

Catechesis: Introduction to the Letter to the Galatians

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

After the long itinerary dedicated to prayer, today we begin a new cycle of catechesis. I hope that with this itinerary of prayer we have succeeded in praying a little better, praying a little more. Today I would like to reflect on some themes proposed by the Apostle Paul in his Letter to the Galatians. It is a very important Letter, I would even say decisive, not only for getting to know the Apostle better, but above all in considering some topics that he addresses in depth, showing the beauty of the Gospel. In this Letter, Paul makes many biographical references that allow us to understand his conversion and his decision to place his life at the service of Jesus Christ. He also deals with some very important themes for the faith, such as freedom, grace and the Christian way of life, which are extremely topical since they touch on many aspects of the life of the Church today. This letter is very topical. It seems to be written for our times.

The first feature that emerges from this Letter is the great work of evangelisation carried out by the Apostle, who had visited the communities of Galatia at least twice during his missionary journeys. Paul addresses the Christians of that territory. We do not know exactly which geographical area he is referring to, nor can we state with certainty the date on which he wrote this Letter. We do know that the Galatians were an ancient Celtic population who, after many vicissitudes, had settled in the extensive region of Anatolia that had as its capital the city of Ancyra, today Ankara, the capital of Turkey. Paul relates only that, due to illness, he was obliged to stay in that region (cf. Gal 4:13). Saint Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, finds instead a more spiritual motivation. He says that "they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the Word in Asia" (16:6).

The two facts are not contradictory: rather, they indicate that the path of evangelisation does not always depend on our will and plans, but requires a willingness to allow ourselves to be shaped and to follow other paths that were not foreseen. Among you there is a family who greeted me: they say that they have to learn Latvian, and I don't know what other language, because they will go as missionaries to that land. The Spirit continues today to bring many missionaries to leave their homeland and to go to another country to carry out their mission. What we do see, however, is that in his indefatigable work of evangelisation, the Apostle succeeded in founding several small communities scattered throughout the region of Galatia. Paul, when he arrived in a city, in a region, did not construct a great cathedral immediately, no. He created small communities that are the leaven of our Christian culture today. He began by making small communities. And these small communities grew, they grew and they went forward. Today, too, this pastoral method is used in every missionary region. I received a letter last week, from a missionary in Papua New Guinea, telling me that he is preaching the Gospel in the forest, to people who do not even know who Jesus Christ was. It is beautiful! One begins by forming small communities. Even today this method of evangelisation is that of the first evangelisation.

What we ought to note is Paul's pastoral concern, which is all aflame. After founding these Churches, he became aware of a great danger to their growth in faith - the pastor is like a father or a mother who immediately aware of dangers to their children. They grow, and dangers present themselves. As someone said, "The vultures come to wreak havoc in the community". Indeed, some Christians who had come from Judaism had infiltrated these churches, and began to sow theories contrary to the Apostle's teaching, even going so far as to denigrate him. They began with doctrine - "No to this, yes to that", and then they denigrated the Apostle. It is the usual method: undermining the authority of the Apostle. As we can see, it is an ancient practice to present oneself at times as the sole possessor of the truth, the pure, and to aim at belittling the work of others, even with slander. These opponents of Paul argued that even the Gentiles had to be circumcised and live according to the rules of the Mosaic Law. They went back to the previous observances, those that had been superseded by the Gospel. The Galatians, therefore, would have had to renounce their cultural identity in order to submit to the norms, prescriptions and customs typical of the Jews. Not only that, those adversaries argued that Paul was not a true apostle and therefore had no authority to preach the Gospel. Let us think about how in come Christian communities or dioceses, first they begin with stories, and then they end by discrediting the priest or the bishop. It is precisely the way of the evil one, of these people who divide, who do not know how to build. And in this Letter to the Galatians we see this process.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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XIII SUNDAY 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, 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.

Death is a 'problem' that each one has to face sooner or later. In today's Gospel the synagogue official comes to Jesus to cure his daughter who is dying. While Jesus is on his way to do just that, messengers come and say that the girl has died. Jesus faces the situation with faith and tells the man only to "believe and have faith". The girl's death has caused a commotion but Jesus just goes ahead and tells the girl to get up and walk and she does! Jesus has power over death. There is no need to be afraid, because everyone is afraid of death. The question is why? The fear of the unknown? Certainly, but there is something else and that is, what if there is no heaven, what if I end up in hell etc. Jesus Christ has come back from the dead and from hell to say to us "I have overcome death itself." This can only be known through faith. If you have had an experience of death, (and I am not talking about 'near death experiences',) in your life, either through sinning grievously or by some suffering, all of which seem impossible to overcome but that these 'deaths' have been conquered in Jesus Christ. For example, my father never wanted me to be a priest. He wanted me to be a doctor. He at one stage refused to speak to me and wrote me out of the inheritance, yet on the day of my ordination there he was, in the first row of the cathedral crying. This was a dead situation that only the Lord could conquer and He did. With the grace of God, these 'resurrections' that the Lord has done in our lives can be shown to us. If you begin to see and believe that it was really the Lord behind all such deaths and resurrections then it is true that Jesus really has power over death and this can help you the next time such an event happens and you don't push the panic button straight away but wait on the Lord.

May the Lord grant us all an abiding faith in His accompanying of us in all the situations we meet in life and in particular to face our own death with the same knowledge.

Fr. Paul

Youth Pilgrimage to the Immaculate Conception Shrine Washington, D.C.— July 16, 2021.

PLEASE HELP US GET THERE!

15 Participants \$1,200 each.

The Goal: **\$18,000**

Money raised to date: **\$3,060**

Still to raise: **\$14,940**

How you could you help?

- Making any donation cash or check to: **Roman Catholic Mission - Pilgrimage**
- Buying a ticket for the **Gala Dinner on Friday, July 2, 2021 at Holy Family Academy. \$70**
- Buying any of the items sold at the end of the Masses.

With your participation you are helping the youth to have an encounter with Jesus Christ, and any help, God will reward you hundredfold, not only spiritually but materially as well!

Parish Events Jun 27-Jul 4

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.
 3rd English Community, Blue Chap.
 4th English Community, Parish Hall.

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

Holy Family Academy Graduates 2020-2021



We would like to congratulate all the graduating classes of **Holy Family Academy**, and to thank all the faculty, staff, benefactors and parents for helping the children throughout this school year.



May the Lord guide your steps with wisdom, intelligence and humility.



Enjoy the summer! ☀️

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!