

Queen of the Apostles

Reina de los Apostoles

A Catholic Community
Comunidad Catolica de Belmont



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Office Hours: Monday through Friday,
8:30 am-12:30 pm and 1:30 pm-4:30 pm

Website: QueenoftheApostles.org



January 12, 2020 Baptism of the Lord

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: Weekend Mass cancelations please refer to our website; Weekdays: 2 hour delay when Gaston schools delay; closed the first day if the Gaston County schools close; thereafter decision to close made daily.

Weekday Eucharist

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00am

Weekend Eucharist

Saturday: 5:00 pm, 7:00 p.m. (en Español))
Sunday: 8:00, 9:45 & 11:30 am

Reconciliation: Holy Day Celebrations: Misa en Español:

Saturday: 4:00 pm, and by appointment
12:15pm and 7:15 pm
Todos los Sabados a 7:00 PM

Baptism: This important sign of initiation is celebrated in the community at any one of the weekend Masses. Parents must complete the preparation program (offered every other month). Please contact the church office at least two months prior to your anticipated date for Baptism.

Marriage: This sacrament provides an opportunity for a couple to stand as a sign of God's love in the community. To this end, a period of preparation is important and necessary. Contact the church office at least six months prior to your proposed marriage date to begin this process.

Anointing of the Sick: If you are preparing for surgery or hospitalization, this sacrament can be celebrated with you on any weekend at the church. In an emergency, contact the church so we can pray with you at home or in the hospital.



Mission Statement

With the Blessed Virgin Mary, the first disciple of Jesus Christ, as our example and patron, the mission of Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church is to live and proclaim the Gospel entrusted to us. We strive in our rich diversity to be a community of welcome and hospitality: one with the Risen Christ, each other, and the whole Church. Through the Word of God and the life of the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, we are empowered to engage in a variety of ministries of service to the parish family and the communities where we live.

Our Weekly Tithe:

Because of your generosity in the offertory last week, we were able to send a tithe of \$1048.00 to the CRO. The week of December 22, we sent \$830.00 to On Eagles' Wings and the week of December 29 we sent \$754.00 to Mira Via. This week our tithe will be sent to Phoenix Counseling Centers, a haven for homeless in Gaston County that also provides day shelter, laundry and connections to other community resources and services.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

This Sunday, January 12 at 9:45 & 11:30 Masses

Liturgical Ministers:

Saturday, January 18, 2020—5:00pm

Readers: Alison Nolting, Diane Clifton

EMCs: Rich Pasqualone (SC), Jerry Miller (C), Stephani Morgan (C), Diane Hess, Lanette Miller
Deacon Chip Wilson

Ministers of Hospitality: Elizabeth Atterberry, Lynn Kimsey, Jerry Roche

Altar Servers: Andrew Morgan, Emma Messer, Ellie D'Avria

Sunday, January 19, 2020—8:00am

Readers: Tom Katsuleris, Rita Paluszak

EMCs: Trish Hammill (SC), Bill Trees, Nan Peterson,
Deacon Chip Wilson

Ministers of Hospitality: John Fink, Bill & Suzanne Patz

Altar Servers: Claudia Paluszak, Dominick Guida, Adam St. Romain

Sunday, January 19, 2020—9:45am Mass

Readers: Scott Phillips, Jackie Laca

EMCs: Jeanne LaFrancis (SC), Leonora Manaois (C), Justin Randall (C), Deborah Eagon, Stuart LaFrancis, Joe Bruno, Pat Purcell, Deacon Zeke Panzica

Ministers of Hospitality: Julie Andrews, Seth Kane, Mark McManus

Altar Servers: Keith McGuinness, Grace Nehring, Zoe Barthelemy

Children's Liturgy: Liz LaFrancis

Sunday, January 19, 2020—11:30am Mass

Readers: Tom Calabro, Alberto Gonzalez

EMCs: Maria Gonzalez (C), Therease Metivier (C), Bethsy San-Millan, Janette Blandford, Lisa Davis, Mary Beth Halstead, Deacon Zeke Panzica

Ministers of Hospitality: Judy & Tommy Dobies, Denny Hardin, Rich Ryan

Altar Servers: Marissa Cannon, Daniel Sanchez, Eva Gander

Children's Liturgy: Cris Forero

Collections

Collection **12-22-2019: \$16,611.72**
 Christmas: \$15,264.12
 12-29-2019: \$15,085.42
 01-01-2020: \$2393.98
 01-05-2020: \$20,964.56

Thank you for your support of the parish!

