

# Christ Our Light Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  
9677 HIGHWAY 6 • NAVASOTA, TEXAS

**OFFICES AND MAILING ADDRESS**  
**510 Manley Street • Navasota, TX 77868**

**Phone: 936-825-3920 • Fax: 936-825-7612**

**Religious Education: 936-825-1869**

**After hour emergencies: 936-825-3920**

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

### Monday-Thursday

9:15 a.m.-noon & 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

### Friday 9:15 a.m.-noon

Other times by appointment

**Website: [www.christourlight.org](http://www.christourlight.org)**

## PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Rev. Elias Lopéz

Parochial Vicar, Rev. Jorge Cabrera

Grant Holt, Permanent Deacon

Gregory Jelinek, MD, Permanent Deacon (Retired)

## ADMINISTRATION & BOOKKEEPER

Nelda Kurten

## COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sasha Ramirez

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

LITURGICAL MINISTERS' COORDINATOR / SACRISTAN

Samuel Pry

## PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Michael Arden, Teresa Morales, Gregorio Gonzalez, Sam Pry, Nelda Kurten

## FINANCE COUNCIL

Leonard Busa, Theresa Clark, Teresa Morales, Ann Clark,Carolynn Katkoski

## STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Dan Busa, Hipolito Olvers, Lupe Diaz, Ofelia Olvera, Toribio Hernandez,

Celia (Rosa) Perez, Jose Murillo, Sr., Ruben Perez

## FAMILY LIFE

Joe and Monica Fultz, Robert and Pam Malek, Baltazar and Silvia Regalado

## DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

Deacon Grant Holt, Jason Katkoski, Michael and Connie Arden, Mitch Kroll,

Gregorio Gonzalez

## RE BOARD

President: Jason Katkoski, Vice President: Brandi Tejeda,

Secretary: Diane LeFlore, Lucy Coronilla, Dcn Grant Holt, and Teresa Morales

## BUILDING COMMITTEE

Mike Arden, Larry Busa, Danny Clark, Richard Krolczyk, and Joe Rangel.

## SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: (English) 8:00 a.m.

Sunday: (Spanish) 1:00 p.m.

## WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday 6:00 p.m. (English)

Thursday 6:00 p.m. (Spanish)

## ROSARY PRAYED IN COMMON

Tuesday & Thursday: 6:10 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday: 8:10 a.m.

Saturday: 5:15 p.m.

Sunday: 7:15 a.m. & 12:40 p.m.

## RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

Thursday and Saturday 5:00-5:45 p.m.

and by appointment 936-825-3920

## RECONCILIACION/CONFESIONES

Los jueves y los sábado a las 5:00-5:45 p.m.

y por cita 936-825-3920.

**Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 22, 2018**

# Christ Our Light Catholic Church • Navasota, Texas

APRIL 21 & 22, 2018

Under the Patronage of St. Patrick and Our Lady of Guadalupe

## MASS INTENSIONS

**MON., APRIL 23 — EASTER WEEKDAY/ST. GEORGE, MARTYR/ST. ADALBERT, BISHOP AND MARTYR**

No Mass

**TUESDAY, APRIL 24 — EASTER WEEKDAY/ST. FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN, PRIEST AND MARTYR**

6:00 PM Eddie † and Henrietta † Prihoda

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25 — ST. MARK, EVANGELIST**

8:30 AM Lambert Laskowski †

**THURSDAY, APRIL 26 — EASTER WEEKDAY**

8:30 AM Willie Mae Licce †

6:00 PM Torres Family

**FRIDAY, APRIL 27 — EASTER WEEKDAY**

8:30 AM Helen Bullock †

**SATURDAY, APRIL 28 — VIGIL, 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

6:00 PM Barbara Thane †

**SUNDAY, APR. 29 — FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

8:00 AM People of the Parish

1:00 PM\* Ceasario Medina †

\*SPANISH

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

**MONDAY, APRIL 23**

5:00 PM Spanish Legion of Mary, CH Cry room

7:00 PM Guitar Lessons, SPH

7:00 PM Marriage Retreat Couples, CH

**TUESDAY, APRIL 24**

6:00 PM Spanish Choir Practice, CH

7:00 PM Finance Council, SPH

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25**

6:00 PM Religious Education Party, PK-5th Grades

6:30 PM Confirmation I & II

7:30 PM Choir Practice, CH

**THURSDAY, APRIL 26**

12:00 PM English Legion of Mary, CH Cry room

5:00 PM Confession, CH

After Mass, Spanish Bible Class, CH

**FRIDAY, APRIL 27**

No Events Scheduled

**SATURDAY, APRIL 28**

5:00 PM Confession, CH

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29**

10:15 PM Religious Education Party 6-12th Grades

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17;

