



Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception

701 Church St., Brenham, TX 77833

www.brenhamcatholic.org

(979) 836-4441

MASS TIMES

Monday 5:30pm

Tuesday 12:15 pm

Wednesday 12:15 pm

Thursday 12:15 pm

Friday 5:30 pm

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

7:00pm (Español)

Sunday 8:00 am

10:30 am

12:30 pm (Español)

Extraordinary Form Latin

4:00 pm

At Pax Christi Retreat Center - 9300 Hwy
105, Brenham, TX 77833

CONFESSIONS

Weekdays, 30 minutes before Mass.

Saturdays: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

CLERGY

Fr. Everardo Cazares - Pastor
Fr. Juan Jose Diaz, DJ—Parochial Vicar
Deacon Steve Medina
Deacon Allen Prescott
Deacon John Pelletier
Deacon Matthew Jewell

OFFICE HOURS

Monday CLOSED

Tuesday - Friday 8:00 am—5:00 pm

**Emergencies after office hours phone
number:**

(979) 451-9824

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY *in Ordinary Time*



Jesus again in reply spoke to them 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.

Matthew 22:1-3

Jesus siguió hablándoles por medio de parábolas: "Aprendan algo del Reino de los Cielos. Un rey preparaba las bodas de su hijo, por lo que mandó a sus servidores a llamar a los invitados a la fiesta. Pero éstos no quisieron venir.

Mateo 22:1-3

© Diocesan

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel

Psalm 80

La viña del Señor es la casa de Israel

Salmo 80

**MASS SCHEDULE AND
INTENTIONS****HORARIO DE MISAS E INTENCIONES****October 16 –October 22, 2023****Monday/lunes—October 16, 5:30 pm**

† Ike & Leona Konieczny

† Bill & Lucille Hindman (sent off)

Tuesday/martes—October 17, 12:15 pm

† Brandon Benson

Wednesday/miercoles—October 18, 12:15 pm

† Fred Kessel

† Bernice & Hugh “Buddy” Thiel (sent off)

Thursday/jueves - October 19, 12:15 pm

Well-being of the Romero-Navarrete Family

Friday/Viernes - October 20, 5:30pm

† Mark Kubeczka

† Leon & Curtis Konieczny(sent off)

7:00 pm—En Español / In Spanish

† Hermelindo Cerda

Saturday/sábado—October 21, 5:00 pm

† Joe Chovanec

† Aaron David Markizer (sent off)

7:00 pm—En Español / In Spanish

Pro Populo

Sunday/Domingo – October 22, 8:00 am.

† Ray Kenjura

10:30 a.m.

† William John Riley

12:30 p.m. - En Español/In Spanish

† Samuel Romero

4:00 p.m. - at Pax Christi Retreat Center

NO MASS

† Cathleen Przyborski (sent off)

St. Mary's Prayer Line*If you or a loved one needs prayers, call, text, or email:***Shirley Rowan at 979-421-3332 or****Shirley.rowan@att.net***If you would like to become a Prayer Warrior please contact Shirley Rowan.***Linea de Oración de St. Mary's***Si usted o un ser querido necesita oraciones, llame, mande un mensaje de texto o correo electronico:***Shirley Rowan al 979-421-3332 ó****Shirley.rowan@att.net***Si usted gusta ser un Guerrero de oración porfavor contacte a Shirley Rowan.***COLLECTION/COLECTA**Electronic giving - if you prefer to give electronically, there is a link at www.brenhamcatholic.org*Donación electronica—para hacer su contribución automáticamente visitar www.brenhamcatholic.org***October 7-8****Weekly budgeted expenses.....\$18,475.00****Weekend collection\$21,801.46****Purple bag collection.....\$5,288.35****Thank you for you generosity! This is how we are doing:****Collection Report****July - September**

	4th Quarter	2022- 2023		July 2023	To Date
Offertory	\$238,344	\$962,581	\$	\$80,518	\$
Expenses	\$241,625	\$1,026,847	\$	\$92,004	\$
	-\$3,281	-\$64,266	\$	-\$11,486	\$

Offertory is Sunday and Holy Day collection, does not include fundraising, gifts, bequest, Encountering Christ Campaign, or contributions from our ministries.

