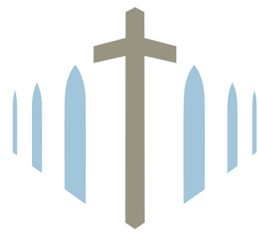




March 15, 2015



# ST. MONICA

CATHOLIC CHURCH

9933 Midway Road, Dallas, Texas 75220

214-358-1453 • Fax: 214-351-1887

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



Search for "St. Monica Church Dallas" in the app store.

## WELCOME TO ST. MONICA CHURCH!

We are pleased to have visitors join us in worship and we invite you to become active registered parishioners. Registration forms can be found in the vestibule, at the Parish Office, and online.

### Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00 pm  
Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:00 am  
12:30 pm, 2:00 pm (español), 5:00 pm

### Childcare for 11:00 am Mass

Ages: 12-months to 4-years  
No Cost • Room 114 Family Center  
Celina Abeyta-Barry, Leader

### Weekday Mass Times

6:45 am, 8:00 am, 5:30 pm (Lent) M-F  
8:00 am Saturdays  
First Fridays 5:30 pm  
Primer viernes del mes 7:00 pm

### Reconciliation • Reconciliación

Saturday/Sábado  
3:30-4:30 pm • 6:30-7:00 pm  
Tuesdays/Martes (during Lent)  
12:00-12:30 pm • 5:00-5:30 pm

### Baptism • Bautismo

Third Saturday of each month at 10:00 am  
Parents and godparents are required to attend a preparation class offered on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am. Call the Faith Formation Office to register.

Tercer sábado de cada mes 3:00 pm  
Padres y Padrinos deben de asistir a una clase de preparación que se otorgan los primeros sábados de cada mes a la 1:00 pm. Llame a la oficina de Ministerio Hispano.

### Marriage • Matrimonio

Contact a priest or deacon at least six months before the planned marriage date.  
Por favor de contactar a un Sacerdote o Diacono por lo menos seis meses antes de la fecha de la boda.

### Helplines • Línea de Ayuda

St. Vincent de Paul serves the poor or distressed on an emergency basis.  
972-994-1121 (confidential) Volunteers contact: [info@stmonicasvdp.org](mailto:info@stmonicasvdp.org)

Stephen Ministry helps those experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or another life crisis. 214-290-0803 (confidential)

### Bulletin Deadline

Monday at 12:00 noon • Submit notices in writing to [ecooper@stmonicachurch.org](mailto:ecooper@stmonicachurch.org).

## Parish Staff

**Fr. Stephen W. Bierschenk**  
Pastor - x 7107

**Fr. Marco Rangel**  
Parochial Vicar - x 7112

**Fr. Edwin Leonard**  
Vocation Director (in residence)

**Monsignor John F. Meyers**  
Pastor Emeritus

### Deacons

Abel Cortes                      Bob Marrinan  
Larry Lucido                      Brian Mitchell

### St. Monica Church Office

Main: (214) 358-1453 • Fax: (214) 351-1887  
Hours: M-F 9:00-5:00 • Sunday 10:00-2:00

**Parish Secretary** ..... x 7453

Faby Gomez

**Business Manager** ..... x 7176

Debbie Diaz

**Database Manager** ..... x 7111

Melissa Franks

**Volunteer Coordinator** ..... x 7173

Maria E. Juarez-Plank

**Safe Environment Director** ..... x 7144

Marilyn Hicks

**Bookkeeper** ..... x 7102

Jared Wirths

**Director Youth Ministry** ..... x 7103

Emmanuel Espiritu

**Director of Communications** ..... x 7142

Erin Cooper

### Music Ministry

**Director of Music** ..... x 7101

Jeremy Wirths

**Director Youth Music** ..... x 7103

Emmanuel Espiritu

**Organist** (9:30 & 11:00 Mass)

Guillermo "Will" Martinez

### Faith Formation

Main: (214) 357-8549 • Fax: (214) 351-1887

**Director of Faith Formation** ..... x 7132

Mariangela Byrne

**Administrative Assistant** ..... x 7549

Eldie Diaz

### Ministerio Hispano

Main: (214) 357-8549 • Fax: (214) 351-1887

**Director of Hispanic Ministry** ..... x 7131

Maria M. Gonzalez-Rocha

### St. Monica School

Main: (214) 351-5688 • Fax: (214) 352-2608

Phil Riley, Principal

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

## From the Pastor

Once upon a time there was a family that had been very active in a church, but they had lost interest. The minister and the fellow church members had all pleaded with them to get involved again, but nothing seemed to work.

