

Audience of Pope Francis 19 January, 2022

Today, I would like to explore the figure of Saint Joseph as a *father in tenderness*. I had the opportunity to reflect on this aspect of tenderness, an aspect of Saint Joseph's personality. As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: "he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him (cf. *Hos 11:3-4*) It is beautiful, this definition in the Bible, that shows God's relationship with the people of Israel. It is the same relationship, we think, that there was between Saint Joseph and Jesus. The Gospels attest that Jesus always used the word "father" to speak of God and his love. Many parables have as their protagonist the figure of a father. One of the most famous is certainly that of the merciful Father, recounted by Luke the Evangelist (cf. *Lk 15:11-32*). This parable emphasizes not only the experience of sin and forgiveness, but also the way in which forgiveness reaches the person who has done wrong. The text says: "While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him". The son was expecting a punishment, a justice that at most could have given him the place of one of the servants, but he finds himself wrapped in his father's embrace. Tenderness is something greater than the logic of the world. It is an unexpected way of doing justice. That is why we must never forget that God is not frightened by our sins: let us fix this clearly in our minds. God is not frightened by our sins, he is greater than our sins: he is the father, he is love, he is tender. He is not frightened by our sins, our mistakes, our slip-ups, but he is frightened by the closure of our hearts – this, yes, this makes him suffer – he is frightened by our lack of faith in his love. There is great tenderness in the experience of God's love. And it is beautiful to think that the first person to transmit this reality to Jesus was Joseph himself. For the things of God always come to us through the mediation of human experiences. Long ago – I don't know if I have already told this story – a group of young people who did theatrical drama, a pop theatre group, ahead of the curve, were struck by this parable of the merciful father and decided to create a pop theatre production on this matter, with this story. And they did it well. And the story is that, at the end, a friend listens to a son who is estranged from his father, who wanted to return home but was afraid that his father would kick him out and punish him. And the friend, said, "Send a messenger to say that you want to return home, and if your father will receive you, to put a handkerchief in the window, the one you can see as soon as you take the last part of the path home". And this was done. And the work, with singing and dancing, continues until the moment that the son turns onto the last stretch of the road and sees the house. And when he looks up, he sees the house full of white handkerchiefs: full of them. Not one, but three or four in every window. This is God's mercy. He is not deterred by our past, by the bad things we have done; settling the accounts with God is a beautiful thing, because we begin to talk, and he embraces us. Tenderness! So, we can ask ourselves if we ourselves have experienced this tenderness, and if we in turn have become its witnesses. For tenderness is not primarily an emotional or sentimental matter: it is the experience of feeling loved and welcomed precisely in our poverty and misery, and thus transformed by God's love. God does not rely only on our talents, but also on our redeemed weakness. This, for example, makes Saint Paul say that there is also a plan for one's fragility. In fact, he wrote to the community of Corinth: "And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me...Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" (*2 Cor 12:7-9*). The Lord does not take away all our weaknesses, but helps us to walk on with our weaknesses, taking us by the hand. He takes our weaknesses by the hand and places himself by our side. And this is tenderness. The experience of tenderness consists in seeing God's power pass through precisely that which makes us most fragile; on condition, however, that we are converted from the gaze of the Evil One who "makes us see and condemn our frailty", while the Holy Spirit "brings it to light with tender love." "Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. [...] Look how nurses touch the wounds of the sick: with tenderness, so as not to hurt the further. And this is how the Lord touches our wounds, with the same tenderness. That is why it is so important to encounter God's mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, in personal prayer with God, where we experience his truth and tenderness. Paradoxically, the evil one can also speak the truth to us: he is a liar, but he can arrange things so that he tells us the truth in order to tell us a lie, yet he does so only to condemn us. Instead, the Lord tells us the truth and reaches out his hand to save us. We know that God's truth does not condemn, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us." God always forgives: keep this clearly in your head and your heart. God always forgives. We are the ones who tire of asking for forgiveness. But he always forgives, even the worst things. It does us good, then, to mirror ourselves in Joseph's fatherhood, which is a mirror of God's fatherhood, and to ask ourselves whether we allow the Lord to love us with his tenderness, transforming each one of us into men and women capable of loving in this way. Without this "revolution of tenderness" – there is a need for a revolution of tenderness! we risk remaining imprisoned in a justice that does not allow us to rise easily and that confuses redemption with punishment.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
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IV SUNDAY OF 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, Blue Chapel.

