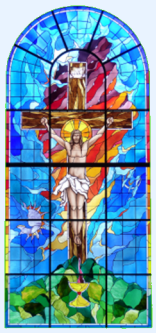

Church of the Holy Cross

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687
iccmarydel.org

Immaculate Conception

August 16, 2026 — **20th Sunday Ordinary Time**

holy cross

Parish Office Hours
School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

Schools Office Hours
School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

Daily Mass Schedule
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am
Wednesday – 8:15 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

Confession Schedule
Saturday, 8:30 am—10:00 am,
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

Adoration Chapel Hours
Daily, 5 am—9 pm

icc

Parish Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-1 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

Sunday Mass Schedule
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1:30 pm, Spanish

Daily Mass Schedule
Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

Holy Day Schedule (HC and ICC)
Mary, Mother of God, January 1
Assumption, August 15
All Saints' Day, November 1
Immaculate Conception, December 8
Christmas, December 25

Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near

sacraments

Receiving the Sacraments

The seven Sacraments of the Church were instituted by Christ to confer grace.

Sacrament of Baptism. Call the office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

Sacrament of Confirmation. Young people in our parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Marriage. Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

Anointing of the Sick. For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

happenings

Summer Hours

Both Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception are on their Summer Hours through Labor Day.

Holy Cross will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm. Office is closed on Friday.

Immaculate Conception will be open Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays from 9 am to 1 pm. Office is closed on Wednesday and Friday.

Have you been thinking about becoming Catholic?

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Have you received some, but not all, of the Sacraments of Initiation? If so, you are invited to explore the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA).

OCIA is the process through which adults learn about the Catholic faith and prepare to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. Classes meet every Sunday, 1:00pm-3:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room in the Parish Office, Building C, Early Learning Center, 2nd floor (back by the playground). Walk-in's are welcome! For further information, contact Tammy Korosec, Coordinator of Religious Education at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org, or call (302) 674-5787.

stewardship

Weekly Offering (HC)

Ending August 9, 2026

Offertory Type	Received
Regular	$15,333.10
Second	$829.00

Weekly Offering (ICC)

Ending August 9, 2026

Offertory Type	Received
Regular	$4,331.00
Second	$622.00

Thank you to all advertisers in our bulletin.
We appreciate your support!

If you know of someone who would like to advertise in the bulletin, please contact Diocesan Publications at 800-233-8200.

A Word from your Administrator…

In the Book of Isaiah today we hear that the Lord says: "for my house is a house of prayer for all people." Our goal is to go to all the nations and proclaim the kingdom of God. The Gospel tells us about the persistence of a woman who is an "outsider" that Jesus eventually responds to and sends healing to her daughter. This is a great story that in some sense Jesus stages. He knows the woman and her desire. He has an opportunity to teach the crowd that His power is not "reserved" for the chosen. Along with the persistent faith of the woman, Jesus reveals the meeting of great faith and God's desire to heal all who call upon Him.

This does not mean that Jesus didn't, and doesn't, have expectations of us. It does not mean that we shouldn't have processes and rules. It means that the invitation should be offered so that with great faith, His people may respond.

Do you sit around someone who you don't see going to communion? Perhaps they need an invitation? Many people sit in our pews out of interest and habit. Perhaps they attend with a spouse. Often, they are never asked to consider celebrating the Sacraments and joining us. Could you offer the invitation? They may also not be presenting themselves for the Eucharist because they need to resolve an issue in confession or with their marital status. Encourage them to seek out one of the priests or deacons to talk about next steps.

The fruits of the Master's table are for us.