But one day the father and his sons were out in a field working. And a big rattlesnake bit one of the boys, and he became very sick. So the doctor came and did all that he could, and he told the family that all they could do now was pray. So right away the father called for the pastor of the church to come.

And when the pastor arrived, this was the prayer he offered. He said: "O wise and righteous Father, we pray for this boy's recovery. But we also thank you for sending this rattlesnake. This family hasn't been in church for years, and so we pray that this serpent will be used to bring them back. For what this snake has done has already caused them to spend more time praying than they ever have in the past. In fact, Lord, maybe what we all need are bigger and better rattlesnakes, so that we might keep ourselves focused on you."

Now if ever we get into trouble and send for someone for the church for help, we hope it will not be someone like this pastor, who prays for bigger and better rattlesnakes. Yet, as we reflect on the gospel passage today we find Jesus talking to Nicodemus about snakes and crosses and decisions.

As the Israelites grew weary of their daily struggles in the desert, they grew loud in their complaining about God. And as a punishment, serpents were sent through the camps and many died from their bites. But, then the people called out for mercy, and Moses was instructed by God to create a bronze replica of the snake and

hang it on a pole, and anyone who looked at it was cured.

But, God's mercy was so much more powerful. In time, as the gospel says, "God so loved the world he sent his only Son." Jesus spoke of God's wonderful forgiving love. His interaction with sinners and those in need put those words into action. But, the final, unexpected proof of how much God loves us was given as he offered himself on our behalf on the Cross, so that we could be forgiven. He did not come to condemn, even though each of us has to admit that in comparison to the love of Jesus we fall far short of being the type of person we should be. He came to invite us to embrace the Cross with him, with the promise that we will also share the joy of heaven with him.

During this fourth week, we are called to make a decision. We have completed half of the season of Lent. And if we admit that we are not carrying out the commitments we made on Ash Wednesday, the opportunities have not ended. Beginning today we can concentrate again on making God the focus of what we do. There is still plenty of time to go to daily Mass, or spend an hour in Adoration. All we have to do is accept the invitation. The merciful forgiveness of God is easily ours as we receive Reconciliation. There are still many opportunities, if we will accept the invitation. Today, God is going to place us in a situation or bring to us a person who needs to hear a word of comfort or have a helping hand. Will we accept the invitation? Don't wait until a better rattlesnake comes along!

— Fr. Stephen W Bierschenk

## News & Events

### Registration now open!

Vacation Bible School, presented by The St. Monica Women's Ministry, will be held June 8-12th from 9 am to 12 pm. The program is open to children 4 years-old (by 6/9/15) through 5th grade. Volunteers (cleared through Safe Environment) are also needed. To register or volunteer, please visit [stmonicachurch.org/vbs](http://stmonicachurch.org/vbs).



### BREAKFAST AT YOUR HOUSE?

You can do it, if you pick up some of those delicious breakfast burritos and sausage on a stick goodies prepared by the Knights of Columbus culinary team. They'll be sold after the 8 am Mass and until after the 11 am Mass. Pick up extras for your neighbors—they'll love you for it.

**LEAF (Learning difference Education and Assistance for Families)** will host its monthly meeting Tuesday, March 17 at 7 pm in the Family Center Upper Lounge. Speaker Lisa Montgomery will discuss Dyslexia and Reading Fluency. More information can be found on the St. Monica school website under SMS Families.