**Sister Kathleen.** She has colon cancer, one tumor removed in June. Another smaller tumor not removed. She start Immunotherapy infusion treatments (not chemo) on Thursday, September 28. Her prognosis is good and she is feeling stronger daily. **Please continue to keep her in your prayers.**

Come pray the Rosary with us every Friday at 12:10 pm in the Church.

Ven a rezar el Rosario con nosotros todos los viernes a las 12:10 pm en la Iglesia.

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Calendar October

28

Day of the Dead Dance

Parish activity, to fellowship and raise funds for the parish.

21

Spanish Evangelization Retreat

Our mission is to evangelize, this event is for people new to our parish.

SAVE THE DATE

October 21, 2023

Spanish Evangelization Retreat

October 28, 2023

Day of the Dead Dance

November 1, 2023

Trunk or Treat.

November 2, 2023

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

November 13, 2023

Age of Perfection Lunch

November 18, 2023

PCCW Bazaar

December 4, 2023

Advent Mission

December 7, 2023

Holy Hour for Vocations—6:00 pm—Church

December 8, 2023

Immaculate Conception Celebration

December 12, 2023

Our Lady of Guadalupe Festivity

November

1

All Saints Day

Trunk or Treat. Children are invited to as their favorite saint

2

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

There will be Mass in the Church and liturgy in the cemetery.

13

Age of Perfection Lunche

You should have to be over 75 years old to attend this celebration.

18

PCCW Bazar

Parish activity, to fellowship and raise funds for the Pccw.

This week on St. Mary's campus. October 16 thru October 22, 2023

10/16 Monday

7:30am Wellness Ministry Walk in the Gym
5:00pm Confessions, Church
5:30pm Mass, Church
7:00pm Misioneras de Jesus Community Meeting, RE Room 106 Audio/visual
7:00pm Unidos en Cristo Community Meeting Room 102

10/17 Tuesday

7:30am Wellness Ministry Walk in the Gym
11:00am St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gym
11:00am Bible study, PAC Small Meeting Room
11:45 am Confessions, Church
12:15pm Mass, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Softball Field
6:00pm Jesus, Jose y Maria Community Meeting, Cornerstone Rm 203
6:00pm Jesus, Jose y Maria Community Meeting, Cornerstone Rm 203
6:30pm English Baptism Class, Cornerstone Rm 101
7:00pm Discipulos de Jesus community meeting, RE Room 106 Audio/visual
7:30pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Dance Practice, Gymnasium

10/18 Wednesday

7:30am Wellness Ministry Walk in the Gym

10:00am St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gym
10:30am Staff Meeting, Office Choir/Meeting Room
11:45 am Confessions, Church
12:15pm Mass, Church
1:00pm St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gym
4:15pm Religious Education, All the campus

5:30pm Choir, Church
7:00pm Spanish Choir, Church
7:30pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Dance Practice, Gymnasium

10/19 Thursday

7:30am Wellness Ministry Walk in the Gym
9:45am Little Rock Scripture Study, Kof C Hall
10:00am St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gym
11:45 am Confessions, Church
12:15pm Mass, Church
2:00pm St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gym
5:30pm Altar Server Training – Spanish, Church
6:00pm Spanish Baptism Class, RE Room 106 Audio/Visual

10/20 Friday

10:00am St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Gym
5:00pm Confessions, Church

5:30pm Mass, Church
6:15pm Wedding Rehearsal, Church
7:00pm Guiados por el Espiritu community meeting, RE Room 106 Audio/visual
7:00pm Mass and Adoration - Spanish, Church

10/21 Saturday

6:00am Men's Spanish group, Church
6:00am Spanish Evangelization Retreat, Gym
7:00am TMIY Men's Group, PAC Small meeting room
1:00pm Wedding, Church
5:00pm CRHP Meeting, RE
3:30pm Confessions, Church
5:00pm English Mass, Church
7:00pm Spanish Mass, Church

10/22 Sunday

6:00am Spanish Evangelization Retreat, Gym
8:00am English Mass, Church
9:15am Religious Education, All the campus
10:30am English Mass, Church
10:30am Spanish Marriage Prep, RE Room 106
12:30pm Spanish Mass, Church
3:30pm High School Youth, PAC



Is God calling you?

According to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, or CARA. Between 1965 and 2022, the number of diocesan and religious order priests serving the U.S. church decreased by 42.2%, while the number of parish-connected Catholics increased by 50%. The diocesan priesthood is aging. In 2022 just 66% of diocesan priests were actively engaged in ministry compared to 75% percent in 2000. In 2000 there was one active diocesan priest per 2,795 Catholics. In 2022 that ratio had increased to one active diocesan priest per 4,179 Catholics.



