

Pope Francis Audience 15 November 2023

After encountering several witnesses of the proclamation of the Gospel, I propose summarizing this cycle of catechesis on apostolic zeal in four points, inspired by the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, whose tenth anniversary we celebrate this month. The first point, which we will see today, the first of the four, cannot but relate to the attitude on which the substance of the evangelizing gesture depends: joy. Joy. The Christian message, as we have heard from the angel's words to the shepherds, is the proclamation of "a great joy" (Lk 2: 10). And the reason? Good news, a surprise, a beautiful event? Much more, a Person: Jesus! He is the God made man who came to us. The question, dear brothers and sisters, is therefore not whether to proclaim it, but how to proclaim it, and this "how" is joy. Either we proclaim Jesus with joy, or we do not proclaim him, because another way of proclaiming him is not capable of bringing the true reality of Jesus.

This is why a Christian who is discontented, a sad Christian, a dissatisfied, or worse still, resentful or rancorous Christian, is not credible. This person will talk about Jesus but no-one will believe him! Once someone said to me, talking about these Christians, "But these are po-faced Christians!", that is, they express nothing, they are like that, and joy is essential. It is essential to keep watch over our sentiments. Evangelization works in gratuitousness, because it comes from fullness, not from pressure. And when one evangelizes – one would try to do this, but it does not work – on the basis of ideologies: the Gospel is a proclamation, a proclamation of joy. Ideologies are cold, all of them. The Gospel has the warmth of joy. Ideologies do not know how to smile; the Gospel is a smile, it makes you smile because it touches the soul with the Good News.

The birth of Jesus, in history as in life, is the source of joy: think of what happened to the disciples of Emmaus, who could not believe their joy, and the others, then, the disciples all together, when Jesus goes to the Upper Room, could not believe their joy. The joy of having the risen Jesus. An encounter with Jesus always brings you joy, and if this does not happen to you, it is not a true encounter with Jesus.

And what Jesus does with the disciples tells us that *the first to need to be evangelized are the disciples*. The first who to need to be evangelized are us: we Christians. And this is very important. Immersed in today's fast-pace and confused environment, we too indeed may find ourselves living our faith with a subtle sense of renunciation, persuaded that the Gospel is no longer heard and no longer worth striving to proclaim. We might even be tempted by the idea of letting "others" go their own way. Instead, this is precisely the time to return to the Gospel to discover that Christ "is forever young, he is forever a constant source of newness" (cf. *Evangelii gaudium*, 11).

Thus, like the two at Emmaus, one returns to daily life with the enthusiasm of one who has found treasure: they were joyful, those two, because they had found Jesus, and he changed their life. And one discovers that humanity abounds with brothers and sisters waiting for a word of hope. The Gospel is awaited even today. People of today are like people of all times: they need it. Even the civilization of programmed unbelief and institutionalized secularity; indeed, especially the society that leaves the spaces of religious meaning deserted, needs Jesus. This is the right moment for the proclamation of Jesus. Therefore, I would like to say again to everyone: "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew". Do not forget this. And if anyone does not perceive this joy, they should ask themselves if they have found Jesus. An inner joy. The Gospel takes the path of joy, always, it is the great proclamation. "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed ... encounter with Jesus Christ (*ibid.*, 1, 1.3) Each one of you, take a little time and think: "Jesus, you are within me. I want to encounter you every day. You are a Person, you are not an idea; you are a travelling companion, you are not a programme. You, Jesus, are the source of joy. You are the beginning of evangelization. You, Jesus, are the source of joy!". Amen.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González

P. Vicar: Rev. Rafael Velázquez

P. Vicar: Rev. Paul Passant

**1310 Leeward Highway, Providenciales.
P.O. Box 340, Turks & Caicos Islands.
Phone: (+1649) 941-5136**

www.catholic.tc - oldpchurch@catholic.tc



SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING



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.

Confirmations: 22 October, 2023.

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 the feast of Christ the King. It is the last Sunday of the Church's calendar year. So, again the theme involves Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell, otherwise known as the 'four last things'. These things can terrify us and perhaps that's not a bad thing. At least it can shake you up out of your comfort zone. These 4 last things are certainties. They will happen. So again let them shake you and help you turn back to the Lord who is the only one that can save you. All the friends in the world cannot save you. All your family and all the things you depend on will one day disappear. Such thoughts are frightening but also liberating. How? Well, Christ is King. He has conquered death by His own death and wants to give us a share in His own life. If you make it to heaven then you will share in the Godhead. How, we do not know, but St. Augustine wrote, "God became man so that man could become God." This is something unimaginable for you and I but it is certainly something that should give you encouragement to long for it.

Jesus also is King during His own life. Where was His Kingship manifested? Precisely on the Cross. In the Gospel of John, Jesus during His passion and death is in charge. Finally, on the cross he reigns and gives us His mother. He is the true King and wants to reign in your heart. Let us pray for the grace that He can reign in us in the midst of our sufferings, problems and our crosses. That we can all begin to see that He works and reigns through these things to bring us life and happiness now in this life that we are living. I think of the example of a family with a handicapped child and how this cross actually turns out to be the greatest blessing for that family. May the Lord enlighten us as to how our sufferings are turned to the good.

Fr. Paul



HOLY HOUR
FRIDAYS
4:00 pm—5:00pm.

Come and listen to what the Lord speaks to you through Prayer, silence, and meditation

Parish Feast

We thank all parishioners, benefactors and children who helped and participated in our parish feast last weekend. Thank you for your time and dedication so we could celebrate Our Lady in a joyful way. May the Lord reward you a hundred-fold and Our Lady of Divine Providence intercede for us.



Parish Events Nov. 26-Dec. 3

Sunday **Holy Mass: 09:00 am.10:30am. and 12:30pm.**
04:00 pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
05:00 pm Fraternite, 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
05:30 pm D. and Mass Chapel

Tuesday D. Mass Chapel
05:30 pm First English Parish Hall
07:00pm Second English SMG
07:00pm Spanish Red Room
07:00pm

Wednesday
05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm Creole Bl. Sac. Chapel
07:00pm Third English S.M. Goretti
07:00pm Fourth English, Red Room
07:00pm Fifth English Blue Chapel

Thursday **St. Andrew, Apostle**
05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel

Friday
04:00pm Adoration, Blue Chapel
05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

Holy Family Academy was proud to participate in the Parish Feast last weekend, both in the mass and during the festivities afterward. Third Grade performed a moving play about the life of St. Gianna Molla, allowing the whole assembly to see that they too are called to live lives of holiness.



The school prepared this week for Thanksgiving, and hosted a fundraiser dinner for the graduating classes on Thursday evening.

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:

- AED
- Asthma Inhalers
- Projectors