A special St. Patrick's Day feast day Mass will be offered at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe on Tuesday, March 17th at Noon. Refreshments will be served in the Grand Salon afterwards. Free parking is available in the Cathedral garage or DART to Arts District Station and walk north.

The Office of Faith Formation will host a presentation, *Climbing the Spiritual Mountain*, by **Fr. Nathan Cromly** on March 18 at 7 pm in Room 201 of the Family Center. He will discuss God's process on how to make us saints. In addition to being an engaging speaker and monk, Fr. Nathan is also the Prior of the Brothers of the Community of St. John in Laredo, Texas. He leads retreats for teens and adults through his Eagle Eye Ministries ([www.eagleeyeministries.org](http://www.eagleeyeministries.org)). For more information, contact the Office of Faith Formation at 214-357-8549. Childcare will be provided.

All women of the parish are invited to join the Dallas Vocation Guild, a spiritual, charitable, educational non-profit Catholic organization of women dedicated to the promotion and sustainment of religious vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The next meeting will be held Thursday, March 19th at 11 am in Room 109 of the Family Center.

There will be a second collection on the weekend of March 21st-22nd to support HeartGift. **HeartGift** is an organization that provides life-saving heart surgery to children who come from developing nations and have Congenital Heart Disease. Please consider donating and thank you in advance for your help.

Contemplative Outreach will present a one-day workshop, *Aging and Forgiveness*, featuring Fr. Bill Sheehan, OMI, on Saturday, March 28 from 9:30 am to 3 pm at St. Monica. Registration is \$35 and can be completed online at [www.CellOfPeace.com/workshops.htm](http://www.CellOfPeace.com/workshops.htm). For more information, contact Sandy at 972-722-6029 or [CPDallas@CellOfPeace.com](mailto:CPDallas@CellOfPeace.com).

### Please return Baby Banks

The St. Monica Pro-Life Ministry wanted to remind you to bring your full Baby Banks back and give them to our Priests, Deacons or Ushers before or after Mass. You may also drop them off at the Church's office during business hours. Thank you again for your life-giving gift.

### Stewardship

03-08-2015

Regular - \$31,702

Renovation - \$16,132

### Total Mass Attendance

03-08-2015

2,807

## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, March 15

8:00 am..... Priest's Intention  
 9:30 am..... Priest's Intention  
 11:00 am..... For the People of the Parish  
 12:30 pm ..... Priest's Intention  
 2:00 pm..... Priest's Intention  
 5:00 pm..... Priest's Intention

### Monday, March 16

6:45 am..... Elsie Colfry † by Martha Smith  
 8:00 am..... Marie Lubus † by Stephen Ministry

### Tuesday, March 17

6:45 am..... For our priests  
 8:00 am..... Nha Van Dao † by Randall Wooley Family

### Wednesday, March 18

6:45 am..... Leahy & Jenkins Families by Terry Jenkins  
 8:00 am..... Kevin Wachsmann † by Wachsmann Family

### Thursday, March 19

6:45 am..... August Edward Doskey † by Anita Pezzimenti  
 8:00 am..... Sam Pagano † by Jeff & Joanne Jackson

### Friday, March 20

6:45 am..... Pam Tiburzio † by I.P. O'Mahoney  
 8:00 am..... Dominika Radajewska † by Diane Thomas, PJ Bate and Mary Blake Meadows

### Saturday, March 21

8:00 am..... Genaro Zuniga † Carolyn Zuniga  
 5:00 pm..... Daniel McGovern † by The Smerge's

### Sanctuary Light

This week the Sanctuary Light is burning for Kevin Wachsmann.

### For Our Sick

To request a name to appear, please contact the parish office or complete a green prayer request card (found on tables at the back of church) and place the card in an offering basket.

Robert Juarez<sup>1</sup>

Brandon Gillett<sup>1</sup>

Names will appear for 3 weeks. The numbers after the names begin at 3 and count down and are intended to help those who make requests.

