

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear brothers and sisters, buongiorno!

In the Gospel of this Fifth Sunday of Easter (Jn 15:1-8), the Lord presents himself as the true vine, and speaks of us as the branches that cannot live without being united to Him. And so He says: "I am the vine, you are the branches" (v. 5). There is no vine without branches, and vice versa. The branches are not self-sufficient, but depend totally on the vine, which is the source of their existence.

Jesus insists on the verb "to abide". He repeats it seven times in today's Gospel reading. Before leaving this world and going to the Father, Jesus wants to reassure His disciples that they can continue to be united with Him. He says, "Abide in me, and I in you" (v. 4). This abiding is not a question of abiding passively, of "slumbering" in the Lord, letting oneself be lulled by life: no, no! It is not this. The abiding in Him, the abiding in Jesus that He proposes to us is abiding actively, and also reciprocally. Why? Because the branches without the vine can do nothing, they need sap to grow and to bear fruit; but the vine, too, needs the branches, since fruit does not grow on the tree trunk. It is a reciprocal need, it is a question of a reciprocal abiding so as to bear fruit. We abide in Jesus and Jesus abides in us.

First of all, we need Him. The Lord wants to say to us that before the observance of His commandments, before the beatitudes, before works of mercy, it is necessary to be united to Him, to remain in him. We cannot be good Christians if we do not remain in Jesus. With Him, instead, we can do everything (cf. Phil 4:13). With Him we can do everything.

But even Jesus needs us, like the vine with the branches. Perhaps to say this seems audacious to us, and so we ask ourselves: in what sense does Jesus need us? He needs our witness. Like the branches the fruit we must give is the witness to our lives as Christians. After Jesus ascended to the Father, the task of the disciples - it is our task - is to continue to proclaim the Gospel in words and in deeds. And the disciples - we, Jesus' disciples - do so by bearing witness to His love: the fruit to be borne is love. Attached to Christ, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and in this way we can do good to our neighbour, we can do good to society, to the Church. The tree is known by its fruit. A truly Christian life bears witness to Christ. And how can we succeed in doing this? Jesus says to us: "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you" (v.7). This too is bold: the certainty that what we ask for will be given to us. The fruitfulness of our life depends on prayer.

We can ask to think like Him, to act like Him, to see the world and things with the eyes of Jesus. And in this way, to love our brothers and sisters, starting from the poorest and those who suffer most, like He did, and to love them with His heart and to bring to the world fruits of goodness, fruits of charity, fruits of peace.

Let us entrust ourselves to the intercession of the Virgin Mary. She always remained completely united to Jesus and bore much fruit. May she help us abide in Christ, in his love, in his word, to bear witness to the Risen Lord in the world.

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

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VI 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.
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: June 6, 2021.

Confirmation: Fall 2021.

Today is the sixth Sunday of Easter. In the Gospel Jesus gives an impossible commandment. "Love one another as I have loved you." How did Jesus love you? He loved and loves you when you are mean and nasty, when you are angry, violent, or judgemental. He loves you when you are a hypocrite; when you speak badly about others behind their backs and whatever sins you might have. Jesus not only loves you with all your faults he died in your place so that your sins can be forgiven. Even if you despise Him he continues to love you. This kind of love is very hard to believe in, is it not? Yet this is the kind of love Jesus is "commanding" us to have for others. He adds to this statement by saying that by loving like this "your joy will be complete." Jesus is showing us the way to happiness, which is to love the people around us without asking or desiring them to change. To love them even when they sin against you. However, this is also completely impossible on your own will power or strength. In the second reading from the apostle John, he writes "In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins." This means that first of all, in order to love, one thing is needed and that is to allow yourself to be loved by God. The initiative to love the other comes from God loving you first. Let the Cross of Christ denounce your sins against love but let His resurrection give you the surety of His love.

Let us pray for this grace to accept the love of the Lord for each one of us, personally, and let it transform your heart so that you can begin to love the other people around you with the same love and thus experience the joy the Lord talks about. May the Lord grant us this grace. Remember what St. Therese, the Little Flower said, "Tout est grace", which means everything is a grace of God, but especially to love like Jesus commands.

Fr. Paul

THE ASECION OF THE LORD

will be celebrated on
Sunday, May 16.

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
Free Babysitting.

Parish Events May 9—May 16

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, Red Room

Wednesday: Liturgy of the Word, NCW.
1st Spanish Community, SM.Goretti.
1st Creole Community, Red Room.
2nd English Community, Parish Hall.
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.

NCW. Eucharist
05:30pm
07:00pm



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
Tel: +1(649) 941-7875

Students and staff continue to listen as the Lord calls us to be apostles like the ones we celebrated on Monday. We are called to announce the good news of God's love to each other and whoever our neighbor might be.

This past Sunday five of our students were able to meet with TCI artist Bradley Theodore and participate in an art competition to design the next Turks & Caicos International Film Festival.



For more information 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!