankets for the newly baptized babies of parish and for those in need.

*St. Dominic's Youth Ministry program follows the guidelines outlined in the diocesan document, Guidelines for Returning to Ministry.*

*Current guidelines require pre-registration for all youth ministry activities. Gatherings will take place outside with all participants masked and physically distanced (6ft or more).*

Please contact Lisa for more information at  
[ltoomey@stdombenicia.org](mailto:ltoomey@stdombenicia.org)

## Rosary for the Sick

Wednesday  
at 7:30 pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
WITH DEACON SHAWN



## Religious Education 2020-2021 A Distance Learning Year



Late Registration Accepted



Introducing NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION  
& PAYMENT BY PAYPAL

### Important Dates



September 23<sup>rd</sup>:  
Classes Began

### Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

- ◆ Blest Are We
- ◆ Faith in Action Take-Home Textbook
- ◆ Login Credentials to RCL Benziger Flourish Website
- ◆ Formed.org Digital Media Platform

### Grades 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

- ◆ Blessed Series: First Holy Communion/Reconciliation
- ◆ Take-Home Textbook from Dynamic Catholic
- ◆ Blessed Series: First Holy Communion/Reconciliation Email Program for Parents from Dynamic Catholic
- ◆ Sacrament Animation Series from Formed.org

## Contact Information

### 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grades Program

Deacon Errol Kissinger, DRE  
[ekissinger@stdombenicia.org](mailto:ekissinger@stdombenicia.org)

### First Sacraments

Debi Thurin  
[dthurin@stdombenicia.org](mailto:dthurin@stdombenicia.org)



## Grief Support

During COVID our regular group sessions can't meet but our Grief Ministry team is available for one on one grief support via telephone. COVID, fires, and grief; it's a lot. We're here to listen.

Please contact **Patti Erickson**  
at [consolation@stdombenicia.org](mailto:consolation@stdombenicia.org)  
or leave a phone message at 707.745.3502.

**Please pray for the recovery of  
the sick listed in our Book of  
Intentions and the following:**



Emilio Ermio  
Lisa Santini  
Daniel Foley  
Sheila Garvey  
Al & Anne Caruso  
Donna W.  
Ardath Kroner  
Peggy Burton  
Maria Kielien

Mary Barnhart  
Stan Gabel  
Joanne Flanagan  
Margaret McClune  
Alma Johnson  
Gladys Haddad  
Bessie Sharp  
Jane Gasper

**Please remember** the following recently deceased (and their families) in your prayers:  
Daniel C. Leary, Michael Francone,  
Veronica Arkin, Antonio Valdellon, Bill Mahoney,  
Mark Parish, Jim Mahern, Kristin Tobias,  
Ruth Marks, Sara Smith, Lydia Leveriza,  
Benjamin Alvendia, Ora Weber, Maria Cardoso,  
Maria De Lourdes Cardoso

*Sick or remembrances will be listed for a period of 3 months*



**Peaceful, prayerful, effective 40 Days for Life  
campaign to build on successes in Vallejo/Benicia/  
American Canyon CA**

Vallejo/Benicia/American Canyon CA – Beginning September 23<sup>rd</sup> thru November 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 we will be conducting our 40 Days For Life prayer vigil. Due to the COVID concerns and smoke problems from the CA fires we are proposing three ways you can participate in focused prayer for an end to abortion, for conversion of hearts, for mothers and fathers who feel they have no other choice, and for the unborn child who's very life is at risk. 1.) Focused visible prayer on the sidewalk of PP in Vallejo. Masks must be worn and people must be 6' apart, or you can park and pray in your car. 2.) We are offering a virtual-Zoom prayer hour each day at 3:00 pm during the vigil. Login info will be sent to those who wish to pray in this format. 3.) Please consider to commit to one hour in front of the Tabernacle at St. Dominic's, offering your prayers for this most important cause for life. There is no specific day when you must commit to praying, but please commit to prayer and fasting and let me know if you want to participate in the virtual-Zoom option so I can gather email addresses and send the login information. Please contact Tony Hensley at [tonyh@ctpub.com](mailto:tonyh@ctpub.com) to sign up for one hour per week.

