

TODAY'S READINGS

Let's put all three of today's readings together to see what the Lord might be telling us.

In today's first reading, the people are reaffirming their covenant with the Lord. They had endured war, exile, and humiliation, and at last they have been allowed to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city. It was a daunting task, but Ezra encouraged everyone to persevere. He said to them, "Rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!" (Nehemiah 8:10).

In the second reading, Paul tells us that each one of us is a member of the body of Christ. We are Jesus' hands and feet, bringing the good news to the poor and setting people free. Each of us is priceless in God's eyes because we are made in his image. He treasures us because we are members of his own family.

Finally, in today's Gospel, Jesus reads from Isaiah and tells his townsfolk: "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). In effect, he tells them that he himself is the Messiah, anointed by God to bring healing, deliverance, and good news.

What do these passages say to us? That Jesus wants to set everyone free. He wants to give us all comfort and peace from heaven. And to do this, he is calling us, members of his body, to go out into the world and bring the good news. We are his hands and feet, his eyes and ears. While this is a challenging calling, we can take our cue from the Israelites of Ezra's time: We can find new strength as we rejoice in the Lord and all he has done for us.

So today, let the Lord fill you with his strength and his grace. Then, go out and be his hands. There are countless ways you can bring the good news to people who need his support, his love, and his comfort. Just open your eyes, and the Lord will show you how.

*"Here I am, Lord! Send me out to preach your good news!"*

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, January 2010, Vol. 29, Number 2: Used with permission.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

<b>Monday 25th</b>	Acts 22:3-16 / Mk 16:15-18
<i>The Conversion of St. Paul</i>	
<b>Tuesday 26th</b>	2 Tm 1:1-8 / Mk 3:31-35
<i>Sts. Timothy and Titus</i>	
<b>Wednesday 27th</b>	2 Sm 7:4-17 / Mk 4:1-20
<i>St. Angela Merici</i>	
<b>Thursday 28th</b>	2 Sm 7:18-19,24-29 / Mk 4:21-25
<i>St. Thomas Aquinas</i>	
<b>Friday 29th</b>	2 Sm 11:1-10,13-17 / Mk 4:26-34
<b>Saturday 30th</b>	2 Sm 12:1-7,10-17 / Mk 4:35-41
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	Jer 1:4-5,17-19 / 1 Cor 12:31—13:13 / Lk 4:21-30

MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK

A Mass with Anointing of the Sick will take place at the cathedral on Saturday, **February 20**, at 12:10pm. Pre-registration is recommended in order for us to better assist you. For information on how to pre-register, please see next week's bulletin.

LAS LECTURAS DE HOY

En la época del Antiguo Testamento, los reyes, sacerdotes y a veces los profetas eran ungidos con aceite como señal de que Dios los había escogido para una misión especial. Con el paso del tiempo, todo el pueblo de Israel comenzó a esperar a Aquel que conduciría a la nación a la completa libertad y santidad, una figura que llamaban "el Ungido", es decir, el "Mesías" o el "Cristo".

Los cristianos sabemos que Jesús cumplió perfectamente esta expectativa. Vino como el perfecto Rey, Sacerdote y Profeta del pueblo de Dios. Era el Mesías, ungido no con óleo, sino con el Espíritu Santo (Lucas 4, 18-21), fue por este poder del Espíritu que Jesús realizó milagros, predicó con autoridad y amó sin límites.

Ahora bien, cada cristiano, por haber sido bautizado en Cristo, puede decir con plena confianza: "El Espíritu del Señor está sobre mí (Lucas 4,18). Sin embargo, aunque es cierto que el Espíritu habita en nuestro corazón, siempre podemos recibir una nueva unción del Espíritu, o mejor dicho, que Él ilumine algo más de nosotros.

Al Padre le complace derramar su Espíritu sobre sus hijos. ¿Necesitas tú más inteligencia y sabiduría en tu vida? El Espíritu Santo te concede dones de entendimiento y sabiduría (Isaías 11,2-3; 1 Corintios 12,7-8). ¿Te gustaría tener más amor, gozo o paz? La presencia del Espíritu genera en ti el fruto del Espíritu (Gálatas 5,22-23).

