

Descubriendo los Sacramentos Principales de la Iglesia

En los primeros siglos de la Iglesia era costumbre que las personas queriendo ser integradas a la comunidad Cristiana, atravesaran un período de preparación para recibir el sacramento de Bautismo. Los catecúmenos podían observar la santa misa desde un salón en la parte trasera de la iglesia llamado el "atrio". Sin embargo, no les era permitido comulgar ni participar en los actos principales de la iglesia.

Toda su preparación culminaba en su bautismo, que ocurría durante la Gran Vigilia Pascual. A oscuras, se hacía el recuento de las grandes obras de creación y redención hechas por un Dios de amor absoluto y eterno. Luego se celebraba el bautismo de los catecúmenos, en señal de que con Cristo, ellos habían atravesado de la muerte a la vida eterna. Al hacerse la proclamación pascual, "¡Cristo ha resucitado!" toda la comunidad con gran regocijo daba comienzo a la jubilosa fiesta de la Pascua de Resurrección. Los catecúmenos ese mismo día se acercaban por primera vez al altar para comulgar.

Este año, El Centro Hispano de Todos los Santos lanzó un programa de preparación para nuestros hijos guiándonos por las costumbres ancianas de nuestra fe. Con Diana Fajardo de catequista de cabecera, nuestros muchachos han estado aprendiendo todo lo que significa ser cristiano, lo que representan los sacramentos, los vínculos tan profundos que existen entre esos sacramentos y la historia sagrada de nuestro Señor Jesucristo.

El sábado 23 de abril, fueron bautizados cuatro de nuestros hijos: Gina y Jason Hernandez y Bryan Velasquez. Algo muy especial en ese momento fue el bautizo de Mrs. Deborah Greene, la maestra y dirigente del programa "Aprendo Porque Juego". Fue un momento extraordinariamente tierno para toda la comunidad del "New River Regional Ministry".

Nuestra felicidad quedará completa el 22 de mayo cuando 7 miembros de la comunidad, 6 niños

y una adulta harán su primera comunión. Juntos estamos descubriendo cada día más, cuánto nos ha querido nuestro Buen Pastor y cómo nos da la manera de responder a ese amor, no solo por medio de nuestras obras sino también en nuestra capacidad para celebrar los sacramentos que son la señal externa y visible de una infinita gracia interna a invisible. ¡Alabado sea Dios!



Discovering the Sacraments of the Church

In the early centuries of the Church, people who wanted to join the Christian community went through a period of preparation to receive the sacrament of Baptism. During their period of preparation, Catechumens were allowed to observe the Sunday Mass from a space at the back of the Church called the Atrium. However, they were not allowed to receive communion nor participate in the main services of the Church.

All their preparation culminated in their baptism which usually took place during the Great Easter Vigil. In the light of the Paschal Candle, God's mighty acts of creation and redemption were retold, helping the entire community to reflect on God's

("Discovering the Sacraments" continues on page 9)

Each One Teach One

by Rosa Lindahl

Many of the members of El Centro never had a chance to get the education we take so for granted in this country. By the time they were in the second or third grade, many were already out helping their families with farming or other subsistence responsibilities. We watch with awe and respect as they do everything they can to give their children a better chance in life.



Now, we are beginning a program that will give these brave men and women a chance of their own. On Saturday, May 14, Ms. Roberta Field, a member of the Florida Coalition for Literacy, trained 12 members of the New River Regional Ministry and one from St. Andrew's Church in Hallandale to become tutors for adults. Using the "Laubach Method"—a curriculum that teaches people to speak in English and is also a literacy program, these folks will start working with our Centro members in early June. The member of St. Andrew's who attended the training will be launching this program for the Haitian community in Hallendale. We anticipate having quarterly meetings to discuss our progress and give each other support.

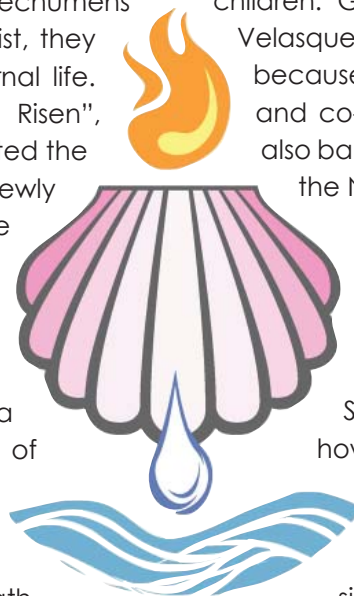


This new ministry fills me with great joy because it was initiated and is being led by a member of St. Ambrose, Cheryl Ammons. It is truly a resurrection ministry that will bring life, and life abundant both to the tutors and to the people who will be receiving the gift of freedom that only literacy can bring. If you are interested in participating in this wonderful ministry, please contact Cheryl Ammons via email at cheryla47@gmail.com.

("Discovering the Sacraments" continues from page 8)

absolute and eternal love. Then the catechumens were baptized as a sign that with Christ, they too had crossed from death into eternal life. At the Easter Proclamation, "Christ is Risen", the entire community rejoiced as it started the marvelous Easter celebration. The newly baptized came up to the altar to receive communion for the first time.

This year, the Centro started a program of faith formation for our children that is guided by the ancient customs of our faith. Led by Diana Fajardo, our Head Catechist, a group of children have been learning about our faith, our sacraments and the deep connections between the principal sacraments and the story of the life, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



On Saturday, April 24, we baptized three of children: Gina and Jason Hernandez and Bryan Velasquez. This celebration was especially sweet because Deborah Green, our beloved teacher and co-leader of *Aprendo Porque Juego* was also baptized. It was a truly joyful moment for all the New River Regional Ministry community.

Our joy will be complete on May 22, when seven members of the Centro, six children and an adult, will have their first communion. Together we are discovering just how much our Good Shepherd loves us. We are also learning how we can respond to that love, not only through our work for the Kingdom, but also as we participate in the sacraments, the outward and visible signs of an inwardly given grace. Praise be to God.