AUSTIN
VOCATIONS

<https://austinvocations.com>



2022 - 2025

Eucharistic Revival

"That they may all be one"
(Jn 17:21)

WHAT DOES A PRIEST DO?

The purpose of a priest is to bring people to Jesus, and Jesus to people. He does this primarily by preaching the Word and offering the Sacrifice of the Mass.

His daily life involves administering the sacraments—Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Penance and Reconciliation, the Anointing of the Sick, and Matrimony (Holy Orders is reserved for bishops to administer)—and caring for the people in their daily needs.



Almighty and ever living God, as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Diocese of Austin, we give thanks for your generous providence that has sustained this local church.

Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, continue to inspire us to live out our baptismal call to holiness and charity for one another in our cities, towns, and rural communities.

Inspire our state and local governments to see the world through the lens of the Gospel. Cultivate a deep desire for wisdom and holiness in our Catholic schools and university centers. Give courage and generosity to our Catholic hospitals, Catholic Charities, and all ministries that serve those in need among us.

Bless our priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful that, as the Mystical Body of Christ, we may always be one in you. We ask the intercession of Mary, under her title of the Immaculate Conception, to keep us faithful to you and the mission you have bestowed upon the Diocese of Austin. Amen.

It is not enough to attend...

The Lord's table is prepared and ready for everyone who wants to attend, with the right attitude. But first, it is important that everyone examines the way they go to the banquet. Both good and bad guests are present at this party. Those who refuse to attend this party are inconsiderate, but not all those who enter are good either. The appropriate wedding attire is the charity that comes from the pure heart. Let's think about this: the invitation that God makes us is to Holiness, to happiness, to plenitude... imagine that this was like the invitation to go to a swimming pool on a sunny summer day. Even if you accepted the invitation and attended, if you don't wear the right outfit you won't be able to enjoy the pool party. You could go in a tuxedo or an evening dress...

but because it is a pool party, that attire is not only not appropriate, but it would make it difficult for you to enjoy the party; it would even cause you to suffer... It could also be that someone went to a wedding party, with a very elegant reception, and for someone to arrive in a bathing suit, well, not only would it be in bad taste... but, it is not enough, we must have the right attitude. God invites us to attend Mass, but it is not enough, we must have the right attitude... With what attitude do we live life? With what attitude do we attend Mass?



No es suficiente asistir...

La mesa del Señor está preparada y dispuesta para todo aquel que quiera asistir correctamente. Pero es importante que cada quien examine el modo como acude al banquete. Tanto los invitados buenos como los malos



se hallan presentes en esta fiesta. Quienes se reúsan a asistir a esta fiesta son unos desconsiderados, pero tampoco todos los que entraron son buenos. El traje de bodas apropiado es la caridad que procede del corazón puro. Pensemos en esto: la invitación que Dios nos hace es a la Santidad, a la Felicidad, a la Plenitud... imagina que esto fuera como la invitación a ir a una alberca en un día soleado de verano, aunque aceptaras la invitación y asistieras, si no vas con el traje apropiado no serás capaz de disfrutar la fiesta en la piscina. Pudieras ir con un smoking o un vestido de noche... pero debido a que es una fiesta de alberca, ese traje no solo no es el apropiado, sino que te dificultaría el disfrutar de la fiesta, incluso te haría sufrir... lo mismo pudiera ser que alguien fuera a una fiesta de boda, en una recepción muy elegante de noche y que alguien llegara en traje de baño, no solo sería de mal gusto, sino además correría el peligro de que no lo dejaran entrar. La invitación que Dios nos hace es a la Vida, y estamos vivos... pero no es suficiente, hay que tener la actitud correcta, Dios nos hace la invitación a asistir a Misa, pero no es suficiente, hay que tener la actitud correcta... ¿con que actitud vivimos la Vida? ¿Con que actitud asistimos a Misa?

Fr. Everardo Cázares



October 15, 2023

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I invite you to participate in the 2023-2024 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA), which begins the weekend of October 28-29. Your prayers and financial support are vital in providing programs and services to thousands in Central Texas.

This year's CSA theme — **Be a Miracle** — serves as a powerful reminder of the miracles that can happen through our united efforts. Parishioners who contribute to the CSA demonstrate their deep commitment to fulfilling the two greatest commandments: “You shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” and “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” These commandments embody the reasons for this annual appeal.