La Madre Teresa aconsejaba diciendo "Sé Jesús, comparte a Jesús." Esto es lo que desea hacer el Espíritu Santo en nosotros. El instrumento más eficaz de evangelización es el testimonio de Cristo que damos con nuestra vida. El Papa Pablo VI observaba que con el "testimonio sin palabras, estos cristianos hacen plantearse, a quienes contemplan su vida interrogantes irresistibles: ¿Por qué son así? ¿Por qué viven de esa manera?..... este testimonio constituye ya de por sí una proclamación silenciosa, pero también muy clara y eficaz de la Buena Nueva" (*Exhortación Apostólica La Evangelización del mundo contemporáneo,21*). Esforcémonos, pues, por "ser Jesús y compartir a Jesús", recordando que el Espíritu del Señor está sobre nosotros y que el amor nunca falla.

*"Espíritu Santo, Señor mío, ocupa e ilumina todos los rincones de mi corazón, te lo ruego, y hazme más semejante a Jesús mi Salvador."*

Escogida con el permiso de *La Palabra Entre Nosotros*, Vol. 29, Número 1: Diciembre 2009/ Enero 2010 2009.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

<b>Lunes 25</b>	He 22:3-16- / Mc 16:15-18
<i>La Conversión del apóstol san Pablo</i>	
<b>Martes 26</b>	2 Tm 1:1-8 / Mc 3:31-35
<i>San Timoteo y san Tito</i>	
<b>Miércoles 27</b>	2 Sam 7:4-17 / Mc 4:1-20
<i>Santa Ángela de Mérecil</i>	
<b>Jueves 28</b>	2 Sam 7:18-19,24-29 / Mc 4:21-25
<i>Santo Tomás de Aquino</i>	
<b>Viernes 29</b>	2 Sam 11:1-10,13-17 / Mc 4:26-34
<b>Sábado 30</b>	2 Sam 12:1-7,10-17 / Mc 4:35-41
<b>Domingo 31</b>	Je 1:4-5,17-19 / 1 Cor 12:31—13:13 / Lc 4:21-30

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### RITE OF ACCEPTANCE AND WELCOMING

Today Sunday, **January 24**, we will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming at the 5:30pm Mass for three individuals who have been discerning joining the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The unbaptized will enter into the Order of Catechumens in the Rite of Acceptance. Baptized Christians seeking to join the Church and receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist will be acknowledged in the Rite of Welcoming. In both rites, participants will publicly state their intention to grow in faith and continue to learn more about Catholicism. Please keep them in your prayers.

### DISMISSAL OF CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

The ritual dismissal of Catechumens and Candidates to reflect on the scriptures proclaimed during the liturgy will occur from now through Lent at the 5:30pm Sunday Mass. The Catechumens and Candidates will be seated each week in the first four rows in front of the ambo. Please continue to pray for these women and men as they journey to full initiation in the Catholic Church at Easter.

### BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Fr. Kevin Regan's six-week series on the Gospel of Luke continues Saturdays, **January 30 and February 6, 13** from 10am to 11:45am in the North Conference Room. Also consider staying for our 12:10pm Mass afterward. During this study, you will learn about the uniqueness of the Gospel of Luke with particular attention given to the Infancy narratives, the "lost" parables, and the Emmaus story. All are welcome! Bring your Bible!

### 2010 ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL BEGINS

I WILL GIVE  
YOU THANKS,  
O LORD

Psalm 138:1

Many parishioners have received a mailing from Archbishop Wuerl. He has asked that you make a pledge to the 2010 Archbishop's Appeal. The Appeal not only funds the operations of the

archdiocese, it funds the Parish Partners program that assists the Social Justice & Community Services ministries here in our parish. This year, the theme of the Appeal is "I Will Give You Thanks, O Lord." (Psalm 138:1) Clearly, we have so many reasons to give thanks to God for all He has given us. Our contributions to this parish and our archdiocese multiply the thanks that we give to our God by enabling ministries and services that touch thousands of lives. Please prayerfully consider a generous pledge to the 2010 Archbishop's Appeal.

### END-OF-YEAR STATEMENTS—

#### DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS?

We are preparing the 2009 Year-End Contribution Statements. You can expedite this process by making certain that we have your correct mailing address. If you have moved during the past year, please contact Gloria Harrington at the Rectory at [gharrington@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:gharrington@stmatthewscathedral.org) or 202-347-3215 x517.

### WELCOME!

*If you are a visitor to the Cathedral, we want you to know how welcome you are—whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or from another parish here in the Archdiocese or across the river. Thank you for praying with ours. Thank you also for your generosity, which helps us to celebrate the Cathedral's liturgies here in a fitting and beautiful way, and to offer a wide range of services to needy people living in the Washington, DC area. Enjoy your visit!*

### GRUPO DE ORACIÓN

El grupo de oración se reúne los martes a las 7:00 de la tarde, en el salón de conferencias del Oeste. El objetivo del grupo es profundizar en nuestra fe por medio de las Sagradas Escrituras. Para más información llame a la rectoría y deje un mensaje a Fátima Aybar 202-347-3215 x543.