May His way be known upon earth,

Fr. Carroll

pastor's column

MONDAY
August 17
Weekday
Ez 24:15–23
Mt 19:16–22

TUESDAY
August 18
Weekday
Ez 28:1–10
Mt 19:23–30

WEDNESDAY
August 19
Weekday
Ez 34:1–11
Mt 20:1–16

THURSDAY
August 20
St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Ez 36:23–28
Mt 22:1–14

FRIDAY
August 21
St. Pius X, Pope
Ez 37:1–14
Mt 22:34–40

SATURDAY
August 22
The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Ez 43:1–7ab
Mt 23:1–12

SUNDAY
August 23
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 22:19–23
Rom 11:33–36
Mt 16:13–20

connections

HC & ICC Clergy

Vy, Rev. Norman P. Carroll	Administrator
Rev. John Enemuo	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Rommel Padilla	Parochial Vicar
Rev. John Hynes	In Residence

HC Clergy

Mr. Philip Belt	Deacon
Mr. John Harvey	Deacon
Mr. Richard Kosior	Deacon
Mr. Robert McMullen	Deacon
Mr. Vincent Pisano	Deacon

HC Staff

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Lilie Ramos	Receptionist, ext. 110
Vivian Alvarado	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Darcee Impagliazzo	Business Manager, ext. 119
Rev. Padilla	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. I15
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Ashlyn Baynocky	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger Cemetery	Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

Mailing Address

Church of the Holy Cross
631 S. State St.
Dover, DE 19901

ICC Staff

Parish Office	410 482 7687
Marilyn Dixon	Office Manager
Alicia Poppiti	DRE Religious Ed.
Susan Venezia	Bookkeeper
Rev. Padilla	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry

Mailing Address

Immaculate Conception Church
P. O. Box 399
Marydel, MD 21649-0399

Holy Cross School

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8
302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org/school

Mallory O'Mara	Principal, ext. 111

Mailing Address

Holy Cross School
631 S. State St.
Dover, DE 19901

faith in action

Samaritan's Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Canned Kidney, Black and Pinto Beans, peanut butter, jelly, hamburger helper, one pound bags of rice, Manwich, Cereal, Jell-O, Chicken Broth. These and small packs of meat or burger can be left in the pantry drop off door behind the rectory.

Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church is hosting a pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes with Barcelona - **September 13-22, 2026.** Join Fr. Volodymyr Klanichka and travel to two of the world's most revered pilgrimage sites. Experience the culture and beauty of Portugal, France, and Spain along the way! Double occupancy cost is $4,699 including airfare from Philadelphia and at least one meal each day.
For more information contact Fr. Volodymyr at Vovaklan@gmail.com or visit: https://groups.gocollette.com/en-US/link/1392151

Spiritual Bouquet

Join us in Providing a Spiritual Bouquet for Fr. Giamello, our incoming Pastor; and our other troops, who are deployed to the Middle East. The Spiritual Bouquet can be found in the Brides Room outside of the Adoration Chapel.

What is a Spiritual Bouquet? Spiritual bouquets are a beautiful Catholic tradition of presenting prayers or acts of charity, mercy or devotion that is offered for someone else. *At the heart of spiritual bouquets is "**intercessory prayer**", a practice that dates back to biblical times.* **Examples are:** Rosaries, Masses, Holy Hours, Memorare/Week, Divine Mercy Chaplets or Mass Intentions. *"St. Paul in his letter to Timothy urges Timothy to offer prayers and petitions and intercessions and thanksgivings for all people".*

Annual Appeal Update

The Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal continues to experience strong support throughout our Diocese. We are grateful to all who have already made a gift or pledge to this year's Appeal.

If you have pledged, please remember that fulfilling your commitment helps provide essential funding for ministries that serve those in need.

If you have not yet participated, there is still time. Every gift, regardless of size, makes a difference. New and returning donors also help our parish qualify for special rebate opportunities that directly benefit local parish ministries and programs. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal.

Welcome New Parishioners

We extend a warm welcome to our newly registered members:

- Kevin & Alexis Bailey
- Jeff & Sarah Weiss, Chase Weiss
- Regens, Loudencia, Zachary & Emma Henry
- Matthew Amiot, Antonietta Servodio & Evelyn Amiot
- Vincent Raab
- Victor Sparacio, Deborah Warshefskie, Victoria Sparacio & Luke Sparacio

Newly Baptized

Congratulations to our newly baptized members:

- Elias Mateo Medina
- Caleb Zachariah Macalalad Sefil
- Alex Kaiden Myrie

Become a registered parishioner today!

We welcome all visitors and newcomers to our Parish. If you wish to register please stop by the Parish Office.

