

Pope Leo's Audience, 20 August 2025

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we will look at one of the most striking and luminous gestures in the Gospel: the moment when Jesus, during the last supper, offers a morsel to the one who is about to betray him. It is not only a gesture of sharing: it is much more; it is love's last attempt not to give up.

Saint John, with his profound spiritual sensibility, tells us about this moment as follows: [During supper, when] "the devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over... Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass ... he loved them to the end" (Jn 13:1-2). To love until the end: here is the key to understanding Christ's heart. A love that does not cease in the face of rejection, disappointment, even ingratitude.

Jesus knows the time, but he does not submit to it: he chooses it. It is he who recognizes the moment in which his love must pass through the most painful wound, that of betrayal. And instead of withdrawing, accusing, defending himself ... he continues to love: he washes the feet, dips the bread and offers it.

"It is the one to whom I hand the morsel after I have dipped it" (Jn 13:26). With this simple and humble gesture, Jesus carries his love forward and to its depths, not because he is ignoring what is happening, but precisely because he sees it clearly. He has understood that the freedom of the other, even when it is lost in evil, can still be reached by the light of a meek gesture, because he knows that true forgiveness does not await repentance, but offers itself first, as a free gift, even before it is accepted.

Judas, unfortunately, does not understand. After the morsel – says the Gospel – "Satan entered him" (v. 27). This passage strikes us: as if evil, hidden until then, manifested itself after love showed its most defenceless face. And precisely for this reason, brothers and sisters, that morsel is our salvation: because it tells us that God does everything – absolutely everything – to reach us, even in the hour when we reject him.

It is here that forgiveness reveals all its power and manifests the true face of hope. It is not forgetfulness; it is not weakness. It is the ability to set the other free, while loving him to the end. Jesus' love does not deny the truth of pain, but it does not allow evil to have the last word. This is the mystery Jesus accomplishes for us, in which we too, at times, are called to participate.

How many relationships are broken, how many stories become complicated, how many unspoken words remain suspended. And yet the Gospel shows us that there is always a way to continue to love, even when everything seems irredeemably compromised. To forgive does not mean to deny evil, but to prevent it from generating further evil. It is not to say that nothing has happened, but to do everything possible to ensure that resentment does not determine the future.

When Judas leaves the room, "it was night" (v. 30). But immediately afterwards, Jesus says, "Now is the Son of Man glorified" (v. 31). The night is still there, but a light has already begun to shine. And it shines because Christ remains faithful to the end, and so his love is stronger than hatred.

Dear brothers and sisters, we too experience painful and difficult nights. Nights of the soul, nights of disappointment, nights in which someone has hurt or betrayed us. In those moments, the temptation is to close ourselves up, to protect ourselves, to return the blow. But the Lord shows us the hope that another way exists, always exists. He teaches us that one can offer a morsel even to someone who turns their back on us. That one can respond with the silence of trust. And that we can move forward with dignity, without renouncing love.

Let us ask today for the grace to be able to forgive, even when we do not feel understood, even when we feel abandoned. Because it is precisely in those hours that love can reach its pinnacle. As Jesus teaches us, to love means to leave the other free — even to betray — without ever ceasing to believe that even that freedom, wounded and lost, can be snatched from the deception of darkness and returned to the light of goodness.

When the light of forgiveness succeeds in filtering through the deepest crevices of the heart, we understand that it is never futile. Even if the other does not accept it, even if it seems to be in vain, forgiveness frees those who give it: it dispels resentment, it restores peace, it returns us to ourselves.

Jesus, with the simple gesture of offering bread, shows that every betrayal can become an opportunity for salvation, if it is chosen as a space for a greater love. It does not give in to evil, but conquers it with good, preventing it from extinguishing what is truest in us: the capacity to love.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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TWENTY SECOND 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: T.B.A.
1st Communions: T.B.A..

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.

Have you ever had the experience of taking a seat of honour, say, at a wedding or some important gathering, and then been asked to go to another table further away from the guests of honour? I have and it is very awkward and painful for the ego, to say the least. I have also experienced the opposite being invited to come to the head table from a much lower place. How easily we are offended and yet the Lord invites us all to humility but what is 'Humility'? Firstly it is the truth. So this means that if you get offended when asked to take the lower or even the lowest place it means you are not humble but you think you deserve to be treated with more honour and respect. This ignores the truth which is that because of your sins you should be treated even worse! If you really got what you deserved it would not be very pretty. Sometimes you can treat others badly, even looking down on them but when you are treated in that exact fashion you get upset! So, basically you are not humble. This is just to begin. Thanks be to the Lord that Jesus Christ is the truly humble one who being God came to earth and was maltreated with disdain and eventually died a terrible death. Jesus did not cling to His dignity as God but emptied himself and became one of us and was tortured and crucified for us. He is the only truly humble one but he does it out of love for you and me who are so undeserving. Let us not allow this however to stop us receiving and rejoicing in the absolute graciousness of the Lord for us and with the hope of becoming humble

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 Aug.31-Sept. 7

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

05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room

Tuesday

05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room

Wednesday St. Gregory the Great

05:30pm Daily Mass,, SMG Upper Room

Thursday

05:30 pm Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room

Friday St. Teresa of Calcutta

04:00 pm Adoration, SMG upstairs
 05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG upstairs

Saturday

05:30 pm Mass in Church
 07:00 pm Eucharist NCW



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

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Back to school
Sept. 3, 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!