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR THIS WEEKEND

WERE DONATED BY:

Colleen Sutton

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

The Murray Family

Masses This Week

January 11, 2020

5:00pm Msgr Anthony Kovacic +
 Anniversary of 100th Birthday
7:00pm Misa en espanol

Sunday, January 12, 2020

8:00am Joseph Musialowski +
9:45am For the People
11:30am Edward Lanwermyer +

Monday, January 13, 2020

9:00am Mass

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

9:00am Mass

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

9:00am Communion Service

Thursday, January 16, 2020

No Service

Friday, January 17, 2020

9:00am Communion Service

Other Ministries:

Traffic Ministry—January 19

9:45am—Jeff Meader, Walt Hinson

11:30am—Bill Bridgeman, John Fink

Coffee & Donuts—January 19

8:00am—Janie, John & Kathryn Fout

9:45am—Luna Family

11:30am—Mary & Rick Hopper

Art & Environment:

January 12: Kimber Walters, Kathy Lindgren

January 19: Gloria Areiza, Pat Perrigo

Seating for 750

In the past two weeks, there have been several milestones achieved in our new church. All of the major construction is complete, and the builders are just finishing up some punch-list items.

The crucifix has been hung in the sanctuary over the location of the altar. This crucifix is a copy of the one that hangs in the Church of the Holy Cross in Florence, which is one of the earliest Franciscan churches. The original was made by Cimabue who also made the cross which hung in the church of San Damiano in Assisi where St. Francis received his divine instruction to "Rebuild My Church." The crucifix also has small paintings of Mary and John who were present at the crucifixion.

The doors which are made from wood recovered from the old Chronicle Mill in Belmont have been installed. The pews began arriving this past Monday. When completed, there will be seating for 750 people in the church. For the larger celebrations at Christmas and Easter, there is room for roughly 200 additional chairs in the gathering space.

Soon we will begin the task of "moving in" to our Home for All.

Remember, the dedication is on **February 23** at 3:00PM. Mark your calendars!



School Supply Collection

One of our middle school students, Isaac Hill-Pfeffer, is collecting school supplies throughout the month of January to assist students in a Title I school in Mecklenburg County. There is a collection box in the Narthex that will remain there throughout the month of January. He is especially in need of #2 pencils, markers, erasers, crayons and composition books. He would be grateful for your generous assistance!



Security Ministry Appeal

Over the past weeks, you may have noticed our security ministry walking around the parking lots in their stylish orange vests. And you may have noticed that they are not here this weekend. This is because we have had a low response to the call for volunteers so there are not enough volunteers to staff it all the time.

So once again, we are appealing to you to consider signing up for this important ministry. To be clear, we are NOT asking for people who are willing to confront potentially dangerous people. The main role of the security ministry is to simply be a visible presence in the parking lots which will usually dissuade those with ill intentions from pursuing them. 99.9% of the time, this will be the most boring ministry we perform. And the other 0.1% will mostly be people looking for unlocked cars. Whenever there is such a situation, the responsibility of the security ministry is to call 911, NOT to take action themselves.

Other than that, the only requirements are that you be over 21 and able to be on your feet for the duration of a mass. Please contact Matt Helton at jmhelton@yahoo.com or Deacon Zeke.



Tithing Partner Spotlight

Next weekend, our tithe will be sent to Gaston Skills, Inc. which offers a second chance at work related skills for those in need of independence and dignity. Gaston Skills works with local companies which provide work opportunities that can be completed at the Gaston Skills facility. While the work is all paid for by these companies, our tithing helps the Gaston Skills Foundation maintain the facility and offer special programs for those who participate in the program. To learn more, go to <http://www.gastonskills.org/>.