40 Days for Life is a peaceful, highly focused, non-denominational initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and grassroots educational outreach. The 40-day time frame is drawn from examples throughout Biblical history. The prayer vigil will take place in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood at 303 Sacramento St. Vallejo CA. All prayer vigil participants are requested to pray for peace, pledging to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner at all times.

For information about 40 Days for Life in Vallejo/Benicia/American Canyon, visit:  
[www.40daysforlife.com/Vallejo/Benicia/Am.Cyn](http://www.40daysforlife.com/Vallejo/Benicia/Am.Cyn).

## Parish Office

**Temporarily Closed ~Please Email Us**

### Parish Staff

**Fr. Carl Schlichte, O.P.**

[frcarl@stdombenicia.org](mailto:frcarl@stdombenicia.org)

**Errol Kissinger**

[ekissinger@stdombenicia.org](mailto:ekissinger@stdombenicia.org)

**Shawn Carter**

[scarter@stdombenicia.org](mailto:scarter@stdombenicia.org)

**Fr. Gregory Liu, O.P.**

[gliu@stdombenicia.org](mailto:gliu@stdombenicia.org)

**Br. John Peter Anderson, O.P.**

[jpanderson@stdombenicia.org](mailto:jpanderson@stdombenicia.org)

**Teresa Stone**

[tstone@stdombenicia.org](mailto:tstone@stdombenicia.org)

**Lori Telepak**

[ltelepak@stdombenicia.org](mailto:ltelepak@stdombenicia.org)

**Alisa Aquino**

[aaquino@stdombenicia.org](mailto:aaquino@stdombenicia.org)

**Francisco Ortiz**

[fortiz@stdombenicia.org](mailto:fortiz@stdombenicia.org)

**Lisa Toomey**

[ltoomey@stdombenicia.org](mailto:ltoomey@stdombenicia.org)

**Debi Thurin**

[dthurin@stdombenicia.org](mailto:dthurin@stdombenicia.org)

**Fr. David Farrugia, O.P.**

**Fr. Vincent Serpa, O.P.**

**Deacon John Flanagan**

**Pastor**

**Deacon & Dir Rel Ed**

**Deacon**

**In Residence**

**Student Brother**

**Business Manager**

**Communications**

**Parish Secretary**

**Music Director**

**Teen Ministry**

**Children's Sacraments**

**In Residence / Retired**

**In Residence / Retired**

**Retired**

### St. Dominic School

[www.sdbenicia.org](http://www.sdbenicia.org)

**(707) 745-1266**

**Katie Perata (K-8th grade)**

[kperata@sdbenicia.org](mailto:kperata@sdbenicia.org)

**Tanya Sanchez (Pre-K/TK)**

[tsanchez@sdbenicia.org](mailto:tsanchez@sdbenicia.org)

# Sunday Worship Aid

## Isaiah 25:6-10a

### A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

### *I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures He gives me repose; beside restful waters He leads me; He refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; And I shall dwell in house of the Lord for years to come.

## Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

### A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters: I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him who

strengthens me. Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress. My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Matthew 22:1-14

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, Tell those invited: 'Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast.'" Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find. The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said to him, My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment? But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Many are invited, but few are chosen." The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayer for the Sick during the Pandemic

O God, our refuge in trials, our strength in sickness, our comfort in sorrow, spare your people, we pray, and hear our prayers for all who are sick: Grant them, we implore you, your merciful help, so that, with their health restored, they may give you thanks in the midst of the Church.

Your Only-Begotten Son took on our human nature and bore our infirmities; protect and strengthen also we pray, nurses, doctors, first responders, and all others on the front line of this pandemic, who put themselves in harm's way to serve the needs of others.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Our Lady of Guadalupe  
St. Joseph  
St. Patrick  
Holy Father St. Dominic

Pray for us!  
Pray for us!  
Pray for us!  
Pray for us!