Mass Intention
August

17 Monday
HC 8:00 am Cornelius A & Mary C. Breen

18 Tuesday
HC 8:00 am Carol Ann O'Donnell

19 Wednesday
HC 8:15 am Joseph Casey, Jr.

20 Thursday
HC 8:00 am Al & Mary Fountain
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

21 Friday
HC 8:00 am Virgina & John Hulka

22 Saturday
HC 8:00 am Joe Banez
HC 5:00 pm Bill Ernst

23 Sunday
HC 7:30 am Lydie Holgado
ICC 8:30 am Bernard & Shirley Folker
HC 9:30 am Richard Mokoski
ICC 11:00 am Lois Ann Ergenzinger
HC 11:30 am For the People
ICC 1:30 pm For the People

Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of parishioners of Holy Cross.

Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention of parishioners of Holy Cross..

Adoration Chapel

"A Holy Hour before the blessed sacrament is worth more than a thousand years of human glory." ST. PADRE PIO You don't need a time if you cannot make a commitment. Please feel free to come in and sit with our Lord, when you can! Contact JOHN MURPHY 302-233-1779, text, or email jkm2015@verizon.net

Times Available are:
Sunday 6-7am, 7-8am,
10-11am,5-6pm, 6-7pm, 8-9pm
Tuesday 6-7am, 3-4pm
Thursday 6-7am, 8-9pm
Friday 5-6pm
Saturday 12-1pm, 7-8pm, 8-9pm

faith in action

faith in action

AUGUST 22/23, 2026

		EMHC	SERVERS
5:00 PM	C. Helwig M. King	M. Lewandowski M. MacLeish	T. Tiedemann L. Toto
			LECTORS
			D. Jones D. Kilby
7:30 AM	D. Lester M. Jacobs	L. Luckett R. O'Neill	E. Costa M. Cost a
			LECTORS
			J. Davis
9:30 AM	K. Boyer S. Cordie	D. Diaz-Martinez F. Hanlin	L. Boggs P. Cusatis
			LECTORS
			T. Baurys S. Crossen
11:30 AM	M. Richard E. Pastoriza	E. Mendez	H. Ayala J. Emiliano
			LECTORS
			F. Mendoza M. Neyra

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM	J. Moore	
		LECTORS
		K. Escalante
11:00 AM	L. Schlaupitz	
		LECTORS
		S. Tucker

If you are interested in becoming a Lector, Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or an Altar Server, please all the Parish Office at Holy Cross. Leave your name and contact information.

As always, we can use more volunteers to become ministers to the sick and homebound. This ministry is growing daily and they so appreciate receiving Our Lord especially since they can't come to Mass. Sign up at the office if you are interested in learning more about this ministry.

this & that

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of November 6-8, 2026. This retreat offers emotional and spiritual healing for anyone who has struggled with grief and loss from abortion or miscarriage. Whether you are post-abortive or know someone who is, freedom awaits. Contact Nan Bernardo-Freeman at 302-463-7711 (call or text or lucyminn929@gmail.com by October.

HOLY CROSS GOLF LEAGUE END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT:

Tee it up for Teens - 4th Annual Golf Benefit Thursday September 9th, Shotgun start at 10:00 AM. For more information contact Wes Grau (302) 270 - 8111 or Greg Coury (302) 883-4000

- **22 de Agosto - Limpieza externa** - Necesitamos voluntario, favor de anotarse con algun cordinador de ministerios.

- **29 de Agosto - Limpieza interna**—Necesitamos voluntario, favor de anotarse con algun cordinador de ministerios.

- **5 de Septiembre de 7pm a 8pm- Inicio de la novena bilingue a la Santa Cruz**

- **11 de Septiembre - Concierto de musica cristiana con Jon Carlo**
  - Lugar: Gimnasio de Holy Cross
  - Hora: 6pm
  - Ofrenda: $25

- **13 de Septiembre - Venta de comida**
  - Se necesitan voluntarios para organizar todo un dia antes
  - Se necesitan voluntarios para ayudar con la venta de comida
  - Se necesitan donantes de comida/donaciones
  - Si esta interesado en ayudar, favor de contactar a Denis al (302) 682-3017

- **La Virgen Peregrina:** La Virgen Peregrina está visitando casas, si usted desea que la imagen de la virgen peregrina visite su casa por una semana, hable con nuestra hermana Marta Espinosa.

