

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

... Continues

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.

A God who loves humanity: we would never have had the courage to believe in him, had we not known Jesus. The knowledge of Jesus made us understand this, it let this be revealed to us. It is the scandal – it is a scandal! - that we find inscribed in the parable of the merciful father, or in that of the shepherd who goes in search of the lost sheep (cf. *Lk 15*). We would not have been able to conceive or even comprehend such stories if we had not met Jesus. What kind of God is prepared to die for people? Which one? What kind of God loves always and patiently, without demanding to be loved in return? What God accepts the tremendous lack of gratitude of a son who asks for his inheritance in advance and leaves home, squandering everything? (cf. *Lk 15:12-13*).

It is Jesus who reveals God's heart. Thus Jesus tells us through his life the extent to which God is a Father. *Tam Pater nemo*: No one is Father like he is. The paternity that is closeness, compassion and tenderness. Do not forget these three words, that are God's style: closeness, compassion and tenderness. It is his way of expressing his paternity towards us. It is difficult for us to imagine from afar the love with which the Holy Trinity is filled, and the depth of the reciprocal benevolence that exists between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Eastern icons offer us a glimpse of this mystery that is the origin and joy of the whole universe.

Above all, it was beyond us to believe that this divine love would expand, landing on our human shore: we are the recipients of a love that has no equal on earth. The Catechism explains: "The sacred humanity of Jesus is therefore the way by which the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray to God our Father" (no. 2664). And this is the grace of our faith. We really could not have hoped for a higher vocation: the humanity of Jesus – God who came close to us in Jesus - made available to us the very life of the Trinity, and threw wide open this door of the mystery of the love of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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IV 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.

The Gospel of the fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday or 'Rejoice Sunday', is a well known one. Everyone knows John 3:16, "for God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life." But the Gospel also says that although the Light has come into the world people have preferred darkness and do not want to come into the light. This means that you do not want your sins to be exposed; and why not? Because they are embarrassing and humiliating! Your sins, when they come out are not very pretty. In fact, they are downright disgraceful and break your self image. This, however, is the good aspect of sin. When it comes out into the open it humbles you and this is a good thing. So, it is really your pride that does not want your sins to be exposed, but in another Gospel passage, Jesus says "the truth will set you free." This involves the calm and quiet admission of your sins and faults, trusting in the verse quoted above, that faith will gain for you eternal life in spite of them. Also, Lent is a time to discover your sins and to "mourn" for them which can be painful. Therefore if you confess your sins, either in the sacrament or by asking forgiveness of someone you have hurt then you will be set free.

It is also important in this time to contemplate Jesus Christ crucified, as it says in the beginning of today's Gospel, that just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert so must Jesus be raised up. This refers to His crucifixion.

Finally, Pope Francis has been emphasizing the grace of Hope. That Lent is a time of Hope and not of discouragement. Do not let your sins overwhelm you but look up to the Lord on the cross to see his merciful love.

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

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

10:30 a.m. Solemn Procession from Downtown followed by Multilingual Mass. English / Creole / Spanish.

HOLY THURSDAY

06:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper. Multilingual: English / Creole / Spanish.

GOOD FRIDAY

03:00 p.m. Multilingual: English / Creole / Spanish.

SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL

10:00 p.m. Night Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY

09:00 a.m. English at the Church.

11:00 a.m. Multilingual at the Church.

05:30 p.m. English

Parish Events Mar 14—Mar 21

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.
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

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Students keep receiving formation during this Lenten season to help them prepare themselves for Easter. Little by little they have been able to see the importance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the tools that the church is giving us at this time.

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!