Mk 16:15-20

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27;

Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31; Ps 22:26-28, 30-32;

1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

## E-Mail Addresses for the Parish

To e-mail Fr. Elias...fr.eli@christourlight.org

To e-mail Fr. Jorge: Fr.jorge@christourlight.org

To e-mail Nelda: nelda@christourlight.org

To e-mail RE Board: reboard@christourlight.org

To e-mail Rel. Ed. asha\_ramirez17@yahoo.com

Christ Our Light web-site: www.christourlight.org

## BULLETIN DEADLINE TUESDAY 12:00 NOON

Announcements and or articles are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office, or faxed to 825-7612 or e-mailed nelda@christourlight.org.

Events, meeting etc. for the Parish Calendar are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office in advance.

## AFTER MASS WEEKLY PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline Tuesday, 12:00 Noon. Announcements are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office. The Pastor reserves the right to pick and choose which announcements are made in this forum as there is a need to keep these to a minimum.

Todos los anuncios deben ser presentados por escrito en la oficina de la parroquia no mas tarde que los martes al mediodía. El Pastor decidirá si las noticias son de importancia para ser pronuncia das.

## PARISH REGISTRATION

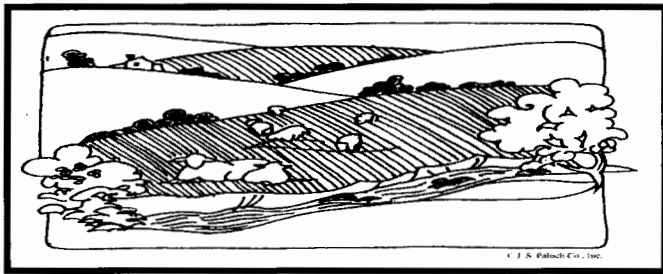
To our new parishioner, we welcome you to Christ Our Light Parish. Please register at the parish office or ask one of the Hospitality Ministers to help you. For parishioners moving out of the parish or changing your address or phone number, **please** notify the parish office, 825-3920.

## Sacrament of Baptism Schedule

**English Baptism Class Schedule for 2018:** 8:30 AM, July 14 and October 13. For Information, call Deacon Grant Holt at 936-825-6448 or Joe Rangel at 936-672-5566

**Spanish Baptism Class Schedule for 2018:** 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, April 22, July 16 & 23 and October 21 & 28. For Information, call Rosa Torres at 936-419-8974

**ALL DOCUMENTS AND FORMS** must be completed and turned in before Baptism Date. **SCHEDULED** Baptism will be celebrated once a month every 2nd Saturday at 12:00 PM in the Church.



## Fourth Sunday of Easter April 22, 2018

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.

— 1 John 3:1

### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Every 1st weekend of the month (Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses) blessing of all who have a birthday or Wedding Anniversary during the month.

### MONTHLY REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASSES

Refreshment will be served after Masses the first Sunday of each month. The refreshments and service will be provided by the following:

Altar Society—January and July  
Pastoral Council—February and October  
Finance Council—March and September  
R.E. Board—April and August  
Stewardship—May and November  
Choir—June and December



*Altar Flowers for 2018 sign up list is in the white binder on the brown shelf in the Narthex of the Church. Sign up for the weekend you would like to place altar flowers in front of the altar.*

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS** to the Priesthood and Religious Life especially in our Archdiocese.

### MEMORIALIZING THE SANCTUARY CANDLE

If you are interested in memorializing the Sanctuary candle, in memory of, in personal reverence and petition or special intention for the week, stop by the parish office for more information.

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The parish thanks Deacon Grant Holt for the altar flowers this past weekend in memory of Jo Ann Holt.