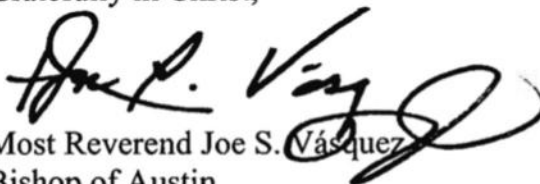
Christ has uniquely called each of us to share in a common mission to know, love, and serve others through him. Together, let us strive for 100% participation, supporting Christ's mission. Whenever I witness a child receiving the Eucharist for the first time, a young person discerning a vocation to the priesthood, or someone in dire need finding assistance through Catholic Charities of Central Texas, I am reminded of how Christ truly works miracles through the prayers and efforts of others.

Your contribution to the CSA is critical. Without it, more than 100 essential ministries and programs in the Diocese of Austin would not be possible. Our Catholic schools, campus ministry centers, seminarians in formation, active and retired priests, Catholic Charities, and parishes depend on your generosity to provide the spiritual and material resources needed in our communities.

I encourage you to take the time to review the CSA material recently mailed to you to learn the profound impact your gift has on the people of Central Texas. Prayerfully consider how God is asking you to share your blessings. With your help, I am confident that your parish will surpass its goal for the 2023-2024 Catholic Services Appeal.

May we entrust this appeal to the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, who always leads us closer to her son, Jesus Christ, and his miraculous works.

Gratefully in Christ,



Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez
Bishop of Austin



15 de octubre de 2023

Mis Estimados Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

Los invito a participar en el Llamado Para Los Servicios Católicos (CSA por sus siglas en inglés) 2023-2024, el cual comienza el fin de semana de octubre 28-29. Sus oraciones y apoyo financiero son vitales para proveer de programas y servicios a miles en el Centro de Texas.

El tema del CSA de este año – **Seamos un Milagro** – sirve como un recordatorio poderoso de los milagros que pueden ocurrir a través de nuestros esfuerzos unidos. Los parroquianos que contribuyen al CSA demuestran su compromiso profundo con el cumplimiento de los dos más grandes mandamientos: “Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, con toda tu alma, y con toda tu mente” y “Amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo”. Estos mandamientos personifican las razones para este llamado anual.

Cristo nos ha llamado de manera única a cada uno de nosotros para que compartamos una misión común de conocer, amar y servir a otros a través de Él. Juntos, esforcémonos por una participación del 100%, apoyando la misión de Cristo. Cada vez que veo a un niño recibiendo la Eucaristía por primera vez, a un joven discerniendo una vocación al sacerdocio, o a alguien en gran necesidad encontrando ayuda a través de Catholic Charities of Central Texas, recuerdo cómo es que Cristo realiza verdaderos milagros a través de las oraciones y esfuerzos de los demás.

Su contribución al CSA es crítica. Sin ella, más de 100 ministerios y programas esenciales en la Diócesis de Austin no serían posibles. Nuestras escuelas Católicas, centros de ministerio universitario, seminaristas en formación, sacerdotes activos y jubilados, Catholic Charities, y parroquias dependen de su generosidad para proveer de recursos materiales y espirituales necesitados en nuestras comunidades.

Los animo a que se tomen un tiempo para revisar el material del CSA que recientemente se les envió para conocer el impacto profundo que su donativo tiene en la gente del Centro de Texas. En oración consideren cómo es que Dios les está pidiendo compartir sus bendiciones. Con su ayuda, tengo confianza de que su parroquia superará su meta para el Llamado de los Servicios Católicos 2023-2024.

Confiemos este llamado a la intercesión de María, nuestra Santísima Madre, que siempre nos acerca a su Hijo, Jesucristo, y a sus obras milagrosas.