### For Our Departed

Javier Gomez, March 9, Celebrant Fr. Bierschenk

Gerald Swope

## Parish Calendar

### DAILY - Monday to Friday

6:20 am..... Rosary | Church  
 6:20 am..... Morning Prayer | Chapel  
 7:30 am..... Rosary | Church (Tues&Fri - Chapel)  
 9:00 am..... Eucharistic Adoration | Chapel

### Sunday, March 15

8:00 am..... KoC Breakfast Burritos | Church  
 9:30 am..... Adult Education | 217  
 10:00 am..... Coffee & Catechism | Cafe  
 10:30 am..... Little Rock Script | FC Various  
 1:00 pm..... SFO | Lower Lounge  
 2:00 pm..... K-5 CCD | Cafe  
 4:00 pm..... Handbell Rehearsal | 217  
 4:00 pm..... GCA Rehearsal | 129  
 6:30 pm..... Finding Christ in the World Retreat | 214

### Monday, March 16

8:30 am..... Legion of Mary | JCLC Conf.  
 1:00 pm..... Monday Bible Study | 129  
 3:45 pm..... SMS Living Stations Rehearsal | Church  
 6:00 pm..... Centering Prayer Group | Bride Room  
 6:00 pm..... St. Vincent de Paul | 129  
 7:00 pm..... Immaculate Heart Cenacle | Chapel  
 7:00 pm..... RCIA | 109

### Tuesday, March 17

5:00 am..... Men's Lenten Study | 109  
 10:30 am..... Finding Christ in the World Retreat | 129  
 1:30 pm..... Tuesday Scripture Study | JCLC Board  
 3:00 pm..... Wachsman CSA Meeting | 109  
 6:30 pm..... SMC Confirmation Rehearsal | Church  
 6:30 pm..... Symbolon II Class | 109  
 7:00 pm..... SMS LEAF Meeting | 201  
 7:00 pm..... Pro-Life Committee Meeting | 129

### Wednesday, March 18

6:00 pm..... Metro Serra Club | 217  
 6:30 pm..... Choir Rehearsal | Church  
 6:30 pm..... 6-12 CCD | Cafe  
 7:00 pm..... Fr. Cromly Series | 201  
 7:00 pm..... Finding Christ in the World Retreat | 214

### Thursday, March 19

9:00 am..... JCDA Planning Meeting | 214  
 10:00 am..... Dallas Vocation Guild | 109  
 11:00 am..... Dallas Vocation Guild Confessions | 129  
 1:30 pm..... Finding Christ in the World Retreat | 214  
 6:00 pm..... SMS Confirmation Rehearsal | Church  
 6:30 pm..... Stephen Ministry Supervision | 109

### Friday, March 20

2:00 pm..... SMS Stations of the Cross | Church  
 6:30 pm..... Stations of the Cross | Church  
 6:30 pm..... JCDA Bingo & Pizza | Cafe  
 6:30 pm..... Young Adults | Family Room

### Saturday, March 21

9:00 am..... Stephen Ministry Leaders | 129  
 9:00 am..... Centering Prayer | 217  
 10:00 am..... SMC Confirmation | Church  
 12:00 pm..... SMC Reception | Lower Lounge  
 2:00 pm..... SMS Confirmation | Church  
 4:00 pm..... SMS Reception | Lower Lounge

## News & Events

### Coordinator needed for Senior Outreach Program

St. Monica is looking for a coordinator for the Senior Outreach program. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve God and the elderly of our parish. If you are interested, please contact Sharon Wetzel at 214-908-2344.

### Youth Retreats

If you are a middle school or high school student wanting to grow closer to God in a fun and exciting way, please consider joining us for one of our retreats this spring! Our middle school retreat, *Into the Mystery*, will be held April 17-19th at Sky Ranch. Our high school retreat, *Full-Filled*, will be held April 24-26th also at Sky Ranch. There will be great talks, adoration, reconciliation, and time for sports, activities, and fellowship! Registration forms are available in the youth room and online at [www.stmonicachurch.org/youth](http://www.stmonicachurch.org/youth). Fee is \$150 per student.

