



St. Anthony Catholic Church  
971 O'Hara Avenue, Oakley, CA 94561-5785  
(925) 625-2048 Fax: (925) 625-4433  
[www.stanthonyoakley.com](http://www.stanthonyoakley.com)  
*Welcome / Bienvenidos*



Thirtieth  
**SUNDAY**  
in Ordinary Time

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**October 24, 2021**

**Although they go forth weeping,  
carrying the seed to be sown,  
they shall come back rejoicing,  
carrying their sheaves.**

**Psalm 126:6**



*St. Anthony*

**St. Anthony Parish Mission**  
*Our community follows Jesus  
 by praying, loving and serving God.*  
*Nuestra comunidad conoce y  
 sique a Jesús rezando, amando, y  
 sirviendo a Dios.*  
 St. Anthony, pray for us.  
 San Antonio, ruega por nosotros.

## CONFESION / CONFESIÓN

*Saturday: 3:30PM to 4:30PM or by appointment*  
*Monday: After the 6:30PM Mass*

## MASS SCHEDULE / HORARIO DE MISAS

*Daily: 8:30AM Bilingual in the Church*  
*Daily Mon & Wed: 6:30PM Español en la Iglesia*  
*Daily Tue & Thu: 6:30PM English in the Church*  
*Daily Fri: 6:30PM Bilingual in the Church*  
*Saturday: 5:00PM English in the Church*  
*Sunday: 8:00AM English in the Church*  
*Sunday: 10:00AM English in the Church*  
*Sunday: 12:00PM Español en la Iglesia*  
*Sunday: 2:00PM Español en la Iglesia*  
*Sunday: 5:00PM Español en la Iglesia*

## DEVOTIONS

*SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE*

## EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

*Monday through Friday: 9:30AM to 6:30PM in the Church*  
*Monday: 7PM to 9PM in the Church*  
*Friday: 7PM to 11PM in the Church*  
*Scheduling Coordinator: Linda Hipólito (925) 493-0976*

## EXPOSICIÓN AL SANTÍSIMO SACRAMENTO

*Lunes a Viernes: 9:30 am a 6:30pm en la Iglesia*  
*Lunes: 7pm a 9pm en la Iglesia*  
*Viernes: 7pm a 11pm en la Iglesia*  
*Coordinadora del Horario para Adoración al Santísimo  
 Sacramento*  
*Linda Hipólito 925-493-0976*

## HOLY CROSS CEMETERY AND FUNERAL CENTER

**2200 East 18th Street, Antioch, (925) 757-0658**  
*We recommend using Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services (CFCS) at Holy Cross Cemetery and Funeral Center. Their staff will contact the parish office to assist you with your arrangements.*

## Email and Text Scam Involving Priests

If you receive an email or text from a priest or other church personnel asking for assistance, confirm by calling that person. Do not respond to the email or text.

## Clergy Sexual Abuse

Any reports of abuse should be directed to the Office of the Chancellor, at (510) 267-8334.

### *Second Collection Schedule*

October 24 World Mission Sunday  
 October 31 St. Vincent de Paul at St. Anthony

## Parish Office/Oficina Parroquial

(925) 625-2048 Fax: (925) 625-4433  
*Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
 (Lunes, Miércoles, Viernes)*  
*9AM to 12PM and 1PM to 6PM*

## PASTORAL and OFFICE STAFF

Fr. Rafael Hinojosa, *Parochial Administrator*  
 Fr. Mac Lingo, *Parochial Vicar*  
 Deacon Alberto Cruz  
 Deacon Emeritus Joe Tovar  
 Deacon Emeritus Alan Layden  
 Br. Juan Carlos Ponce, *Pastoral Year Intern*  
*Parish Secretary*, Carolina Jauregui, 625-9214  
*Parish Bookkeeper*, Celeste Plate

## FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR

*Call the Parish Office, (925) 625-2048 for more program information or to register.*

*Baptism*, Carolina Jauregui  
*CCD*, Belen Capilla  
*EDGE*, Emma Arcayena  
*Youth Confirmation*, Liz Avalos  
*Adult Confirmation*, Jaime Jauregui  
*Rite of Christian Initiation*  
*For Adults (English)*, Michael Maeda  
*For Adults (Español)*, Esperanza Vega  
*For Children*, Monica Cardoza  
*Special Religious Development (SPRED)*, John Dixon

## We are fully back to our normal Mass Schedule

All Masses are indoors. Masks are required regardless of vaccination status.

