

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

...continue

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.

Holy women and men do not have easier lives than other people. Even they actually have their own problems to address, and, what is more, they are often the objects of opposition. But their strength is prayer. They always draw from the inexhaustible “well” of Mother Church. Through prayer they nourish the flame of their faith, as oil used to do for lamps. And thus, they move ahead walking in faith and hope. The saints, who often count for little in the eyes of the world, are in reality the ones who sustain it, not with the weapons of money and power, of the communications media – and so forth – but with the weapon of prayer.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus poses a dramatic question that always makes us reflect: “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (Lk 18:8), or will he find only organizations, like groups of entrepreneurs of the faith, everything organized well, who do charitable works, many things, or will he find faith? “When the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?” This question comes at the end of a parable that demonstrates the need to pray with perseverance without getting tired (see vv. 1-8). Therefore, we can conclude that the lamp of faith will always be lit on earth as long as there is the oil of prayer. It is this leads faith forward and leads our lives – weak, sinners – forward, but prayer leads it securely forward. The question that we Christians need to ask ourselves is: Do I pray? Do we pray? How do I pray? Like parrots or do I pray with my heart? How do I pray? Do I pray, certain that I am in the Church and that I pray with the Church? Or do I pray a bit according to my ideas and then make my ideas become prayer? This is a pagan prayer, not Christian. I repeat: We can conclude that the lamp of faith will always be lit on earth as long as there is the oil of prayer.

And this is the Church’s essential task: to pray and to teach how to pray. To transmit the lamp of faith and the oil of prayer from generation to generation. The lamp of faith that illuminates fixes things as they truly are, but it can only go forward with the oil of faith. Otherwise, it is extinguished. Without the light of this lamp, we would not be able to see the path of evangelization, or rather, we would not be able to see the path in order to believe well; we would not be able to see the faces of our brothers and sisters to draw near and serve; we would not be able to illuminate the room where we meet in community. Without faith everything collapses; and without prayer faith is extinguished. Faith and prayer together. There is no other alternative. For this reason, the Church, as the house and school of communion, is the house and school of faith and prayer.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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IV 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.
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 is Good Shepherd Sunday. It's always the 4th Sunday in Easter time. I will focus on the verse "I am the Good Shepherd, I know mine and mine know me." The verb "to know" in the old testament, means more than just intellectual knowledge. It refers to personal intimacy. To know a person means to know them intimately. Through the prophet Hosea the Lord said He would betroth His people to himself (Ho. 2:21). This knowledge of the intimacy of the people of Israel with God produced their return to the Lord with all their hearts. If only you would come to this same knowledge of the Lord's desire to 'Betroth' you to himself. You would then return to Him and your heart would change. But what has this to do with Jesus being the good shepherd? Everything. If you come to know the love of the Lord for you personally and intimately, you would be overwhelmed and become truly repentant and then, naturally you would listen to His voice. May the Lord grant us the grace of knowing Him intimately, so that we can listen to His voice.

Perhaps you have heard it is true that the sheep become accustomed to the voice of the shepherd and if the shepherd dies they will not follow anyone else. There can be no replacement shepherd! The same for us. There can be no replacement shepherd. There is only one voice to listen to and that is Jesus Christ's. He speaks to us through the readings at mass; in the homily; in the sacrament itself; and in the daily events of our lives. May you have ears and hearts open to listen to what He is trying to tell you. This can be our prayer for today.

The Lord has given the Church shepherds, who speak in the Lord's name, such as the pope, the bishops and the pastors. Pray for us that we can always speak the words of Jesus Christ faithfully.

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 25—May 2

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, Church.
Liturgy of the Word, NCW.
1st English Community, S.M.Goretti
2nd Spanish Community, B.S. Chap

Wednesday: Liturgy of the Word, NCW.
1st Spanish Community, Red Room.
1st Creole Community, Red Room.
2nd English Community, Blue Chapel.
3rd English Communities, Blue Chap.

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Church.
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

This past Friday, High School students had the opportunity to participate in International Book Day by presenting the books they are reading in a play. Through their interactions, students were able to enjoy the importance of literacy together with their audience.

To keep the joy of Easter alive, we are taking advantage of the Pascal remedies to be reconciled to God through the sacraments.

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!