### UNCIÓN DE LOS ENFERMOS

El Sacramento de la Unción, se impartirá el sábado **20 de Febrero** durante la Misa de 12:10pm aquí en la Catedral. Para inscribirse, encontrarán una hoja la próxima semana en el boletín.

### COMIENZA LA CAMPAÑA DEL ARZOBISPO 2010

Muchos de nuestros feligreses han recibido un envío por correo esta semana de parte del Arzobispo Wuerl donde se les pide asumir un compromiso de contribución para la Llamada del Arzobispo

TE DOY  
GRACIAS,  
SEÑOR

Salmo 138,1

2010. La campaña no solo respalda financieramente las operaciones de la Arquidiócesis, sino que también financia programas en asociación con la parroquia que asiste a los ministerios de Justicia Social y Servicios Comunitarios en nuestra parroquia. Este año, el tema de la Llamada es "Te Doy Gracias Señor" (Salmo 138,1) Está claro que tenemos muchas razones para dar gracias a Dios por todo lo que Él nos ha concedido. Las contribuciones a nuestra parroquia y a nuestra Arquidiócesis multiplican las gracias que damos a nuestro Dios ya que permite crear y fortalecer ministerios y servicios que influyen de manera positiva en la vida de miles de personas. Rogamos a ustedes considerar con devoción un compromiso de contribución generoso a la Campaña del Arzobispo 2010.

### DECLARACIÓN DE CONTRIBUCIÓN ¿TENEMOS SU DIRECCIÓN ACTUAL?

Estamos preparando la contribución o informe de su donación del año 2009. Para que podamos acelerar y que usted pueda recibir este informe, asegúrese que tengamos su dirección correcta. Si se ha mudado durante el año pasado, por favor, llame a la rectoría al 202-347-3215 para hacer los cambios necesarios.



CATHEDRAL BULLETIN CALENDAR  
CALENDARIO DE LA CATEDRAL

JANUARY 24 – JANUARY 31

**SUNDAY**—The Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming is held at the 5:30pm Mass.

Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar se reúnen a las 11:00 de la mañana.

**MONDAY**—The Book Club meets at 6:45pm in the West Conference Room.

The Development & Stewardship Committee meets at 6:45pm in the North Conference Room.

The Communications Committee meets at 6:45pm in the East Conference Room.

**TUESDAY**—El Grupo de Oración en Español se reunirá a las 7:00 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Oeste.

**WEDNESDAY**—Breaking Open the Word meets at 7pm in the West Conference Room.

**SATURDAY**—Fr. Regan's Bible Study on St. Luke's Gospel is given at 10am in the North Conference Room.

**SUNDAY**—Las clases de Catequesis, Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar se reúnen a las 11:00 de la mañana.

**JANUARY BOOK CLUB: THE PATH TO ROME**

Join St. Matthew's Book Club this Monday, *January 25*, to discuss *The Path to Rome* by Hilaire Belloc. In this classic work, Belloc details his journey on foot from France to Rome, writing of the people he encounters and offering spiritual reflections on his pilgrimage. We will meet at 6:50pm in the West Conference Room, which is accessed via the alleyway next to the Cathedral. All are welcome. Contact Paul Zummo at pzummo@gmail.com with any questions.

**THINKING ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC?**

The next Inquiry session for those interested in learning more about the process of becoming Catholic and/or the basics of the Catholic faith will be Wednesday, *February 10*, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in the East Conference Room. Drop-ins are welcome. Contact Heather Kinney at 202-347-3215 x530 or hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org if you have questions.

