



# ***Our Lady of Grace Parish***

***5011 White Oak Avenue***

***Encino, CA 91316***

**We WELCOME**  
to our parish family all people  
at every stage of life  
and faith in God.

By hearing God's Word  
and celebrating  
the sacraments,

**we are FORGIVEN, HEALED  
AND TRANSFORMED**  
to be more like  
Jesus Christ.

**As we deepen our union with Christ,**

**we REACH OUT**  
in love through caring,  
compassion and  
service to all.

**Rev. Austin C. Doran, Pastor**  
**Rev. Thomas Feltz, Senior Priest**

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

**MASSES**

**Sunday:** 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

**Saturday:** 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

**Weekdays:** (Mon.—Fri.) 6:30 and 8:00 a.m.

**Holy days:** Eves, 5:30 p.m., 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m.,  
12:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.

**First Fridays:** 6:30 and 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

**Saturday:** 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**First Friday:** 5:15 to 5:45 p.m.

**BAPTISMS/BAUTISMOS**

By appointment. Six weeks notice required.

Se requiere cita con seis semanas de anticipación.

**MARRIAGES/MATRIMONIOS**

By appointment. Six months notice required.

Se requiere cita con seis meses de anticipación.

**PARISH STAFF**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Parish Office</b>          | <b>(818) 342-4686</b>                                  |
| Mrs. Vilma Chegade            | Parish Business Manager                                |
| Ms. Daniela Navarrete         | Parish Secretary                                       |
| <b>School</b>                 | <b>(818) 344-4126</b>                                  |
| Mrs. Pat Chaimowitz           | School Principal                                       |
| <b>Ministry Office</b>        | <b>(818) 342-4505</b>                                  |
| Sr. Milda Avila, CSJ          | Liturgy, RCIA  |
| Sr. Magdalena Nava, CSJ       | Hispanic Ministry                                      |
| Sr. Emilie Ann Palladino, SND | Adult Spirituality                                     |
| Mrs. Margaret Schettler       | Religious Education                                    |
| Mrs. Vicky De Vivero          | Quinceañeras   |
| Mrs. Alma Shirley             | Music  |
| Mrs. Betty Vanek              | Adult Confirmation                                     |
| <b>Youth Room</b>             | <b>(818) 342-8730</b>                                  |
| Mr. Christopher Knabenshue    | Youth Coordinator                                      |
| (Confirmation/Teen Ministry)  | <a href="http://www.olgteens.org">www.olgteens.org</a> |

**PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION**

**Christ Our Hope** is the theme for this year's Peter's Pence collection. Your generosity allows the Holy Family to bring hope— through timely and effective emergency assistance—to our suffering brothers and sisters throughout the world. In solidarity with the Holy Family, we Catholics participate in works of goodness that distinguish us as followers of the Gospel. **Please pray for the Holy Family, and please give generously in your parish.** For more information on the Peter's Pence collection, visit [www.usccb.org/ppc](http://www.usccb.org/ppc).

**Due to our upcoming school kitchen remodeling, there will be no coffee and donuts during the month of July. There will also be no coffee and donuts for the month of August, as per usual.**

**Our Lady of Grace Parish**  
**CAMPAIGN PRAYER**

*Lord God, we thank you for your loving kindness, gentle compassion, and enlivening Spirit. We are grateful for those who came before us, who built a strong Catholic Christian community at Our Lady of Grace.*

*We ask You, Lord, to continue your work in our Faith community and our homes. Open our minds and hearts to respond generously to the exciting challenge before us. Guide our efforts as we plan the future of Our Lady of Grace Parish.*

*Help us strengthen our commitment to the mission of our parish and the gospel of charity and social justice.*

*May our actions always be for your greater honor and glory, now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS**

There is still time to make a pledge to our capital campaign for Parish and School Renovations. Our campaign goal is \$3,000,000. So far, parishioners have pledged **\$2,130,869**. Those parishioners who have pledged will receive a monthly reminder in the mail. There are payment envelopes in the pews for your convenience. Thank you to all who have contributed.