Esperamos que ya sepan, estamos ya de regreso a nuestro horario normal de Misas, todas son dentro de la iglesia, mascarillas son requeridas sin importar estatus de vacunación.

## Giving Made Simple

Please continue to offer your support to St. Anthony with your monetary gifts. These gifts allow us to pay our bills. Please continue giving to the Sunday collection basket by using VANCO; the online way of giving. Visit our St. Anthony website, on the "Home Page" click on pull-down "About Us" select "Online Giving"; you may register there and make your gift. Or you may drop your Sunday envelope in the basket at Mass or the U.S. Mailbox in the front by the Church entrance. You decide how to give, but please continue to give.

## Sunday Collection

Totals for October 10 and 17, 2021

Plate	Vanco
1st Collection: \$11,597.00	\$2,598.58
2nd Collection: \$1,669.00	\$696.26

Thank you for your generous support.  
 Gracias por su generoso apoyo.

*October 24, 2021  
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

## **RECOGNIZING JESUS**

The star of today's Gospel is a panhandler. Bartimaeus is blind, yes, but he is probably also homeless and filthy, a real nuisance to respectable citizens. Even so, it is Bartimaeus who recognizes Jesus as the Messiah, places all his faith in him, throws aside everything he has (his cloak), begs him for mercy, receives new vision, and follows Jesus on the way to suffering and death in Jerusalem. How desperate will we have to get before we can do the same?

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## **TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — I will lead the people to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble (Jeremiah 31:7-9).

**Psalm** — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

**Second Reading** — It was not Christ who glorified himself, but rather the one who said to him: You are my son: this day I have begotten you (Hebrews 5:1-6).

**Gospel** — Immediately the blind man received his sight and followed Jesus on the way (Mark 10:46-52).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## **Daily Rosary**

Livestreamed Only at 6:30PM. Monday, Wednesday and Friday in English. Tuesday and Saturday in Spanish. Sunday before 10AM and 12PM Mass.

## **Convalidation**

This program is designed for those couples who are married civilly and now wish to marry in the Church. Some couples, because of differences in religious background or, a sense of distance from the Church at the time of their marriage, or due to complicating family situations, were married civilly or in some other manner that did not meet the Catholic Church's legal requirements for a valid church marriage. If you need more information about this program call the Parish Office (925) 625-2048 and ask to speak with a priest.

## **Submissions to the Sunday Bulletin**

Deadline by noon on Monday, six (6) days prior to the desired Sunday of publication. Send files to [stanthonybulletineditor@gmail.com](mailto:stanthonybulletineditor@gmail.com) or call Michael Maeda, (925) 451-6883.

## **Support the Businesses and Merchants**

whose advertisements make this bulletin possible.

## **Mass Intentions For The Week**

Saturday, October 23

5:00PM David Alves†

Sunday, October 24

8AM Francisca Gonzalez†

10AM Jesse Fuentes†

12PM Cosefina Contreras†

Rafael Caballero (Birthday)

2PM Ricardo Arturo Ochoa Mendoza†

David y Lupe Lopez (40th Wedding Anniversary)

5PM Por la Comunidad

Monday, October 25

8:30AM Haile M. Baron†

6:30PM Armando Holguin Villa†

Raul Jacobo (Birthday)

Tuesday, October 26

8:30AM David Alves†

6:30PM Teri Parker†

Wednesday, October 27

8:30AM Raul Gasca†

For the homeless

6:30PM Para las almas del Purgatorio

Dinia Novea (Thanksgiving for Health)

Thursday, October 28

8:30AM Haile M. Baron†

6:30PM Polita†

Friday, October 29

8:30AM Haile M. Baron†

6:30PM Elaine Hernandez†

Saturday, October 30

5:00PM Jocelyn Layon†

Sunday, October 31

8AM Armando y Conceição Rafael†

10AM For the Community of St. Anthony

12PM Artemio Gonzalez Hornedo†

2PM Salud Lemus†

5PM Elias y David Antonio Diaz†

Guillermo Casillas (Birthday)

## **Knights of Columbus Membership Drive**

St. Anthony Council 10414 is looking for men to join their fraternal organization in church and community services. For more info contact Grand Knight Danny Avalos. Call (510) 447-9897.