Agradecidamente en Cristo

Monseñor José S. Vásquez
Obispo de Austin



BAILE DEL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS



Sábado 28 de Octubre 2023

Lugar PAC de St. Mary
101 Dallas St, Brenham, TX

Tel. (979) 836-4441

Preventa \$20.00

En Puerta \$25.00

De 7:00pm a media noche

Habrà venta de comida y bebidas



**Habrà concurso
de Catrinas**





Members of the St. Teresa of Calcutta Society are once again planning a Christmas

project for the nursing home residents in Brenham. We hope to bring cheer by giving bags filled with items of **Large Crew Socks, Travel Size Hand Lotion, Vaseline, Tooth Paste/Brush, Combs, Bookmarks, Large Print Search Word/Puzzle, Large Print Playing Cards, Colorful Pens, Small Candies/Crackers/ Cookies,** and a Card stating from St. Mary's Catholic Church. Collection boxes will be placed in church

Los miembros de la Sociedad Santa Teresa de Calcuta están planeando una vez más un proyecto navideño para los residentes de los asilos de Brenham. Esperamos brindar alegría regalando bolsas llenas de **calcetines, loción para manos tamaño viaje, vaselina, pasta/cepillo de dientes, peines, marcapáginas, libros de búsqueda de palabras en letra grande, naipes con letra grande, bolígrafos de colores, caramelos/pequeños/Galletas saladas** y una tarjeta que indique la Iglesia Católica de Santa María. Se colocarán cajas de colecta en la iglesia

Project Stephen

Project Stephen provides an opportunity to actively engage men who are discerning their call to a deeper relationship with God through service as a deacon. This is a time of prayer and reflection, and an opportunity to discuss one's call with others. Hear witness from a deacon his own sense of call and life of service, and learn about the qualities, characteristics, charisms, and aspects of the diaconate and of formation. Please visit the Diocese of Austin's Project Stephen website for more information: <https://www.austindiocese.org/projectstephen>

Join us for the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, the Mysteries of the Rosary series integrates insights on the life of Christ, theological truths, and captivating stories. All will help make the rosary come alive, and lead participants to an encounter with Christ.

This will be viewed on DVD and group discussion will follow. For questions or to register, call or text *Bridget Studer* at 979-251-2363, so that discussion materials can be prepared.

Schedule:

**Thursday mornings, 10:00 am– 11:30 pm
November 2,9-16-30; January 11,18,25 at the KC Hall**

To learn more, view the trailer and the first of the series visit therosaryseries.com



Altar Flowers this weekend are:
*For living and deceased
family members of the Rybaski
Reunion given by Rose Benker*
**Las Flores de Altar este fin de semana
son:**

*Por los miembros vivos y difun-
tos de la Reunion Familiar
Rybarski donadas por Rose
Benker*



Marriage Banns

Third Bann of Marriage for Patrick Alvarez & Raegan Brooks

First Bann of Marriage for Doris Nineth Rodriguez Sarceno & Freddy de Jesus Corado Ispache

Amonestaciones de Matrimonio

Third Amonestación de Matrimonio para Patrick Alvarez & Raegan Brooks

Primera Amonestación de Matrimonio for Doris Nineth Rodriguez Sarceno & Freddy de Jesus Corado Ispache

If you know of any impediments please call the Church office.

Si usted sabe de algún impedimento por favor comuníquese a la oficina Parroquial



Bella Brigata... Fall!

Beautiful circle of friends
Edith Stein, St. Teresa Benedicta
of the Cross

Essential Writings

Wednesdays, starting Oct. 11, 9-10:30 am, KC Hall
Intro: Resilient in Hope (discussion sheet provided)

Conversation, Coffee, & a Treat

(Intro: Resilient in Hope on Oct. 11)

Rsvp: Kathy 713.501.0663. Order book if you desire!

S.I.S. Scripture, Inspiration, Support
~ Prayer Intentions

DEACON'S CORNER



In the second reading where Paul is addressing his beloved Philippians. He is elated that they are concerned about his welfare, but he tells them not to worry about him. He knows how to live in poverty and how to enjoy abundance. He knows joy. He knows suffering. He also knows that he is not alone. He tells them that he can do all things in Him who strengthens him. And so can we. Our lives have a great deal in common with Paul's life. There are times that we have joined with what the mob says is right. We have stood with Saul of Tarsus as St. Stephen was stoned. We kept quiet as people at work, or school, or in the neighborhood, perhaps even family members verbally attacked our Catholic Faith. In that way we participated in the stoning of Christianity. Or, perhaps, we let ourselves go, chose immorality, and then mocked those who were trying to live a decent life. "Oh, so you are going to wait until after marriage. Isn't that cute." Perhaps we heard a voice telling us to follow, and we ran the other way. Still, God does not give up on us. Sometimes he allows life to knock us to the ground, but then He calls us out of blindness into His Light. Maybe we suddenly realized that the main problem of our lives was within us, not around us. We call upon the Lord to heal us and guide us. Then we trust in Him, we trust Him to such a degree that we proclaim with Paul, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."