**Because First Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup> falls on Independence Day, there will be no 6:30 a.m. Mass, no all day adoration, no afternoon confessions or evening Mass that day. Please join us for the 8:00 a.m. Independence Day Liturgy.**

**FOOD WEEKEND**

Next weekend, July 5 & 6, we invite you to bring non-perishable food items to share with the needy. Items most needed: canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, canned meats and tuna, pork and beans, baby food, formula and disposable diapers. Soft drinks (Coke, Pepsi, Sprite, etc.) would be greatly appreciated for homeless clients at the Guadalupe Community Center. At other times, these items may be taken directly to the Guadalupe Community Center, 21600 Hart Street, Canoga Park, **(818) 883-6015**.



Thank you to all the parishioners who donated toiletry items for my Eagle Project which benefited the Covenant House in Hollywood. With your donations and the money I earned from the bake sale, I am able to complete 200 hygiene kits for the Covenant House. Thank you to everyone who bought a baked good or donut at the bake sale. The raffle was also a great success and congratulations to Lisa English and Sharman Borncamp, the winners of the raffle. The Covenant House needed you, and you came through. Thank you. Michael Costanzo.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Registration Forms for the Saturday Program (Grade K-8 grade) are available at the Ministry Office and at the side entrance to the church. Complete both sides of the form and drop it at the Parish Office, the Ministry Office or return by mail as soon as possible. Please include a \$20.00 non-refundable deposit or pay the full registration fee of \$70 for one child and \$30 for each additional child in the same family. Your deposit or full payment secures your child's enrollment. At the end of August all families who have enrolled in the program will receive a letter of confirmation and the calendar. For further information, please call the Ministry Office at **(818) 342-4505**.



**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LUNCHEON**

Father Charles R. Lueras, C.R.I. will be the guest speaker at the Catholic Community Luncheon scheduled for Wednesday, July 2, 2008 at Smoke House Restaurant-4420 Lakeside Drive, Burbank. Fellowship 11:45 a.m. and lunch 12:15 p.m. Complete Luncheon \$22. Topic: "Living our Christian Faith as Catholics". This program promises to be extremely interesting and very inspirational for all. For reservations please call Marilyn **(818) 846-3271**.

**A DAY AT THE BEACH WITH FIN**

Escape the summer heat of the valley and enjoy a cool afternoon at Zuma Beach in Malibu with OLG's Young Adults Group on July 12. We'll be playing beach sports and just relaxing. Meet at OLG 1:00 p.m. to carpool or meet us at the beach at 2:00 p.m.. Please bring snacks or beverages to share. We'll be near one of the volleyball courts. Look for a BLUE canopy with a FIN sign. For more information email [fin@ourladyofgrace.org](mailto:fin@ourladyofgrace.org).

**CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation registration forms for students in Grades 9, 10 and 11 in September 2008 are available at the Ministry Office and at the side entrance to the church. The yearly fee for the program is \$100.00. All students will have an interview before the September class begins. For more information, please call the Ministry Office at **(818) 342-4505**.



**THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE  
THE BISHOPS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES**

The Catholic Bishops of the United States have affirmed repeatedly that persons with a homosexual orientation " must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity." Accordingly the Bishops condemn all forms of violence, scorn, and hatred-whether subtle or overt- against men and women who are homosexual. All people, regardless of sexual inclination, are called to holiness; and "should be encouraged to take an active role in the faith community" and to live according to its teaching.

Nonetheless, the Church cannot approve of redefining marriage, which has a unique place in God's creation, joining a man and a women in committed relationship in order to nurture and support the new life for which marriage is intended. The meaning of marriage is deeply rooted in history and culture, and has been shaped considerably by Christian tradition. Its meaning is given, not constructed. "When marriage is redefined so as to make other relationships equivalent to it, the institution of marriage is devalued and further weakened."

The state has a primary and fundamental obligation to protect and promote the family, which is rooted in marriage and sustained by it.

Some benefits currently sought by same sex partners can already be obtained without regard to marital status. For example, individuals can agree to own property jointly with another, and they can generally designate anyone they choose to be a beneficiary of their will or to make health care decisions in case they become incompetent. Other desired benefits such as sharing in a partner's health insurance could be made available without the drastic step of a cultural or legal redefinition of marriage.

Let us strengthen our resolve to each human being and to protect the sanctity of marriage, asking God's guidance in our efforts to promote the common good central to a free and democratic society.