LIVE Streaming

All Sunday Masses are live with new and improved streaming! Please go to our NEW live streaming channel by visiting our Sunday Stream channel at www.sundaystreams.com/go/QOA. A link to Live Streaming can also be found by visiting our website at www.queenoftheapostles.org and clicking on the Live Streaming page.





This Week

Sunday, January 12, 2020

9:30-10:45am—Faith Formation
(Sacred Heart Campus)
9:45am & 11:30am Masses—KidZone
10:00-11:30am—RCIA (Rm D/E)
6:00-8:00pm—Edge/LifeTeen (Church, FLC)

Monday, January 13, 2020

12:00-1:00pm—Centering Prayer
6:00-7:00pm—CHWC Info Meeting (FLC)
6:00-7:30pm—Girl Scouts (Rms A, C, D/E)
7:00-8:30pm—Boy Scouts (Rm B)
7:30-9:30pm—K of C Business Mtg (FLC)

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

4:00-8:00pm—IMPACT Program (A, B)
6:00-7:00pm—ESL (FLC)
7:00-8:30pm—Baptismal Prep Class
(Church)

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

9:30-11:30am—Weekend Backpack
(Conf Rm)
6:00-6:30pm—Children's Choir (Church)
6:30-7:15pm—Youth Choir (Church)
7:30-9:00pm—Adult Choir (Church)
7:30-9:30pm—12 Step Program (Rm D/E)

Thursday, January 16, 2020

6:00-7:00pm—ESL (FLC)
7:00-9:00pm—Pastoral Council (Conf Rm)
7:00-8:30pm—Just for Ladies (FLC)
7:30-8:30pm—Spanish Bible Study (D/E)

Friday, January 17, 2020

5:00-8:00pm—Choir After-Christmas Party
(FLC)
7:00-9:00pm—Spanish Choir (Church)
7:00-9:00pm—AA Meeting (Ed Building)

Saturday, January 18, 2020

Confirmation Retreat
10:00-11:00am—Dedication Liturgy Team
(Library)

ParishSOFT
Giving

Electronic Giving

Make a safe, secure donation to QOA by going to our website and clicking the Online Giving tab and following the link. You can choose to make one-time or recurring donations online. Our new platform is through ParishSoft.

Baptismal Preparation



Baptism is celebrated at weekend Masses at any time of the year except the Lenten season. Parents wishing to present a child (under six years of age) for Baptism must complete an Evening of Preparation here in the parish. These are offered six times a year. During pregnancy or after the birth of a child are appropriate times to attend. The next scheduled Prep Session has been rescheduled for Tuesday, **January 14** beginning at 7:00pm in the church. Please call the church office to make a reservation to attend this upcoming program. If Sponsors (Godparents) are also here in the area, we invite them to attend as well.

Stewardship

Stewardship is God's invitation to a way of life. It helps us to overcome our selfishness and love of things.

Sick and Homebound

Please keep all of our sick and homebound in your prayers especially those who have asked to be remembered:

Patrick Bragg (Meadow Wood Nursing Center, Gastonia), Ducky Huffstetler, Joy Cordek (Carillon-Lincolnton)

SSA

An anonymous support group for men and women dealing with addictive sexual behavior. For more information, call 704-266-0722 or visit charlottessa.org.

Stay Connected...

Are you unable to join your parish family at Mass each weekend because you are homebound or have temporary or ongoing health issues? If so, please contact our Pastoral Associate Jeanne LaFrancis at 704-825-9600 ext. 27 to arrange for Communion to be brought to you at home, in the hospital or at a nursing or rehab facility. A family member may also contact Jeanne if you are unable to do so yourself. You continue to be an important part of our faith family and we would like to help keep you connected!

