

Let us put ourselves in the Apostles' place. That day they were completely mortified by the scandal of the cross, interiorly wounded from having fled and abandoned Jesus, dismayed by the way his life had ended and fearful that their lives would end in the same way. They were feeling guilty, frustrated, sorrowful and afraid... However, Jesus comes and proclaims peace, even as his disciples' hearts were downcast. He announces life, even as they felt surrounded by death. In other words, the peace of Jesus arrived at the very moment when, suddenly and to their surprise, everything seemed to be over for them, without even a glimmer of peace. That is what the Lord does: he surprises us; he takes us by the hand when we are falling; he lifts us up when we are hitting rock bottom. Brothers and sisters, with Jesus, evil never wins, evil never has the last word. "For he is our peace" (Eph 2:14), and his peace is always triumphant. Consequently, we who belong to Jesus must never yield to sorrow; we must not permit resignation and fatalism to take hold of us. Even though that atmosphere reigns all around us, it must not be so for us. In a world disheartened by violence and war, Christians must be like Jesus. As if to insist on the point, Jesus told the disciples once more: *Peace be with you!* (cf. Jn 20:19, 21). We are called to make our own the Lord's unexpected and prophetic message of peace and proclaim it before the world. Let us look at the first source: *forgiveness*. Jesus says to his disciples: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them" (v. 23). Yet before giving the apostles the power to forgive, he forgives them, not with words but with an act, the first act of the Risen Lord. The Gospel tells us that, "he showed them his hands and his side" (v. 20). Jesus showed them his wounds. He showed them his wounds, because forgiveness is born from wounds. It is born when our wounds do not leave scars of hatred, but become the means by which we make room for others and accept their weaknesses. Our weakness becomes an opportunity, and forgiveness becomes the path to peace. This does not mean that we turn around and act as if nothing is changed; instead, we open our hearts in love to others. That is what Jesus does: faced with the sadness and shame of those who had denied him and fled, he shows his wounds and opens up the wellspring of mercy. He does not multiply words, but opens wide his wounded heart, in order to tell us that he is always wounded with love for us.

Brothers, sisters, when guilt and sadness overwhelm us, when things do not go well, we know where to look: to the wounds of Jesus, who is ever ready to forgive us with his infinite, wounded love. He knows your wounds; he knows the wounds of your country, your people, your land! They are wounds that ache, continually infected by hatred and violence, while the medicine of justice and the balm of hope never seem to arrive. My brother, my sister, Jesus suffers with you. He sees the wounds you carry within, and he desires to console and heal you; he offers you his wounded heart. To your heart, God repeats the words he spoke today through the prophet Isaiah: "I will heal them; I will lead them and repay them with comfort" (Is 57:18).

Together, we believe that Jesus always gives us the possibility of being forgiven and starting over, but also the strength to forgive ourselves, others and history! That is what Christ wants. He wants to anoint us with his forgiveness, to give us peace and the courage to forgive others in turn, the courage to grant others a great *amnesty of the heart*. What great good it does us to cleanse our hearts of anger and remorse, of every trace of resentment and hostility! Dear brothers and sisters, may today be a time of grace for you to accept and experience Jesus' forgiveness! May it be the right time for those of you who bear heavy burdens in your heart and long for them to be lifted so that you can breathe freely once again. And may it be a good time for all of you in this country who call yourselves Christians but engage in violence. The Lord is telling you: "Lay down your arms, embrace mercy". To all the wounded and oppressed of this people, he is saying: "Do not be afraid to bury your wounds in mine". Let us do this, brothers and sisters. Do not be afraid to take the crucifix from your neck and out of your pockets, to take it between your hands and hold it close to your heart, in order to share your wounds with the wounds of Jesus. Then, when you return home, take the crucifix from the wall and embrace it. Give Christ the chance to heal your heart, hand your past over to him, along with all your fears and troubles. What a beautiful thing it is to open the doors of your heart and your home to his peace! And why not write those words of his on your walls, wear them on your clothing, and put them as a sign on your houses: *Peace be with you!* Displaying these words will be a prophetic statement to your country, and a blessing of the Lord upon all whom you meet. *Peace be with you.* let us receive forgiveness from God and in turn forgive one another!

