

Angelus of Pope Francis 30 January, 2022

In recent weeks we have been able to deepen our understanding of the figure of Saint Joseph, guided by the few but important pieces of information given in the Gospels, and also by the aspects of his personality that the Church over the centuries has been able to highlight through prayer and devotion. Starting precisely from this *sentire commune* ("common feeling") of the Church that has accompanied the figure of St Joseph, today I would like to focus on an important article of faith that can enrich our Christian life and also shape our relationship with the saints and with our deceased loved ones in the best possible way: I am talking about the *communio of saints*. We often say, in the Creed, "I believe in the communion of saints." But if you ask what the communion of saints is, I remember as a child I used to answer immediately, "Ah, the saints receive Communion." It's something that... we don't understand what we are saying. What is the communion of saints? It's not the saints receiving Communion, it's not that. It's something else. Sometimes even Christianity can fall into forms of devotion that seem to reflect a mentality that is more pagan than Christian. The fundamental difference is that our prayer and our devotion of the faithful people is not based, in these cases on trust in a human being, or in an image or an object, even when we know that they are sacred. The prophet Jeremiah reminds us: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man, [...] blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord" (17:5,7). Even when we rely fully on the intercession of a saint, or even more so that of the Virgin Mary, our trust only has value in relation to Christ. As if the path toward this saint or toward Our Lady does not end there, no. Not there, but in relationship with Christ. He is the bond, Christ is the bond that unites us to him and to each other, and which has a specific name: this bond that unites us all, between ourselves and us with Christ, it is the "communio of saints". It is not the saints who work miracles, no! This saint is so miraculous..." No, stop there. The saints don't work miracles, but only the grace of God that acts through them. Miracles are done by God, by the grace of God acting through a holy person, a righteous person. This must be made clear. There are people who say, "I don't believe in God, I don't know, but I believe in this saint." No, this is wrong. The saint is an intercessor, one who prays for us and we pray to him, and he prays for us and the Lord gives us grace: The Lord, through the saint. What, then, is the "communio of saints"? The Catechism of the Catholic Church affirms: "The communion of saints is the Church" (no. 946). See what a beautiful definition this is! "The communion of saints is the Church." What does this mean? That the Church is reserved for the perfect? No. It means that it is the community of *saved sinners* [It: peccatori salvati]. The Church is the community of saved sinners. It's beautiful, this definition. No one can exclude themselves from the Church, we are all saved sinners. Our holiness is the fruit of God's love manifested in Christ, who sanctifies us by loving us in our misery and saving us from it. Thanks always to him we form one single body, says St Paul, in which Jesus is the head and we are the members (cf. 1 Cor 12:12). This image of the Body of Christ and the image of the body immediately makes us understand what it means to be bound to one another in *communio*: Let us listen to what Saint Paul says: "If one member suffers", writes St Paul, "all the members suffer together; and if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with him. Now you are the body of Christ and, each according to his part, his members" (1 Cor 12:26-27). This is what Paul says: we are all one body, all united through faith, through baptism... All in communion: united in communion with Jesus Christ. And this is the communion of saints. The joy and sorrow that touch my life affect everyone, just as the joy and sorrow that touch the life of the brother and sister next to us also affect me. I cannot be indifferent to others, because we are all in one body, in communion. In this sense, even the sin of an individual person always affects everyone, and the love of each individual person affects everyone. In virtue of the communion of saints, this union, every member of the Church is bound to me in a profound way. But I don't say "to me" because I am the Pope; [I say] to each one of us he is bound, we have been bound, and bound in a profound way and this bond is so strong that it cannot be broken even by death. Even by death. In fact, the communion of saints does not concern only those brothers and sisters who are beside me at this historic moment, or who live in this historic moment, but also those who have concluded their journey, the earthly pilgrimage and crossed the threshold of death. They too are in communion with us. Let us consider, dear brothers and sisters, that in Christ no one can ever truly separate us from those we love because the bond is an existential bond, a strong bond that is in our very nature; only the manner of being together with one another them changes, but nothing and no one can break this bond. "Father, let's think about those who have denied the faith, who are apostates, who are the persecutors of the Church, who have denied their baptism: Are these also at home?" Yes, these too. All of them. The blasphemers, all of them. We are brothers. This is the communion of saints. The communion of saints holds together the community of believers on earth and in heaven, and on earth the saints, the sinners, all. In this sense, the relationship of friendship that I can build with a brother or sister beside me, I can also establish with a brother or sister in heaven. The saints are friends with whom we very often establish friendly relations. What we call *devotion* to a saint — "I am very devoted to this or that saint" — what we call devotion is actually a way of expressing love from this very bond that unites us. Also, in everyday life one can say, "But this person has such devotion for his elderly parents": no, it is a manner of love, an expression of love. And we all know that we can always turn to a friend, especially when we are in difficulty and need help. And we have friends in heaven. We all need friends; we all need meaningful relationships to help us get through life. Jesus, too, had his friends, and he turned to them at the most decisive moments of his human experience. In the history of the Church there are some constants that accompany the believing community: first of all, the great affection and the very strong bond that the Church has always felt towards Mary, Mother of God and our Mother. But also the special honour and affection she has bestowed on St Joseph. After all, God entrusts to him the most precious things he has: his Son Jesus and the Virgin Mary. It is always thanks to the communion of saints that we feel that the men and women saints who are our patrons — because of the name we bear, for example, because of the Church to which we belong, because of the place where we live, and so on, as well as through personal devotion — are close to us. This is the trust that must always animate us.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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VI 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