Saints & Special Observances

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

Monday: First Week in Ordinary Time; St. Hilary

Friday: St. Anthony

Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

**LOST & FOUND ITEMS
MAY BE FOUND**

**IN THE BASKET IN THE ENTRY
OF THE MAK FAMILY LIFE
CENTER.**

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19;
Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20;
1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd;
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20;
Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11;
Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25;
Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a;
Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a;
Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6;
Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3;
Jn 1:29-34

Rosary Recitation

Join other parishioners on the first Monday evening of each month to pray the rosary together. **February 3** at 7:15pm in the Church is the next scheduled date. If you are unable to join us, please consider sharing the rosary via our LiveStream. See elsewhere in the bulletin for how to connect via the internet.

community happenings



Food Collection

In January we will collect food items for the Diocese of Charlotte Food Bank. Requested items are any canned vegetables, canned ravioli, spaghetti and meatballs, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, hot and cold cereals, oatmeal, spaghetti sauce (no glass jars), spaghetti noodles, egg noodles, white and brown rice, juice boxes. Bring your donations to the altar and place in the baskets provided the weekend of **January 25-26**. Thank you for your generosity and Happy New Year.

Community Blood Drive

Save the date and plan to donate! The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a blood drive on Saturday, **January 25** from 9:00am to 1:00pm in the MAK Family Life Center. Signups will take place after weekend Masses or call the office at 704-825-9600.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

A group of over thirty women share their gift of crocheting and knitting God's love, care and warmth into shawls for those in need of comfort in our parish. The group meets on the first Tuesday morning of each month from 10:30-11:30am. Can't make the meeting time? That's okay! You can crochet or knit at home! Contact Sandy Holland for more information at 704-460-5344 or jennylouise2010@hotmail.com or Elizabeth O'Connor at 704-964-2626 or ejoconnor81@gmail.com. The next meeting is on **February 4** in the Conference Room. *There will be no meeting in January!*



DinoMite Soccer Program Coordinator

Our DinoMite Soccer program for children ages 3-6 is seeking a volunteer coordinator. The program runs spring and fall and we need a coordinator to keep this program running. If interested or for more details, contact Jayme at 704-825-9600 ext 26 or email youthmin@queenoftheapostle.org.

First Tuesday

If you have a bountiful table each day and, in gratitude, would like to help prepare meals for others, come join us in the MAK Family Life Center kitchen on the first Tuesday of each month. We make meals for three shelters in our community. Lots of fun and laughter are going on in the kitchen from 1:00-4:00pm. Call Kathy Guzman at 704-806-3737 for more information or just come join us! We meet next on **February 4**.



Saturday, February 8 following 5:00pm Mass

Young at Hearts Covered Dish Supper

All parishioners over 50 are invited to attend. It is held in the MAK Family Life Center. Call Charlie or Cathy Boyd at 704-825-4669 for additional information.

Engaged Encounter

Resolve to give your marriage a strong foundation by attending and Engaged Encounter Weekend. We will provided the tools to help you reach your goal of a life-long marriage. Weekends are scheduled for **February 22-23** at St. Mary Magdalene in Simpsonville; **March 27-29** at the Diakonia Retreat Center us Salem, SC; **June 27-28** at St. Andrew in Clemson; **August 15-16** at ST. Mary Magdalene in Simpsonville; and **October 10-11** at St. Michael in Myrtle Beach. To register and for additional information, please visit our web site at www.cee-sc.org or call Bob and Mary Reimer at 864-420-2633.



Faith Formation Children's Classes

Children's classes and Sunday morning Bible Study take place this Sunday, **January 12** at 9:30am.

Youth Ministries Meet This Weekend!

EDGE and LifeTeen programs meet this Sunday, **January 12** from 6:00-8:00pm. These programs are for 6-12 grades. Contact Jayme at youthmin@queenoftheapostles.org with questions.



First Sacrament Preparation Meeting

A meeting **for all parents** of children who will be preparing for First Eucharist will be held on Wednesday, **February 5** at 7:00pm in the MAK Family Life Center. This meeting will be the only time to register for the sacrament preparation program and get the program schedule. **This meeting is for parents only.** If your child is in at least second grade, has had two consecutive years of religious education, has made his/her First Reconciliation and is ready for this sacrament, please plan to attend the meeting.

First Eucharist Workshop

Our First Eucharist Preparation Program will have the first workshop on Saturday, **February 8** from 12:00-3:00pm in the MAK Family Life Center. The workshop is for parent and child. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Pizza and drinks will be provided.