**Friday, July 4**, is a national holiday. There will be no 6:30 a.m. Mass, but please join us for Mass at 8:00 a.m. **The Parish and the Ministry offices will be closed.**



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**"TOGETHER IN MISSION" 2008**  
Annual Appeal as of June 23, 2008

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Commitment</b>    | <b>\$89,215</b> |
| Amount Paid          | \$51,470        |
| <b>Amount Needed</b> | <b>\$37,745</b> |

**YOUNG ADULTS DINERS' CLUB**

An opportunity for young adults (single and married, 20s, 30s, and 40s) to gather in an upbeat and lively social setting in order to meet other young adults and discover culinary delights. The restaurant pick Saturday, July 12, 7:00 p.m. is Exotic Thai Café, 1145 Lindero Canyon Road, Unit D11 Thousand Oaks. Please call Deanna at **(805) 529-8644** for additional information and reservation.

*Refreshments will be served today, Coffee & Sunday by the Cub Scouts. Come join Donuts us on the patio.*



Each Sunday our 9:30 a.m. liturgy is interpreted in American Sign Language.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR PRIESTS OF THE  
SAN FERNANDO REGION**

Bishop Wilkerson has asked the people of the San Fernando Region to pray each day for one of the priests serving us. **This week, June 29-July 5**, please pray for:

- Sunday** Rev. Kevin E. Rettig  
(St. Joseph the Worker, Canoga Park)
- Monday** Rev. JeSam W. Ward  
(Our lady of Perpetual Help, Santa Clarita)
- Tuesday** Rev. Augustine Carter, OCarm  
(Crespi Carmelite Community, Encino)
- Wednesday** Rev. Matthias Ewing, OCarm  
(Crespi Carmelite Community, Encino)
- Thursday** Rev. Kevin A. Kester  
(St. Bede the Venerable, La Cañada Flintridge)
- Friday** Rev. Simon O'Donnell, OSB  
(St. Andrew's Abbey, Valyermo)
- Saturday** Rev. Donatus Ekenachi  
(Our lady of Perpetual Help, Santa Clarita)

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: July 6, 2008  
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Zechariah 9:9-10**

*Our Savior is a peacemaker, who rules to the ends of the earth.*

**Psalm 145**

*"I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God."*

**Romans 8:9, 11-13**

*Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*

**Matthew 11:25-30**

*Take my yoke upon you and learn from me.*

Sisters and brothers, today the Lord Jesus has a simple command for us. He uses these words: "Learn from me." Each week the sacred word of God is shared in this holy place as a means of instruction. At the table of the Lord we learn how to be more and more like Christ. Let the words of today's Gospel inspire us to grow closer in communion with one another and in communion with Jesus Christ, who is the way to our heavenly Father.

*Text from Pastoral Patterns. Copyright © World Library Publications. Used by permission.*



Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Robert Mendes, Bill Smarker & Daniel Melkonian. May their souls and the souls of all the departed faithful rest in peace.

**School News**

Preschool-7 grade applications for the 2008-2009 school year are now available in the School office. If you would like your child to attend Our Lady of Grace School, please stop by the school office anytime Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or call **(818) 344-4126**.

**OLG SUMMER SCHOOL**

Summer School for students in K-8th is from July 7 through August 1. Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Registration has already started. Registration information may be picked up in the School Office. Day care will also be available before and after school. \$50.00 deposit will hold your spot. The total cost for Summer School is \$260 and the total Day Care cost is \$260. Any questions, please contact Pat Baker-Director at **(818) 344-4126**.

**CONSIDER OUR LADY  
OF GRACE PRESCHOOL  
FOR YOUR CHILD.**

We offer a full day of learning with values and love. Our yearly tuition is \$4,800. Call the school office at **(818)344-4126** or visit our website at [www.ourladyofgrace.org](http://www.ourladyofgrace.org) for an application. We are holding a spot for your child to join our faith-filled community.

**MASSSES for the WEEK**

**Monday, June 30**

- 6:30 The Cruz Family
- 8:00 † Thomas Papich by Felicia Massi

**Tuesday, July 1**

- 6:30 † Lucian Anthony by Richard Anthony
- 8:00 † Alfred Oncher by John Curti

**Wednesday, July 2**

- 6:30 † Eugene Heslin by Frank Miller & Family
- 8:00 † Clarence Nihal Fernando by Lucian Ernest