What are we really called to do in life? What are our lives really about? The challenges of life, tension in our family, or your marriages, difficulties in school, or work, or lack of work, difficulties with friends and those who do not want our friendship, all those things that really irritate us; none of these are what life is about. Life is about Jesus Christ. Life is about proclaiming His Presence to a world that longs for Him. I can do this. We can do this. No matter what difficulties we might have, no matter what challenges we may need to overcome; we can do this. Here is what matters: Jesus Christ is what matters, or, more correctly, He is the One who matters. We can live His Life and thereby have purpose in our lives. We can do this because He gives us His Life. We can do all things in Him who strengthens us. Jesus took a man named Saul, a man who murdered Jesus' first followers, and transformed Saul into Paul, the great apostle of the early Church. The Lord transforms each of us. He takes each of us, with all our humanity, with all our weakness, and He uses us to make Him present for others. There is nothing that matters that we cannot do with Him.

Deacon Al and you, we, can do all things in Him who strengthens us.

RINCÓN DEL DIÁCONO

En la segunda lectura donde Pablo se dirige a sus amados filipenses. Está eufórico de que estén preocupados por su bienestar, pero les dice que no se preocupen por él. Él sabe vivir en la pobreza y disfrutar de la abundancia. Él conoce la alegría. Él conoce el sufrimiento. También sabe que no está solo. Les dice que todo lo puede en Aquel que lo fortalece. Y nosotros también podemos. Nuestras vidas tienen mucho en común con la vida de Pablo. Hay veces que nos hemos sumado a lo que la mafia dice que es correcto. Hemos estado con Saulo de Tarso cuando San Esteban fue apedreado. Nos mantuvimos en silencio mientras la gente en el trabajo, la escuela o el vecindario, tal vez incluso miembros de la familia, atacaban verbalmente nuestra fe católica. De esa manera participamos en la lapidación del cristianismo. O, tal vez, nos dejamos llevar, elegimos la inmoralidad y luego nos burlamos de quienes intentaban vivir una vida digna. "Oh, entonces vas a esperar hasta después del matrimonio. ¿No es tan lindo? Quizás escuchamos una voz que nos decía que lo siguiéramos y corrimos en dirección contraria. Aún así, Dios no se da por vencido con nosotros. A veces permite que la vida nos derribe, pero luego nos llama a salir de la ceguera y a entrar en Su Luz. Quizás de repente nos dimos cuenta de que el principal problema de nuestras vidas estaba dentro de nosotros, no a nuestro alrededor. Invocamos al Señor para que nos sane y nos guíe. Entonces confiamos en Él, confiamos en Él hasta tal punto que proclamamos con Pablo: "Todo lo puedo en Aquel que me fortalece".

¿Qué estamos realmente llamados a hacer en la vida? ¿De qué se tratan realmente nuestras vidas? Los desafíos de la vida, las tensiones en nuestra familia, o en nuestros matrimonios, las dificultades en la escuela, o en el trabajo, o la falta de trabajo, las dificultades con los amigos y aquellos que no quieren nuestra amistad, todas esas cosas que realmente nos irritan; Ninguno de estos es de lo que se trata la vida. La vida se trata de Jesucristo. La vida se trata de proclamar Su Presencia a un mundo que lo anhela. Puedo hacer esto. Podemos hacer esto. No importa qué dificultades podamos tener, no importa qué desafíos tengamos que superar; Podemos hacer esto. Esto es lo que importa: Jesucristo es lo que importa o, más correctamente, Él es el que importa. Podemos vivir Su Vida y así tener un propósito en nuestras vidas. Podemos hacer esto porque Él nos da Su Vida. Todo lo podemos en Aquel que nos fortalece. Jesús tomó a un hombre llamado Saulo, un hombre que asesinó a los primeros seguidores de Jesús, y transformó a Saulo en Pablo, el gran apóstol de la Iglesia primitiva. El Señor transforma a cada uno de nosotros. Él toma a cada uno de nosotros, con toda nuestra humanidad, con todas nuestras debilidades, y nos utiliza para hacerlo presente para los demás. No hay nada importante que no podamos hacer con Él.

El diácono Al y usted, nosotros, podemos hacer todas las cosas en Aquel que nos fortalece.



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