NEW YEAR
NEW SERIES!
Pg. 2

CELEBRATE
MARRIAGE
MASS
Center Spread

HARD
CHOICES
Pg. 6

Photo Credit: Scott Broome
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Diocese of Santa Rosa.
New Year. New Look. New Format. New Emphasis. New Distribution. In short, there is an abundance of things new in this Issue of the North Coast Catholic!

This revision of the North Coast Catholic has been in the works for almost two years and with this January Issue we begin our new focus and emphasis. For the first time most of you are receiving this directly into your homes. Thus, most of you may not know that I write an article every month. You may not know that we announce the anniversaries of priest ordinations every month. We include messages from Family Life, from the Office of Child and Youth Protection as well as information regarding Religious Education Formation. You will have to read to find out if there is something here for you – I trust there will be! We have worked very hard to assure that there is something here for everyone in your family. We cannot answer every question or provide information on every topic in every issue. However, we will work to make sure that major topics of interest and importance are included every month.

I pray that you take some time with this publication and those that follow and that the time you spend with them is both educational and, hopefully, inspirational.

May you experience always an abundance of God’s grace and mercy

– Bishop Robert F. Vasa

2020

BISHOP’S SERIES

Do you know who supervises the Mass for the whole world?

In 2004 there was an Instruction from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in Rome. This is one of the Offices of the Pope. The document is called The Sacrament of Redemption. It was prepared in 2004 by His Eminence Cardinal Francis Arinze in response to a mandate of Saint John Paul II. It was approved by the Holy Father on March 19, 2004 and formally presented to the Church on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. The document is intended to help supervise how Mass is celebrated everywhere in the world.

To set the context, in April of 2003, Saint John Paul II, issued an Encyclical Letter The Church of the Eucharist, in which he expounded upon the centrality of the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist for the Church. At the same time, he asked Cardinal Arinze to prepare a specific document for this purpose of further clarifying Liturgical Norms. He wrote: “I consider it my duty, therefore to appeal urgently that the liturgical norms for the celebration of the Eucharist be observed with great fidelity. These norms are a concrete expression of the authentically ecclesial nature of the Eucharist; this is their deepest meaning. Liturgy is never anyone’s private property, be it of the celebrant or of the community in which the mysteries are celebrated.” (Paragraph 52) The Holy Father further reminded us of the need “for a renewed awareness and appreciation of liturgical norms as a reflection of, and a witness to, the one universal Church made present in every celebration of the Eucharist.”

We often forget that the Mass celebrated in our local parish Churches is not just “our parish Mass” but rather “a witness to the one universal Church.”

Since it is our desire to be faithful, in life and in liturgy, to what the Church is asking of us, it is important for us to know what that is. The series I plan to present is intended to serve as the beginning of a catechesis on the Liturgy. I plan to use both the Encyclical of Saint John Paul II as well as Cardinal Arinze’s work as the primary sources.

My general plan is to cite a passage or two from either one or the other or both documents and then provide a brief commentary. Often, the commentary is not necessary since the documents themselves are written quite clearly.

I hope you find this series informative, instructional and clarifying.

God bless you.

– Bishop Robert F. Vasa
Welcome to the NEW YEAR, and the NEW NCC!

The North Coast Catholic is the monthly publication of the Diocese of Santa Rosa that highlights information and inspiration from the Church both locally and worldwide. In today’s world more and more people are getting their news about just about everything from online sources, but not all news is online, and not all things online are, well… good.

This publication is sent to all registered parishioners of an entire Diocese that stretches from Petaluma to the Pelican State Beach, and from Lost the Coast to American Canyon, and all points in between.