**Thursday, July 3**

- 6:30 † Caroline Owens by Pat Hardy
- 8:00 † Kathy Alfano by Jerry Nielsen

**Friday, July 4**

- 8:00 † Edel Cicione by Tony Cicione

**Saturday, July 5**

- 8:00 Tim Nielsen by Jerry Nielsen

**PLEASE PRAY for** Victor Lugo, John Buchholz, Alisha Hernandez, Zane Walker, Helen Rattay, Phillip A. Tabbi, Dr. & Mrs. Canelo, Laszlo Varga, Hedy Kugler, Dominic Fasoline, Dan Newsome, Nelly Carroll, Pat Muro, Antonio D. Morales, Phil Dadant, Margaret Sottile, Ken Sklar, Cindy Joseph, Karen Wagoner, Garret Marcus, Tina Cirelle, Sandra Jeffrey, Dave Engman, Teodora Brittain, Kathy Kotzman, Pearl Schweisguth, Linda Ethridge, Katherine Romano, Tracey Jones, Sylvia Scheffris, Kyrra Wittana, Helen Schoch, Tom Brighton, Ray Dominguez, Yolanda Baker, Ken Boyle, Lili Aguilar, Vicky Renfrow, Philip Escalante, Annie Gabriel, Diana Arrelia, Timothy Mulholland, Shirin, Gale & Donna Reimer, Thalia Feingersh, Anita Sullivan, Sondra Weiss, Eugene Shamoan, Anses Joseph, Peggy Thompson, Bonnie Smarker, Maria Ngulesca, G. Mc Coy, Richard Hoch, Parker Knox-Martin, Mike D'Amico, Koko Jamgotchian, Jane Barragan.

**Educación Religiosa**

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Las hojas de inscripción para las clases del programa de Educación Religiosa (Grados K-8) están disponibles en la Oficina de Ministerios Pastorales o a la salida de la iglesia. Los niños actualmente inscritos ya han recibido su hoja de inscripción. Por favor, llene ambos lados de la hoja y devuélvala lo mas pronto posible. Incluya un depósito no reembolsable de \$20 o pague el costo total de la matricula que es \$70 por 1 niño/a y \$30 por cada niño/a adicional. El pago de la matricula asegura la inscripción del niño/a. Para mayor información, por favor, llamar a Margaret Schettler o a Vicky De Vivero al **(818) 342-4505**.

**CONFIRMACION/QUINCEAÑERAS/**

Las hojas de inscripción para la preparación de la Confirmación están disponibles a la salida de la iglesia o en la Oficina de Ministerios Pastorales y son para los jóvenes que cursarán los **grados 9, 10 y 11** el próximo mes de septiembre.

Para poder celebrar la Misa de los Quince Años es necesario que la joven sea parte del programa de Confirmación. Para mayor información por favor comuníquese con Vicky De Vivero al **(818) 342-4505**.

Debido a que el Primer Viernes, 4 de Julio, cae en el Día de la Independencia, no tendremos la Misa de 6:30 a.m. ni tampoco la adoración ni confesiones en ese día. Por favor, acompáñenos a la Misa de 8:00 a.m. en la que estaremos conmemorando el Día de la Independencia. La oficina Parroquial y la de Ministerios Pastorales estarán cerradas ese día.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

El Grupo de Oración Mariano los invita a reunirse los viernes a las 7:00 p.m. en el Cuarto A, para orar y alabar al Señor. ¡Unámonos en oración para pedir por todas las necesidades de nuestros feligreses! ¡Los esperamos!

**Oración**



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**LECTURAS PARA EL DOMINGO 6 DE JULIO**

**Primera lectura: Zacarías 9:9-10**  
 Nuestro Salvador es un pacificador que reina hasta los confines de la tierra.

**Salmo 145**  
 Siempre bendeciré tu nombre, mi rey y mi Dios.

**Segunda lectura: Romanos 8: 9, 11-13**  
 Si por el Espíritu matan las obras de la carne, vivirán en el Espíritu de Dios.

**Evangelio: Mateo 11:25-30**  
 Vengan a mí los que se sientan cargados y agobiados, porque yo los aliviaré.

**PEDRO Y PABLO**

Hoy es una rareza: la celebración del día de un santo que reemplaza la liturgia del domingo. Sólo un puñado de días como éste, con rango oficial de "solemnidad", son considerados tan fundamentales y primarios en la misión de la Iglesia que pueden interrumpir la secuencia de los domingos. Tal es el caso de San Pedro y San Pablo hoy día.



