

Catechesis: Introduction to the Letter to the Galatians

... continued.

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 They went back to the previous observances, those that had been superseded by the Gospel.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.

The Galatians found themselves in a situation of crisis. What were they to do? To listen and follow what Paul had preached to them, or to listen to the new preachers who accused him? It is easy to imagine the state of uncertainty that filled their hearts. For them, having come to know Jesus and believe in the work of salvation accomplished by His death and resurrection, was truly the beginning of a new life, a life of freedom. They had embarked on a path that allowed them to be free at last, despite the fact that their history was interwoven with many forms of violent slavery, not least that which had subjected them to the emperor of Rome. Therefore, faced with criticism from the new preachers, they felt lost and they felt uncertain about how to behave: "But who is right? This Paul, or these people who now come teaching other things? Who should I listen to?" In short, there was a lot at stake!

This situation is not far removed from the experience of many Christians today. Indeed, today too there is no shortage of preachers who, especially through the new means of communication, can disturb communities. They present themselves not primarily to announce the Gospel of God who loves man in Jesus, Crucified and Risen, but to insist, as true "keepers of the truth" - so they call themselves - on the best way to be Christians. And they strongly affirm that the true Christianity is the one they adhere to, often identified with certain forms of the past, and that the solution to the crises of today is to go back so as not to lose the genuineness of the faith. Today too, as then, there is a temptation to close oneself up in some of the certainties acquired in past traditions. But how can we recognise these people? For example, one of the traces of this way of proceeding is inflexibility. Faced with the preaching of the Gospel that makes us free, that makes us joyful, these people are rigid. Always the rigidity: you must do this, you must do that... Inflexibility is typical of these people. Following the teaching of the Apostle Paul in his Letter to the Galatians will help us to understand which path to follow. The path indicated by the Apostle is the liberating and ever-new path of Jesus, Crucified and Risen; it is the path of proclamation, which is achieved through humility and fraternity - the new preachers do not know what humility is, what fraternity is. It is the path of meek and obedient trust - the new preachers know neither meekness nor obedience. And this meek and obedient way leads forward in the certainty that the Holy Spirit works in the Church in every age. Ultimately, faith in the Holy Spirit present in the Church carries us forward and will save us.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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XIV 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.

In today's Gospel Jesus is not believed in by His own people and hence, He cannot work many miracles amongst them. His healings and exorcisms of demons depends on the faith of the people involved. Perhaps you ask yourself 'why don't we see as many miracles today as there were in the time of Jesus?' The answer is, 'a lack of faith'. If you ever grew up around or near someone who became famous you may understand today's Gospel better. I remember being with your former pastor, Fr. Peter, in the seminary. We were, and still are, good friends but I could only see his human qualities and it took me a long time to think that he had quite a degree of holiness. He liked and still likes, to bargain and make deals but he does it all for the Lord's good and not his own. This took, as I said, time to appreciate. Just so the people in Nazareth. They had known Jesus since He was a boy. They did not see anything special about Him when He was growing up in their midst, and so when He began to perform miracles and have a great crowd of followers they could not understand it. However, they refuse to accept Him and why? Because Jesus did not fit into the box they had made for Him. Even though He had done all those miracles in other towns they refused to believe it. It is therefore possible for you to be the same way. Deep down, without thinking about it, you may not really believe that Jesus can cure your sicknesses! These are not only physical but also spiritual and pertain often to the heart. Your heart can be sick due to hatred, or never being satisfied, or judging or being driven by the need for being loved. Many people do not think the Lord can fix them up as they have prayed many times and there has been no result.

Let us not be without faith. The Lord can cure all our diseases, especially those of the heart. Let us pray for the grace to believe that the Lord wants to heal our sick hearts with His enormous love.

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: **\$ 7800**

Still to raise: **\$ 10,200**

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

Parish Events July 4— July 11

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 is closed for Summer Break. We will be back to school on Wednesday, September 1st, 2021.

Visit our website for information about our History, Mission and Academics! You will also find updates and news about our school year, students and staff!

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!