- **Jesús te Invita a que pases una hora con El: Capilla de Adoración Eucarística**: «Ven y pase una hora con Jesús en el Santísimo Sacramento. Para anotarse llame a la oficina parroquial.

- **Las clases de educación religiosa se imparten en la Escuela Primaria Holy Cross Para más información comuníquese con**: Sra. Tammy Korosec Coordinadora de Educación Religiosa email - tkorosec@holycrossdover.org o llame al 302.674.5787 ext 122

- **APOSTOLADO DE LAS SIETE HERMANAS EN LA SANTA CRUZ** ¿Sabías que...? ¡Sin sacerdotes, No hay Sacramentos! Existe un grupo internacional de católicos que rezan diariamente por un sacerdote, y aquí en Holy Cross tenemos un grupo dedicado a nuestro propio sacerdote. Este grupo se basa en que siete mujeres hacen una Hora Santa ante nuestro Sumo Sacerdote Eucarístico, Jesús, por un sacerdote, todos los días, todas las semanas, durante todo un año… de ahí el nombre de Apostolado de las Siete Hermanitas. Nos encantaría que te unieras a esta iniciativa. Al fortalecer al sacerdote, fortaleces a toda la Iglesia Contacto: Delizabeth Díaz-Martínez correo electrónico 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com

++

PARROQUIA DE LA INMACULADA CONCEPCION- MARYDEL

- **Inscripciones para la Escuela Dominical:** Ya se están recibiendo inscripciones para el próximo año. Por favor, inscriban a sus hijos ahora para asegurar su lugar en una clase aquí en la Inmaculada Concepción.

- **Todos están invitados** todos los Jueves a la Santa Misa a las 6pm. A las 7pm Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento y Confesiones.

Religious Ed at Holy Cross

Registration for the 2026-27 Religious Education School Year is now open. Click on the QR Code to go to the website:

Adult Religious Education Classes

2026-27
Class – Beginning on September 8th

If you have any questions or would like to order the workbook set, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

Youth Ministry

Attention Volunteers please plan to attend our Confirmation/ Peer Leaders Meeting on Saturday, August 15.

- **3:00 PM** – Adult Volunteer Meeting
- **4:00 PM** – Peer Leader Meeting
- **5:00 PM** – Mass

We encourage our adult volunteers to stay and meet our Peer Leaders before we all attend the **5:00 PM Mass** together to conclude the afternoon. We are so excited for this Confirmation year and all the wonderful things to come. Thank you for your willingness to serve and accompany our candidates on their faith journey! If you have any questions, please contact **Ashlyn Baynocky** at **abaynocky@holycrossdover.org**.

Registration for Confirmation Preparation 2027: May be found on the church website under Confirmation 2027

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

LAFF (*Living as a Family of Faith Family Catechesis*); Adult/child Meeting, the first and third Sunday of month 11:00am-1:00pm in the Matthew/Mark Room of the Parish Office. Family works on activities at home in between. (Limited to 25 families-after the max is met a second day/time will be established on a weeknight evening)

Religious Education at ICC

SRE: Registrations are being taken now for next year. Please get your children registered now to save their place in a class here at Immaculate Conception. $50 per child, but if you are unable to pay at this time let us know. Do not let your child's religious formation lapse do to finances.

Catechists, assistants, and aids are needed for the 2026-2027 school year. Kindergarten, Grade 5, OCIA, Confirmation Prep and assistants for several grades. We have classes from September -May. Training and formation provided. Please decern whether this is your way of giving back to the Church community. Any questions, please feel free to contact Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 or dre@iccmarydel.org

Immaculate Conception:

Religious Education- In need of persons with a desire to broaden your faith while teaching others the Catholic faith. Call Alicia Poppiti 410-482-8939 to inquire. Kindergarten and 5th grade, and sacramental prep Catechist needed.

Dear Parishioners,

It is hard to believe that this upcoming week our teachers will return to campus to officially begin the 2026 to 2027 school year! After a busy and productive summer, we are incredibly excited to welcome our faculty and staff back to Holy Cross and begin another year of faith, learning, and service together.