## **An Invitation to Join the Columbiettes**

Columbiettes of St. Anthony Council 10414 is offering the opportunity for women at least 18 years of age to join our church community service organization and support of the Squirrettes. Please contact Yuklin Abraham. Call (925) 305-8004.

## *Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Today's reading from Jeremiah, Israel's sorrowful and suffering prophet, whose readings usually signal and prepare us to hear Jesus' Gospel suffering, is from Jeremiah's "Book of Consolation." Jeremiah sets aside traditional sorrow and instead bids God's chosen people—and us, as God's baptized covenant people—to celebrate the Lord's miraculous "harvest": "Shout with joy; exult; proclaim your praise" (Jeremiah 31:7). In this "harvest," God declares Israel already "delivered," while promising to transform a "remnant" (31:7) into "an immense throng," "gathered from the ends of the world" (31:8). Though these people are still in need, Jeremiah declares their tears already gone, replaced by God's consolation and guidance to living waters. As a fitting response, the great "Harvest Psalm" makes us, at least spiritually, former "captives," whose joyous return feels like "dreaming" (Psalm 126:1). Then, Mark's Gospel—again—shows the prophetic vision for the world fulfilled as Jesus heals, and we ourselves are once again challenged to live more faithfully our baptismal covenant.

### **SIGHTLESS BARTIMAEUS' VISION**

At first, Bartimaeus is not yet "on the way"—Mark's "Gospel code" for Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and our journey of discipleship—but at least near the way, "by the roadside" (Mark 10:46). Still only on the sidelines, Bartimaeus cries out what becomes Christianity's "Jesus Prayer": "Jesus, son of David, have pity (most translations, mercy) on me" (Mark 10:47–48). Sightless, Bartimaeus is nonetheless fearless: "many rebuked him, telling him to be silent" (10:48). Sightless, Bartimaeus is already insightful: "son of David" acclaims Jesus Messiah. Seen in the context of baptism and discipleship, sightless Bartimaeus' response resembles both journey to baptism as catechumen and pilgrimage from baptism as what Pope Francis calls "missionary disciples" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, Joy of the Gospel, 119–121).

### **RESPONDING LIKE BARTIMAEUS**

Once healed, "illumined" as in Baptism, Bartimaeus' discipleship response to Jesus challenges us to examine our own. Again this week, Hebrews reminds us that Jesus is our merciful high priest. Though sinless, Jesus "is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring" (Hebrews 5:2) like all high priests. Hebrews invokes Melchizedek, whose meeting with Abraham signals the joining of God's primeval cosmic covenant made with Noah and God's scriptural covenant with Israel, leading to "the Continued next column..."

## **Schedule of Events Horario de Eventos**

All Parish events have been suspended, canceled or postponed by Bishop Barber as we are ordered to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19. This Order will continue to be in effect until it is extended, rescinded, superseded, or amended in writing by the Order of the Contra Costa County Public Health Officer.

### **Solemnity of All Saints November 1st**

Join us on Monday, November 1, 2021 at 6:30PM for a Bilingual Mass- Misa Bilingüe dedicated to canon of Saints of the Catholic Church.

### **All Souls Day November 2nd**

Join us on All Souls Day as we remember and pray for "all the faithful departed" with a Bilingual Mass Misa Bilingüe on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 6:30PM.

You may bring a picture of your departed loved one, to be placed in a special display area during Mass.

Puede traer la fotos de sus seres queridos que han fallecido, tendremos un lugar especial para ellos.