Bishop Kevin Farrell invites you to the **22nd Annual Bishop's Pro-Life Dinner** on April 18th at the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas. This event, benefiting the Catholic Pro-Life Committee, will feature a musical performance by award-winning singer Kathy Troccoli and *Catholic Answers Live* host Patrick Coffin as master of ceremonies. This event raises critical funds to save babies, support families, provide education and facilitate post-abortion healing. Dinner reservations are requested by April 6, 2015. Seating is limited. For more information or reservations email [prolifedallas.org/dinner](mailto:prolifedallas.org/dinner) or call [972-267-LIFE \(5433\)](tel:972-267-LIFE). Spanish translation headsets available.

Catholic Charities of Dallas is a **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program** site! This free tax help is for qualifying tax payers, who made less than \$53,000 in 2014. You do not have to be a U.S. citizen to receive this assistance. VITA is open Monday through Friday from 3 pm to 8 pm and Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm at 9461 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75243 in Conference Room B. For more information on VITA sites, visit [www.DallasTaxCenters.org](http://www.DallasTaxCenters.org) or call 214-978-0081.

### Volunteer to spend an hour a week with Jesus

Please contact Marge Giangiulio at [214-769-4407](tel:214-769-4407) or email [adore10397@sbccglobal.net](mailto:adore10397@sbccglobal.net) to sign up. Adoration coverage needed for 11 pm-Midnight on Tuesday; 1-2 pm on Wednesday. 9-10 am, 4-5 pm & 5-6 pm on Thursday.

The **North Dallas Shared Ministries** weekly Friday Foodbasket supplemental food assistance program, which assists low-income seniors 60 and older and select disabled persons on SSI or SSDI, needs volunteers to organize, bag and distribute food in the pantry warehouse. The times needing to be filled are: Wednesday afternoons from 3-4:30 pm; Thursday from 7-8:30 am; and Fridays from 8 am-1 pm. Individuals or groups may choose to volunteer on a week, biweekly or monthly basis. For more information, contact Sherrie Boyd at 214-358-8767.

## Family Vocation Chalice

To participate call (214) 368-3640

**March 21 at 5:00 pm**  
Derek & Jeanne Howell

**March 22 at 11:00 am**  
Jack & Pat Padian

**March 22 at 8:00 am**  
Tommy Fears

**March 22 at 12:30 pm**  
Phil & Stacie Blazek

**March 22 at 9:30 am**  
Juan & Esperanza Rodriguez

**March 22 at 5:00 pm**  
Tom & Mary Brandt

# Noticias y Eventos

# Calendario Comunitario

**¿Quién me separará de tu amor?**  
(Romanos 8,35)

**NOCHE DE ORACIÓN**  
por nuestros hermanos cristianos perseguidos.

**Marzo 20, 2015**  
8:00 pm -12:00 am

**Parroquia Católica Santa Mónica**  
(9933 Midway Rd. Dallas, Tx. 75220)

**Informes: (214) 607-3425**

FOTO: FACEBOOK/AMIGOS DE IRAK

**Domingo, 15 de marzo**

- 11:30 am..... RICA | 201
- 12:00 pm..... Jóvenes Adultos | 211
- 12:00 pm..... Coro de Adultos | JCLC Board
- 12:00 pm..... Preparación Matrimonial | 214
- 3:00 pm..... Legion de Maria | 201

**Lunes, 16 de marzo**

- 7:00 pm..... Proclamadores | JCLC
- 7:00 pm..... Practica de Via Crucis | Cafe

**Martes, 17 de marzo**

- 7:00 pm..... Rosario | Capilla
- 7:00 pm..... Divina Misericordia | LIB
- 7:00 pm..... Practica de Via Crucis | Cafe
- 8:00 pm..... Hora Santa | Capilla

**Miércoles, 18 de marzo**

- 6:30 pm..... Legión de María | 129
- 6:30 pm..... Taller Oración y Vida | 217
- 7:00 pm..... Estudios de la Biblia - UD | 109
- 7:00 pm..... Coro de Adultos | JCLC Board