Donate Unwanted Gifts to CHWC Mission Trip

Unwanted Christmas gifts are as much a staple of the holiday season as sugar cookies and mistletoe. No need to feel guilty...unload your undesirable presents for a good cause. Donate those presents to help fill raffle baskets for the annual Italian Festa fundraiser. Think fondly of the person who gave them to you and drop them off in the church office.

Save the Dates!

Vacation Bible School will be Sunday, **June 28** through Thursday, **July 2**, 5:00-8:00pm! Please mark your calendars and be sure to join us for this year's exciting program, *Rocky Railway—Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!*

Summer Faith Formation Program will be Sunday, **July 12** through Thursday, **July 16** and Sunday, **July 19** through Thursday, **July 23**, 5:00-8:00pm! This program is for students rising to first through fifth grades. It is a two week condensed religious education program which fulfills one year of credit.

For more information about these summer programs, please contact Debbie at formation@queenoftheapostles.org or call 704-825-9600, ext 26.



KidZone

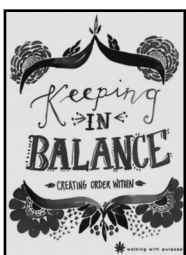
Our KidZone is a faith-based ministry offered for the youngest members of our church ages 6 months-3 years of age during the 9:45am and 11:30am Masses each Sunday. It's a place for the youngest members of the church to gather in a safe, faith-based learning environment. Their time is filled with listening to prayers in song, religious story time, play and opportunities to watch faith-based videos. KidZone is located in the MAK Family Life Center. If you haven't had a chance to checkout our KidZone ministry and meet our staff members, please feel free to stop in MAK Family Life Center.

Just for Men

Meet with other men of the parish to reflect on God's word, pray and spend time together on the first Monday of each month following the recitation of the rosary in the church at 7:15pm. Our next meeting will be on Monday, **February 3**. For additional information, Roger Duncan can be reached at 412-289-9147 or Deacon Chip Wilson at 704-448-5822 or deaconchip@queenoftheapostles.org.

Just for Ladies

We will take a break for the holiday season. When we meet again on Thursday, **January 14**, we continue our study: "*Walking with Purpose—Opening Your Heart—the Starting Point!*" This study is for all the ladies in the parish. If you've never participated in a Bible study before, now is the time. Join on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm in the MAK Family Life Center. For more information, please contact Janet Blaylock at qoajustforladiesbiblestudy@gmail.com.



MOMS Group

Our MOMS Group, Ministry for Mothers Sharing, meets next on Wednesday evening, **January 22** from 6:00-7:15pm. Childcare in KidZone will be provided. Some children may want to participate in Children's Choir during this study time. We continue our study "*Walking with Purpose—Keeping in Balance—Creating Order Within!*" For more information please contact Mary Elkin at marypelkin@hotmail.com or Cris Forero at cforero_perez@hotmail.com.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Our Sunday morning Bible study meets next on Sunday, **January 12** at 9:30am with an "Overview of the Old Testament." This study takes place on Sundays from 9:30-10:25am in Mercedes Hall on the Sacred Heart Campus and operates on the Faith Formation Elementary class schedule. The facilitator is Sister Mary Hugh. Please bring your Bibles and join us! Donuts and coffee are available.

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.



Protecting God's Children Class

It is Diocesan policy that **ALL** volunteers, in any capacity and program, complete the training "**Protecting God's Children**", to learn how we all can help prevent child sexual abuse in our Church

Community. If you volunteer at the parish (even if not directly with children) and have not completed this training, please get signed up for it! You can do so through the *Virtus* website (the organization that created the training program) at www.virtus.org, or by calling Amy Ankenbruck, the Diocesan Safe Environment Assistant, at 704-370-3357.

Diocesan requirements

for reporting ministry-related sexual abuse of a minor:

Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the legal requirement for every citizen to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC, 28203.

Mailing Address: The Chancery, P. O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237



Friends Helping Friends

Registered parishioners are invited to post requests for services needed or services they are able to provide on the bulletin board in the breezeway. Please use only the forms provided on the shelf beneath the board—no personal notices or resumes. Please copy the information from the board if you are making use of it and leave the posted slips so that others may also take advantage of the opportunities.