### **13th Annual Holiday Boutique**

The Columbiettes invite you to their FREE Holiday Boutique on Saturday, 13 November 2021 from 10AM to 2:30PM. Bring your family, enjoy community, have fun and partake in raffles and of course SHOPPING, all at the outdoors of St. Anthony. Rain or Shine. For more information email [Columbiette10414@gmail.com](mailto:Columbiette10414@gmail.com)

### **FORMED.org — An Online Faith Website**

St. Anthony is a subscriber of FORMED.org  
Select "St. Anthony Oakley, CA"

*continued...*

new and eternal covenant" sealed in Jesus' Blood. Like Melchizedek, Jesus transcends history's boundaries of race and nation to gather earth's fragmented, even warring factions into the great harvest of a humanity renewed and redeemed. So our baptismal commitment and discipleship's journey bid us become instruments of Christ's unity and peace to all whom we encounter "on the way."

Are we sitting still, isolated, safely on the sidelines? Or do we cry out, like Bartimaeus, for Jesus' mercy, understanding that we are bound to extend to others, ceaselessly and unconditionally, the mercy that we ourselves need? As part of that mercy, then, are we cowed into safe, respectable silence by a world rejecting Christ's countercultural teachings, or do we dare speak up and speak out on behalf of others?

## October “Month of the Rosary” Closing

Join us on Friday, October 29, 2021 at 6:30PM. We will close the “Month of the Rosary” with a Bilingual Mass at 6:30PM followed by a procession in the parking lot.

Cerraremos el Mes del Rosario con una Misa Bilingüe a las 6:30PM seguido por una procesión en el estacionamiento.

## FEAST OF FAITH—The Sound of Communion

The priest receives Holy Communion, and then there is movement, a bustle of activity, as we prepare to join the Communion procession. This holy meal does not happen in silence! Instead, we sing together even as we rise and move forward in procession to the altar. We must change and move to receive the Eucharist, and fittingly so, since the Eucharist is transformative—it demands action of us, internal as well as external. We do not receive the sacrament in silence, but with a dialogue that is also a profession of faith: “The Body of Christ.” “Amen.” “The Blood of Christ.” “Amen.” We acknowledge the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist with our “Amen” of faith, but more, our “Amen” is also a prayer that we may become what we receive, the Body of Christ, living and active in the world. We receive him not that he may become a part of us, but that we may become a part of him—part, too, of all the others who receive him, the whole communion of believers.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Virtus Safe Environment Training

Is your certificate up to date? We are required to renew our certification every three years. This is a MUST to continue in your ministerial work here. Start now at [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org) Call Florrie Brice at (925) 354-0107 or the parish office with questions.

**All Hallows' Eve**  
EVERYONE WELCOME TO JOIN THE FUN!  
AND ALL ARE WELCOME TO DECORATE YOUR  
CAR'S TRUNK AND BRING SWEETS TO  
SHARE  
SUNDAY, OCT 31 6:30 PM/ST ANTHONY  
PARKING LOT  
**PRIZES TO THE BEST SAINT OR BIBLE CHARACTER COSTUMES**  
BRING YOUR BEST  
CARVED PUMPKIN TO  
ENTER THE CONTEST  
FOR A CHANCE TO WIN  
A PRIZE!  
TRAIGAN SU  
CALABAZA TALLADA  
PARA ENTRAR AL  
CONCURSO DEL PREMIO  
A LA MEJOR  
CALABAZA!  
**TRUNK-OR-TREAT**  
TODOS INVITADOS! QUIEN GUSTE PUEDE  
DECORAR LA CAJUELA DE SU AUTO Y  
TRAER DULCES PARA COMPARTIR  
DOMINGO 31 DE OCTUBRE 6:30 PM/  
ESTACIONAMIENTO DE LA PARROQUIA ST  
ANTHONY  
**PREMIO AL MEJOR VESTUARIO DE SANTO O PERSONAJE DE LA BIBLIA**  
PIC•COLLAGE

## Please Pray For/Oremos Por

Deacon Joe Tovar  
Andrea Spindler  
Antonio Velasquez  
Arthur Pena  
Avelina Sablan Salas  
Bartolome Robinos  
Bebit Belotendos  
Bernadine Benavente  
Bev Rossi  
Consolacion Borja Muna  
Danny Luna, Sr.  
Danny Luna, Jr.  
Erica Jaranilla  
Fatima Matuu  
Gay Lacsa  
Gloria Ibarra  
Grace Bustos  
Guadalupe Sanchez  
Guillermo Villanueva  
Helen Alleman  
Heriberto Diaz  
Joanne Salas  
John Cafaro  
John Salas