You are a member of the Diocese of Santa Rosa, and therefore, deserve to hear about things that your Bishop (Bishop Vasa) thinks you should hear about. Everything from “Who is in Charge of the way the Mass is said” (this month’s new series) to “Who are the two young men who will be ordained next month”, and even “Who does the Bishop pick to win the Super Bowl?” (not that it will be a very informed answer as far as sports will be concerned). In other words, it’s like when you get together with family, you cover a large range of conversational topics in your time together; some things are informed on the one hand by experts in the field (Diocesan spokes-people on the topics of Religious Ed., Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Liturgy, the Church, and how the Church interacts with the world and the culture, Family Life, etc.) and on the other hand some things are informed by other kinds of experts; you are an expert in your own perspective, stories of faith, opinions, reflections, and even questions about things especially related to the church, and so are your other “family members”.

I remember when ‘email’ became ‘a thing’, back in the late 90’s, and I marveled at the fact that I suddenly was communicating more with my 7 siblings in a month than I had in my entire life. Letters, and emails, and now texts and Instagram pics, are bringing information about our everyday lives to our family and friends, but they are most definitely not the same as a conversation ‘IRL’ (in real life). But at least it’s a start.

This year through the North Coast Catholic, let’s not just ‘share information’ through this publication, let’s really communicate. Please use the envelope provided to send a note, a question, a concern, a recipe, and of course if you can help us with a donation, we would really appreciate it as our costs for printing and mailing just grew significantly! Please visit us online and get connected with us via Facebook (what we really want is for you to send us a selfie with you standing somewhere at your parish!) and by the way, you can also just email the North Coast Catholic at media@srdiocese.org. Just like family, we may not get a chance to go out for coffee too much, so we really depend on those little notes to know how things are with you.

Here’s to a blessed, and grace filled 2020!
The NCC Staff

Scan this code to donate to the New North Coast Catholic!

Please check the “share your mailing address” box when you donate with credit card.

We would be ever so grateful if you would make your donation monthly! To do so, you need to create a paypal account if you don’t already have one.
And THANKS AGAIN!
What is the Liturgy?
The word ‘liturgy’ originally meant a ‘public work.’ In Christian tradition it means the participation of the People of God in ‘the work of God.’ Through the liturgy, Christ continues the work of our redemption through his Church.

Why the Liturgy?
In the Creed, the Church “confesses the mystery of the Holy Trinity and God’s plan of salvation (Paschal Mystery). The Paschal Mystery is “Christ’s work of redemption accomplished principally by his Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension

For this reason, the Church celebrates in liturgy above all the Paschal Mystery…

Who celebrates the Liturgy?
- Liturgy is an ‘action’ of the whole Christ (Christus totus) Heaven
- These are the ones who take part in the service of the praise of God’ (Rev. 7:9):
  - the Mother of God
  - the heavenly powers
  - all creation
  - servants of the Old & New Covenants
  - new People of God, especially martyrs
  - a great multitude’ Earth (#1140)
- It is the whole community, the Body of Christ united with its Head, that celebrates.”
- Liturgical services are not private functions… (Vat II, SC 26).
- The celebrating assembly is the community of the baptized…
- It is in his presiding at the Eucharist that the bishop’s ministry is most evident, as well as, in communion with him, the ministry of priests and deacons
- Other particular ministries: “Servers, readers, commentators, and members of the choir also exercise a genuine liturgical function” (Vat II, SC 29).

(Edited by Deacon Dennis Purificacion Director, Department of Religious Education)
Happy 2020 Everyone! We hope you are enjoying the wonder of the Christmas season (up through the Baptism of Our Lord on January 12th). January is always filled with new hope and expectations, setting personal goals, and wondering what the New Year will bring.

Here at the Marriage and Family Life Office it brings the excitement with the implementation of the updated Marriage Preparation Policy, as promulgated (approved) by Bishop Vasa. The first task in our duties as Co-Directors of the Marriage and Family Life Office has been to revise the old policy and after approval by Bishop Vasa, now it is time to implement the policy. All engaged couples who live within the Diocese of Santa Rosa will be following this updated Marriage Preparation Policy, designed to give them every opportunity to fully understand the importance of their “I do” in their wedding ceremony. We are excited for all of the engaged couples as they begin their new life as a married couple and continue to grow in God’s grace within their marriage.

