

## Catechesis on prayer - 24. *Prayer in daily life*

*Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!*

In the preceding catechesis we saw how Christian prayer is “anchored” in the Liturgy. Today, we will shed light on how the Liturgy always enters daily life: on the streets, in offices, on public transportation... And there it continues the dialogue with God: the person who prays is like someone in love who always bears the beloved in his or her heart wherever they go.

Essentially, everything becomes a part of this dialogue with God: every joy becomes a reason for praise, every trial is an opportunity to ask for help. Prayer is always alive in our lives, like embers, even when the mouth does not speak, but the heart speaks. Every thought, even the apparently “profane” ones, can be permeated by prayer. There is even a prayerful aspect in the human intelligence; it is, in fact, a window peering into the mystery: it illuminates the few steps in front of us and then opens up to the entire reality, this reality that precedes it and surpasses it. This mystery does not have a disquieting or anxious face. No, knowledge of Christ makes us confident that whatever our eyes and the eyes of our minds cannot see, rather than nothing being there, there is someone who is waiting for us, there is infinite grace. And thus, Christian prayer instills an invincible hope in the human heart: whatever experience we touch on our journey, God’s love can turn it into good.

Regarding this, the *Catechism* reads: “We learn to pray at certain moments by hearing the Word of the Lord and sharing in his Paschal Mystery, but his Spirit is offered us at all times, in the events of each day, to make prayer spring up from us. [...] Time is in the Father’s hands; it is in the present that we encounter him, not yesterday or tomorrow, but today” (n. 2659). Today I meet God, today is always the day of the encounter.

There exists no other wonderful day than the day we are living. Those who live always thinking about the future, in the future: “But it will be better...”, but do not take each day as it comes: these are people who live in their fantasy, they do not know how to deal with concrete reality. And today is real, today is concrete. And prayer is to be done today. Jesus comes to meet us today, the day we are living. And it is prayer that transforms this day into grace, or better, it transforms us: it appeases anger, sustains love, multiplies joy, instills the strength to forgive. Sometimes it will seem that it is no longer we who are living, but that grace lives and works in us through prayer. It is grace that awaits, but always this, don’t forget: take today as it comes. And let’s think about when an angry thought comes to you, of unhappiness, that moves you toward bitterness, stop yourself. And let’s say to the Lord: “Where are you? And where am I going?” And the Lord is there, the Lord will give you the right word, the advice to go ahead without that bitter, negative taste. For prayer is always, using a profane word, is positive. Always. It will carry you ahead. Each day that begins is accompanied by courage if it is welcomed in prayer. Thus, the problems we face no longer seem to be obstacles to our happiness, but appeals from God, opportunities to meet Him. And when a person is accompanied by the Lord, he or she feels more courageous, freer, and even happier.

Let us pray always, then, for everyone, even for our enemies. Jesus counseled us to do this: “Pray for your enemies”. Let us pray for our dear ones, even those we do not know. Let us pray even for our enemies, as I said, as the Scriptures often invite us to do. Prayer inclines us toward a superabundant love. Let us pray above all for people who are sad, for those who weep in solitude and despair that there still might be someone who loves them. Prayer works miracles; and the poor then understand, by God’s grace that, even in their precarious situation, the prayer of a Christian makes Christ’s compassion present. He, in fact, looked with great tenderness on the weary and lost crowd who were like sheep without a shepherd (cf *Mk* 6:34). The Lord is – let’s not forget – the Lord of compassion, of nearness, of tenderness: three words never to be forgotten regarding the Lord. Because this is the Lord’s style: compassion, nearness, tenderness.

Prayer helps us love others, despite their mistakes and sins. The person is always more important than their actions, and Jesus did not judge the world, but He saved it. What a horrible life is that of the person who always judges others, who is always condemning, judging... This is a horrible, unhappy life, when Jesus came to save us. Open your heart, pardon, give others the benefit of the doubt, understand, be close to others, be compassionate, be tender, like Jesus. We need to love each and every person, remembering in prayer that we are all sinners and at the same time loved individually by God. Loving the world in this way, loving it with tenderness, we will discover that each day and everything bears within it a fragment of God’s mystery.

Again, the *Catechism* reads: “Prayer in the events of each day and each moment is one of the secrets of the Kingdom revealed to ‘little children,’ to the servants of Christ, to the poor of the beatitudes. It is right and good to pray so that the coming of the kingdom of justice and peace may influence the march of history, but it is just as important to bring the help of prayer into humble, everyday situations; all forms of prayer can be the leaven to which the Lord compares the kingdom” (n. 2660).