De cierta manera, cada uno tiene rasgos de personalidad con los que nos podemos identificar: ambos son impetuosos, a veces actuando y hablando sin pensar, contradiciendo los dones espirituales que Dios les había dado. En esos casos, tal vez reciben un empujoncito de Dios, como los que muchos de nosotros hemos sentido. En lo positivo, la fe de estos hombres estuvo profundamente fundamentada en Cristo, incansables y valientes cuando vivían su llamado de anunciar la Buena Noticia de su muerte y resurrección. Quizás nos identificamos más con uno que otro, pero la verdad esencial que celebramos hoy es esta: por el Espíritu, Cristo edificó y continúa edificando la Iglesia y da a conocer el Reino por medio de frágiles y notables seres humanos, cada uno con una gracia particular para la obra del Reino de Dios.

© Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

Las clases de bautismo en español se llevan a cabo el tercer domingo de cada mes a las 10:30 a.m. Por favor, llame con 6 semanas de anticipación a la Oficina de Ministerios Pastorales **(818) 342-4505** para tener una entrevista.



**¿ESTA USTED INSCRITO EN LA PARROQUIA?**  
 Bienvenidos a nuestra parroquia

Si usted se ha mudado recientemente a esta área o no esta inscrito/a en nuestra parroquia, lo/a invitamos a que sea parte de nuestra comunidad inscribiéndose en la parroquia. La oficina esta abierta de 9:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m. de lunes a viernes o nos puede llamar al **(818) 342-4686** para enviarle una solicitud por correo.

**¿LES GUSTARIA TENER EN CASA A LA VIRGEN DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA GRACIA?**

Las personas interesadas en tener a la Virgen peregrina en su casa por una semana, deben de apuntarse con anticipación. Pueden hacerlo después de la Misa con Sister Maggie o llamando al Sr. Ciro Barillas al **(818) 437-5614**.

**MOVIMIENTO FAMILIAR CRISTIANO**

Invitamos a las parejas a formar parte del Movimiento Familiar Cristiano. Este le ayudará a fortalecer y vivir mejor su relación dentro del matrimonio. Para mayor información puede llamar a Pilar y Marcelina Godina al **(818) 342-9143**.

***“Last weekend members of our Parish Finance Council gave an urgent message during all the liturgies. One of the talks is reprinted here for the benefit of those who did not have the opportunity to hear it last weekend.”***

Finance Council Talk at 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 22, 2008

Good morning. I am Pete Pietrasanta. My wife and I have been members of the parish for 44 years. I have been closely involved with the parish finances for the last 25 years and I have been a member of the Finance Council since it was formed 21 years ago.

I am here to update you on the financial condition of the parish where we have a serious problem.

First, let me assure you that what I am about to tell you has absolutely no bearing on the Parish Capital Campaign for Parish and School Renovations. That is a separate program, separately funded both by your donations and by parish funds which have already been set aside for that purpose.

For some time now parish income has not kept up with ordinary parish expenses and we have had to periodically withdraw money from our parish savings to make up the difference.

How serious is the problem?

Simply stated, if the current conditions continue unchanged our parish savings will be completely gone in two years!

This means that the parish will have no reserves left. This means that the parish will have difficulty in meeting payroll and paying all of its bills. This means that drastic action will be absolutely necessary at that time.

Now, you may ask, is this something new? No, we have been monitoring this situation for some time. And we have tried to keep you informed.

Monthly financial reports have been included in the bulletin and, if you have been reading them, you'll have noticed that the news has not been good.

Last November Fr. Austin made a personal appeal at all the Masses for your help, explaining that the forecast for this fiscal year (which ends this month) indicated a loss of \$155,000.

Unfortunately, after his appeal, the weekly collections did not increase. In fact, they continued to decrease up to the present time.

At our last Finance Council meeting a month ago we learned that the deficit for this year will be about \$205,000 rather than the \$155,000 forecast a year ago. Why? The main reason is that collections (which represent about 90% of total parish income) will end the year down about 10% from forecast. That translates to a shortfall of almost \$90,000. The good news is that expenses were less than forecast.

We also learned at that meeting that, unless conditions improve, the deficit next year (which starts July 1<sup>st</sup>) could also approach \$200,000.

Now we come to the crux of the problem. Our savings, or reserves, if you will, at the end of this month will be about \$400,000. If the parish continues to lose in the neighborhood of \$200,000 a year, those reserves will last only two more years.

