

Catechesis on prayer - 25. Prayer and the Trinity. 1

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In our journey of catechesis on prayer, today and next week we will see how, thanks to Jesus Christ, prayer opens us up to the Trinity –to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - to the immense sea of God who is Love. It is Jesus who opened up Heaven to us and projected us into a relationship with God. It was he who did this: he opened up to us this relationship with the Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is what the Apostle John affirms at the conclusion of the prologue of his Gospel: “No one has ever seen God: the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made Him known” (*Jn 1:18*). Jesus revealed the identity to us, this identity of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit. We really did not know how to pray: what words, what feelings and what language were appropriate for God. In that request the disciples addressed to the Master, which we have often recalled in the course of these catecheses, there is all of humanity’s fumbling, repeated attempts, often unsuccessful, to address the Creator: “Lord, teach us to pray” (*Lk 11:1*).

Not all prayers are equal, and not all are convenient: the Bible itself attests to the negative outcome of many prayers, which are rejected. Perhaps God at times is not content with our prayers and we are not even aware of this. God looks at the hands of those who pray: to make them pure it is not necessary to wash them; if anything, one must refrain from evil acts. Saint Francis prayed: «Nullus homo ène dignu te mentovare», that is, “no man is worthy of naming you” (*Canticle of the Sun*).

But perhaps the most moving acknowledgment of the poverty of our prayer came from the lips of the Roman centurion who one day begged Jesus to heal his sick servant (cf. *Mt 8:5-13*). He felt totally inadequate: he was not a Jew, he was an officer in the detested occupying army. But his concern for his servant emboldens him, and he says: “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed” (v. 8). It is the phrase we also repeat in every Eucharistic liturgy. To dialogue with God is a grace: we are not worthy of it, we have no rights to claim, we “limp” with every word and every thought... But Jesus is the door that opens us to this dialogue with God.

Why should humanity be loved by God? There are no obvious reasons, there is no proportion... So much so that most mythologies do not contemplate the possibility of a god who cares about human affairs; on the contrary, they are considered bothersome and boring, entirely negligible. Remember God’s phrase to his people, repeated in Deuteronomy: “For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us?” This closeness of God is the revelation! Some philosophers say that God can only think of himself. If anything, it is we humans who try to convince the deity and be pleasing to his eyes. Hence the duty of “religion”, with the procession of sacrifices and devotions to be offered again and again to ingratiate ourselves with a mute God, an indifferent God. There is no dialogue. It was only Jesus, it was only the revelation of God to Moses before Jesus, when God presented himself; it was only the Bible that opened us up to dialogue with God. Remember: “What great nation is there that has a god so near to it as ours?”. This is God’s closeness, that opens us up to dialogue with him.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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III 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, Church.
(*Except Wednesdays*)

Fridays:
05:30pm Church.
05:00pm 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's Gospel is about Jesus' expulsion of the money changers and the dovesellers in the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus uses a whip to do this! The religious authorities ask for a sign, as they usually do, asking for proof. And the only proof given will be Jesus' own death and resurrection. What do these things tell you? Well the question is do you have some things in your Temple that contaminate it, such as your love of money or comforts or things? Each one must consider this during Lent. Will you allow the Lord the free hand He needs to clear these things from your heart? You need courage to do this and the Lord will do it if you let Him. It can also be that you like or enjoy your sins too much to let the Lord mess with them. In spite of Jesus' violence what He is doing is done out of love for His father and His Temple. Also you and I, are temples of the Holy Spirit and as members of the Body of Christ you are called to turn away from sin and believe in the good news and that is that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and can give you the grace to taste that he is all we need and that He is much sweeter than your sins. Turn yourself over to the Lord's correcting hand and He will give you an experience of being set free from those things that block us from knowing Jesus Christ. If you feel that the Lord is already doing this, i.e. 'clearing house' so to speak, then wait patiently and you will see the resurrection coming out of all of this.

As we continue our Lenten journey let us pray that the Lord can purify our hearts of everything that gets in the way of His love us and that so cleansed, we can experience His resurrection this Easter.

Fr. Paul

LENT SCHEDULE

Monday to Friday:

06:30 a.m. Morning prayer.
Blue Chapel

Every Friday:

04:30 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction.

05:30 p.m. Mass

06:00 p.m. Station of the Cross

Continuan las catequesis para adultos mayores de 13 años.



Lunes y jueves.

7:00 - 8:00 PM Parish Hall
Our Lady of Divine Providence

Parish Events Mar 7—Mar 14

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 Fraternity, Red Room.
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir Practice
05:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday: 05:30pm Mass, Church.
07:00pm Catequesis para adultos

Tuesday: 05:30pm Mass, Church.

Liturgy of the Word, NCW.

1st English Communities, P. Hall
2nd English Community, Blue Chapel
2nd Spanish Community, B.S. Chapel

Wednesday: Liturgy of the Word, NCW.

1st Spanish Community, S.M.Goretti.
1st Creole Community, Red Room.
3rd English Communities, B. Chapel.

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Church.
07:00pm Catequesis para adultos

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

Saturday: 05:30pm Mass, Church.

Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW

06:30pm English and Spanish. Church.
06:30pm Creole. Red Room.



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: +1(649) 941-7875

Students and teachers participated in Education Week with a variety of activities. Students received presentations from guest speakers from around the world on a number of different careers, as well as seminars and workshops, all through Zoom. Teachers were able to host games across grade levels to bring the interaction of learning to life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 8: Commonwealth Day.
(School Closed).

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!