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### HOLY HOUR SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 3:00 PM

Everyone is invited to join Fr. Eli and Catholics around the world in prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. On Sunday, April 22nd at 3:00 pm there will be a Holy Hour right here in the sanctuary. Please join us in prayer and thanksgiving.

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“Darkness can only be scattered by light, hatred can only be conquered by love.”

— Blessed John Paul II

### ONLINE STORE FOR CATHOLIC GIFTS

Go to our website: [www.christourlight.org](http://www.christourlight.org)  
Click on: [www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org/store?promoCode=102608](http://www.lighthousecatholicmedia.org/store?promoCode=102608) with a % of your purchase going back as Credit to the parish.



### YOUTH MEETING SCHEDULE

Christ Our Light Youth Group Grades 8-12 will meet every 1st Wednesday of the month, 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:** Guest Speakers, Food & Games, Bible Study, Praise and Worship and more. To join contact: Joe Rangel (936) 672-5566 or Jessica Herrera (936) 870-8130.

### DIOCESAN SERVICE FUND

Participation	Goal:
	\$24,940.00
Total Registered Families at Christ Our Light: 657	<b>Pledged:</b>
	\$13,979.00
Participating Families in DSF: 59	<b>Paid:</b>
	\$10,272.75

Percent Paid: 41.19%

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

### II Collections in April and May

April 21th & 22nd  
Archdiocese Home Mission  
May 05th and 06th  
Archdiocese Catholic Communications  
May 12th and 13th  
Monthly Maintenance Fund





We need Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. If you are interested, please contact Nelda Kurten at the office. The Archdiocese Office of Worship will be holding a workshop on Saturday, May 5th from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at St. Dominic Chancery.

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## Bazaar, September 30, 2018 at the Fairgrounds



**Bazaar Meeting on Tuesday, May 15th in St. Patrick Hall. All booth chairpersons are asked and encouraged to come. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to come as well.**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Stewardship Prayer of the Faithful — April 22, 2018

That we take time in silent daily prayer to talk and listen to God.

### Corresponsabilidad Oraciones de los Fieles — 22 de abril de 2018

Para que tomemos tiempo en la oración diaria silenciosa para hablar y escuchar a Dios.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 9367 2018 SCHOLARSHIP**

The Navasota Knights of Columbus Council 9367 2018 Scholarship applications are available to any graduating high school/college enrolled registered student of Christ Our Light Catholic Church/St. Stanislaus Catholic Church. Application may be picked up during regular business hours at either parish office. All applications are due by 12:00 pm Friday, May 11, 2018.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Diocesan Service Fund (DSF):** The DSF is an annual archdiocesan-wide appeal that is made through all the parishes for operating funds for the needs of the greater parishes for operating funds for the needs of the greater community and to support and continue essential ministries of the Church in Archdiocese. A goal is assigned to each parish based on a three-year average of its most recent taxable income. No parish may be exempt from the annual Diocesan Services Fund appeal EXCEPT for exemptions granted in connection with a combined capital campaign/DSF appeal.

The DSF appeal ends on December 31. DSF goals are mandatory and deficits are due at the end of the campaign.

Your donations to DSF will support these ministries:  
 Teaching, Evangelizing and Worship  
 Ministering To The Poor, The Sick and the Incarcerated  
 Promoting, Preparing and Supporting the Clergy  
 Nurturing and Strengthening Families

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### **LECTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR APRIL**

Saturday, 6:00 PM Mass: Linda Lara — April 7th and 21st. Samuel Pry — April 14th and 28th  
 Sunday, 8:00 AM Mass: Marion Busa — April 1st & 8th. Victor Meitzen — April 15th and 22nd.  
 Rebecca Wisnoski — April 29th.



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- Teaching, Evangelizing and Worship
- Ministering To The Poor, The Sick and the Incarcerated
- Promoting, Preparing and Supporting the Clergy
- Nurturing and Strengthening Families

\*\*\*\*\*

### LECTOR'S SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

Saturday, 6:00 PM Mass: Linda Lara — April 7th and 21st. Samuel Pry — April 14th and 28th  
 Sunday, 8:00 AM Mass: Marion Busa — April 1st & 8th. Victor Meitzen — April 15th and 22nd.  
 Rebecca Wisnoski — April 29th.