## **Isaías 25:6-10a**

### **Lectura del libro del profeta Isaías**

En aquel día, el Señor del universo preparará sobre este monte un festín con platillos suculentos para todos los pueblos; un banquete con vinos exquisitos y manjares sustanciosos. El arrancará en este monte el velo que cubre el rostro de todos los pueblos, el paño que oscurece a todas las naciones. Destruirá la muerte para siempre; el Señor Dios enjugará las lágrimas de todos los rostros y borraré de toda la tierra la afrenta de su pueblo. Así lo ha dicho el Señor. En aquel día se dirá: "Aquí está nuestro Dios, de quien esperábamos que nos salvara. Alegrémonos y gocemos con la salvación que nos trae, porque la mano del Señor reposará en este monte".

Palabra de Dios.

**Te alabamos, Señor.**

## **Salmo 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6**

### ***Habitar en la casa del Señor, por años sin termino.***

El Señor es mi pastor, nada me falta; en verdes praderas me hace recostar; me conduce hacia fuentes tranquilas y repara mis fuerzas.

Me guía por justo sendero por el honor de su nombre. Y aunque camine por cañadas oscuras, nada temo pues tu vas conmigo tu cayado me sosiega.

Preparas una mesa, preparas ante mí, enfrente de mis enemigos, preparas una mesa; con perfume mi cabeza unges y mi copa rebosa.

Tu bondad y tu misericordia me acompañan todos los días, me acompañan todos los días, todos los días de mi vida, viviré por años sin termino en la casa del Señor.

## **Filipenses 4:12-14, 19-20**

### **Lectura de la carta del apóstol san Pablo a los filipenses**

Hermanos y hermanas: Yo sé lo que es vivir en pobreza y también lo que es tener de sobra. Estoy acostumbrado a todo: lo mismo a comer bien que a pasar hambre; lo mismo a la abundancia que a la escasez. Todo lo puedo unido a aquel que me da fuerza. Sin embargo, han hecho ustedes bien en socorrerme cuando me vi en dificultades. Mi Dios, por su parte, con su

infinita riqueza, remediará con esplendidez todas las necesidades de ustedes, por medio de Cristo Jesús. Gloria a Dios, nuestro Padre, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén. Palabra de Dios.

**Te alabamos, Señor.**

## **Mateo 22:1-14**

### **+ Lectura del santo Evangelio según san Mateo**

En aquel tiempo, volvió Jesús a hablar en parábolas a los sumos sacerdotes y a los ancianos del pueblo, diciendo: "El Reino de los cielos es semejante a un rey que preparó un banquete de bodas para su hijo. Mandó a sus criados que llamaran a los invitados, pero éstos no quisieron ir. Envío de nuevo a otros criados que les dijeran: 'Tengo preparado el banquete; he hecho matar mis terneras y los otros animales gordos; todo está listo. Vengan a la boda'. Pero los invitados no hicieron caso. Uno se fue a su campo, otro a su negocio y los demás se les echaron encima a los criados, los insultaron y los mataron. Entonces el rey se llenó de cólera y mandó sus tropas, que dieron muerte a aquellos asesinos y prendieron fuego a la ciudad. Luego les dijo a sus criados: 'La boda está preparada; pero los que habían sido invitados no fueron dignos. Salgan, pues, a los cruces de los caminos y conviden al banquete de bodas a todos los que encuentren'. Los criados salieron a los caminos y reunieron a todos los que encontraron, malos y buenos, y la sala del banquete se llenó de convidados. Cuando el rey entró a saludar a los convidados vio entre ellos a un hombre que no iba vestido con traje de fiesta y le preguntó: 'Amigo, ¿cómo has entrado aquí sin traje de fiesta?' Aquel hombre se quedó callado. Entonces el rey dijo a los criados: 'Atenlo de pies y manos y arrójelo fuera, a las tinieblas. Allí será el llanto y la desesperación. Porque muchos son los llamados y pocos los escogidos'".

Palabra del Señor.

**Gloria a ti, Señor Jesús.**

### **Profesión de Fe**

Creo en un solo Dios, Padre todopoderoso, Creador del cielo y de la tierra, de todo lo visible y lo invisible.

