

Let us continue our journey concerning vices and virtues; and the ancient Fathers teach us that, after gluttony, the second 'demon' – that is, vice – that is always crouching at the door of the heart is that of *lust*, called *porneia* in Greek. While gluttony is voracity with regard to food, this second vice is a kind of 'voracity' with regard to another person, that is, the poisoned bond that human beings have with each other, especially in the sphere of sexuality.

But let us look at the human experience, the experience of falling in love. There are so many newlyweds here: you can talk about this. Why this mystery happens, and why it is such a shattering experience in people's lives, none of us know. One person falls in love with another, falling in love just happens. It is one of the most astonishing realities of existence. Most of the songs you hear on the radio are about this: loves that shine, loves that are always sought and never attained, loves that are full of joy, or that torment us to the point of tears.

If it is not polluted by vice, falling in love is one of the purest feelings. A person in love becomes generous, enjoys giving gifts, writes letters and poems. He stops thinking of himself to be completely focused on the other. This is beautiful. And if you ask a person in love, "Why you love?" they won't have an answer: In so many ways their love is unconditional, without any reason. You must have patience if that love, which is so powerful, is also a little naive: lovers does not really know the face of the other, they tends to idealise them, they are ready to make promises whose weight they don't immediately grasp. This 'garden' where wonders are multiplied is not, however, safe from evil. It is defiled by the demon of lust, and this vice is particularly odious, for at least two reasons. At least two.

First, because it *destroys relationships between peoples*. To prove such a reality, unfortunately, the daily news is sufficient. How many relationships that began in the best of ways have then turned into toxic relationships, of possession of the other, lacking respect and a sense of limits? These are loves in which chastity has been missing: a virtue not to be confused with sexual abstinence – chastity is something different from sexual abstinence – but rather must be connected with the will never to possess the other. To love is to respect the other, to seek his or her happiness, to cultivate empathy for his or her feelings, to dispose oneself in the knowledge of a body, a psychology, and a soul that are not our own, and that must be contemplated for the beauty they bear. That is love, and love is beautiful. Lust, on the other hand, makes a mockery of all this: lust plunders, it robs, it consumes in haste, it does not want to listen to the other but only to its own need and pleasure; lust judges every courtship a bore, it does not seek that synthesis between reason, drive and feeling that would help us to conduct existence wisely. The lustful seeks only shortcuts: he does not understand that the road to love must be travelled slowly, and this patience, far from being synonymous with boredom, allows us to make our loving relationships happy.

But there is a second reason why lust is a dangerous vice. Among all human pleasures, sexuality has a powerful voice. It involves all the senses; it dwells both in the body and in the psyche, and this is very beautiful; but if it is not disciplined with patience, if it is not inscribed in a relationship and in a story where two individuals transform it into a loving dance, it turns into a chain that deprives human beings of freedom. Sexual pleasure that is a gift from God is undermined by pornography: satisfaction without relationship that can generate forms of addiction. We have to defend love, the love of the heart, of the mind, of the body, pure love in the giving of oneself to the other. And this is the beauty of sexual intercourse.

Winning the battle against lust, against the "objectification" of the other, can be a lifelong endeavour. But the prize of this battle is the most important of all, because it is preserving that beauty that God wrote into His creation when He imagined love between man and woman, which is not for the purpose of using one another, but of loving one another. That beauty that makes us believe that building a story together is better than going in search of adventures – there are so many Don Juans out there; building a story together is better than going in search of adventures; cultivating tenderness is better than bowing to the demon of possession – true love does not possess, it gives itself; serving is better than conquering. Because if there is no love, life is sad, it is sad loneliness.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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.

Program to celebrate the anniversary

In today's Gospel, Jesus summarizes the whole Gospel message. He says, "Repent and believe the Good News." It sounds so simple and it is. The first thing to do each day is to call to mind your sins and to repent of them. This includes those things you put before God, such as the esteem of those around you, e.g. in your family, friends or at school or at work. When you do not tell someone the truth as you may lose their friendship or be despised for saying the truth which often goes against the prevailing culture. Other sins include the usual ones of lust, pride, greediness, selfishness and lack of love for others. Also gossiping and judging etc. If you really want to give them up and are truly sorry for them all, then the Good News kicks in and that is, that Jesus Christ has died and risen over all these sins and loves you no matter what. There is always this process for you to feel forgiven. First the sorrow for sin and then the resurrection which comes from knowing and experiencing the Good News of the Lord's unending love for you. Only if you recognize your sins can you really deeply experience the love of God, as it is undeserved and free. You do not have to earn it. Also it means after this process not to look back at our sins but move forward. May we all have this grace to repent and believe in the love of the Lord for each one of us.

Fr. Paul.

HOLY HOUR

FRIDAYS

4:00 pm—5:00pm.



Rosary in three languages and reflection and meditation on the Holy Eucharist. In the Upper Room St. Maria Goretti.

The Catholic Mission in the Turks and Caicos Islands will celebrate its **25th anniversary** under the leadership of the Archbishop of Newark from **January 27-29, 2024.**

We will be gathering to express our gratitude to God by celebrating the incredible journey we have been on.

Cardinal Tobin will be the main celebrant, along with Bishop Peter and many others who will join us.

Let us welcome them together at the airport on **Saturday, January 27 at 01:00 pm.**

Activities:

Saturday: HFA Catholic School
04:00 - 06:30 pm.

Sunday: Main Church
11:00 am. Mass.
01:00 pm. Lunch
03:00 - 06:30 pm.

Meetings with the different groups.

Monday: Blessing of the first stone of the new chapel St. Joseph in Long Bay.

THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE MASS ON SUNDAY, JAN. 28, AT 11:00 A.M.

THERE WILL NOT BE MASS ON SATURDAY, JAN 27.

Parish Events Jan.21-28

Sunday Holy Mass: 09:00 am.10:30am. 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 Protection of the unborn

05:30pm Mass in English, SMG upstairs

Tuesday St. Marian Cope
Daily Mass, SMG upstairs

05:30 pm First English Parish Hall
07:00pm Second English SMG
07:00pm Spanish Red Room

Wednesday St. Francis de Sales
05:30 pm D. Mass ,SMG
Third English, SMG
Fourth English Red Room
Fifth English, Blue chapel

Thursday Conversion of St. Paul
05:30 pm D. Mass , SMG

Friday St.s Timothy and Titus
04:00pm Adoration, SMG, upstairs
05:30pm D. Mass SMG

Saturday St. Angela Merici
NO MASSES THIS NIGHT



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

The annual Sports Day that was celebrated this past Friday, training for the games, creating their team's banners and the chants.



Saint Anthony was listening to the Gospel: "Go sell all your goods and give the money to the poor". The students have experienced and see how God provides for them.

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.

- Scientific Calculators
- Projectors and projector screens
- Projector stands
- Erasable markers and erasers
- Art Supplies
- Printing Paper
- Sport supplies
- AA Batteries
- Asthma Inhalers & AED

Amazon



Click on our **Wish List** or scan the code to see more!