

Pope Francis Audience 1 May 2024

Today I would like to talk about the virtue of *faith*. Together with charity and hope, this virtue is described as *theological*. There are three theological virtues: faith, hope and charity. Why are they theological? Because they can be lived – this virtue, the three theological virtues – only thanks to the gift of God. The three theological virtues are the great gifts that God gives to our moral capacity. Without them, we could be prudent, just, strong and temperate, but we would not have eyes that see even in the dark, we would not have a heart that loves even when it is not loved, we would not have a hope that dares against all hope.

What is faith? This question: what is faith? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, it explains that faith is the act by which the human being freely commits himself to God (1814). In this faith, Abraham was the great father. When he agreed to leave the land of his ancestors to head for the land that God would show him, he would probably have been judged insane: why leave the known for the unknown, the certain for the uncertain? But why do this? It is insane, isn't it? But Abraham sets off, as if he could see the invisible: this is what the Bible says about Abraham. "He went, not knowing where he was to go". This is beautiful. And it will again be the invisible that makes him go up the mountain with his son Isaac, the only son of the promise, who only at the last moment will be spared from sacrifice. In this faith, Abraham becomes the father of a long line of descendants. Faith made him fruitful.

Moses was be a man of faith when, welcoming God's voice even more than one doubt could have shaken him, he continued to stand firm and trust in the Lord, and even defend the people who were so often lacking in faith.

The Virgin Mary was a woman of faith when, receiving the annunciation of the Angel, which many would have dismissed as too demanding and risky, answered, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). And, with her heart full of faith, with her heart full of trust in God, Mary set out on a path of which she knew neither the route nor the dangers.

Faith is the virtue that makes the Christian. Because to be Christians is not first and foremost about accepting a culture, with the values that accompany it, but being Christian is welcoming and cherishing a bond, a bond with God: God and I, myself and the amiable face of Jesus. This bond is what makes us Christians.

With regard to faith, an episode of the Gospel comes to mind. Jesus' disciples were crossing the lake, and are surprised by the storm. They think they can get by with the strength of their arms, with the resources of their experience, but the boat starts to fill up with water and they are seized by panic (cf. Mk 4: 35-41). They do not realize that they have the solution before their very eyes: Jesus is there with them on the boat, in the midst of the storm, and Jesus "was asleep", says the Gospel. When they finally awaken Him, fearful and even angry that He would let them die, Jesus rebukes them: "Why are you afraid? *Have you no faith?*" (Mk 4:40).

Here, then, is the great enemy of faith: it is not intelligence, nor is it reason, as, alas, some continue obsessively to repeat; but the great enemy of fear. For this reason, faith is the first gift to welcome in Christian life: a gift that must be welcomed and asked for daily, so that it may be renewed in us. It is seemingly a small gift, yet it is the essential one. When we were brought to the baptismal font, our parents, after announcing the name they had chosen for us, were asked by the priest – this happened in our baptism: "What do you ask of the Church of God?" And the parents answered: "Faith, baptism!"

For Christian parents, aware of the grace that has been given them, that is the gift to ask for their child too: faith. With it, parents know that, even in the midst of the trials of life, their child will not drown in fear. See, the enemy is fear. They also know that, when the child ceases to have a parent on this earth, he will continue to have a God the Father in heaven, who will never abandon him. Our love is so fragile, and only God's love conquers death.

Certainly, as the Apostle says, faith is not for all (cf. 2 Thess 3:2), and we too, who are believers, often realize that we have only a short supply. Often Jesus can rebuke us, as He did with His disciples, for being "men of little faith". But it is the happiest gift, the only virtue we are permitted to envy. Because those who have faith are inhabited by a force that is not only human; indeed, faith "triggers" grace in us and opens the mind to the mystery of God. As Jesus once said, "If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this sycamine tree, 'Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea', and it would obey you" (Lk 17:6). Therefore, let us too, like the disciples, repeat to Him: Lord, increase our faith! (Lk 17:5). It is a beautiful prayer! Shall we say it all together? "Lord, increase our faith". Let us say it together [everyone] "Lord, increase our faith". Too quiet... a bit louder: [everyone] "Lord, increase our faith"! Thank you

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ASCENSION SUNDAY 2024



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.

The Ascension of the Lord can seem an unusual feast. "What's it got to do with me?" you may ask. Well, if you think about it, before Adam and Eve sinned there was only an earthly paradise. After they sinned they were even kicked out of that and 'condemned' to lead a burdensome life or at best a life of drudgery. Perhaps that describes your life today. The Lord did not want this kind of life to continue so He became one of us, not only to save us from hell but also, to give us the grace to get into His presence in Heaven. Would Adam and Eve, if they had not committed the Original sin ended up in Heaven, eventually. Perhaps not. They were destined for the earthly paradise, it seems. So the amazing thing is that The Lord did not want them to remain in the land of Shadows, which is called by the Jews, "Sheol", for ever. Instead, because of their sin, God was determined to bless them even in a more fantastic way by sending His Son to become one of us, Jesus Christ became a human being just like you and me and lived an ordinary human life until his last years when he went to preach the Gospel and eventually die on a cross and rise from the dead. What I am trying to get at is that due to the sin of Adam and Eve, we, the human race, can now enter into heaven. This is what the Ascension celebrates. That now we have the chance of more than just an earthly paradise. We have the chance of a heavenly paradise in the presence of God. This is because Jesus, in His humanity ascends today into the Father's presence and brings the whole human race with him. Let us then rejoice on this great feast day, which many times we have never understood.

Fr. Paul

A time to go out and announce the Good News to everyone.



We are getting close to the end of Easter Season. A time of joy because the Lord is truly risen. Last Sunday, we shared the joy with the brothers and sisters from Five Cays. This Sunday we will visit Dock Yard.

Everybody is welcome!

JUBILEE OF THE CATHOLIC MISSION IN THE TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

HOLY DOOR

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. sacramental confession within a few days before or after.

1. Passing through the Holy Door
2. Praying the creed, the Our Father, a Hail Mary for Pope Francis' intentions.
3. 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 May 12-19

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

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

Monday Our Lady of Fatima

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

Tuesday St. Mathias

- 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. Isidore the Farmer

- 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
- 07:00pm Creole, Bl. Sacrament Chapel

Thursday

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

Friday St. Damian de Veuster

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

Saturday St. John I, Pope

- 05:30pm Mass in Church
- 08:00pm Pentecost Vigil NCW



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
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This past week HFA held a soccer tournament: Saint Thomas University students versus high school students, enjoying the presence of the ethic professor Sumner from Philadelphia.

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.

- Heavy duty printer
- ID card printer
- Projector
- Art Supplies
- Printing Paper
- 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!