**BAPTISMS AT THE CATHEDRAL**

St. Matthew's welcomes into the Church our newest members who were baptized at the Cathedral:

Henry Ledebuhr ♦ Zoe Manella ♦ Patrick Doyle ♦ Ryan Neves ♦ Luciano Herrera ♦ Keily Romero ♦ Aaron Diaz Moreno ♦ Santiago Diaz Moreno ♦ Wilfredo Ventura ♦ Lynette Ortiz Rojas ♦ Giselle Salinas ♦ Cameron Goldstein-Gureff ♦ Carla Alvarenga ♦ Geovani Romualdo Castro ♦ Brendan Kent ♦ Erika Moss ♦ Dionicio Echevarria Chou ♦ Desmond Rading ♦ Johanna Rivas Cis ♦ David Hernandez Garcia ♦ Baylee Mirnda ♦ Quinn Santilli ♦ Juan-Lucas Toledo ♦ Jonas Nebel

**FAITH IN ACTION AT  
ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL**

**St. Matthew's Homeless Ministry** provides for the material and spiritual needs of 55-70 homeless adults in our community. The program operates from 7:30am to 11am on Mondays. Most volunteers serve every other Monday. We always need new volunteers to make bag lunches once a month, bring breakfast foods, or serve on Monday mornings. If you are interested in this ministry, contact Teresa Volante at tvolante@stmatthewscathedral.org or 202-347-3215 x552.

**Clothing donations.** If you have new or gently used men's or women's casual clothing to donate or want to purchase items that are most needed, contact Teresa (info above) to make arrangements. Donations will not be accepted at the door without prior approval, nor can we accept dress clothes, household items, dirty or damaged items, or small-sized women's clothing. Thank you for your understanding.

**NIGHT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
AT MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY**

The Missionaries of Charity are seeking night volunteers at the Gift of Peace, their home at 2800 Otis St., NE. Volunteers arrive by 8pm and stay through 6am the next day. They help to get residents ready for bed, provide their medications, and assist them to the bathroom. Volunteers have a private sleeping room and a shared bath. Those arriving earlier than 8pm are given supper. Mass is at 7am and breakfast is available afterwards. Off-street parking. The Rhode Island Ave. bus stop is a bit over a block away and the G-8 from the CUA Metro stops immediately behind the house. New volunteer are not completely on their own, as there are usually one or two volunteers residing at the home. Call Sr. M. Jasmine, MC at 202-269-3313 for more information.

**MASS INTENTIONS:  
JANUARY 24–JANUARY 30**

**SUNDAY:** 5:30pm (Vigil) Gary Fusco; 7am All Parishioners; 8:30am Mary Jane Hudson; 10am Gregory Richard Meyer; 11:30am Patricia Rooney Day; 1pm Janet Torres; 5:30pm Rocco Forte.

**MONDAY:** 7am Josephine Klug Kuhn; 8am William F. X. Hughes; 12:10pm Agnes Tortora; 5:30pm Denis Flannery.

**TUESDAY:** 7am Rose Callea; 8am Mary Siwek; 12:10pm Connie Melesurgo (living); 5:30pm John C. Cortez.

**WEDNESDAY:** 7am Monique York; 8am Brigitte Kekeh; 12:10pm Carmen J. Rinaldi; 5:30pm Mrs. Lilah Janis.

**THURSDAY:** 7am Deacon John Leonard; 8am Georgina & Luis Gonzalez; 12:10pm Robert Ellis & family (living); 5:30pm Aldrich Senar (living).

**FRIDAY:** 7am James P. Swann; 8am Nancy Muller; 12:10pm Clara McDougall; 5:30pm Theresa John.

**SATURDAY:** 8am Msgr. John Kuhn; 12:10pm Faye Wade; 5:30pm Gregorio Coello.

## YOUNG ADULTS' CORNER

*St. Matthew's Cathedral Young Adult Ministry (SMYA) brings people in their 20s and 30s together in community to develop our Catholic faith through social, spiritual and service activities.*

**SUNDAY DINNER:** Join the Young Adults for food and fellowship after the 5:30pm Mass. Meet at the front doors of the Cathedral.

**BREAKING OPEN THE WORD (BOW):** Every Wednesday! Join us in the West Conference Room, 7-8pm, to discuss the upcoming Sunday's Mass readings and how they relate to our lives as young adults. For more information, contact Will at [thrill919@yahoo.com](mailto:thrill919@yahoo.com).

## WEDDINGS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Join us in offering our prayers for and best wishes to these couples who were married at the Cathedral:

Eric Anderson & Jennifer Outhouse ♦ Patrick Tracy & Elizabeth Zarnoch ♦ Ernest Kuljis & Erika Covelli-Tellez ♦ Kevin Patton & Christa Battaglini ♦ Ian Santo Domingo & Sharon Punzalan ♦ Doan Huynh & Tracy Pham ♦ Hugh Derr & Courtney Albregts ♦ Patrick Dolan & Angelina Jao ♦ Edward Di Cristofaro & Elizabeth Dumouchel ♦ Mario Claros & Maria Tordoya ♦ Nicholas Mueller & Sarah Averbach ♦ Jeffrey Schinnerer & Sara Fargnoli ♦ Justin Kennedy & Laura Ball

