

Pope Francis Audience on Charity 15 May 2024

"third, charity. It is the culmination of the entire itinerary we have undertaken with the catecheses on the virtues. To think of charity immediately expands the heart, and it expands the mind, it evokes the inspired words of Saint Paul in the First Letter to the Corinthians. Concluding that wonderful hymn, Saint Paul cites the triad of the theological virtues and exclaims: "So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love".

Paul addresses these words to a community that is anything but perfect in fraternal love: the Christians of Corinth were rather litigious, there were internal divisions, and there were those who claimed always to be right and did not listen to others, regarding them as inferior. Paul reminds them that knowledge puffs up, whereas charity builds up. The Apostle then records a scandal that touches even the moment of maximum union of a Christian community, the "Lord's supper", the Eucharistic celebration: even there, there are divisions, and there are those who take advantage of this to eat and drink, excluding those who have nothing. In the face of this, Paul gives a stark judgement: "When you meet together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat" you have another ritual, which is pagan, it is not the Lord's supper. Who knows, perhaps in the community of Corinth, no-one thought they had committed a sin, and those harsh words of the Apostle sounded somewhat incomprehensible for them. Probably they were all convinced they were good people, and if questioned on love, they would have answered that love was certainly a very important value for them, just like friendship or the family. In our days too, love is on the lips of many "influencers" and in the refrains of many songs. We speak a lot about love, but what is love?

"But the *other* love?", Paul seems to ask to his Christians of Corinth. Not the love that rises, but the one that descends; not the one that takes, but the one that gives; not the one that appears, but the one that is hidden. Paul is concerned that in Corinth - as among us today too - there is confusion and that there is actually no trace of the theological virtue of love, the one that comes to us only from God. And if even in words everyone assures that they are good people, that they love their family and friends, in reality they know very little about the love of God. The Christians of antiquity had several Greek words at their disposal to define love. In the end, the word "*agape*" emerged, which we normally translate as "charity". Because in truth Christians are capable of all the forms of love in the world: they too fall in love, more or less as it happens to everyone. They too experience the benevolence that is felt in friendship. They too feel love for their country and the universal love for all humanity. But there is a greater love, a love which comes from God and is directed towards God, which enables us to love God, to become His friends, and enables us to love our neighbour as God loves him or her, with the desire to share the friendship with God. This love, because of Christ, drives us where humanly we would not go: it is the love for the poor, for those who are not lovable, for those who do not care for us and are not grateful. It is love for what no-one would love, even for one's enemy. Even for the enemy. This is "theological": this comes from God, it is the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

Jesus preaches, in the Sermon on the Mount: "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them" (*Lk 6:32-33*). And he concludes: "But love your enemies" - we are used to speaking badly of our enemies - "love your enemies and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish" (*v. 35*). Let us remember this: "Love your enemies and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return". Let us not forget this!

In these words, love reveals itself as a theological virtue and assumes the name of charity. Love is charity. We immediately realize that it is a difficult, indeed impossible love to practice if one does not live in God. Our human nature makes us love spontaneously what is good and beautiful. In the name of an ideal or a great affection we can even be generous and perform heroic acts. But the love of God goes beyond these criteria. Christian love embraces what is not lovable, it offers forgiveness - how difficult it is to forgive! How much love it takes to forgive! - Christian love blesses those who curse, whereas, faced with an insult or a curse, we are accustomed to replying with another insult, with another curse. It is a love so ardent that it seems almost impossible, and yet it is the only thing that will remain of us. Love is the "narrow gate" through which we will pass in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Because at the twilight of life, we will not be judged on generic love; we will be judged precisely on charity, on the real love we had. And Jesus says this to us, which is so beautiful: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (*Mt 25:40*). This is the beautiful thing, the greatest thing about love. Onwards and upwards!

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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HOLY TRINITY 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.

Today is Trinity Sunday. It is the most foundational belief of Christianity and yet, the most difficult to understand. In fact you can't. It's beyond our little tiny minds. What can be said is that the three persons all have the same 'substance', which is God. They are different only in their relations with each other. Each person is God and therefore all powerful, all knowing and so forth. The Father is not superior to the Son nor the Holy Spirit. But how can this be? Are they three or one. Obviously they are three and they are one. Benedict XVI said that there is only one God and yet God 'talks to himself'. As we are made in the image and likeness of God, we, human beings like to be with other people. First of all there is the family and other groups and communities in everyone's life. We need to be in communion with other people. Well, this comes from God. He is a small community of persons, constantly in dialog with Himself, so to speak. The three person are constantly giving themselves to the other persons within the Godhead. The Father 'begets' the Son and so He is eternally grateful for this gift and gives Himself totally back to the Father and this mutual love is the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, the concept of "person" that we have comes from this doctrine of the Church and what a great gift that is, in itself.. That a person has dignity flows out of the doctrine of the Trinity and all the debates in the early church about it. Finally, what I am looking forward to, when I die is to see this immense 'powerhouse' that is the trinity. Total love of three persons in total communion.

Let us ask the trinity for the gift of communion with all those around us.

Fr. Paul



HOW CAN WE SERVE GOD IN OUR CHURCH?

We are in need of increasing the number of Eucharist ministers.

If you would like to be part of this service to the church, please contact Fr. Orlando.

HOLY DOOR

JUBILEE OF THE CATHOLIC MISSION IN THE TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

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 26-June 2

Trinity Sunday

Holy Mass: 09:00 am, 10:30am and 12:30pm
 04:00pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
 05:00pm Fraternite, Red Room.
 05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice.
 05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
 06:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday

St. Augustine of Canterbury
 05:00pm Confession near Holy Door
 05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG

Tuesday

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door
 05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG
 07:00pm First English, Parish Hall
 07:00pm Second English, SMG
 07:00pm Spanish, Red Room

Wednesday Pope St. Paul VI

05:00pm Confession near Holy Door
 05:30 pm 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

Visitation of Virgin Mary
 04:00pm ,Adoration, SMG
 05:30pm Daily Mass , SMG

Saturday

St. Justin
 05:30pm Mass in Church
 07:00pm Eucharist NCW



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875



The 12th grade students finished their high school coursework and are preparing to graduate. Some of them are helping the teachers with many tasks that are needed.

All the HFA students were learning about Pentecost and about the Holy Spirit, and how He is the most important guide for their steps.

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!