Jose Munoz  
Karen Valdez  
Lillian Stapelberg  
Lorraine Fallon  
Margarita Avalos  
Marge Browne  
Maria Guadalupe Galvan  
Marlene Layden  
Mayra Murillo  
Michael Makinano, Sr.  
Michael Makinano, Jr.  
Olga Ramos  
Patrick Pena  
Ricardo Jimenez  
Rigoberto Hinojosa  
Rocco Vicente Reyes  
Rolando Abad  
Ron Cruz  
Stella Benitez  
Tina Herrera  
Tita Lira  
Teri Hernandez  
Thomas DiGiallonardo  
Tony Rodriguez



Our Men and Women of the military services.

*Names are removed periodically. If you wish to add a loved one, please call the office at 625-2048.*

## Sacrament of the Sick

Please notify the parish office of any parishioner who is ill or infirm to request a visit, to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick or Communion at home, hospital or assisted living facility.

## Help Beautify the Sanctuary with Flowers

Donate flowers to decorate our Sanctuary. Call the church office at (925) 625-2048 for more information.

## St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) St. Anthony Conference

If you need assistance, would like to volunteer or donate, contact the St. Vincent de Paul St. Anthony Conference at 925-325-7424. St. Vincent de Paul provides various forms of assistance which may include food, clothes, furniture, housing assistance, and referrals to other professional agencies.

## St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

Open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 8:30AM to 10AM in the Parish Hall. If you need food outside of these dates call (925) 325-7424.

## The RotaCare Pittsburg Free Medical Clinic

Operated by a partnership between St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County and Rotacare Bay Area, the clinic provides care to the uninsured. The clinic is located at St. Vincent de Paul's Family Resource Center, 2210 Gladstone Drive, Pittsburg, CA (925) 439-5060.

24 de octubre de 2021

Trigésimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

## RECONOCE A JESÚS

El actor estelar del Evangelio de hoy es un mendigo. Bartimeo es ciego, sí, pero es probable que también fuera alguien sin hogar y estuviera sucio, una verdadera molestia para los ciudadanos respetables. Aún así, Bartimeo es quien reconoce a Jesús como el Mesías, pone toda su fe en él, deja a un lado todo lo que tenía (su capa), le ruega que tenga compasión de él, recibe una nueva visión, y sigue a Jesús en el camino del sufrimiento y muerte en Jerusalén. ¿Qué desesperados tenemos que estar antes de que podamos hacer lo mismo?

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## LECTURAS DE HOY

**Primera lectura** — ¡Vitoreen con alegría! Yavé ha salvado a su pueblo, al resto de Israel. He llegado a ser un padre para Israel (Jeremías 31:7-9).

**Salmo** — Grandes cosas has hecho por nosotros, Señor (Salmo 126 [125]).

**Segunda lectura** — Cristo no se atribuyó la dignidad de sumo sacerdote, sino que se la otorgó aquel que dice: “Tú eres mi Hijo, te he dado vida hoy mismo” (Hebreos 5:1-6).

**Evangelio** — Jesús le concede la vista a Bartimeo cuando con gran fe le suplica: “Maestro, que vea” (Marcos 10:46-52).

Salmo responsorial: Leccionario Hispanoamericano Dominical © 1970, Comisión Episcopal Española. Usado con permiso. Todos los derechos reservados.

*Estábamos alegres,  
pues ha hecho grandes cosas  
por su pueblo el Señor.  
— Salmo 126 (125):3*

## Convalidación

Este programa está diseñado para aquellas parejas que están casadas por lo civil y ahora desean casarse por la Iglesia. Algunas parejas, debido a diferencias en los antecedentes religiosos o por un sentido de distancia de la Iglesia en el momento de su matrimonio, o debido a situaciones familiares complicadas, se casaron civilmente o de alguna manera de otra manera que no cumpliera con los requisitos legales de la Iglesia Católica para un matrimonio eclesiástico válido. Si necesita más información sobre este programa, llame a la oficina parroquial (925) 625-2048 y pida hablar con un sacerdote.