## INSTITUTE OF CATHOLIC CULTURE PROGRAMS

The Institute of Catholic Culture is a non-profit educational Institute dedicated to the re-evangelization of our society through educational seminars offered to the public at no charge. All are welcome to the following ICC programs:

**February 2 & 9—***The Catholic Church in Sacred Scripture: Reclaiming a Biblical Ecclesiology*, presented by Sabatino Carnazzo, MA, ICC Director, 7:30pm at St. Philip Catholic Church, 7506 St. Philip Ct., Falls Church, VA

**February 18—***The Fall of Jerusalem*, presented by Timothy O'Donnell, STD, 7:30pm at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 3829 Woodburn Rd., Annandale, VA

**February 21—***The Pope, The Anglicans & The Mass*, presented by Fr. Joseph Fessio, SJ, 7:30pm at St. Ambrose Catholic Church (address above)

To find out more about the ICC, visit [www.sjicc.com](http://www.sjicc.com) or contact Sabatino Carnazzo, Institute Director, at 703-504-8733 or [famuluschristi@yahoo.com](mailto:famuluschristi@yahoo.com).

## WINTER MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

Join us on Sunday, **February 21**, at 3pm at the Little Sisters of the Poor on Harewood Road next to the Catholic University of America campus. We will hear from Sr. Constance Carolyn, LSP, about the Little Sisters of the Poor and their foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan who was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in October 2009. Note the change in meeting location. Parking is available at the Little Sisters of the Poor or you can take the subway to the Brookland/CUA Metro Station and then take a 15 minute walk. For more directions, contact the Little Sisters of the Poor at 202-269-1831. The meeting is free and open to the public.

## VOCATIONS CORNER

*We carry within us the seal of the Father's love in Jesus Christ which is the Holy Spirit. Let us never forget this, because the Spirit of the Lord always remembers every individual, and wishes, particularly through...young people, to stir up the wind and fire of a new Pentecost in the world.*

—Pope Benedict XVI, *Message for World Youth Day 2006*, 4

**ARCHDIOCESAN INFORMATION ON VOCATIONS**—For information, contact the following: Msgr. Robert Panke, Director of Priest Vocations, at 301-853-4580 or [vocations@adw.org](mailto:vocations@adw.org), or visit [adw.org/vocations/priesthood](http://adw.org/vocations/priesthood); or Sister Rebecca Burke, O.S.F., Delegate for Consecrated Life, at 301-853-4576 or visit [adw.org/vocations/secretary](http://adw.org/vocations/secretary).

**MEN'S VOCATION RETREAT**—Archbishop Wuerl is sponsoring a retreat for men in their 20's-40's who are considering a call to the priesthood, to be held at Theological College from the evening of Friday, **February 5** through Noon on Sunday, **February 7**. The retreat will allow men time away from the daily grind and an opportunity for prayer and reflection to examine God's call. If you feel Jesus may be calling you, why not give Him a weekend? For more information, contact Msgr. Rob Panke (contact info above).

**WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT**—The Little Sisters of the Poor in Washington, DC will offer a weekend discernment retreat in the footsteps of their newly sainted foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, **February 12-14**. The retreat is open to single, Catholic women ages 18-35. Contact Sr. Camille Rose at [vocwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:vocwashington@littlesistersofthepoor.org) or 202-269-1831.

## EPS

What was Jesus' mission on earth? Find out by enrolling in *Jesus, Our Lord and Redeemer*, a Scripture course offered by Education-Parish-Service beginning Tuesdays, **February 2** at 10am, EPS classroom, on the campus of Trinity (Washington) University, 125 Michigan Ave., NE, Washington, DC. The eight-week course will explore the question through the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. EPS will also offer a Church history course, *The Growth of Catholic Tradition: Middle Ages and Reformation*, beginning Tuesdays, **February 2**, 7-9:15pm. Register with Ann Kitterman at [kittermana@trinitydc.edu](mailto:kittermana@trinitydc.edu) or call 202-884-9030. For details, see <http://eps.trinitydc.edu> EPS relies solely on donations.

## SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT ON CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA

*Catholic Sisters in America* is the newest exhibit at The Ripley Center of the Smithsonian National Gallery, open **through April 25**. Rare artifacts and photographs from more than 400 communities, including a letter signed by Thomas Jefferson, highlight the role of Catholic sisters in American life. Enjoy this great witness to the lasting contribution to American life made by our Catholic sisters. The S. Dillon Ripley Center is located on Jefferson Drive between the Smithsonian "Castle" and the Freer Gallery of Art in Southwest Washington.