Over the last several months Fr. Austin and our Business Manager, Vilma Chegade, along with input from the parish staff, have been working long and hard to find ways to cut expenses. They have come up with a plan to reduce expenses this coming year by \$110,000. These include some painful cuts in staff hours, as well as in several other areas.

While these cuts are beneficial it is clear that we still need to increase our income and that is where you can help. We ask that those of you who are currently giving to increase your regular contribution by at least 15% (for example, that means going from \$10 to \$11.50 weekly, or from \$20 to \$23). Also, we strongly urge those of you who aren't giving regularly, or not at all, to please begin contributing on a regular basis.

Fr. Austin and the Finance Council are acutely aware of the difficult times we all face. Prices are going up all around us. However, it is our responsibility to make you aware of the reality of our situation. Continuing on the present course will have serious consequences.

Your parish desperately needs your help, starting now !!

Thank you.  
A.C. Pietrasanta

***El fin de semana pasado miembros del Concejo Financiero de la Parroquia nos dieron una mensaje urgente durante todas las liturgias dominicales. Una de las charlas esta siendo imprimida para el beneficio de aquellos que no tuvieron la oportunidad de escucharla el domingo pasado.***

Charla del Concejo Financiero de la Parroquia en la Misa de 12:30 p.m. el domingo, 22 de junio del 2008

Buenas tardes, mi nombre es Gonzalo De Vivero. Hoy estoy aquí para comunicarles algunas cosas que no son muy fáciles de hablar, porque son de carácter económico. Pero me gustaría comenzar dándoles las razones principales del por qué mi familia y yo venimos a esta iglesia hace 31 años. En ella, encontramos amor, amistades y nos sentimos acogidos por toda la comunidad y por eso, la consideramos parte de nuestra familia. Ustedes, como yo, formamos una sola familia unidos en Cristo.

Antes que nada les quiero asegurar que lo que les voy a decir no tiene nada que ver con la Campaña Capital para las renovaciones de la parroquia y la escuela. Esto es un programa separado, y lo que ustedes están donando actualmente ha sido separado para ese propósito.

Desafortunadamente hoy, como familia, tenemos que enfrentarnos cara a cara con una verdadera crisis económica. en este año fiscal. Entre todos nosotros, estamos contribuyendo un 10% menos que el año pasado y la iglesia esta enfrentando un déficit de \$200,000. Si me han escuchado bien, en este año fiscal que termina a fines de este mes tendremos un déficit de \$200,00 mil dólares.

Se imaginan lo que va a pasar si no ponemos de nuestra parte para salir de este gran déficit? Simplemente nos quedaremos sin dinero para pagar las cuentas, pagar el sueldo del personal, el mantenimiento de la iglesia, seguros, etc.

Pongámonos a pensar como sería si Nuestra Señora de la Gracia no tuviera para pagar la luz, para arreglar y mantener nuestros sistemas de sonido, no poder gozar del aire acondicionado o de la calefacción en el invierno, o tener que recortar al personal quien ahora es el que nos ofrece los servicios que ahora disfrutamos.

La parroquia ya ha empezado a recortar un 10% del presupuesto anual para ayudar a remediar esta situación, pero no será lo suficiente para remediar este déficit. Si las cosas siguen como están a pesar de los cortes que ya se han implementado, los fondos de reserva solo durarán dos años más.

Esto no es una exageración sino es la realidad de la crisis que nuestra parroquia está enfrentando en estos momentos. Solo saldremos adelante como iglesia, como una familia de Dios, si es que todos, me refiero a **todos**, donemos regularmente y aumentemos nuestra donación por un 15%.

Hagámonos esta pregunta, ¿si ahora yo dono, podría donar mas?, si no lo estoy haciendo ahora, ¿debería de dar, no es cierto? Por ejemplo, si ahora doy \$5.00, ¿podría donar \$6.00? o si dono \$10.00, ¿podría donar \$11.50? Es nuestra responsabilidad como miembros de esta familia parroquial ver por el bienestar de nuestra parroquia. Tenemos que sacarla hacia adelante. Si es que estamos dispuestos hacer un sacrificio y poner todo nuestro esfuerzo, entonces lograremos salvar esta situación. La iglesia necesita tener un presupuesto basado en lo que recolectamos todas las semanas por eso es importante dar **semanalmente**. ¡El futuro de nuestra parroquia esta en nuestras manos! Gracias por su atención y que Dios los bendiga.

Gonzalo De Vivero