## Segunda Colecta

24 de Octubre Domingo Mundial de las Misiones  
31 de Octubre St. Vincent de Paul at St. Anthony

***Apoye a nuestros patrocinadores***  
Cuyos anuncios hacen posible este boletín.

## EL OBISPO MICHAEL BARBER ANUNCIA QUE NO HAY NINGUNA EXENCIÓN RELIGIOSA

La Iglesia Católica recomienda que las personas se vacunen contra el COVID-19, y por una buena razón. El Vaticano ha declarado que la conexión con el tejido fetal abortado es lo suficientemente remota, que es moralmente permisible vacunarse. Por lo tanto, dado que la Iglesia Católica ha recomendado formalmente que sus miembros reciban la vacuna, no se aplicaría una “exención religiosa” a los católicos. La Iglesia también enseña que las personas no deben ser obligadas a vacunarse contra su voluntad. La Diócesis de Oakland no exigirá la vacunación obligatoria para nuestros empleados y clérigos. Pero ordenamos que los empleados de nuestras escuelas católicas que no puedan o no quieran vacunarse, se hagan la prueba de COVID-19 semanalmente. Si un católico siente que vacunarse está en contra de su conciencia, es una decisión entre él y Dios. Es cierto que la Iglesia enseña que las personas deben seguir su conciencia. Pero un sacerdote u obispo no pueden firmar una “exención religiosa” para una objeción de conciencia. Son dos asuntos diferentes. Como fieles católicos y ciudadanos responsables, tenemos la obligación moral y civil de proteger el bienestar de nuestra sociedad. Vacunarnos es protegernos a nosotros mismos, al prójimo y ayudar a detener la propagación de este virus mortal. El Papa Francisco recibió la vacuna. También lo hizo el Papa Benedicto. Le recomendamos a usted que también se vacune.

## Rosario Diario

Solamente transmitido en Vivo a las 6:30 pm Lunes, Miércoles, y Viernes—En Ingles. Martes y Sábado—En Español. Jueves—Bilingüe. Domingo—Antes de cada Misa.

## “Reconstruir mi Iglesia” Apelación del 2021 del Obispo

Gracias a todos los que han contribuido. San Antonio ya va al **65.46%** de su meta. Por favor ayúdenos a llegar, y contribuya el día de hoy. Visitar <https://www.oakdiocese.org/giving/bishops-appeal/bishop-appeal-donation-page>

## Dar de Manera Simple

Hay una nueva forma de dar a San Antonio. VANCO. Ya sea que lo haga por Internet o desde su móvil a través de la aplicación, dar es simple. Descargue la aplicación VANCO. Visite el sitio web de San Antonio stanthonyoakley.com y haga clic en el menú desplegable “About Us” donde vera la opción de “Online Giving”. Regístrese y abra su cuenta hoy. Si tiene preguntas, llame a la Oficina de la Iglesia al (925) 625-2048.

## *Trigésimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario*

La lectura de hoy de Jeremías, el profeta doliente y sufriente de Israel, cuyas lecturas suelen señalar y prepararnos para escuchar el sufrimiento de Jesús en el Evangelio, procede del “Libro de la Consolación” de Jeremías; quien deja de lado el dolor tradicional y, en cambio invita al pueblo elegido por Dios, y a nosotros como pueblo bautizado de la alianza de Dios, a celebrar la cosecha milagrosa del señor: “Griten con alegría, aplaudan, proclamen su alabanza”, (Jeremías 31:7). En esta “cosecha”, Dios declara que Israel ya está liberado, al tiempo que promete transformar a un “remanente” en una multitud inmensa, “reunida desde los comienzos del mundo” (31:8). Aunque este pueblo sigue necesitado, Jeremías declara que sus lágrimas ya han desaparecido, sustituidas por el consuelo y la guía de Dios hacia las aguas vivas. Como respuesta adecuada, el gran “Salmo de la cosecha” nos hace, al menos espiritualmente, en antiguos “cautivos”, cuyo retorno gozoso se siente siempre como un como un “sueño” (Salmo 126:1). A continuación, el Evangelio de Marcos, de nuevo, muestra la visión profética para el mundo que se cumple cuando Jesús cura, y nosotros mismos volvemos a hacer desafíados a nivel más fielmente a nuestra alianza bautismal.