**PRAY for THE CONTINUING RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF**

the infirmed and homebound members of our community. Steve Alvarado, Deborah Allwell, Amy Baldobino, Katherine Berger, JoAnn Clepper, Frank Conte, Minnie Crouch, Sherry Noto Coronado, Taylor Cox, Susie Dominguez, Carol Lynne Estes, Maria Flores, Charleen Holmes, Judy Huber, Marion Huber, Joe Imhoff, Eva James, Liz Johnson, Esther Jones, Charlie Kapchinski, Brianna Kelley, Kim Kelly, Landon Kimich, Mary Ann Knowles, Ronny Kurten, Crystal Lane, Leslie Lane, Manuel Lebeck, Ted Loq, Lillian Marcotte, Maria Martinez, June McDonald, Yvonne Meitzen, Valeriano Melchor, Anthony Mendez, Evita Mendez, Beth Minava, Eddie Muston, Fabian Munoz, Trealean Nickerson, Thomas Nobles, Leon Nowak, Julian Olguin, Victor Ostiguin, Howard Owens, Ralf Perez, II, Tanisha Perry, Angelina Peterson, Wallace Peterson, Rose Betty Piper, Mercedes Rios, Joel Rivera, Irma Salazar, Abby Schoessow, Josh Sechelski, Judy Seigler, Dana Sowell, Krysten Sowell, Angie McLaurin Till, Lucy Thompson, Tina Tomczak, Alene Torres, Anastacia Torres, Jesse Valadez, III, Carrie Vega, Amanda Walkoviak, Clara Walkoviak, Debra Wills and Pam Wise. **Call the parish office** when a member of our community has a need to be remembered in prayer, 825-3920. Also, if you have added a name to the prayer list, **please call to let us know when to remove the name from the list.** Thank you.

**YOUR PARISH SUPPORT  
SU APOYO PARROQUIAL**

*TRESASURE YOU HAVE SHARED:*

**Weekly Offering**

**APRIL 14 & 15, 2018**

**GIFTS FOR GOD — YOUR TITHE RESPONDS**

(86) Offertory Envelopes / Loose Checks	2,772.00
Loose Change	847.50
Children's	89.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,708.51</b>

Maintenance Fund 96.00

**4th Sunday of Easter** — *"I am the good shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep...and they will heed my voice."* — **John 10:14-16** When you pray, do you on only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Him what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Usually, the answer is in "quiet whispers", so take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His response.

**4º Domingo de Pascua** — *"yo soy el buen pastor...y doy mi vida por las ovejas. Y ellas escucharán mi voz"* -**Juan 10:14-16** Cuando oras, ¿solo le pides a Jesús por las cosas que quieres? ¿Alguna vez le preguntas qué quiere El de ti? ¿Cómo escuchas su respuesta? Por lo general, la respuesta está en "susurros silencioso", así que tómate tiempo todos lo días, en silencio, para escuchar activamente su respuesta.

*Upcoming Events and Dates*

- ♦ **May 05** — 10:00 a.m. First Reconciliation, Church
- ♦ **May 06** — 8:00 AM & 1:00 PM Mass with 1st Holy Eucharist

**In Our Prayers**

We remember in prayer our friends and loved ones in active military duty, both in and out of harms way, in the service of their our country. Pray for peace in the world and for our leaders.

**OUR HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APR.**

**General Intention — UNIVERSAL: For those who have responsibility in economic matters.** That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to explore new ways forward.



**P.E.R.A. (Perpetual Eucharistic Reparative Adoration)**

We are inviting and highly encouraging everyone to sign-up for our "P.E.R.A." (Perpetual Eucharistic Reparative Adoration). We are asking everyone to devote ONE HOUR (at least) a WEEK adoring God in the Blessed Sacrament—that is, only asking 168 parishioners to make adoration of God everyday, 24/7! We do this as a Parish Community in response to the teaching of St. John Paul II:

*The "Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to make amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease."*

*(Dominicae cenae, 3)*

Please call Mary Rangel @ 936-419-9024.



**New Memorial Candles**

The new Candle Stands are electrical. Anyone wanting to light a candle may do so by pressing the red button and give an offering. The candle will burn for 12 hours. Memorial Candles burning for one year are \$150.00 each. Come by the parish office to schedule and pay your offering of \$150.00 for your Memorial candle.

**THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND  
Web site is FORMED.ORG**

The Parish Code to access the website is **MVMZKF**

Then register to create an account.

**NOTE: Do not use Mozilla Firefox browser.**

There are 2 easy ways to connect to **FLOCKNOTE** (pick one):

1. Visit our church at: [www.flocknote.com/christourlightchurch](http://www.flocknote.com/christourlightchurch)
2. Text SPOLG to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.

## **Christ Our Light Mental Health Presentation Promotion**

### **Mental Health – Our Search for Peace**

On April 26, Derlyn Rhoades will be presenting on the topic of Mental Health in today's society and some tips to be aware of the state of our mental health and ways to improve it, just as we try to stay active with our physical health! Derlyn is a Licensed Professional Counselor – Intern and has received her education from Franciscan University of Steubenville. She works with Gratia Plena Counseling, a non-profit organization that provides counseling that is faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church. Derlyn Rhoades has office locations at Sacred Heart Parish in Conroe and St. Anthony of Padua in the Woodlands. You can find out more about Derlyn and Gratia Plena Counseling at 832-532-0129 or at [gratiaplenacounseling.org](http://gratiaplenacounseling.org).





The sheep follow the Good Shepherd, because they hear and recognize his voice. (cf John 10:4)

## Highlights from the Pope's Letter

for 2018 World Day of Prayer for Vocations

**P**ope Francis, in his letter for today, points out that when Jesus returned after his time of prayer and struggle in the desert, he did three things before he began his mission. He *listened* to the word, *discerned* the content of the mission entrusted to him by the Father, and proclaimed that he came to accomplish it *today* (Lk 4:16-21).

This model—listen, discern, live—can be followed by all of us as we try live out our vocation. Here are some insights from the Holy Father:

**LISTEN** | God comes silently and discretely, without imposing on our freedom. Thus it can happen that his voice is drowned out by the many worries and concerns that fill our minds and hearts. We need to learn to silence the noise around us to listen.

**DISCERN** | We have to resist the temptations of ideology and negativity, and to discover, in our relationship with the Lord, the places, the means, and situations through which he calls us. Discernment requires attentiveness, not distraction!

**LIVE** | Our vocation is lived *today!* The Christian mission is now! Each one of us is called—whether to the lay life in marriage, to the priestly life in the ordained ministry, or to a life of special consecration—in order to become a witness of the Lord, here and now.

*Photo above: Fr. Chris Martin processes with the Eucharist at a Steubenville Youth Conference. Fr. Martin is the president of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors.*



## Prayed to the Priesthood



**A**bout seven years ago in upstate New York, Sue O'Neal met a young man in her parish named Francis Vivacqua.

Seeing something in him, she asked him if he had ever considered the priesthood. It was a "wow" moment for the young man, setting him on a long path to figuring out his true call in life.

Remarkably, every single day since their encounter, Sue prayed a Divine Mercy Chaplet for Francis. Years after she began praying, he entered the seminary. In 2016, Francis was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Albany. Sue continues to pray for him daily.

*Photo: Sue, Fr. Francis, and Sue's husband, Norman*



# 3,405

The number of graduate-level seminarians in the U.S. in 2017. About 2,200 additional seminarians are studying at the college level.



## Steps to a Vocation

*How men were involved before seminary*

A 2017 survey of newly ordained priests showed that most were regularly involved in their parishes. Here's what they did:

altar servers	75%
lectors	52%
extraordinary ministers	43%
youth/campus ministry	35%
catechists	34%
confirmation sponsors	32%

## A Financial Wall

*Overcoming barriers to a vocation*

An estimated 10,000 individuals are discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life in the US annually. However, one study showed that as many as 40% are blocked from pursuing their call due to student loans.

Most religious communities cannot assume any debt, and most dioceses allow only a limited amount of debt before accepting a candidate.