Online Prayer Ministry

Prayer requests can be sent to prayforme@queenoftheapostles.org or phoned in to the church office at 704-825-9600. If you would like to join the prayer ministry and do not have access to a computer but have VOICE MAIL, please contact the church office. You will be called with the daily prayer requests.



Spiritual Direction

To seek a closer relationship with God, we need to make time and space. Spiritual Direction provides the time, space and focus. I am a spiritual director certified by the Charlotte Spirituality Center and offer my services free of charge to the parishioners of Queen of the Apostles on the church campus. For more information, call Bethsy San-Millán at 704-914-5668 or email bethsy@carolina.rr.com.



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510-754-8247

Traffic Ministry:

Walt Hinson
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704-904-0743

noticias de nuestra comunidad hispana

Formación de nuestra fe en español

Recuerden nuestra invitación para seguir creciendo y aprendiendo juntos. Todos los jueves a las 7:00 pm, nos reunimos en el edificio del parqueadero de abajo, para que juntos crezcamos en el conocimiento de nuestra fe católica. Los esperamos no tiene límite de edad

Colecta de comida

En enero recogeremos alimentos para el Banco de Alimentos de la Diócesis de Charlotte. Los artículos solicitados son enlatados verduras, raviolos enlatados, espagueti y albóndigas, macarrones con queso, mantequilla de maní, caliente y fría cereales, avena, salsa de espagueti (sin frascos de vidrio), fideos de espagueti, fideos de huevo, arroz blanco e integral, cajas de jugo Traiga sus donaciones al altar y colóquelas en las canastas que se encuentran frente al altar el fin de semana del 25 al 26 de enero Gracias por su generosidad y feliz año nuevo.

Primer Martes

Si tiene una mesa abundante todos los días y, en agradecimiento, le gustaría ayudar a preparar comidas para los demás, únase a nosotros en el MAK Family Life Center cocina el primer martes de cada mes. Hacemos comidas para tres refugios en nuestra comunidad Hay mucha diversión y risas en la cocina de 1: 00-4: 00pm. ¡Llame a Kathy Guzmán al 704-806-3737 para más información o simplemente únese a nosotros! Nos vemos el próximo 4 de febrero.

Oración

Dios Padre nuestro, que en el bautismo de Jesús lo has proclamado como tú *"Hijo muy amado, el predilecto"*; te suplico me acobijes bajo su nombre y me concedas acercarme cada día más a él para hacer su voluntad y prosiguiendo su misión de proclamar su palabra. Amen



Reflexion

Hemos terminado las fiestas navideñas y en este domingo nos encontramos con el Bautismo de Jesús ya adulto.

El Bautismo es un cambio radical en la vida de Jesús, porque a partir de este momento comienza su vida pública.

También nosotros necesitamos ese cambio y comenzar a compartir nuestra vivencia de la palabra de Dios. Muchas veces nuestra fe está vacía y por eso no llega a los hermanos más alejados. Necesitamos que el evangelio que es vida y vida en abundancia sea vivido y dado a conocer, pero para ello, necesitamos abrir nuestro corazón, llenarnos del amor de Dios y ser iglesia renovada y renovadora para ser luz y paz en la humanidad.

Hoy renovaremos nuestro Bautismo, aquel que un día nuestros padres pidieron por nosotros, es el momento de reflexionar que significa para nosotros estar bautizados y si queremos o no seguir los pasos de Cristo. Gracias a Dios, también nosotros hemos recibido este don maravilloso. Pero, ¿cuántos de nosotros somos conscientes de este regalo tan extraordinario y nos acordamos de él con frecuencia para darle gracias al Señor, para renovar nuestra fe con el rezo del Credo y ratificar nuestro compromiso cristiano? El Vaticano II nos recuerda que, por el bautismo, todos los cristianos tenemos el deber de tender a la santidad y de ser auténticos apóstoles de Cristo en el mundo: con nuestra palabra, nuestro testimonio y nuestra acción. ¿Somos cristianos de verdad? ¿De vida y de obras, y no sólo de nombre, de cultura o tradición? ¡Ojalá que cada día vivamos más de acuerdo con nuestra condición y agradezcamos a Dios, con nuestro testimonio, el maravilloso privilegio de ser sus hijos predilectos!