This past week, our newest teachers began their journey in the Diocese of Wilmington alongside new educators from Catholic schools throughout our diocese. Their first day was centered on prayer, fellowship, and the important mission of Catholic education. Together, they reflected on our calling to help students know Christ, grow in their faith, and live out the Gospel each day. Their second day focused on preparing them for a successful first year through mentoring, certification, curriculum, and other resources available throughout our diocese.
As we begin this new school year, we are especially blessed to welcome several new members to our Holy Cross family.

Mrs. Clarissa Patterson joins us as our new Early Learning Center Director. With many years of experience working with young children as both a teacher and director, Mrs. Patterson is passionate about creating engaging environments where children feel safe, supported, loved, and excited to learn. She also has a heart for mentoring educators, and we are excited for her leadership within our Early Learning Center.

Mr. Sean Cannon joins our intermediate team as our new third grade teacher. Mr. Cannon and his family have been members of our Holy Cross community for many years, with children currently attending our school and a future Crusader at home! His passion for education and athletics will be a wonderful gift to our students. He will also work alongside Mr. Seams to help strengthen and expand our Holy Cross athletic program.

We are grateful to welcome Ms. Brittany Rogers into our long term fifth grade teaching position. Ms. Rogers has served our community for many years as a substitute teacher and continually goes above and beyond for our students. Her school spirit and love for Holy Cross are evident in all she does.

Mrs. Courtney DeWitt joins us as our new first grade teacher. She holds a Master's Degree in Special Education and is passionate about creating an inclusive classroom where every child feels welcomed, valued, and supported. We are especially excited that she has chosen to begin her teaching career in Catholic education.

Mrs. Sheri Healy joins us as our second grade teacher and is returning to a very familiar place. Mrs. Healy is a graduate of Holy Cross School herself and is excited to return to our community as an educator. Her familiarity with Catholic education and love for Holy Cross make her homecoming especially meaningful.

Mrs. Raven Armiger joins our Early Learning Center as our third Pre K 4 teacher. She was especially drawn to Holy Cross because of her desire to serve in a faith filled community where she can openly live, share, and teach the Catholic faith while helping our youngest Crusaders grow.

Finally, Ms. Samantha Minio, also a Holy Cross graduate, joins us as our Morning Care Director and Kindergarten Aide. As a mother of two, she is passionate about helping children grow and experience the same sense of faith, community, and belonging that she experienced at Holy Cross as a child.

We are truly blessed by both our returning and new faculty and staff. Each person brings unique gifts and talents, but together we are one Holy Cross family, united by our shared mission to educate, nurture, and lead our students closer to Christ. Please keep our faculty and staff in your prayers as we begin orientation this week and prepare to welcome our Crusaders back to campus very soon. May God bless our teachers, students, families, and entire Holy Cross community as we begin another joyful school year together!

Enjoy these final days of summer!

God Bless,
Mrs. O'Mara

16 de agosto de 2026. Semana 20 del Tiempo Ordinario.
La lectura del Evangelio comienza con los detalles sobre la región que Jesús iba a visitar: Tiro y Sidón, el noroeste de Galilea, tierra pagana. Y es aquí donde se encuentra con una mujer cananea, que se dirige a Él para pedirle que cure a su hija atormentada por un demonio. Ya en esta petición, se puede observar un inicio del camino de la fe, que en el diálogo con el divino Maestro crece y se refuerza. La mujer no tiene miedo de gritarle a Jesús "Piedad de mí", una expresión que aparece en los Salmos, lo llama "Señor" e "Hijo de David", manifestando así una firme esperanza de ser escuchada. ¿Cuál es la actitud del Señor frente al grito de dolor de una mujer pagana? Puede parecer desconcertante el silencio de Jesús, tanto que suscita la intervención de los discípulos, pero no se trata de poca sensibilidad al dolor de aquella mujer. San Agustín comenta sobre esto: “Cristo se mostraba indiferente hacia ella, no para negarle la misericordia sino para hacer crecer el deseo”. Benedicto XVI, 16 de agosto de 2011.

