

Pope Leo's homily Castel Gondolfo July 13

In this Sunday's Gospel, we have heard one of Jesus' most beautiful and moving parables. We all know the parable of the Good Samaritan (*Lk 10:25-37*). That parable constantly challenges us to think about our own lives. It troubles our dormant or distracted consciences, and warns us about the risk of a complacent faith that is satisfied with the outward observance of the law but incapable of feeling and acting with the same merciful compassion as God. The parable is really about compassion. True, the Gospel story speaks of the compassion that moved the Samaritan to act, but it first speaks of how others regarded the wounded man lying on the roadside after being attacked by robbers. We are told that a priest and a Levite "saw him and passed by" (v. 32). Of the Samaritan, however, the Gospel says, "he saw him and had compassion on him" (v. 33). Dear brothers and sisters, how we look at others is what counts, because it shows what is in our hearts. We can *look and walk by*, or we can *look and be moved with compassion*. There is a kind of seeing that is superficial, distracted and hasty, a way of seeing while pretending not to see. We can see without being touched or challenged by the sight. Then too, there is seeing with the eyes of the heart, looking more closely, empathizing with the other, sharing his or her experience, letting ourselves be touched and challenged. This way of seeing calls into question the way we live our life and the responsibility we feel towards others. The parable speaks to us first about God's way of seeing us, so that we in turn can learn how to see situations and people with his eyes, so full of love and compassion. The Good Samaritan is really a figure of Jesus, the eternal Son whom the Father sent into our history precisely because he regarded humanity with compassion and did not walk by. Like the man in the Gospel who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, humanity was descending to the depths of death; in our own day too, we have to confront the darkness of evil, suffering, poverty and the riddle of death. Yet God has looked upon us with compassion; he wanted to walk our same path and come down among us. In Jesus, the Good Samaritan, he came to heal our wounds and to pour out upon us the balm of his love and mercy. [Pope Francis](#), who often reminded us that God is mercy and compassion, once referred to Jesus as "the compassion of the Father toward us" ([Angelus](#), 14 July 2029). Saint Augustine tells us that, as the Good Samaritan who came to our aid, Jesus "wanted to be known as our neighbor. Indeed, the Lord Jesus Christ makes us realize that he is the one who cared for the half-dead man beaten by robbers and left on the side of the road (*De Doctrina Christiana*, I, 30.33). We can understand, then, why this parable is so challenging for each of us. If Christ shows us the face of a compassionate God, then to believe in him and to be his disciples means allowing ourselves to be changed and to take on his same feelings. It means learning to have a heart that is moved, eyes that see and do not look away, hands that help others and soothe their wounds, shoulders that bear the burden of those in need. In today's first reading, we hear the words of Moses, who tells us that obeying the Lord's commandments and turning our minds and hearts to him does not involve multiplying outward acts, but rather looking to our own hearts and discovering that there God has written his law of love. If we realize deep down that Christ, the Good Samaritan, loves us and cares for us, we too will be moved to love in the same way and to become compassionate as he is. Once we are healed and loved by Christ, we too can become witnesses of his love and compassion in our world. Brothers and sisters, today we need this "revolution of love." Today, the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Jericho is the road travelled by all those who descend into sin, suffering and poverty. It is the road travelled by all those weighed down by troubles or hurt by life. The road travelled by all who fall down, lose their bearings and hit rock bottom. The road travelled by all those peoples that are stripped, robbed and pillaged, victims of tyrannical political systems, of an economy that forces them into poverty, and of wars that kill their dreams and their very lives. What do we do? Do we look and walk by, or do we open our hearts to others, like the Samaritan? Are we content at times merely to do our duty, or to regard as our neighbor only those who are part of our group, who think like us, who share our same nationality or religion? Jesus overturns this way of thinking by presenting us with a Samaritan, a foreigner or heretic, who acts as a neighbor to that wounded man.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME 2025



HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30 pm English, Church.

Sunday: 09:00 am English, Church.
10:30 am Creole, Church.
12:30 pm Spanish, Church.

Weekdays: 05:30 pm English, Upper Room, St. Maria Goretti.

Fridays: 04:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary.

05:30 pm Upper Room St. Maria Goretti.

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

1st Confession: 12 June, 2025.
1st Communions: 22 June, 2025.

Confirmations: To be confirmed.

Marriage: Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.

Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.

Paul Simon (of Simon and Garfunkel fame) wrote the words to the song “The sounds of silence.” It has the striking words “I see people hearing without listening..” In this world of mass media social connectivity, phones, games there is a lot of noise and talking but does it benefit anyone? These things are an escape often from suffering and also the apparent meaninglessness of life.

Life can be tough but what has that got to do with today’s Gospel about Martha and Mary? Well, Martha is escaping facing Jesus while Mary is not. Mary sits at the feet of Jesus. This is the position of a disciple. Sitting and willing to listen to what Jesus is saying. Mary has nothing to hide or to fear. She is at peace whilst Martha is anxious. This Gospel asks all of us which one we are today. Are you listening to the Lord or are you busy with other things that at the time seem important but they cannot give you eternal life.

Only the words of Jesus can direct you to the true happiness which you can experience, now in this life, if you spend time listening to the Lord. It’s that important. Your peace depends on listening to the voice of the Lord to discover what His will is for you and that includes things like, “How should I deal with this person?” “what is the best way to love them? Should be tough or lenient? “ these are not stupid or simple things and everyone of us has the need to ask the Lord for wisdom and to spend time waiting for Him to reply. Let us all ask for the availability to be open to the Lord’s voice and to have time to sit at His feet.

Fr. Paul.



HOLY HOUR FRIDAYS 4:00 pm—5:00 pm.

Holy Rosary in three languages, readings reflection, and meditation on the Holy Eucharist. Upper Room St. Maria Goretti.

Baptisms

Baptisms are celebrated on Saturdays at 3:00 pm.

Spanish: 2nd Saturday of the month.

Creole: 3rd Saturday of the month.

English: 4th Saturday of the month.

BAPTISM REQUIREMENTS

- Child’s birth certificate.
- Complete application form.

Parents & godparents need:

- Catechetical preparation (Three classes).

Godparents also need:

- Minimum 16 years old.
- To have the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Letter from their pastor confirming practicing the Catholic faith.

Parish Events July 20-27

Holy Mass: 09:00 am, 10:30am 12:30pm

04:00pm Coeur de Marie Children’s group.
05:00pm Fraternite, Red Room.
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice.
05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
06:00pm Choeur D’hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday St. Lawrence of Brindisi
05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room

Tuesday St. Mary Magdalene
05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room

Wednesday St. Bridget of Sweden
05:30pm Daily Mass., SMG Upper Room
07:00pm All communities, SMG, Upper room

Thursday St. Sharbel Makhluf
05:30 pm Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room

Friday St. James the Apostle
04:00 pm Adoration, SMG upstairs
05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG upstairs

Saturday St.s Joachim and Anne
05:30 pm Mass in Church
07:00 pm Eucharist NCW



School Notes
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Summer
Break

We will be back on
Sept. 4, 2025



www.hfa.catholic.tc

SPONSORS / BENEFACTORS

We continue to look for donations and sponsors to support our **Scholarship Program** and help the school with necessary supplies.

Your sponsorship payment can be done through direct deposit or bank transfer or by donating any of the items below.

- Projectors and projector screens
- Projector stands
- Art Supplies
- Printing Paper
- Sport supplies
- Asthma Inhalers & AED

Click on our [Wish List](#) or scan the code to see more!