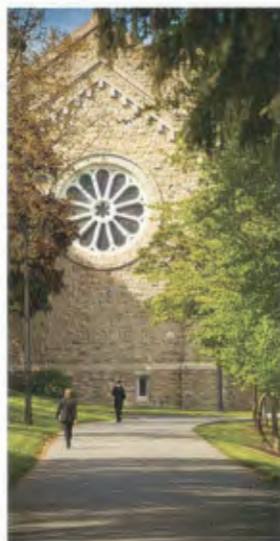
A Catholic organization called the Labouré Society helps men and women resolve education loans in order to enter the seminary, convent, or monastery. The organization brings together groups of aspirants, trains them to fund raise, then sends them out across the U.S. to tell their vocation stories. Nearly 250 young men and women have been able enter formation with the help of Labouré.

Is your vocation blocked by debt? Or do you want to help someone who feels called? Visit [labouresociety.org](http://labouresociety.org).

### LABOURÉ

## Why do Seminarians Need our Prayers?

Because formation to become a priest is extremely hard work! Some have likened it to getting a master's degree while having a full-time job. The man's "job," in this case, though, is forming his heart and mind to be like Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Prayer and study are priorities, but recreation and down time are also important—as is spending time with a good spiritual director. A typical day at the seminary may look like this:



- 6:30 am Rise
- 7:15 am Morning Prayer
- 7:30 am Holy Mass
- 8:00 am Breakfast
- Classes and study time
- Noon Lunch
- Afternoon classes and study
- Sports and exercise
- 5:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 6:00 pm Evening Prayer
- 6:15 pm Benediction
- 6:30 pm Supper
- 7:30 pm Music practice, formation conferences, or personal and study time
- 11:00 pm Retire

## An Uncommon Sight


*Um, sister, is that eye shadow?*

Here's one of the only times you'll see a religious sister wearing makeup—preparing for a TV show! Recently Sister Clare Matthiass, CFR, appeared on EWTN to talk about her book *Discerning Religious Life*. The book has been a hit among young Catholic women looking for solid advice on figuring out their vocations. Particularly popular is the chapter "The Six Month Discernment Challenge," in which sister advises (among other things), "Don't date and discern at the same time!"

206 pp. [www.vianneyvocations.com](http://www.vianneyvocations.com)



Want to pledge to pray for vocations? Visit [www.invisiblemonastery.com](http://www.invisiblemonastery.com)

 VIANNEY VOCATIONS



2018

# DÍA MUNDIAL de ORACIÓN — por las — VOCACIONES

Las ovejas siguen al buen pastor porque escuchan y reconocen su voz. (cf Juan 10:4)

## Lo más destacado de la carta del papa

*Para el Día Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones*

**E**l Papa Francisco, en su carta de hoy, señala que cuando Jesús regresó después de su tiempo de oración y de lucha en el desierto, Él hizo tres cosas antes de comenzar su misión. Él escuchó la palabra, discernió el contenido de la misión que le encomendó el Padre y proclamó que vino a cumplir hoy (LC 4:16-21).

Este modelo—escuchar, discernir, vivir—puede seguirse por todos nosotros cuando tratamos de vivir nuestras vocaciones. Aquí están algunas reflexiones del Santo Padre:

**ESCUCHAR** | Dios viene silenciosamente y discretamente, sin imponer en nuestra libertad. Por lo tanto puede ocurrir que su voz es ahogada por las preocupaciones que llenan nuestras mentes y corazones. Tenemos que aprender a silenciar el ruido que nos rodea para escuchar.

**DISCERNIR** | Tenemos que resistir las tentaciones negatividad e ideología y descubrir, en nuestra relación con el Señor, los lugares, los medios y situaciones a través del cual nos llama. ¡Discernimiento requiere atención, no distracción!

**VIVIR** | ¡Nuestra vocación se vive hoy! ¡La Misión Cristiana es ahora! Cada uno de nosotros es llamado—a la vida laica en el matrimonio, a la vida sacerdotal en el ministerio ordenado, o a una vida de especial de consagración—para convertirse en un testigo del Señor, ¡aquí y ahora.

*Foto: Padre Chris Martin procesa con la Eucaristía en una conferencia juvenil de Steunbenville. El Padre Martin es el Presidente de la Conferencia Nacional Diocesana de Directores de Vocación*



## Orado al Sacerdicio



**H**ace unos siete años en el norte del estado de Nueva York, Sue O'Neal conoció a un joven en su parroquia que se llamaba Francis Vivacqua.