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
P. Vicar: Rev. Rafael Velázquez
P. Vicar: Rev. Paul Passant

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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, B. Chapel.

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

05:30 pm Blue Chapel.

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.

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

1st Communions: 11 June, 2023.

Confirmations: TBC

Salt gives flavor to food. It is essential for life, especially in this climate. Salt is so important as it was used as a preservative for meat before there was refrigeration. You were paid in salt, hence 'salary'. If you get too much salt it burns your tongue. It is intense. Therefore Jesus is telling you that is what you are called to be. You are called to burn with the love of Christ. How? If you begin to see the love of God for you in the midst of your sinful nature. If you have the grace to see this, you will start to love the Lord with intensity. You will speak of the Lord with a touch of salt. What does this mean? You can be prophetic in what you say to people. For example, if someone you know is about to commit a serious sin, you can appeal to them not to do it and say that "You will suffer much more than you are now suffering". This is because sin makes a person suffer and you do not want that person to suffer. To be the salt or the light also entails that if you are suffering you remain in peace then you are being the light. This is so, due to the fact that suffering makes people doubt the love of God, but if there is someone who remains in peace in the middle of a great trial or suffering then it is a witness of Christ's resurrection. This can only take place if you have a deep and abiding relationship with the Lord, which is what we call, 'Faith'. I knew a man who had both legs amputated from the knees down. His wife had to change him a few times a day, but this man was truly a happy individual. He was a light for me that gave me hope. May we all have these graces.

The catechesis for adults continues and is open to everyone especially if you are overwhelmed by suffering. Come & listen.

Fr. Paul



Have you found what you are looking for in life?

Are you suffering?

Do you find it difficult to be happy?

COME AND LISTEN

**Mondays and Thursdays
7 – 8 PM.**

Everyone 13 & older
Free babysitting



The youth of our parish is looking forward to meet the Pope and have an encounter with Christ, this coming summer.

We invite you to visit our stands. Your contributions will go to the fund that will help them travel all together.

We have snacks, bake goods, refreshments, island souvenirs and some more!

May the Lord bless you and reward you a hundred fold.

Thank you!

Parish Events Feb. 5-12

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

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

Monday St. Paul Miki and Company

05:30 pm D. and Mass Chapel
07:00pm Catechesis SMG
07:30pm AA Parish Hall.

Tuesday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm 1st English, Parish hall
07:00pm 1st Spanish, Blue Chapel
07:00pm 2nd Spanish, Red Room

Wednesday St. Josephine Bakhita

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm 3rd English, SMG
07:00pm 4th English, Blue Chapel
07:00pm 1st Creole Red Room
07:00pm 2nd Creole Bl. Sac. Chapel
07:00pm 2nd English Parish Hall

Thursday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm Catechesis SMG

Friday St. Scholastica

04:00pm Adoration
5:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel .
07:00pm AA Parish Hall

Saturday Our Lady of Lourdes

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

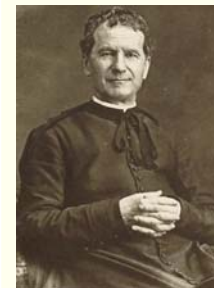


School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941, 7875

This week, Holy Family Academy celebrated the memorial of **Saint John Bosco** who is the patron of students.



At HFA, we value his message of teaching through the same love and mercy God has given us, which is why we always pray for his intercession.

Holy Family Academy hosted the annual in-house science fair, where students presented their hard work and astonished the viewers with all the information they obtained through experimentation and observation.

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. Any help God will reward you a hundred fold. If you would like and are able to help contact us at holyfamilytci@gmail.com

You can also donate from the US in the following link:

<https://www.rcan.org/mission-turks-and-caicos-islands>

Wish List

This is another way to help the missionary school or students who are in need, by donating any of the following:

- Automatic hand dryers
- Microwave x 3
- Walkie-Talkie Radios
- Electric pencil sharpeners
- Sound / Speaker System
- Ping Pong table.
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255