Creo en un solo Señor, Jesucristo, Hijo único de Dios, nacido del Padre antes de todos los siglos: Dios de Dios, Luz de Luz, Dios verdadero de Dios verdadero,

engendrado, no creado, de la misma naturaleza del Padre, por quien todo fue hecho; que por nosotros, los hombres y por nuestra salvación bajó del cielo, y por obra del Espíritu Santo se encarnó de María, la Virgen, y se hizo hombre; y por nuestra causa fue crucificado en tiempos de Poncio Pilato, padeció y fue sepultado, y resucitó al tercer día, según las Escrituras, y subió al cielo, y está sentado a la derecha del Padre; y de nuevo vendrá con gloria para juzgar a vivos y muertos, y su reino no tendrá fin.

Creo en el Espíritu Santo, Señor y dador de vida, que procede del Padre y del Hijo, que con el Padre y el Hijo recibe una misma adoración y gloria, y que habló por los profetas.

Creo en la Iglesia, que es una, santa, católica y apostólica. Confieso que hay un solo bautismo para el perdón de los pecados. Espero la resurrección de los muertos y la vida del mundo futuro.

**Amén.**

### **Oración para los Enfermos durante la Pandemia**

O Dios, refugio nuestro en dificultades, nuestra fortaleza en la enfermedad, nuestro consuelo en la congoja, protege a tu pueblo, te lo pedimos, y escucha nuestras oraciones por todos los que están enfermos: Concédeles, te imploramos, tu misericordiosa ayuda, para que, con su salud restaurada, ellos puedan darte gracias en tu Iglesia.

Tu Hijo Unigénito tomó nuestra naturaleza humana y cargó con nuestras debilidades; protege y fortalece, también te lo rogamus, a enfermeros, doctores, a aquellos respondiendo en primeros auxilios, y a los que están en la primera línea de esta pandemia, quienes se ponen en peligro al servir a otros en sus necesidades.

Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, quien vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, un Dios, por los siglos de los siglos.

Santa Virgen de Guadalupe

¡Ruega por nosotros!

San José

¡Ruega por nosotros!

San Patricio

¡Ruega por nosotros!

Santo Padre Santo Domingo

¡Ruega por nosotros!

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# The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



## Part I of II: Our Call as Catholic Citizens

This brief document is Part I of a summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.

*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* is the teaching document of the Catholic Bishops of the United States on the political responsibility of Catholics. It provides guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens. As Catholics, we bring the richness of our faith to the public square. We draw from both faith and reason as we seek to affirm the dignity of the human person and the common good of all.

Everyone living in this country is called to participate in public life and contribute to the common good.<sup>1</sup> In *Rejoice and Be Glad* [*Gaudete et exsultate*], Pope Francis writes:

Your identification with Christ and his will involves a commitment to build with him that kingdom of love, justice and universal peace. . . . You cannot grow in holiness without committing yourself, body and soul, to giving your best to this endeavor.<sup>2</sup>

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world.

## Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34).

The US Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to proclaim and live out their faith without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning its moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

## Who In the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to any political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity. This should not discourage us. On the contrary, it makes our obligation to act all the more urgent. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and

become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good. Faithful citizenship is an ongoing responsibility, not just an election year duty.

## How Can Catholic Social Teaching Help Guide Our Participation?

In the words of Pope Francis, "progress in building a people in peace, justice and fraternity depends on four principles related to constant tensions present in every social reality. These derive from the pillars of the Church's social doctrine, which serve as 'primary and fundamental parameters of reference for interpreting and evaluating social phenomena.'"<sup>3</sup> The four principles include the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity. Taken together, these principles provide a moral framework for Catholic engagement in advancing what we have called a "consistent ethic of life" (*Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 22).

