

General Audience

In Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

In the Gospel of today's Liturgy, Jesus gives some basic life guidance to the disciples. The Lord refers to the most difficult situations, those that constitute the bench test for us, those that confront us with those who are enemies and hostile to us, those who are always trying to do us harm. In such cases, the disciple of Jesus is called not to give in to instinct and hatred, but to go further, much further. To go beyond instinct, to go beyond hatred. Jesus says: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you" (Lk 6:27). And even more concretely: "To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also" (v. 29). When we hear this, it seems that the Lord is asking for the impossible. And then, why love your enemies? If one does not react to bullies, then every abuse of power is given free rein, and this is not fair. But is it really so? Does the Lord really ask for the *impossible* and indeed even unjust things of us? Is it so? Let us consider first and foremost that sense of *injustice* that we feel in "turning the other cheek". And let us think of Jesus. During the passion, in his unjust trial before the high priest, at one point he receives a slap from one of the guards. And how does He react? He does not insult him, no: he says to the guard, "If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" (Jn 18:23). He asks for an account of the wrong done to him. Turning the other cheek does not mean suffering in silence, giving in to injustice. With his question, Jesus denounces what is unjust. But he does so without anger, without violence, indeed *with kindness*. He does not wish to spark off an argument, but rather *to defuse resentment*, this is important: to extinguish hatred and injustice together, seeking to restore the guilty brother. This is not easy, but Jesus did it and he tells us to do likewise. This is turning the other cheek: Jesus' meekness is a stronger response than the slap he received. Turning the other cheek is not the withdrawal of the loser, but the action of one who has a greater inner strength. Turning the other cheek means defeating evil with goodness which opens up a breach in the heart of the enemy, unmasking the absurdity of his hatred. And this attitude, this turning the other cheek, is dictated not by calculation or by hatred, but by love. Dear brothers and sisters, it is the freely given, undeserved love we receive from Jesus that generates in the heart a way of doing things that is similar to his, that rejects all vengeance. We are accustomed to revenge: "You did this to me, I will do that to you", or to bearing a grudge in our heart, resentment that harms, that destroys the person. Let's get to another objection: is it *possible* for a person to come to love his or her enemies? If it depended only on us, it would be impossible. But let us recall that, when the Lord asks for something, he wishes to give it. The Lord never asks for something he has not already given us first. When he tells me to love my enemies, he wants to give me the capacity to do so. Without that ability, we would not be able, but he tells you to "love your enemy" and gives you the capacity to love. Saint Augustine prayed in this way — listen to this beautiful prayer: Lord, "give what You command, and command what You will" (*Confessions*, X, 29.40), because you have already given it to me. What should we ask of him? What is God happy to give us? The strength to love, which is not a thing, but rather the Holy Spirit. The strength to love is the Holy Spirit, and with the Spirit of Jesus, we can respond to evil with good, we can love those who do us harm. This is what Christians do. How sad it is when persons and peoples who are proud to be Christians see others as enemies and think about waging war against each other! It is very sad. And we, do we try to live following Jesus' invitations? Let us think about someone who has wronged us. Each one of you, think of a person. It is common for us to be hurt by someone; think of that person. Perhaps there is some resentment within. So, let us set the image of Jesus alongside this resentment: meek during his trial, after the slap. And then let us ask the Holy Spirit to act in our heart. Finally, let us pray for that person: praying for those who have done us harm (cf. Lk 6:28). When someone has wronged us, we immediately go and tell others and we feel we are victims. Let us stop, and pray to the Lord for that person, that he might help him or her, and so this feeling of resentment will be dispelled. Praying for those who have wronged us is the first step to transforming evil into good. Prayer. May the Virgin Mary help us be workers of peace towards everyone, especially those who are hostile to us and whom we do not like.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30pm English, Church.

Sunday: 09:00am English, Church.
10:30am Creole, Church.
12:30pm Spanish, Church.

Weekdays: 05:30pm English, Blue Chapel.

Fridays: 04:00pm Adoration of Blessed
Sacrament and Rosary.
05:30pm 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: 19 June, 2022.

Confirmation: TBA

Lent Has begun. It is a season of repentance and getting in touch with your own sinfulness. Jesus suffers three temptations. The temptation to secure His life is the first. The second is the world and all its attractions. The third is not to accept your life, which can be the most difficult of all. You are tempted not to accept the insecurity of life. How? By ensuring it. That's why there are pension funds, insurance companies and banks. You can think "I am safe now. I have everything sown up. My life is secured." Well, that just is not the case. Both covid and now the war in the Ukraine show you just how fleeting life is. The only one you can trust is the Lord. The world offers glittering prizes and happiness but cannot fill the emptiness that each one has inside. Only Jesus Christ can fill this void. The Third is most difficult. The devil invites Jesus not to accept His reality, which is that he is a nobody from a small town in the north of Israel. So the devil says make a big splash and do a miracle by jumping off the top of the temple. God will support you, he says. The devil tempts you everyday with some aspect of this. For example, he says, "Look at your history. Your parents did not treat you fairly or your spouse is not the best or they are not good for you with all their problems. God has made a mistake, etc." Hence you give into grumbling against God! Let us all acknowledge that we have fallen into the traps of the devil in these and other regards, but take hope in the fact that Jesus is the only one who did not and He fulfils this word on our behalf.

Fr. Paul

LENT SCHEDULE

Morning Prayer

Monday to Friday at 6:20 a.m.

Blue Chapel

CATECHESIS FOR ADULTS

COME AND LISTEN

"I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in me will never die."

Jn. 11:26

MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS 7-8PM

Daily Mass (Blue) Chapel
All are invited 13 years and older
Free babysitting

HOLY HOUR TO END THE PANDEMIC



All are invited to come and adore the Lord in the blessed sacrament at the new time of 4:00 pm –5:15pm on every Friday in the daily mass chapel. There will be adoration, rosary, spiritual reading and confessions. This can also be a good preparation for the daily mass at 5:30pm. The change comes so that those who could not stay after 6pm due to other reasons can now come earlier.

Parish Events Mar. 6-13

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

04:00pm Coeur de Marie: Children's group.

05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.

05:00pm Fraternite, Red Room.

05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice

05:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

St.s Perpetua and Felicity: 07:00pm Catechesis Blue Chapel

Tuesday 05:30pm D. Mass, Chapel,
07:00pm 1st English. Church
St. John of God 07:00pm 4th English. B. Sacrament
07:00pm 1st Spanish. Blue Chapel
07:00pm 2nd Spanish. Red Room

Wednesday: 05:30pm Mass Church
St. Frances of Rome 07:00pm 1st Creole, Red Room.
07:00pm 3rd English, Blue Chapel
07:00pm 2nd English, Church
07:00pm 2nd Creole, B. Sacrament

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.
06:00pm Creole Choir Practice Parish Hall.
07:00pm Catechesis, Blue Chapel.

Friday: 04:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction. Confessions
05:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel.
06:00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday: 05:30pm Mass, Church

Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW

07:00pm Church, Blue Chapel and Red Room.



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

With so many academic activities going on in HFA, students are being encouraged to prioritize God in the midst of all activities. We do this throughout the day by setting aside time to do daily prayers, be it in the morning, afternoon, even before snack.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 7 - 11 Education Week 2022

Mar. 11 Teacher's Appreciation Day

Early Dismissal 12:00 pm

Mar. 14 Commonwealth Day
Public Holiday

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:

- Abacus
- Jumping Ropes, Pingo Pong table
- Hand Sanitizer, alcohol and paper hand towels
- Cleaning Tools (mops, brooms, gloves.)
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255