Qué suerte la de esta mujer cananea, venida del interior de su territorio (Mt 15,22), y qué encuentro en la frontera de su país con el médico que, salido de su territorio, llega totalmente a nosotros, por misericordia. Lleno de bondad va a territorio extranjero, hacia el enfermo que no hubiera podido llegarse a él si se hubiera quedado en su propio país. Porque en tanto que Dios bendito, justo y fuerte, estaba en lo alto, al hombre miserable le estaba prohibido llegarse a él. Pero lleno de compasión, Dios pudo realizar lo que era conforme a su piedad; vino hasta el pecador. ¿No te ha pasado alguna vez que, cuando has rezado con mucho fervor por una necesidad particular o por una intención que llevabas muy en el alma, pareciera que Dios no te hace caso? Cuando ha estado muy enferma tu mamá, un hijo, tu esposo o cualquier ser querido, y has pedido a nuestro Señor que les devuelva la salud, y parece que no te escucha; o cuando has tenido un problema especial de cualquier índole “personal, familiar o profesional” y, después de encomendarte a Dios, no te han salido las cosas como tú querías; cuando alguno de tus mejores amigos ha sufrido un accidente o una operación grave y no ha salido adelante, etc. Podríamos multiplicar los casos hasta el infinito, y tal vez a veces constatamos lo mismo: parece que nuestro Señor se hace un poco el sordo y tarda en responder a nuestras peticiones ¿Verdad que es una experiencia que ocurre con cierta frecuencia en nuestra vida? Y si Cristo nos prometió atender nuestras plegarias “Pedid y recibiréis, buscad y hallaréis, tocad y se os abrirá” ¿por qué entonces Dios actúa así con nosotros?

San Agustín también se lo preguntó en más de una ocasión. ¿Y sabes qué respuesta encontró? “Dios afirma que ya conoce nuestras necesidades antes de que se las expongamos, pretende que, por la oración, se acreciente nuestra capacidad de desear, para que así nos hagamos más capaces de recibir los dones que nos prepara. Sus dones son muy grandes y nuestra capacidad de recibir es pequeña e insignificante. Y por eso, cuanto más fielmente creemos, más firmemente esperamos y más ardientemente deseamos este don, más capaces somos de recibirlo”. Por tanto, lo que Dios pretende con ese modo de actuar es que se dilate nuestra capacidad de desear y de recibir los dones que nos promete.

En tiempos de Jesús, los judíos se referían a los gentiles como "perros". La palabra griega usada para ese insulto era kuón, que alude a perros salvajes (Mateo 7:6; Lucas 16:21; Filipenses 3:2). Los gentiles eran vistos como espiritualmente impuros; incluso entrar en su casa podía causar impureza ceremonial (Juan 18:28). Sin embargo, Jesús solía derribar prejuicios y expectativas (Mateo 11:19; Juan 4:9-10). En este pasaje, Él sale deliberadamente de territorio judío hacia Tiro y Sidón, región gentil (Mateo 15:21). Cuando la mujer cananea insiste en pedir ayuda, los discípulos reaccionan molestos y piden a Jesús que la despida (Mateo 15:23). Frente a ellos, Jesús explica que Su misión en ese momento era prioritaria para Israel: "No he sido enviado sino a las ovejas perdidas de la casa de Israel" (Mateo 15:24). Luego presenta la metáfora del pan de los hijos y los perros domésticos. Aquí, Jesús emplea kunárion, un término distinto a kuón, que significa "perrito" o "perro de casa". No es un insulto, sino una imagen familiar en el hogar judío para ilustrar prioridades: primero los hijos, luego las mascotas (Mateo 15:26).

Jesús reconoce esa fe extraordinaria y la declara "grande" (Mateo 15:28), sanando inmediatamente a su hija. Por lo tanto, Jesús no insultó a la mujer ni usó un epíteto racial. Usó una metáfora doméstica para ilustrar Su misión a Israel en ese momento, para poner a prueba la fe de la mujer y, sobre todo, para enseñar a los discípulos que la gracia de Dios también alcanzaría a los gentiles. La fe humilde de la mujer cananea contrastó con la incredulidad de muchos en Israel, y Jesús la honró públicamente.

Sinceramente.
Fr. Padilla