As part of the marriage rite, there are three questions asked of the couple as part of their marriage vows to each other: 1. Have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely, and wholeheartedly? (Free) 2. Are you prepared as you follow the path of Marriage to love and honor each other for as long as you both shall live? (Total and Faithful) 3. Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church? (Fruitful). Today we will look at this third question.

The “marital embrace” has two purposes: unitive, as it brings the couple together in their show of commitment and love to each other; and it is procreative, as it is the way couples become co-creators with God in bringing children into the world.

All children are a gift. They mature a couple as they take on the responsibilities of caring for and educating their children. They bring incredible joy, test the limits of their parents’ patience, inspire parents to become better people for their children’s sake, and make parents shake their heads in awe and wonder over this beautiful soul who is their child.

Married Catholics should always be open to life. That is why the Church has always taught the use of contraception is a serious sin. The word itself means “against conception,” the very opposite of being open to life! So how does a couple accept their fertility and be responsible for the immortal souls they create with God’s grace? The answer is in how God created

By Deacon Dave & Carlin Gould
As I write this, I am excited that this year I will be celebrating Christmas with my siblings. We will be celebrating early so I will have Christmas with my children, but it will be the first time with my siblings in 6 years. What a joy it is to have family, and to have the opportunity to be with them! As I write those words, I am mindful of the fact that family is not always a source of joy for some and that makes me sad.

Sometimes, some members of a family are not the good and loving person we want them to be. Sometimes they harm our children. As a parent (or grandparent or aunt or uncle) are you prepared to do the tough stuff if a child comes to you and tells you they have been hurt by your family member? I have worked with many families that faced this situation and understand how incredibly difficult and gut wrenching it can be. But here’s the thing – that adult that hurt your child? They don’t need your protection or support – the child does! One of the best predictors of how well a child will heal when harmed by an adult, is the response they get when they tell. If they are believed and supported the chances for healing are significantly greater! So even as painful and uncomfortable as it may be, if you ever find yourself facing that awful choice – report the adult vs. ignore it and pretend it will go away?

Choose the child – every time.

By Julie Sparacio

In this Pro-Life month of January let us focus on the good, the true and the beautiful. Couples who use NFP have very strong marriages (very low divorce rate – about 2-3%) and enjoy the “marital embrace” more often than couples who use contraceptives! The witness of couples who use NFP reflect the beauty of the truth of God’s desire for us to live as He intended. In the Diocese of Santa Rosa we have instructors in the Symto-Thermal Method (ccli.org) and the Billings Ovulation Method (boma-usa.org). We invite you to read St. Pope Paul VI’s encyclical, Humanae Vitae, to learn the Church’s teaching on marital love and to visit these websites and learn more about the beauty of Natural Family Planning.

And plan on joining thousands of others on Saturday, January 25th for the annual Walk for Life - West Coast in San Francisco. It is a wonderful day to celebrate life!

May you be blessed as you start 2020!
Pax Christi,
Bishop Vasa to Celebrate Marriage Mass

“an opportunity for married couples to be reminded of the love which first brought them to the altar”

-Bishop Vasa
Bishop Vasa has set Sunday, February 9th as the day he will celebrate a “Marriage Mass” to honor married couples throughout the Diocese of Santa Rosa. The Marriage Mass will take place at the Cathedral of St. Eugene in Santa Rosa at 3 PM. Following the Mass there will be a “wedding reception” in the Msgr. Becker Center featuring guest speaker Patrick Coffin.

“I am very much looking forward to this celebration which gives a wonderful emphasis to the Sacrament of Marriage,” said Bishop Vasa. “Honoring our married parishioners, especially those with significant anniversaries, is something we need to do together as a Church. This occasion offers me the opportunity to rejoice with those who have chosen the Sacrament of Marriage and to pray for those who are considering marriage. It is an opportunity for the Church to state very clearly how much we value sacramental marriage. It is also an opportunity for married couples to be reminded of the love which first brought them to the altar and of the enthusiasm with which they first offered themselves to each other, as Christ offered Himself to us, out of love.”

