

Pope Francis Audience 9 April 2024

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Today's catechesis is dedicated to the third of the cardinal virtues, namely *fortitude*. Let us begin with the description given in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: "Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. The virtue of fortitude enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions" (1808). This is what the Catechism of the Catholic Church says about the virtue of fortitude.

Here, then, is the most "combative" of the virtues. If the first of the moral virtues, that is, prudence, was primarily associated with man's reason; and while justice found its abode in the will, this third virtue, fortitude, is often linked by scholastic authors to what the ancients called the "irascible appetite". Ancient thought did not imagine a man without passions: he would be a stone. And the passions are not necessarily the residue of a sin; but they must be educated, they must be channelled, they must be purified with the water of Baptism, or better with the fire of the Holy Spirit. A Christian without courage, who does not turn his own strength to good, who does not bother anyone, is a useless Christian. Let us think about this! Jesus is not a diaphanous, ascetic God, who does not know human emotions. Quite the contrary. Faced with the death of His friend Lazarus, He breaks down in tears, and His impassioned spirit is apparent in some of His expressions, such as when He says: "I came to cast fire upon the earth, and would that it were already kindled!" (*Lk* 12:49); and confronted with the trade in the temple, He reacted with force (cf. *Mt*. 21: 12-13). Jesus had passion.

But let us now look for an existential description of this important virtue that helps us be fruitful in life. The ancients – both the Greek philosophers and Christian theologians – recognized a twofold development in the virtue of fortitude: one *passive*, the other *active*.

The first is directed *within ourselves*. There are internal enemies we must defeat, which go by the name of anxiety, anguish, fear, guilt: all forces that stir in our innermost selves and in some situations paralyse us. How many fighters succumb before they even begin the challenge! Because they are not aware of these internal enemies. Fortitude is first and foremost a victory against ourselves. Most of the fears that arise within us are unrealistic, and do not come true at all. It is better, then, to invoke the Holy Spirit and face everything with patient fortitude: one problem at a time, as we are able, but not alone! The Lord is with us, if we trust in Him and sincerely seek the good. Then in every situation we can count on God's providence to shield and armour us.

And then there is the second movement of the virtue of fortitude, this time of a more active nature. As well as internal trials, there are *external enemies*, which are the *trials of life*, persecutions, difficulties that we did not expect and that surprise us. Indeed, we can try to predict what will happen to us, but to a large extent reality is made up of imponderable events, and in this sea sometimes our boat is tossed about by the waves. Fortitude then makes us resilient sailors, who are not frightened or discouraged.

Fortitude is a fundamental virtue because it *takes the challenge of evil in the world seriously*. Some pretend it does not exist, that everything is going fine, that human will is not sometimes blind, that dark forces that bring death do not lurk in history. But it suffices to leaf through a history book, or unfortunately even the newspapers, to discover the nefarious deeds of which we are partly victims and partly perpetrators: wars, violence, slavery, oppression of the poor, wounds that have never healed and continue to bleed. The virtue of fortitude makes us react and cry out "no", an emphatic "no" to all of this. In our comfortable Western world, which has watered everything down somewhat, which has transformed the pursuit of perfection into a simple organic development, which has no need for struggle because everything looks the same, we sometimes feel a healthy nostalgia for prophets. But disruptive, visionary people are very rare. There is a need for someone who can rouse us from the soft place in which we have lain down and make us resolutely repeat our "no" to evil and to everything that leads to indifference. "No" to evil and "no" to indifference; "yes" to progress, to the path that moves us forward, and for this we must fight.

Let us therefore rediscover in the Gospel the fortitude of Jesus, and learn it from the witness of the saints. Thank you

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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: 24 May, 2024.
1st Communions: 02 June, 2024.**

Confirmations: TBC(20 October, 2024).

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.

Today is 'Good shepherd Sunday. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. In some way all are called to shepherd; Me, as a priest, parents to watch out for your children, friends with friends. Everyone needs to shepherd but also needs to be shepherded themselves. This means that there is really only one who does not need to be shepherded and that is Jesus Christ. He is the one that lays down His for you. And He was not obliged to do it! He did it of His own free will out of Love for you and me. As you know, I am from Australia and there are more sheep in the country than people. Sheep are really dumb animals but they have something special about them. They know the voice of the shepherd and so much so, that they do not listen to the voice of another person. When the shepherd dies, in some countries and due to what I just said, they have to kill all the sheep because they won't listen to another shepherd! If only we were like that, in the sense of only listening to the voice of Jesus. It also requires on your part a willingness to listen and only to the voice of the Good Shepherd. Let us pray for 3 things. The first to listen to what Jesus is telling us. This can be found through the teaching of the Church and also in the events of our daily lives. The second thing is to ask the Lord for the grace of becoming a 'Good Shepherd' oneself. Thirdly to pray for the grace, not only to give of yourself for those the Lord has entrusted to you to shepherd, but also to be happy in doing it and not under compulsion.

May the Lord grant us all these graces so that His example of the Good Shepherd may shine out in this world.

Fr. Paul

CHRIST HAS RISEN!

Easter season is a time to rejoice. We have just had 40 days of fasting and now we can enjoy 50 days of feasting! From Easter Sunday until Pentecost is 50 days of celebrating. The Church and Jesus Christ are much more merciful than you think. In the early Church it was forbidden to fast in the 50 days from Easter to Pentecost. May the Lord give us the grace to celebrate this time with Joy.

SUNDAY APRIL 28,

Archbishop Thomas Wenski, from Miami, will celebrate the 10:30am mass in Creole for the Haitian community.

All are welcome

HOLY DOOR EXTENDS

THE HOLY DOOR WILL NOT CLOSE. THE HOLY SEE HAS EXTENDED IT UNTIL THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING 24 NOVEMBER

In order to get a Plenary Indulgence, which is a full remission of Purgatory, for either yourself or for the soul of someone who has died, the following conditions are needed.

- 1) Sacramental confession within a few days before or after.
- 2) Passing through the Holy Door
- 3) Praying the creed, the Our Father, a Hail Mary for Pope Francis' intentions,
- 4) Attending Mass in this Church and receiving Holy Communion.

It is also possible to get a partial indulgence if one or other of the above conditions are not met.

Parish Events April 21-28

DIVINE MERCY Sunday

04:00pm
05:00pm
05:00pm
05:30pm
06:00pm

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

Coeur de Marie Children's group. Fraternite, Red Room.
Creole Youth Choir practice.
Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door
05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG

Tuesday St.s George & Adalbert

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door
05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG
07:00pm First English, Parish Hall
07:00pm Second English, SMG
07:00pm Spanish, Red Room

Wednesday St. Fidelis

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door
05:30pm Mass in SMG
07:00pm Third English, SMG
07:00pm Fourth English, Red Room
07:00pm Fifth English, Blue Chapel

Thursday ST. Mark

05:00pm Confessions near Holy Door
05:30pm Daily Mass SMG

Friday

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

Saturday

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

The HFA students were listening the word about Saint Paul during the morning mass, and were touched by his conversion and how the Lord can enter and change our life, despite our stubbornness and our sins, with His Love for us.



The HFA students received the visit of the team to teach them how to improve their sports skills. The elementary kids enjoyed the workshop together.

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!



SPLASH DAY!

Be part of our fun water day by contributing with any of the items in our list!

- Pop corn machine
- Pop Corn cups
- Bouncing house

Scan the code to see more!