**Jueves, 19 de marzo**

- 7:00 pm..... Niños Proclamadores | 129
- 7:00 pm..... Pastoral Familiar | Upper Lounge
- 7:00 pm..... Coro de Adultos | JCLC Board

**Viernes, 20 de marzo**

- 6:00 pm..... Apoyo Familiar | Upper FC
- 7:00 pm..... Estaciones de la Cruz | Iglesia
- 8:30 pm..... Noche de Oración | Iglesia

**Sabado, 21 de marzo**

- 8:30 am..... Formación Guadalupana | LIB
- 5:00 pm..... Ballet Folklorico| Cafe

**Sobre las tinieblas del corazón, brilla su luz...**  
Retiro y Concierto - Oración

**Hermana Glenda**  
A través de sus predicaciones y música los ayudará a prepararnos espiritualmente para vivir junto a Jesús esta Semana Santa.

**28 de Marzo del 2015**  
Retiro 9:00 am a 3:00 pm  
Concierto 7:00 pm

Los eventos serán en el gimnasio de la Parroquia Católica **Santa Mónica**  
(9933 Midway Rd. Dallas, Tx. 75220)

**DONACIÓN PARA EL RETIRO:**  
\$25.00 preventiva y \$30.00 en la puerta.

**DONACIÓN PARA EL CONCIERTO - ORACIÓN:**  
\$15.00 preventiva y \$20.00 en la puerta.  
(Con la compra de un boleto para el retiro, la entrada para el concierto será a \$10.00)

Los eventos son solo para personas mayores de 12 años.  
No habrá cuidado de niños.

**INFORMACIÓN Y COMPRA DE BOLETOS**  
[WWW.STMONICACHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.STMONICACHURCH.ORG)  
214-357-8549

## Cáliz Vocacional Familiar

Para llevarse el Cáliz llame al (214) 358-1453

22 de Marzo - Familia Monroy

29 de Marzo - Familia Diaz

### Vía Crucis

Vía Crucis" en latín o "Camino de la Cruz". También se le llama Estaciones de la Cruz y Vía Dolorosa. Se trata de un camino de oración que busca adentrarnos en la meditación de la Pasión de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo en su camino al Calvario. La finalidad de las Estaciones es ayudarnos a unirnos a Nuestro Señor haciendo una peregrinación espiritual a la Tierra Santa, a los momentos más señalados de su Pasión y muerte redentora. Pasamos de Estación en Estación meditando ciertas oraciones. Los esperamos todos los viernes de cuaresma a las 7 pm en la Iglesia para meditar en comunidad la oración del vía crucis.

### Santísimo Sacramento

Jesús Eucaristía está expuesto de lunes a viernes de 9 am a media noche en la capilla. Les pedimos que cuando haga su visita por favor anote su nombre en la libreta que está en la parte posterior, para saber que Jesús está acompañado en todo momento. Si usted desea tener una hora fija para hacer su visita por favor llame al 214-358-1453. Se necesitan adoradores los martes de 11 pm a medianoche, miércoles de 1 pm a 2 pm y jueves de 5 pm a 6 pm.

### Pastoral Familiar

¡Se parte de esta familia de fe! Nos reunimos todos los jueves a las 7 pm en el Centro Familiar salón 201. Es una oportunidad de fortalecer los lazos familiares y tu relación con Cristo. Cada semana Dios tiene un regalo para ti y tu familia. No tengas miedo de abrir las puertas de tu corazón a Jesús, con El todo es mejor. Tus hijos también reciben enseñanzas en la fe. Para más información comunícate con Manuel y Susy Rosas 972-391-3853.