February 9th is also World Marriage Day so we are encouraging our married couples to make it a special day by attending this Marriage Mass. It is open to any married couple within the Diocese of Santa Rosa no matter how long you have been married, whether 5 years or 55 years!

Our guest speaker, Patrick Coffin, is well known to many who are attentive to the Catholic media culture. He is the host of The Patrick Coffin Show, a podcast on faith and culture heard in over 100 countries. The former host of the “Catholic Answers Live” radio show, Patrick is also a writer and the author of The Contraception Deception and Stay Cool When the Argument Heats Up in addition to other books. Patrick has been a professional conference speaker for over 20 years and knows how to connect with an audience in an inspiring and memorable way.

Interested parishioners within the Diocese of Santa Rosa that want to celebrate their marriage, plan on attending this special Marriage Mass on Sunday afternoon, February 9th at 3 PM at the Cathedral of St. Eugene in Santa Rosa. There is no charge for attending the Mass or the reception with Patrick Coffin, but we do ask that you please RSVP to the Marriage and Family Life Office by February 3rd so we will have a count of attendees.

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**PATRICK COFFIN TO SPEAK ON MARRIAGE**

Patrick Coffin, host of The Patrick Coffin Show, a podcast on faith and culture heard in over 100 countries, will be here in the Diocese of Santa Rosa to help celebrate World Marriage Day on Sunday, February 9th. The former host of the Catholic Answers Live radio show, Patrick shares that his mission is to inspire and support people of faith—and of reason—who are tired of the increasingly aggressive secularism and political correctness that surrounds them.

Patrick comes with high energy, a quick wit, a solid foundation in Catholic theology, and a tremendous knowledge of all things Catholic.

Patrick will be here on Sunday, February 9th to help celebrate the beauty of marriage in the Catholic Church. At 3 PM Bishop Vasa will celebrate a “Marriage Mass” followed by a “wedding” reception with Patrick as the guest speaker. The Mass will be held in the Cathedral of St. Eugene’s in Santa Rosa with the reception to follow immediately in the Msgr. Becker Center.

Patrick holds graduate degrees in philosophy and theology from McGill University in Montreal and Franciscan University of Steubenville and has conducted many hundreds of interviews with top leaders from around the world. In Catholicism, this means Vatican cardinals like Raymond Cardinal Burke, George Cardinal Pell, and Francis Cardinal Arinze along with bishops from Africa, Canada, the US, and France.

Patrick is also the author of *Sex Au Naturel: What It Is and Why It Is Good for Your Marriage*, *The Contraception Deception*, and *Stay Cool When the Argument Heats Up*.

For more information about Patrick Coffin, go to: [www.patrickcoffin.media](http://www.patrickcoffin.media)

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**RSVP**

Call: (707) 566-3305  
email: familylife@srdiocese.org  
Thank you!
Imagine you had a bodyguard who was always with you. He did all the usual bodyguard things like protecting you from danger, warding off assailants, and generally keeping you safe in all situations. But he also did more than this: he offered you moral guidance, helped you become a stronger person, and led you to your ultimate calling in life.

We don’t have to imagine it. We already have such a bodyguard. Christian tradition calls them guardian angels. Their existence is supported by Scripture and both Catholics and Protestants believe in them.

But too often we neglect to tap this great spiritual resource. In order to better enlist the aid of guardian angels, it might help to have a better appreciation of they can do for us. Here are 2 things:

1. WARD OFF DEMONS
Sometimes we visualize moral decision-making as a debate between a bad angel whispering in one ear and a good angel speaking wisely in the other. There is a truth to this: according to St. Thomas Aquinas, one of the roles of the guardian angels is to fight off demons (Summa Theologica, Part 1, Question 113, Articles 2-6).

2. PROTECT US FROM HARM
Guardian angels generally protect us from both spiritual and physical harm, according to Aquinas (Question 113, Article 5, Reply 3). This belief is rooted in Scripture. For example, Psalm 91:11-12 declares, “For he commands his angels with regard to you, to guard you wherever you go. With their hands they shall support you, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

(Written by Stephen Beale and appeared in Catholic Exchange)

(In the next North Coast Catholic, how our guardian angels strengthen us against temptation and embolden us)

Young Adult MINISTRY
AN INVITATION TO ONE OF OUR NEXT EVENTS!