Fridays: 04:00pm Adoration of Blessed
Sacrament and Rosary.
05:30pm Blue Chapel.

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: Corpus Christi, 2022.

Confirmation: TBA

In the Gospel Jesus comes to His home town and initially He is praised. Then, it almost seems that Jesus deliberately does this, He incites the crowd against Himself. Why do the people get so upset because of what He says about the Prophets, Elijah and Elisha? Because the Jews of Jesus time thought that they were the chosen people and God was only with them. Whilst it is true that the Jewish people are His chosen people, and God never removes this election upon them, but Jesus is bringing something completely new. Yet He is using the Old Testament to prove it! That is that He wants everyone to be saved, Jews and pagans as well. This is earth shattering for the Jews. They cannot accept it and feel that Jesus is blaspheming by saying such things. Can you be like this? Are you open really deeply to the will of God? What if the Lord asks you to do something you do not want to do? Do you put the Lord in a box and that's where He has to stay so that you feel okay? Jesus Christ always is new. He can not be put in a box. If you think you know how the Lord works, then for sure you do not! The ways of the Lord are mysterious indeed. It also means that none of us is assured of salvation. You cannot be absolutely sure that you will be saved even if the Lord has done miracles through you. This is the precariousness of life. Not only that, but what if the person you cannot stand or despise is more likely to get to heaven than you? Clearly we are called to trust and hope and have faith in Jesus who died for us. Let these readings spur us on to ask for these gifts.

Fr. Paul

CATECHESIS FOR ADULTS

COME AND LISTEN

“I am the resurrection. Anyone who believes in me will never die.”

Jn. 11:26

**MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS
7-8PM**

Daily Mass (Blue) Chapel

All are invited 13 years and older

Free babysitting

HOLY HOUR TO END THE PANDEMIC



All are invited to come and adore the Lord in the blessed sacrament at the new time of 4:00 pm –5:15pm on every Friday in the daily mass chapel. There will be adoration, rosary, spiritual reading and confessions. This can also be a good preparation for the daily mass at 5:30pm. The change comes so that those who could not stay after 6pm due to other reasons can now come earlier.

Parish Events Jan. 30-Feb. 6

Sunday: Holy Mass: 09:00am,10:30am,12:30pm

04:00pm Coeur de Marie: Children's group.

05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.

05:00pm Fraternite, Red Room.

05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice

05:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

St. John Bosco 07:00pm Catechesis Blue Chapel

Tuesday 05:30pm D. Mass, Chapel,

07:00pm 1st English. Church

07:00pm 4th English. B. Sacrament

07:00pm 1st Spanish. Blue Chapel

07:00pm 2nd Spanish. Red Room

Wednesday: 05:30pm Daily Mass Chapel

Presentation of the Lord 07:00pm 1st Creole. Red Room.
07:00pm 2nd Creole B. Sacrament.
07:00pm 3rd English. Blue Chapel
07:00pm 2nd English, Church

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.

St. Blaise
St. Ansgar 06:00pm Creole Choir Practice Parish Hall.
07:00pm Catechesis, Blue Chapel.

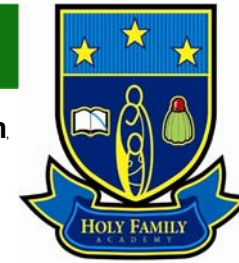
Friday: 04:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction. Confessions

St. Agatha 05:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel.

Saturday: 05:30pm Mass, Church

Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW

07:00pm Church, Blue Chapel and Red Room.



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

This past week, we were happy to have your eminence Joseph William Cardinal Tobin perform the sacrament of confirmation for the candidates and students who were ready to receive the graces of the holy spirit.

Congratulations Candidates!

This **Monday 31 January**, the school will be open to all grades! This is good news. There will be only face to face classes. We thank the Lord for this great news and remember that; **GOD IS LOVE AND HE LOVES US!**

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:

- Abacus
- Jumping Ropes, Pingo Pong table
- Hand Sanitizer, alcohol and paper hand towels
- Cleaning Tools (mops, brooms, gloves.)
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255