A PRAYER  
AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

Lord, at times such as this,  
when we realize that the ground beneath our feet  
is not as solid as we had imagined,  
we plead for your mercy.

As the things we have built crumble about us,  
we know too well how small we truly are  
on this ever-changing, ever-moving,  
fragile planet we call home.  
Yet you have promised never to forget us.

Do not forget us now.

Today, so many people are afraid.  
They wait in fear of the next tremor.  
They hear the cries of the injured amid the rubble.  
They roam the streets in shock at what they see.  
And they fill the dusty air with wails of grief  
and the names of missing dead.

Comfort them, Lord, in this disaster.  
Be their rock when the earth refuses to stand still,  
and shelter them under your wings when homes no longer  
exist.

Embrace in your arms those who died so suddenly this day.  
Console the hearts of those who mourn,  
and ease the pain of bodies on the brink of death.

Pierce, too, our hearts with compassion,  
we who watch from afar,  
as the poorest on this side of the earth  
find only misery upon misery.  
Move us to act swiftly this day,  
to give generously every day,  
to work for justice always,  
and to pray unceasingly for those without hope.

And once the shaking has ceased,  
the images of destruction have stopped filling the news,  
and our thoughts return to life's daily rumblings,  
let us not forget that we are all your children  
and they, our brothers and sisters.  
We are all the work of your hands.

For though the mountains leave their place  
and the hills be tossed to the ground,  
your love shall never leave us,  
and your promise of peace will never be shaken.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord,  
now and forever. Amen.

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Photo: "Weeping Christ" by Broken Lens via Flickr.com. The sculpture,  
titled "And Jesus Wept," is on the grounds of the Saint Joseph's Old  
Cathedral and the diocesan chancery offices for Oklahoma City, OK,  
which is right across the street from the Murrah Building Memorial.*

ORACIÓN DESPUÉS  
DEL TERREMOTO DE HAITÍ

Señor, en ocasiones como esta,  
cuando nos damos cuenta  
de que el suelo bajo nuestros pies  
no está tan sólido como lo habíamos imaginado,  
suplicamos tu misericordia.

Al ver lo que hemos construido  
derrumbarse alrededor de nosotros,  
sabemos bien lo pequeños que realmente somos  
en este frágil planeta al que llamamos nuestro hogar,  
siempre cambiante, siempre en movimiento.  
Sin embargo, nos has prometido que nunca nos olvidarás.

No nos olvides ahora.

Mucha gente tiene miedos hoy en día.  
Esperan en temor al próximo temblor.  
Escuchan los gritos de los lastimados en medio de los  
escombros.

Vagan por las calles en estado de shock a causa de lo que  
ven.

Y llenan el aire polvoriento con gritos de dolor y los nombres  
de los muertos desaparecidos.

Confórtalos, Señor, en este desastre.

Se su roca, cuando la tierra no deja de sacudirse,  
y refúgielos bajo tus alas, cuando sus casas ya no existan.  
Envuelve en tus brazos a los que murieron de repente este  
día.

Consuela los corazones de los que lloran  
y alivia el dolor de los que están al borde de la muerte.

Traspasa, también, nuestros corazones con tu compasión,  
nosotros, los que miramos desde lejos  
como los más pobres de este lado de la tierra encuentran sólo  
miseria tras miseria.

Sacúdenos este día a actuar con presura,  
a dar cada día con generosidad,  
a trabajar siempre por la justicia,  
y orar sin cesar para aquellos sin esperanza.

Y una vez que los temblores hayan cesado,  
las imágenes de destrucción hayan dejado de ser noticia,  
y nuestros pensamientos vuelvan a las preocupaciones de  
cada día,

no olvidemos que somos todos tus hijos,  
y ellos, nuestros hermanos y hermanas.

Todos obra de tus manos.

Porque, aunque se muevan las montañas y se destruyan las  
colinas,

tu amor nunca nos abandonará,  
y tu promesa de paz nunca cambiará.

Nuestro auxilio está el nombre del Señor,  
que hizo el cielo y la tierra.

Bendito sea el nombre del Señor,  
ahora y siempre. Amén.

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Foto: "El llanto de Cristo" La escultura, titulada "Jesús lloró", está en  
la Catedral de San José y en la oficina de la cancillería de la Diócesis  
de Oklahoma City, OK.*