### Tiempo de Cuaresma

#### ¿Qué pasa durante la Cuaresma?

Cuaresma es un tiempo de decisión para ser mejores hijos de Dios a través de nuestras acciones y relaciones con nuestros hermanos. Es el tiempo adecuado para fortalecer el alma, cuerpo y espíritu con la oración, ayuno, abstinencia y obras de Misericordia. Algunas maneras que les podemos ayudar en esta comunidad para lograr esto es:

#### Misa entre Semana durante la Cuaresma

- Lunes a Viernes 6:45 & 8 am; 5:30 pm; sábados 8 am (misas son en Ingles)

#### Confesiones durante la Cuaresma -

Sábados 3:30-4:30 pm 6:30-7 pm; Martes 12- 12:30 pm & 5- 5:30 pm; Marzo 25, 7-9 pm & Abril 1, 7-9 pm

**Vía Crucis** - Todos los viernes a las 7 pm en la Iglesia.

## De El Pastor

Había una vez, una familia que era muy activa en la Iglesia, pero había perdido el interés. El ministro y sus compañeros feligreses le habían rogado que regresaran, pero nada funciono.

Un día el padre y sus hijos estaban trabajando en el campo y una víbora de cascabel mordió a uno de los niños y se enfermó gravemente. Lo miro el doctor e hizo todo lo que podía y le dijo a la familia que lo único que podían hacer era orar. Inmediatamente, el padre llamo al pastor de la Iglesia que fuera.

Cuando llego el pastor esta fue la oración que hizo. Dijo: "Oh Padre sabio y justo, te pedimos por la recuperación de este niño. Pero también te agradecemos por enviar esta víbora de cascabel. Esta familia no ha ido a la iglesia en años y pedimos que por esta serpiente los traiga de nuevo. Ya que por lo que ha hecho, les movió a rezar más que antes. En efecto, Señor, a lo mejor lo que necesitamos son víboras de cascabel más grandes y mejores para que nos mantengamos enfocados en ti."

Ahora si algún día tenemos problemas y enviamos alguien de la iglesia que nos ayude, esperemos que no sea alguien como este pastor, quien ora por víboras más grandes y mejores. Hoy al reflexionar sobre el pasaje del Evangelio encontramos a Jesús hablando con Nicodemo sobre víboras, cruces y decisiones.

Cuando los Israelitas se cansaron de sus luchas diarias en el desierto, se quejaban más de Dios. Y como castigo, les envió serpientes al campo y muchos murieron porque les mordieron. Cuando las personas pidieron piedad, Dios mando a Moisés a construir una serpiente de

bronce y colgarla en un palo y todo el que la viera seria curado.

La Misericordia de Dios es más poderosa. Cuando el Evangelio dice, "Dios amo tanto al mundo que envió a su único Hijo." Jesús habla del maravilloso amor de Dios. Su interacción con los pecadores y los necesitados pusieron estas palabras en acción. Pero la prueba final de cuanto nos ama Dios se nos dio cuando ofreció su vida en la Cruz para que nuestros pecados fueran perdonados. No vino a condenar, aunque cada uno debemos admitir que a comparación del amor de Jesús quedamos cortos en ser las personas que debemos ser. Vino a invitarnos a cargar la Cruz con El, con la promesa que también compartiremos el gozo del cielo con El.

Durante esta cuarta semana de Cuaresma se nos llama a hacer una decisión. Hemos completado mitad de la temporada de Cuaresma y si admitimos que no hemos cumplido las promesas que hicimos el miércoles de Ceniza, las oportunidades aún no se terminan. Comenzando hoy nuevamente podemos tener a Dios como el enfoque de nuestra vida. Aún hay tiempo de ir a Misa diaria, pasar una Hora en Adoración. Todo lo que tenemos que hacer es aceptar la invitación. El perdón de Dios es de nosotros si aceptamos recibir la Reconciliación. Aún hay muchas oportunidades, si aceptamos la invitación. Hoy Dios nos pondrá en una situación o traer a una persona que necesita ser escuchada, necesita una palabra de consuelo o una mano amiga. ¿Aceptaremos esa invitación? ¡No esperemos a que llegue una mejor víbora de cascabel!

— Fr. Stephen W Bierschenk

*Señor, enséñanos a reconocerte en los enfermos,  
en los necesitados y en cuantos sufren.  
— Papa Francisco*