1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
At the Chancery office 7pm.
985 Airway Ct, Santa Rosa

Upcoming events:
January, 18th, 25th, Feb 1st

Email Stephen Morris at dsryouth@srdiocese.org if you want details!
His Excellency  
The Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa  
Cordially invites you to attend the Ordination  
to the Sacred Order of Priesthood of  
Rev. Mr. Thomas Stuart  
and  
Rev. Mr. John Plass  
Saturday, 7 March  
in the Year of our Lord 2020  
10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of St. Eugene

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the peace of Christ be with you!

In addition to my personal acknowledgement of all pledges, I wish to extend a hearty public thank you to each of the generous souls who contributed to the 2019 Annual Ministry Appeal. You give year after year and your dedication has not gone unnoticed. The ministries of the Diocese would not be possible without your donations. Many of you give from your need and not simply your excess, and for this I thank you.

I invite each individual in our Diocese to give to this year’s AMA. When you give, you join with your neighbors and friends in actively participating in any number of programs and events throughout the Diocese. These events touch souls and change lives—through them, you can touch souls and change lives.

In addition to this thank you and invitation, I am pleased to direct your attention to the following information concerning how the 2019 AMA funds were allocated by ministry grouping.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

The Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa  
Bishop of Santa Rosa

May the Christ Child fill your hearts with His gifts of Love, Peace, and Joy this Christmas and New Year.

Ecclesial • Marian • Eucharistic  
Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa  
www.mariansisters.com

A Message from Bishop Vasa
CALENDAR

JANUARY 25TH WALK FOR LIFE WEST COAST

The Knights of Columbus is organizing a bus trip to the 2020 “Walk for Life” in San Francisco on Saturday, January 25th. The Bus will leave St. Eugene’s at 8:00am and drop us off at St. Mary’s Cathedral for 9:30am Mass celebrated by Archbishop Cordileone. After Mass we will walk to the SF Civic Center for the rally. There are restaurants along the way. The Rally begins at 12:30pm, followed by “The Walk for Life” down Market Street at 1:30pm. We will board our bus at the end of ‘The Walk’ around 3:30pm and we will arrive back at St. Eugene’s before 5pm. Bus Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office and will be sold on a first come/first served basis.

The cost is $25 · (707) 542-6984

FEBRUARY 2020 MEJORAR TU MATRIMONIO!

Please personally invite couples from your parish and announce this at Mass. We have invited instructors from Alameda to provide our diocese with NFP classes in Spanish. This is a great opportunity for spiritual growth in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Favor de invitar personalmente a parejas de su parroquia y anunciar en misa. Hemos invitado a unos instructores de Alameda a venir para darnos la oportunidad de tener clases en español. Es un gran oportunidad para crecimiento espiritual en el sacramento matrimonial.

Spanish Class Registration by January 27, 2020
Curso de Planificacion Natural de la Familia Para Parejas Casadas o Comprometidas
Becker Center, Catedral de St. Eugene
2323 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa
Sabados en 2020: 8 de Febrero, 7 de Marzo, 18 de Abril 11 a.m. -2 p.m.
Hay cuidado para niños y bocadillo. Para registrar, llama a Maria Sanchez, 542-6984 x0

JANUARY 18TH THE CATHOLIC CURSILLO MOVEMENT OF THE DIOCESE OF SANTA ROSA

invites all Catholics to attend an Ultreya on Saturday, January 18, from 2 - 4 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park. Ultreya means “moving forward,” and Ultreya gatherings teach more about our faith and how to walk more closely with Jesus Christ and other Christians. Those who want to know more about the Catholic Cursillo Movement and those who have already lived a Cursillo weekend are invited to attend. For further information call Molly Touchette at 707-292-8389 or Olga Dorado at 707-755-0022.

