

Pope Francis Audience 6 March 2024

In our catechetical journey on the vices and virtues, today we come to the last of the vices: *pride*. The ancient Greeks defined it with a word that could be translated “excessive splendor.” Indeed, pride is self-exaltation, conceit, vanity. The term also appears in that series of vices that Jesus lists to explain that evil always comes from the heart of man (cf. *Mark 7:22*). The proud man is one who thinks he is much more than he really is; one who frets about being recognized as greater than others, always wants to see his own merits recognized, and despises others, deeming them inferior to himself.

From this first description, we see how the vice of pride is very close to that of vainglory, which we presented last time. However, if vainglory is a disease of the human self, it is still a childish disease when compared to the havoc pride is capable of. In analyzing the follies of man, the monks of antiquity recognized a certain order in the sequence of evils: one begins with the grossest sins, such as gluttony, and arrives at the more disturbing monsters. *Of all vices, pride is the great queen*. It is no accident that, in the Divine Comedy, Dante places it in the very first level of purgatory: those who give in to this vice are far from God, and the correction of this evil requires time and effort, more than any other battle to which the Christian is called. In fact, within this evil lies the radical sin, the absurd claim to be like God. The sin of our first parents, recounted in the book of Genesis, is for all intents and purposes a sin of pride. The tempter tells them, “when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God” (*Gen. 3:5*). Writers on spirituality are especially attentive in describing the consequences of pride in everyday life, to illustrate how it ruins human relationships, to point out how this evil poisons that feeling of fraternity that should instead unite men. Here then is the long list of symptoms that reveal a person’s succumbing to the vice of pride. It is an evil with an obvious physical appearance: the proud man is haughty, he has a “stiff neck,” that is, he has a stiff neck that does not bend. He is a man easily led to scornful judgment: with no reason, he passes irrevocable judgments on others, who seem to him hopelessly inept and incapable. In his haughtiness, he forgets that Jesus in the Gospels assigned us very few moral precepts, but on one of them he was uncompromising: never judge. You realize that you are dealing with a proud person when, on offering him a little constructive criticism, or making a completely harmless remark, he reacts in an exaggerated manner, as if someone had offended his majesty: he goes into a rage, shouts, interrupts relations with others in a resentful manner. There is little one can do with a person suffering from pride. It is impossible to talk to them, much less correct them, because ultimately they are no longer present to themselves. One just has to be patient with them, because one day their edifice will collapse. An Italian proverb goes, “Pride goes on horseback and comes back on foot.” In the Gospels, Jesus deals with a lot of proud people, and He often went to expose this vice even in people who hid it very well. Peter flaunts his full-throated faithfulness: “Even if everyone forsakes you, I will not!” (cf. *Mt 26:33*). Instead, he will soon be like the others, fearful in the face of death that he did not imagine could be so close. And so the second Peter, the one who no longer lifts his chin but weeps salty tears, will be healed by Jesus and will finally be fit to bear the burden of the Church. Before he flaunted a presumption that was better not flaunted; now he is a faithful disciple whom, as a parable says, the master can put “in charge of all his possessions” (*Luke 12:44*).

Salvation comes through humility, the true remedy for every act of pride. In the *Magnificat*, Mary sings of the God who by His power scatters the proud in the sick thoughts of their hearts. It is useless to steal anything from God, as the proud hope to do, because after all He wants to give us everything. This is why the apostle James, to his community wounded by infighting originating in pride, writes, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (*Jas. 4:6*).

So, dear brothers and sisters, let us take advantage of this Lent to fight against our pride

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



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.

In today's Gospel Jesus says "Whoever love his life loses it and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." When you give of yourself you get a reward and there is a sense to life. If I just live for myself and my own comforts, then , what an empty life I have. The reward of selfishness is meaninglessness. This is a basic lesson in life. When you give of yourself , literally, 'lose your life', then you get life. When you serve other people without thinking about yourself there is always a sense of happiness, even if you are tired. When you give of yourself, but without grumbling or complaining, then you get life. It is the contrary of what you think or feel, or even desire, but nonetheless it is true.

Secondly, Jesus in today's Gospel is predicting His approaching death. When He will be lifted up from the earth all people will be drawn to Himself. This means strangely enough, that looking at Jesus on the Cross will draw everyone to Him. This, in many ways, does not make any sense. How can one man's tortured death draw people to himself? The fact is that it is true. How many of us are attracted by that figure on the cross. Just by looking at it, something touches you deep inside which is beyond your rationalizing mindset. It's beyond us to explain this attraction. Deep down you know that this man died because of you and your sins and yet this makes you happy or, at least grateful. It makes you feel forgiven as you cannot get forgiveness any other way and the Cross shows you the extraordinary lengths that God went to in order to save you. The bottom line is that this shows the love of God. In the Cross God reveals who He really is; a loving tender father who does not even spare His only son, who is most precious gift. Just pondering this is quite amazing, is it not? We also know that His death is not the final word, resurrection is.

'Fr. Paul

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MORNING PRAYER: Monday to Friday at 6:20 am.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 6:00 pm. Fridays. Church.

PALM SUNDAY

March 23: 05:30 pm English
March 24 09:00 am English

***Solemn Procession from downtown to the church. Gather at Treasury carpark at. 10:00 am**

11:00 am Multilingual

HOLY THURSDAY— March 28

06:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper and washing of the feet.
Multilingual: English / Creole / Spanish.

GOOD FRIDAY — March 29

03:00 pm The Passion of the Lord. Multilingual: English / Creole / Spanish.
04:15 pm Living Stations of the Cross, performed by HFA students.

SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL

March 30 10:30 pm

(There will NOT be any Mass, Saturday at 05:30pm).

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31: 09:00 am English .
11:00 am Multilingual
05:30 pm English.

Parish Events March 17-24

Sunday Holy Mass: 09:00 am.10:30am. 12:30pm

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

Monday

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door
05:30pm **Vigil of St. Joseph, CHURCH**
07:00pm Catechesis in Creole Parish Hall

Tuesday St. Joseph

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door
05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG
07:00pm Parish Penance Service

Wednesday

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door
05:30 pm Mass in SMG

Thursday

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door
05:30 pm D. Mass , SMG
07:00pm Catechesis in Creole Parish Hall

Friday

04:00pm **Holy Hour:** St. Maria Goretti.
05:30pm D. Mass SMG
06:15pm Stations of the Cross, Church

Saturday St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

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This past week the HFA students received many graces from the Lord: He granted them the first places in the Annual Science Fair Competition. The debate team won the first place, the science project the second place and the art poster the third place. The students have also earned the honor of the President Award.

Students of 12th grade scrutinized the word of God at the seminary of Miami, during their visit to the Saint Thomas University, with which they study on-line college. classes at the same time doing courses of high school.

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!

- Water ballons
- Inflatable pools
- Snow cone & pop corn machine
- Snow cone cups and syrup

Scan the code to see more!