### **LA VISIÓN DEL INVIDENTE BARTIMEO**

Al principio, Bartimeo no está todavía “en el camino”, el “código evangélico” de Marcos para el viaje de Jesús a Jerusalén y nuestro viaje de discipulado, pero al menos está cerca del camino, “al borde del camino” (Marcos 10:46). Todavía al margen, Bartimeo grita lo que se convierte en la “Oración de Jesús” del cristianismo: “Jesús, hijo de David ten piedad (la mayoría de las traducciones usan la palabra misericordia) de mí” (Marcos 10:47–48). Sin vista, Bartimeo no tiene miedo: “muchos le reprendían diciéndole que se callara” (10:48). Sin vista, Bartimeo es ya perspicaz: “hijo de David” aclama a Jesús Mesías. Vista en el contexto del bautismo y del discipulado, la respuesta del invidente Bartimeo se asemeja tanto al viaje hacia el bautismo como catecúmeno como a la peregrinación desde el bautismo como lo que el Papa Francisco llama “discípulos misioneros” (Evangelii Gaudium, La alegría del Evangelio, 119–121).

### **RESPONDER COMO BARTIMEO**

Una vez curado, “iluminado” como en el Bautismo, la respuesta del discipulado de Bartimeo a Jesús nos desafía a examinar la nuestra. De nuevo esta semana, la carta a los hebreos nos recuerda que Jesús es nuestro sumo sacerdote misericordioso. Aunque sin pecado, Jesús “es capaz de tratar con paciencia a los

*Continúa en la siguiente columna*

*continuado...*

ignorantes y a los descarridos” (Hebreos 5:2,) como todos los sumos sacerdotes. La carta a los hebreos invoca a Melquisedec, cuyo encuentro con Abraham señala la unión del pacto cósmico primigenio de Dios hecho con Noé y el pacto bíblico de Dios con Israel, que conduce “al pacto nuevo y eterno” sellado con la sangre de Jesús. Al igual que Melquisedec, Jesús trasciende las fronteras históricas de raza y nación para reunir a las facciones fragmentadas e incluso beligerantes de la tierra en la gran cosecha de una humanidad renovada y redimida. Por eso, nuestro compromiso bautismal y el camino del discipulado nos proponen convertirnos en instrumentos de la unidad y la paz de Cristo para todos los que encontramos “en el camino”.

¿Nos quedamos quietos, aislados, a salvo en la orilla? ¿O clamamos, como Bartimeo, por la misericordia de Jesús, comprendiendo que estamos obligados a extender a los demás, sin cesar y sin condiciones, la misericordia que nosotros mismos necesitamos? Como parte de esa misericordia, ¿nos acordamos en un silencio seguro y respetable por un mundo que rechaza las enseñanzas contraculturales de Cristo, o nos atrevemos a hablar en nombre de los demás?

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### **Fiesta de la Fe—La antigua alianza**

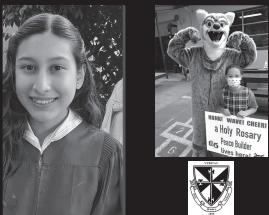
En la tradición bíblica, Dios se hace parte de la alianza como protector y salvaguardia de la misma. Es una alianza sencilla y poderosa: seré tu Dios y tú serás mi pueblo (Oseas 2:25). La alianza se daba por participación mutua, a partir de ella se es familia, se es uno y se corre la misma suerte. Se camina unidos hasta el final. Aunque esta alianza es entre Dios y el pueblo, no implica la misma categoría de ambas partes, tampoco igualdad de deberes, no es relación de subdito con inferior. Dios siempre es fiel a su alianza; nosotros, no siempre. Esta es la relación de Dios con un pueblo concreto, con Israel. La alianza en sí misma es una acción sagrada y se castiga a los agresores. Se lleva a cabo mediante un juramento y quien no la cumpla, paga sus propias consecuencias. Ambas partes, plenamente libres, se adueñan de la alianza al formarla. Los ritos con los que esta alianza se marca son muy profundos: se corta la piel para derramar sangre, se mezcla y se bebe la sangre de ambas partes, se sumergen las manos en un recipiente lleno de sangre para simbolizar que se es uno solo.

—Miguel Arias, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

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