JANUARY 18TH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 20TH ANNUAL CRAB FEED

Santa Rosa Council #1324St Rose Parish HallClam Chowder – Salad – Crab – Bread – Dessert
Entertainment/Raffle (Cash)No Host Bar 5:00 P.M. – Dinner at 6:00 P.M.K/C Charities Donation: $55.00After January 10th: $65:00

FEBRUARY 13-23

SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

Relics Visit Two First Class relics to visit parishes in the Diocese of Santa Rosa. Stay tuned to the Diocesan Facebook page for details: www.facebook.com/DioceseOfSantaRosa

JANUARY 19TH CATHOLIC CURSILLO FELLOWSHIP

The Catholic Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Santa Rosa invites all Catholic Cursillistas to an Ultreya from 2 to 4 p.m. January 19 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 4595 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park. If you are a Catholic who has ever lived a Cursillo weekend, or if you are interested in learning about the Catholic Cursillo Movement, you are welcome to attend this Ultreya. For further information call Molly Touchette at 707-292-8389 Olga Dorado at 707-755-0022.

MARIS STELLA INSTITUTE’S ADULT CATECHISM CLASSES

Every 2nd Saturday of the Month (October 2019 through July 2020, except Holy Saturday, April 11, 2020), 9:30 am -3:30 pm

Want to deepen your relationship with God? Register with the Maris Stella Institute (MSI): Your Catechism Training Institute. MSI offers adult and young adult formation classes in the “Catechism of the Catholic Church.” Both English and Spanish programs are available. Classes are scheduled each 2nd Saturday of the month, both in person (at Kolbe Academy & Trinity Prep Catholic School in Napa) and live online.

A Catechetical Diploma or Advanced Catechetical Diploma with a specialization in the “Catechism of the Catholic Church” is offered at the end of the year for each of our graduating students. Registrations are year-round, so come to one class, a few classes, or commit to the entire year, whatever fits your schedule and interest best. Change your life by experiencing our awesome formation grounded in Sacred Scripture, fidelity to the Magisterium, devotion to Our Lady, the Star of the Sea, and most importantly, centered on Jesus’ real presence in the Holy Eucharist. Don’t delay; register today at www.marisstellainstitute.org.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Catholic Young Adults (18-38ish) check out: www.catholicya.org and join our regular meetings at the Chancery (1st Monday of the Month) or at Sonoma State Catholic Newman Center hosted by the Young Adult community “The Father’s Glory” (event details at www.transformingfire.org). Meetings are a great place to ask questions, expand prayer life, and form friendships.

Stay current on Youth & Young Adult ministry events in the diocese: www.sryouth.org & www.catholicya.org.

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Stay current on Youth & Young Adult ministry events in the diocese: www.sryouth.org & www.catholicya.org.

Humboldt State Newman Center events:
Regina - rfosnaugh1@hotmail.com
http://www.hsunewmancenter.com
Saints for January

January 01: Mary, Mother of God
January 02: St. Basil and St. Gregorian Nazianen
January 03: St. Genevieve
January 04: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
January 05: St. John Neumann, Saint Thomas Aquinas
January 06: Blessed Andre Bessette
January 07: St. Raymon
January 11: St. Theodosius
January 12: St. Marguerite Bourgeoys
January 13: St. Hilary of Poitiers
January 14: St. Macrina
January 15: St. Paul the Hermit
January 16: St. Berard and Companions
January 17: St. Anthony of Egypt
January 18: Blessed Christina
January 19: St. Canute
January 20: St. Fabian and St. Sebastian
January 21: St. Agnes
January 22: St. Vincent of Saragossa
January 23: St. John the Almsgiver
January 24: St. Francis de Sales
January 25: Conversion of St. Paul
January 26: St. Timothy and St. Titus
January 27: St. Angela Merici
January 28: St. Thomas Aquinas
January 29: St. Gildas
January 30: St. Bathildis
January 31: St. John Bosco
February 01: St. Brigid of Ireland
February 02: Presentation of the Lord
February 03: St. Blase
February 04: St. Jane Valois
February 05: St. Agatha
February 06: St. Paul Miki and Companions
¿Sabes quién supervisa la Misa en todo el mundo?