Rightly understood, this ethic does not treat all issues as morally equivalent; nor does it reduce Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33). The following summary of the four principles highlights several themes of Catholic social teaching for special consideration: these include human rights and responsibilities, respect for work and the rights of workers, care for God's creation, and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.<sup>4</sup>

## The Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred because every person is created in the image and likeness of God. There is a rich and multifaceted Catholic teaching on human dignity summarized in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. Every human being "must always be understood in his irrepeatable and inviolable uniqueness. . . . This entails above all the requirement not only of simple respect on the part of others, especially political and social institutions and their leaders with regard to every man and woman on the earth, but even more, this means that the primary commitment of each person towards others, and particularly of these same institutions, must be for the promotion and integral development of the person" (no. 131). The *Compendium* continues, "It is necessary to 'consider every neighbor without exception as another self, taking into account first of all his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity' (*Gaudium et Spes*, no. 27).



Every political, economic, social, scientific and cultural program must be inspired by the awareness of the primacy of each human being over society.”<sup>5</sup>

## Subsidiarity

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the family, groups, associations, and local realities—in short, for those economic, social, cultural, recreational, professional, and political communities to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve effective social growth.<sup>6</sup> The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics, in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

The principle of subsidiarity reminds us that larger institutions in society should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local institutions; yet larger institutions have essential responsibilities when the more local institutions cannot adequately protect human dignity, meet human needs, and advance the common good.<sup>7</sup>

## The Common Good

The common good is comprised of “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily.”<sup>8</sup>

Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if **human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met**. Every human being has a right to life, a right to religious freedom, and a right to have access to those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to ourselves, to our families, and to the larger society.

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. An economic system must serve the dignity of the human person and the common good by **respecting the dignity of work and protecting the rights of workers**. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, a broad and fair legalization program with a path to citizenship for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity. Workers also have responsibilities—to provide a fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay, to treat employers and coworkers with respect, and to carry out their work in ways that contribute to the common good. Workers, employers, and unions should not only advance their own interests but also work together to advance economic justice and the well-being of all.

We have a duty to **care for God’s creation**, which Pope Francis refers to in *Laudato Si’* as “our common home.”<sup>9</sup> We all are called to be careful stewards of God’s creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future. Pope Francis, consistent with St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI (World Day of Peace Message, 1990 and 2010), has lifted up pollution, climate change, lack of access to clean water, and the loss of biodiversity as particular challenges. Pope Francis speaks of an “ecological debt” (no. 51) owed by wealthier nations to developing nations. And he calls all of us to an “ecological conversion” (no. 219), by which “the effects of [our] encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in [our] relationship with the world around [us].”<sup>10</sup> Indeed, this concern with “natural ecology” is an indispensable part of the broader “human ecology,” which encompasses not only material but moral and social dimensions as well.

## Solidarity

Solidarity is “a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to . . . the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.” It is found in “a commitment to the good of one’s neighbor with the readiness, in the Gospel sense, to ‘lose oneself’ for the sake of the other instead of exploiting him, and to ‘serve him’ instead of oppressing him for one’s own advantage.”<sup>11</sup>

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

In a special way, our solidarity must find expression in the **preferential option for the poor and vulnerable**. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor, and the marginalized.

## Conclusion

In light of Catholic teaching, the bishops vigorously repeat their call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the promotion of human life and dignity, and the pursuit of the common good. Political participation in this spirit reflects not only the social teaching of our Church but the best traditions of our nation.

## Notes

- 1 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 1913-15.
- 2 *Gaudete et Exsultate*, no. 25.
- 3 *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 221.
- 4 These principles are drawn from a rich tradition more fully described in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005), no. 160. For more information on these principles, see *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2016, nos. 40ff.
- 5 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 132. This summary represents only a few highlights from the fuller treatment of the human person in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. For the fuller treatment, see especially nos. 124-159 where many other important aspects of human dignity are treated.
- 6 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 185.
- 7 *Centesimus Annus*, no. 48; *Dignitatis Humanae*, nos. 4-6.
- 8 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 164.
- 9 *Laudato Si’*, no. 77.
- 10 *Laudato Si’*, no. 217.
- 11 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 193. (See Mt 10:40-42, 20:25; Mk 10:42-45; Lk 22:25-27)

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ISBN: 978-1-30137-545-2  
Publication No. 7-545



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