

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In this catechesis, we will reflect on the *prayer for Christian unity*. In fact, the week of the 18th to the 25th of January is dedicated specifically to this – to ask God for the gift of unity to overcome the scandal of division between believers in Jesus. After the Last Supper, He prayed for His own, “that they may all be one” (*Jn 17:21*). This was His prayer before the Passion, we could call it His spiritual testament. Let us note, however, that the Lord did not command that His disciples be united. No, *He prayed*. He prayed to the Father for us, so that we might be one. This means that we are not able to achieve unity with our own strength. Above all, unity is a gift, it is a grace to be requested through prayer.

Each one of us needs it. In fact, we know that we are not capable of preserving unity even within ourselves. Even the apostle Paul felt a painful conflict within himself: wanting the good but inclined toward evil (see *Rm 7:19*). He had thus grasped the root of so many divisions that surround us – between people, in families, in society, between nations and even between believers – and inside us. The Second Vatican Council stated, “the imbalances under which the world labors are linked with that more basic imbalance which is rooted in the heart of man. For in man himself many elements wrestle with one another. [...] Hence he suffers from internal divisions, and from these flow so many and such great discords in society” (*Gaudium et spes*, 10). Therefore, the solution to these divisions is not to oppose someone, because discord generates more discord. The true remedy begins by asking God for peace, reconciliation, unity.

And this is valid, first of all, for Christians. Unity can be achieved only as a fruit of prayer. Diplomatic efforts and academic dialogue are not enough. These things are done, but they are not enough. Jesus knew this and opened the way for us by praying. Our prayer for unity is thus a humble but trusting *participation in the Lord's prayer*, who promised that any prayer said in His name would be heard by the Father (see *Jn 15:7*). At this point, we can ask ourselves: “Do I pray for unity?” It is Jesus's will but, if we inspect the intentions for which we pray, we would probably realize that we have prayed little, perhaps never, for Christian unity. And yet, the world's faith depends on it; in fact, the Lord asked that we be one “so that the world might believe” (*Jn 17:21*). The world will not believe because we will have convinced it with good arguments, but if we will have borne witness to that love that unites us and draws us near, yes: it will believe.

During this time of serious hardship, this prayer is even more necessary so that unity might prevail over conflicts. It is urgent that we set aside preferences to promote the common good, and so our good example is fundamental: it is essential that Christians pursue the path toward full visible unity. In the last decades, thanks be to God, there have been many steps forward, but we still need to persevere in love and in prayer, without lacking trust or tiring. It is the path that the Holy Spirit gave rise to in the Church, in Christians and in us, from which there is no turning back. Ever onward.

To pray means to fight for unity. Yes, fight, because our enemy, the devil, is the one who divides, as the word itself says. Jesus asks the Holy Spirit for unity, to create unity. The devil always divides. He always divides because it is convenient for him to divide. He fosters division everywhere and in any way, while the Holy Spirit always joins in unity. In general, the devil does not tempt us with high theology, but with the weaknesses of our brothers and sisters. He is astute: he magnifies others' mistakes and defects, sows discord, provokes criticism and creates factions. God has another way: He takes us as we are, He loves us so much, but He loves us as we are and takes us as we are; He takes those of us who are different, He takes sinners, and He always nudges us towards unity. We can evaluate ourselves and ask ourselves if, in the places in which we live, we nurture conflict or fight for an increase of unity with the tools that God has given us: prayer and love. What fuels conflict, instead, is gossip, always talking behind peoples' backs. Gossip is the most handy weapon the devil has to divide the Christian community, to divide families, to divide friends, to always divide. The Holy Spirit always inspires unity. The theme of this Week of Prayer specifically regards love: “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit” (see *Jn 15:5-9*). The root of communion and love is Christ who makes us overcome our prejudices to see in others a brother or sister to be loved always. Then we will discover that the Christians of other confessions – with their traditions, with their history – are gifts from God, they are gifts present within the territories of our diocesan and parish communities. Let us begin to pray for them and, when possible, with them. We will thus learn to love and appreciate them. Prayer, the Council reminds us, is the soul of every ecumenical movement (see *Unitatis redintegratio*, 8). Therefore, may prayer be the starting point to help Jesus make His dream come true: that they all may be one. Thank you.

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
P. Vicar: Rev. Rafael Velázquez
P. Vicar: Rev. Paul Passant

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

www.catholic.tc - oldpchurch@catholic.tc



III SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME



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: Date to be confirmed.

Confirmation: Date to be confirmed.



Today is the third Sunday in ordinary time and we hear in the Gospel the calling of the first Apostles by Jesus. Peter, Andrew, James and John, all fishermen, literally drop everything and follow Jesus. How can this be? They must have had a special grace to be open to Jesus. They must have heard Jesus' preaching and were touched by it and they just could not resist the Call when it came. You too are called. Everyone has a "Calling" in life. Perhaps you never said "Yes" to His call when it came. Some are called to marriage, some to the religious life and some to the Presbyterate. Whatever it is God has and is calling you. For example, to be a parent is definitely a calling and it needs the grace of the Lord. It is a very important mission being a parent as your children are entrusted to you by God and you are called upon to pass on the Faith to them, for their eternal salvation. Each one has been called but what if you have said "No" all your life or at least in the major decisions of your life. What can you do?

The answer is in the first section of the Gospel and it only occurs in Mark's Gospel. "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Sounds simple but it means to have a sincere sorrow for your sins even up to a deep regret, which can make you sad. This, however, is not the end, as there is also "believe in the good news". And what is the "good news"? It is that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. This means that all the things that cause death, both physically, spiritually and emotionally, have all been overcome in Christ's resurrection. All your mistakes and wrong turns have been covered over in the resurrection and not only that, but that your very mistakes, sins, can be turned to the good. There is no more need for remorse. Let us all be sorry for all the occasions we have not listened to the Lord's calling but have gone our own way, but let us rejoice in the Good News that they can all be turned to the Good in Jesus Christ.

May this "Double Movement" of initial sorrow lead us all to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Paul

Courage!
God's mercy is greater than our weaknesses.
He loves you, as you are



¡Ven y escucha!
Catequesis para adultos
Fecha inicio: Enero 18, 2020.

Lunes y jueves.
7:00 - 8:00 PM Parish Hall
Our Lady of Divine Providence

Remember:

- Masks are required **ALL TIME** while being inside and in public covering the nose and mouth. (Attendees, choir and lectors as well.)
- Keep 2mts / 6ft of physical distance.
- Attendees must register at the entrance.
- Sanitize your hands.

If you feel sick or can't attend Mass, you can follow our online Sunday Mass at our **YouTube** channel below:

Our Lady of Divine Providence
Roman Catholic Church
<https://qrqgo.page.link/U6mGg>

Parish Events Jan 24– Jan 31

Sunday: **Holy Mass: 09:00am, 10:30am and 12:30pm**
 04:00pm 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.

Tuesday: 05:30pm Mass, Church.
Liturgy of the Word, NCW.
 1st Spanish Community, S.M.Goretti
 2nd Spanish Community, B.S. Chap
 1st English Communities, P. Hall
 2nd English Community, Blue Chapel

Wednesday: **Liturgy of the Word, NCW.**
 1st Creole Community, Red Room.
 3rd English Communities, B. Chapel.

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Church.
 06:00pm Creole Choir Practice Parish Hall.
 06:30pm English Choir Practice, D. Mass Chapel.

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

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



We are happy to announce that **Preschool** is returning to in person instruction this last week of **January** and we are looking forward to the return of **10th and 11th grade** to school on **February 1**.

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!