En 2004 hubo una Instrucción de la Congregación para el Culto Divino y la Disciplina de los Sacramentos en Roma. Esta es una de las Oficinas del Papa. El documento se llama El Sacramento de la Redención. Fué preparado en 2004 por Su Eminencia el Cardenal Francis Arinze en respuesta a un mandato de San Juan Pablo II. Fué aprobado por el Santo Padre el 19 de Marzo del 2004 y presentado formalmente a la Iglesia el 25 de Marzo, la Solemnidad de la Anunciación del Señor. El propósito del documento es ayudar a supervisar cómo se celebra la Misa en todas partes del mundo.

Para contextualizar, en Abril del 2003, San Juan Pablo II, publicó una Carta Encíclica La Iglesia de la Eucaristía, en la que expuso sobre lo central de la celebración de la Santísima Eucaristía para la Iglesia. Al mismo tiempo, le pidió al Cardenal Arinze que preparara un documento específico para este propósito de aclarar aún más las Normas Litúrgicas. Escribió: “Considero mi deber, por lo tanto, apelar urgentemente para que se respeten con gran fidelidad las normas litúrgicas para la celebración de la Eucaristía. Estas normas son una expresión concreta de la naturaleza auténticamente eclesial de la Eucaristía; este es su significado más profundo. La Liturgia nunca es propiedad privada de nadie, ya sea del celebrante o de la comunidad en la que se celebran los misterios”.

(Párrafo 52)

El Santo Padre nos recordó además la necesidad de “una renovada conciencia y aprecio de las normas litúrgicas como reflejo, y testigo, de la única Iglesia universal que ha estado presente en cada celebración de la Eucaristía.”

A menudo olvidamos que la Misa celebrada en nuestras Iglesias parroquiales locales no es sólo “nuestra Misa parroquial”, sino más bien “un testimonio de la única Iglesia universal”. Puesto que es nuestro deseo de ser fieles, en la vida y en la liturgia, a lo que la Iglesia nos pide, es importante que sepamos lo que es. La serie que planeo presentar está destinada a servir como el comienzo de una catequesis sobre la Liturgia. Planeo utilizar tanto la encíclica de San Juan Pablo II como el trabajo del Cardenal Arinze como las fuentes primarias.

Mi plan general es citar uno o dos pasajes de uno o el otro o ambos documentos y luego proporcionar un breve comentario. A menudo, el comentario no es necesario ya que los documentos en sí están escritos con bastante claridad. Espero que encuentre esta serie informativa, instructiva y clarificadora. Que Dios les bendiga.

+Robert F. Vasa, Obispo
POPE FOUNDATION

BAPTISM
ON CHRISTMAS DAY
OF 1936, IN THE BASILICA
MARIA AUXILLADORA Y
SAN CARLOS IN
BUENOS AIRES

FIRST
COMMUNION
HE RECEIVED AT THE
AGE OF SEVEN IN
OCTOBER 1944

PRIEST
HE WAS ORDAINED
DECEMBER 13, 1969
DAYS BEFORE CELEBRATING
HIS 33RD BIRTHDAY

BISHOP
HE WAS AN
AUXILIARY BISHOP THEN
ARCHBISHOP OF
BUENOS AIRES IN 1992
AND 1997, RESPECTIVELY

SURGERY
AS A YOUNG MAN
HE LOST PART OF HIS
LUNG DUE TO A VERY
SERIOUS ILLNESS

CARDINAL
HE WAS NAMED A
CARDINAL BY SAINT
JOHN PAUL II ON
FEBRUARY 21, 2001

POPE
HE WAS ELECTED POPE
ON MARCH 13, 2013
SUCCEEDING
BENEDICT XVI

PARENTS
MARIO JOSE BERGOGLIO
&
REGINA MARIA SIVORI

BORN
DECEMBER 17, 1936
ARGENTINA

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