

Catechesis on prayer - 29. The Church, teacher of prayer

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

The Church is a great school of prayer. Many of us learned how to whisper our first prayers on our parents' or grandparents' laps. We might, perhaps, cherish the memory of our mommy and daddy who taught us to say our prayers before going to bed. These moments of recollection are often those in which parents listen to some intimate secret and can give their advice inspired by the Gospel. Then, as they grow up, there are other encounters, with other witnesses and teachers of prayer (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2686-2687). This is good to remember.

The life of a parish and every Christian community is marked by liturgical moments and moments of community prayer. We become aware that the gift we received with simplicity in infancy is a great heritage, a rich inheritance and that the experience of prayer is worth deepening more and more (see *ibid.*, 2688). The garment of faith is not starched, but develops with us; it is not rigid, it grows, even through moments of crisis and resurrection. Actually, there is no growth without moments of crisis because crises make you grow. Experiencing crisis is a necessary way to grow. And the breath of faith is prayer: we grow in faith inasmuch as we learn to pray. After certain passages in life, we become aware that without faith we could not have made it and that our strength was prayer – not only personal prayer, but also that of our brothers and sisters, and of the community that accompanied and supported us, of the people who know us, of the people we ask to pray for us.

For this reason, too, communities and groups dedicated to prayer flourish in the Church. Some Christians even feel the call to make prayer the primary action of their day. There are monasteries, convents, hermitages in the Church where persons consecrated to God live. They often become centres of spiritual light. They are centres of community prayer that radiate spirituality. They are small oases in which intense prayer is shared and fraternal communion is constructed day by day. They are cells that are vital not only for the ecclesial fabric, but that of society itself. Let us think, for example, of the role that monasticism played in the birth and growth of European civilization, and other cultures as well. Praying and working in community keeps the world going. It is a motor!

Everything in the Church originates in prayer and everything grows thanks to prayer. When the Enemy, the Evil One, wants to combat the Church, he does so first by trying to drain her fonts, hindering them from praying. For example, we see this in certain groups who agree about moving ecclesial reform forward, changes in the life of the Church and all the organizations, it is the media that informs everyone... But prayer is not evident, there is no prayer. We need to change this; we need to make this decision that is a bit tough... But the proposal is interesting. It is interesting! Only with discussion, only through the media. But where is prayer? And prayer is what opens the door to the Holy Spirit, who inspires progress. Changes in the Church without prayer are not changes made by the Church. They are changes made by groups. And when the Enemy – as I said – wants to combat the Church, he does it first of all by draining her fonts, inhibiting prayer and making these other proposals. If prayer ceases, for a little while it seems that everything can go ahead like always – by inertia, no? – but after a short time, the Church becomes aware that it has become like an empty shell, that it has lost its bearings, that it no longer possesses its source of warmth and love.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

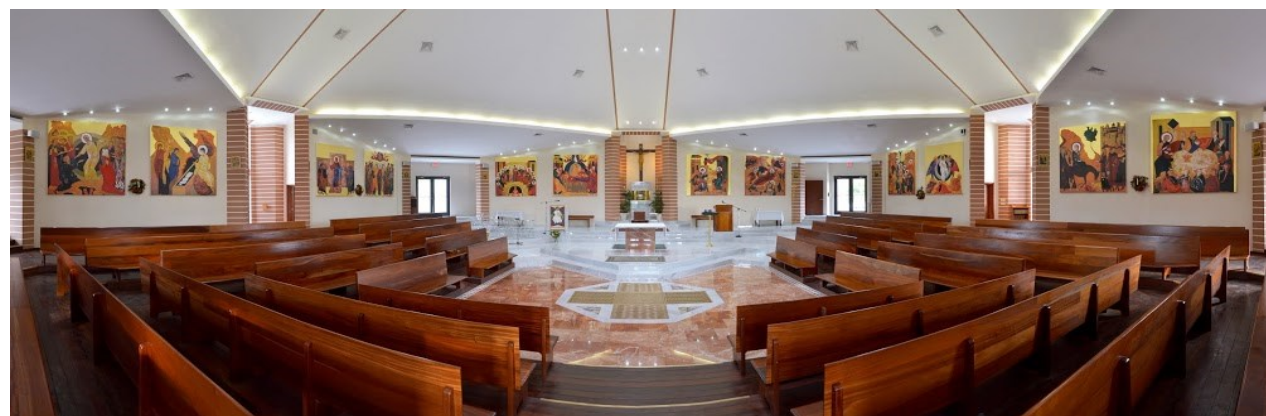
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III SUNDAY OF EASTER



HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30pm English, Church.

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

Weekdays: 05:30pm English, Church.
(*Except Wednesdays*)

Fridays:
05:30pm Church.
06:00pm Adoration Blessed
Sacrament and Rosary.

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: June 6, 2021.

Confirmation: Fall 2021.

Today is the third Sunday in the Easter season and the church continues to remind us that Christ is risen. Today's Gospel is again another resurrection appearance of Jesus to his Apostles. He asks them why they are so anxious and where are these doubting thoughts coming from? You can ask yourself the same question. Why am I so anxious and why do I doubt so much, especially since Christ is Risen! What is there to worry about if the Lord has truly risen?

Secondly, Jesus shows that he is not a ghost or an apparition, as some of them were thinking. He eats in front of them. This means that Jesus still has a body; a resurrected one, to be sure, but nevertheless, a real body. It means that Jesus is not a theory or an idea. He is really one of us! God took on our human nature, and our 'Flesh', and suffered and died for us but only to rise. You can therefore touch His resurrection in your own life. It can be experienced when you see that an impossible situation is solved and that also new life comes out of a hopeless problem or suffering.

Thirdly, Jesus' resurrection means that there is always hope. There are no "Hopeless cases". Even if someone close to you dies you can still experience the consolation of the Lord and begin to see that God brings good out of the bad. This is to touch the Resurrection in our lives. Then you can become a witness of the resurrection to others.

May the Risen Lord confirm your hearts in faith by His resurrection and that you may see and touch it in your life. Let this be our prayer.

Fr. Paul

BLESSING OF THE HOUSES

During this Easter Season the priests of the parish will be blessing the houses in the island, if you are interested, please contact the church to schedule the visit.

"Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened and I will give you rest". (Mt. 11:28)

God's mercy is greater than
our weaknesses.
He Loves you as you are.



Come and listen!

Catechesis for adults

Starting: Monday, April 12th.

Monday and Thursday

7:00 - 8:00 PM

Our Lady of Divine Providence, Parish Hall.

Everyone 13 & older is invited

Parish Events Apr 18—Apr 25

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

Monday: 05:30pm Mass, Church.

Tuesday: 05:30pm Mass, D. Mass Chapel.

Liturgy of the Word, NCW.

1st English Community, S.M.Goretti
2nd English Community, Blue Chapel.
2nd Spanish Community, B.S. Chap

Wednesday: Liturgy of the Word, NCW.

1st Spanish Community, Red Room.
1st Creole Community, Red Room.
3rd English Communities, Blue Chap.

Thursday: 05:30pm Mass

06:00pm Creole Choir Practice
06:30pm English Choir Practice.

Friday: 05:30pm Daily Mass, Church.
06:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction.

Saturday: 05:30pm Mass Church.



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: +1(649) 941-7875

Beginning Term 3 with mass, Holy Family Academy gives thanks to God for his goodness with the reopening of the school. Students and teachers were able to be together to celebrate Easter and share goodies. Working together on the foundation of the HFA pillars-spirituality and academics-school staff and families are looking forward to focus and work on academics to finish this year strong.

For information, please visit

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:

- Moving Outdoor planters and gardening material
- Heavy Duty Sun Shade Sail Canopy
- Tablets
- Hand Sanitizer / alcohol
- Paper hand towels
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255

Thank you!