Notando algo especial de Francis, Sue le preguntó si había pensado en hacerse sacerdote alguna vez. Fue uno de esos momentos ¡hala! para el joven, poniéndole en el camino a saber su verdadera vocación en la vida.

Notablemente, cada día desde su encuentro, Sue rezaba el Rosario de la Misericordia Divina por Francis. Un año después de comenzar a orar, él entró en el seminario. En el 2016, Francisco fue ordenado sacerdote de la Diócesis de Albany. Sue continúa rezando por él todos los días.

*Foto: Sue, P. Francis y Norman, el esposo de Sue*



# 3,405

El número de seminaristas a nivel graduado en los Estados Unidos en 2017. Alrededor de 2,200 seminaristas están estudiando a nivel universitario.

## Pasos hacia una vocación

*Como se involucraron los hombres antes del Seminario*

Una encuesta de sacerdotes recién ordenados que se realizó en 2017 demostró que muchos de ellos estaban involucrados en sus parroquias. A continuación es una lista de sus actividades:

Monaguillos	75%
Lectores	52%
Ministros Extraordinarios	43%
Ministerio de Jóvenes/Campus	35%
Catequistas	31%
Padrinos de Confirmación	32%

## Una pared financiera

*Superando barreras a una vocación*

Un estimado de 10,000 personas está discerniendo una vocación al sacerdocio o a la vida religiosa en los Estados Unidos anualmente. Sin embargo, un estudio mostró que el 40% están bloqueados de seguir a su llamado debido a préstamos estudiantiles.

La mayoría de las comunidades religiosas no pueden asumir ninguna deuda, y la mayor parte de las diócesis permiten sólo una cantidad limitada de deuda antes de aceptar a un candidato.

Una organización Católica llamada la Sociedad Labouré, ayuda a hombres y mujeres a resolver sus préstamos de educación para entrar en el seminario, convento o monasterio. La organización reúne a grupos de aspirantes, los entrena en como recaudar fondos y luego los envía a través de los Estados Unidos a contar sus historias de vocación. Cerca de 250 hombres y mujeres jóvenes han sido capaces de entrar en formación con la ayuda de Labouré.

¿Está bloqueada su vocación por la deuda? o ¿Desea ayudar a alguien que se siente llamado? Visite [labouresociety.org](http://labouresociety.org).

**LABOURÉ**

## ¿Por qué necesitan nuestras oraciones los seminaristas?

¿Porque la formación para ser sacerdote es muy dura? Algunos la han comparado con obtener una maestría teniendo un trabajo a tiempo completo. En este caso, el “trabajo del hombre”, sin embargo, es ir formando su corazón y su mente para ser como Jesús, el Buen Pastor. La oración y el estudio son prioridades, pero la recreación y el tiempo libre también son importantes, al igual que lo es pasar tiempo con un buen director espiritual. Un día típico en el seminario puede tener este aspecto:



- 6:30 am Levantarse
- 7:15 am Oración de la Mañana
- 7:30 am la Santa Misa
- 8:00 am Desayuno
- Clases y tiempo de estudio
- 12:00 pm Almuerzo
- Clases de tarde y estudio
- Deportes y ejercicio
- 5:00 pm Adoración del Sagrado Sacramento
- 6:00 pm Oración de la Noche
- 6:15 pm Bendición
- 6:30 pm Cena
- 7:30 pm Práctica de música, conferencias de formación o personales y tiempo de estudio
- 11:00 pm Retiro

## Una vista infrecuente


*Ummm, hermana, ¿es eso sombra de ojos?*

Esta es una de las pocas veces que verá una hermana religiosa usa maquillaje – ¡preparándose para un programa de televisión! Recientemente, la Hermana Clare Matthiass, CFT, apareció en EWTN para hablar sobre su libro “Discerning Religious Life”. El libro ha sido un éxito entre las jóvenes Católicas que buscan sólido asesoramiento para descubrir su vocación. Especialmente popular es el capítulo “El Desafío de Seis Meses de Discernimiento” en el cual la hermana indica (entre otras cosas), ¡no salir con chicos y discernir al mismo tiempo!”

206 pp. [www.vianneyvocations.com](http://www.vianneyvocations.com)



¿Quieren comprometerse a rezar por las vocaciones? Visiten [www.invisiblemonastery.com](http://www.invisiblemonastery.com)

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