The Gospel of today is Luke's version of the Beatitudes. It says that what ever are a person's situation in this life the opposite will be theirs in the next life. If everything is smooth and dandy in this life it will be rough and not so dandy in the next! How can you avoid this? Well, the first blessing is to be poor. This can be understood literally but also meaning "poor in spirit". That means to constantly see your poverty, voluntarily. What is my poverty you may ask. It is your inadequacies, your sins, your inability to do things, like, love someone. You can always ask the Lord to show you your poverty so that He can raise you up. Voluntary humility is an essential aspect of the Christian life. Without it you become too proud to enter the kingdom of heaven, as the doorway into it is small and narrow. One good way to become humble is to recall your sins and to bring to mind your failures. Through this the Lord will bless you by reducing, your judgements on others That would be a great blessing indeed. Also one of the curses is this, to be applauded by everyone. You and I love that. Instead its better to be criticised than applauded so that it can force us to rely on the Lord alone. Besides, most applause is not sincere or it can change very quickly from applause to cursing. We human beings are so fickle. Let us ask the Lord, desperately to give us the grace to become humble by Him letting us see ourselves without being scandalised and so we can start to rely on him alone and not on what others think of us. Then we will really be free.

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 Feb. 13-20

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 Fraternitey, 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.s Cyril & Methodius 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

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.

Seven founders of the Servite Order 06:00pm Creole Choir Practice Parish Hall.

07:00pm Catechesis, Blue Chapel.

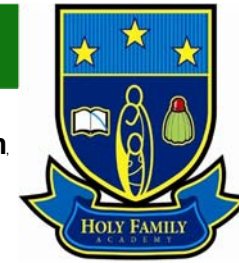
Friday: 04:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction. Confessions

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

Holy Family Academy values the importance of integrating a love of reading at an early age. For this reason, some of the primary school teachers have formed a "Reading Buddies" system with some of the middle school students, in which the older students help guide the younger ones to read to them. This system was formed to both motivate the older students to take initiative in guiding and mentoring younger students, as well as help the young students grow fond of reading and learning to socialize with others.

CCD classes have resumed at HFA. If interested, please make sure to call Our Lady of Divine Providence or the HFA Offices, weekdays from 9am-1pm.

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