The human person – men and women, all of us, – the human person is like a breath, like a blade of grass (cf *Pss* 144:4; 103:15). The philosopher Pascal once wrote: “There is no need for the whole universe to take up arms to crush him: a vapour, a drop of water is enough to kill him.”<sup>[1]</sup> We are fragile beings, but we know how to pray: this is our greatest dignity and it is also our strength. Have courage. Pray in every moment, in every situation so the Lord might be near to us. And when a prayer is said according to the heart of Jesus, it obtains miracles.

# Our Lady of Divine Providence

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## VI SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME



### HOLY MASS

**Saturday:** 04:30pm English, Church.

**Sunday:** 09:00am English, Church.  
10:30am Creole, Church.  
12:30pm Spanish, Church.

**Weekdays:** 05:30pm English, Church.  
(*Except Wednesdays*)

**Fridays:**  
04:30pm 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:** Date to be confirmed.

**Confirmation:** Date to be confirmed.

In today's Gospel Jesus cures a leper. It seems like the usual thing for Jesus to do. However, lepers were outcasts of society for obvious reasons. This meant they could not have contact with anyone even their families. Imagine the father of a family gets leprosy and he can not be with his family again! How tragic a disease it was, but in the Gospel Jesus reaches out and touches the leper. This would not only have made Jesus ritually unclean but also he could catch leprosy. Jesus is not afraid of either of these things. He acts out of love and concern for the man. Once he is healed he can go back to society and his family, after showing himself to the priest. There is a definite parallel between this healing and the sacrament of confession. We are all lepers because of our sins and Jesus is not afraid to touch our sick souls with his healing hand of mercy. After presenting yourself to the priest you can be declared 'cured'. Then you can return in peace to your family and to the community as well and be welcomed there and no longer be an outcast. This story shows also the tenderness of the Lord for the spiritually sick, i.e. sinners and how he is willing to be one in our misery so that he can redeem it. If you recognise your leprosy, that is, that you cannot love or forgive or that you are unhappy with your life, then ask the Lord to cure you. His answer is that He certainly wills to do so.

Fr. Paul



## Ash Wednesday — Lent Begins

**Lent** is the time for the faithful to be "ever more attentive to the world of God and prayer, to prepare themselves by penance for the renewal of their baptismal promises" at Easter. The virtue and practice of penance is a necessary part of the preparation for Easter. Penitential practices such as fasting and abstinence are to be encouraged by the Church.

### Days of Fast and Abstinence

#### Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

**Day of Fast:** One full meal permitted, and two smaller meals.

**Ages:** Those between ages of 18 and 59.

**Day of Abstinence:** No meat may be eaten.

**Ages:** Those who have reached the age of 14.

### Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

**08:00 a.m.** Mass and ashes at the end.

**12:00 p.m.** Liturgy of the Word and ashes at the end.

**04:30 p.m.** Mass and ashes at the end.

## Parish Events Feb 14– Feb 21

**Sunday:** **Holy Mass: 09:00am, 10:30am and 12:30pm**  
 04:00pm Coeur de Marie: Children's group.  
 04:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.  
 04:00pm Fraternité, Red Room.  
 04:00pm Creole Youth Choir Practice  
 04:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

**Monday:** 04:30pm Mass, Church.

**Tuesday:** 04:30pm Mass, Church.

### Liturgy of the Word, NCW.

2<sup>nd</sup> Spanish Community, B.S. Chap  
 1<sup>st</sup> English Communities, P. Hall  
 2<sup>nd</sup> English Community, Blue Chapel

**Wednesday:** **Liturgy of the Word, NCW.**

1<sup>st</sup> Spanish Community, S.M.Goretti  
 1<sup>st</sup> Creole Community, Red Room.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> English Communities, B. Chapel.

**Thursday:** 04:30pm D. Mass Church.

**Friday:** 04:30pm Daily Mass, Church.  
 05:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction.

**Saturday:** 04:30pm Mass, Church.

### Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW

06:30pm English and Spanish. Church.  
 06:30pm Creole. Red Room.



## School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: +1(649) 941-7875

Students and staff of Holy Family Academy are preparing for **Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of the special time that the church gives us: Lent. We have seen through the years the memorial this time is for the children to live in prayer, fasting and almsgiving with joy.



For information, please visit

[www.hfa.catholic.tc](http://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](mailto: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!