

# 'We Must Keep Our Gaze Firmly Fixed on Jesus'

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

The pandemic continues to cause deep wounds, exposing our vulnerability. On every continent there are many who have died, many are ill. Many people and many families are living a time of uncertainty because of socio-economic problems which especially affect the poorest.

Thus, we must keep our gaze firmly fixed on Jesus (see Heb 12:2): in the midst of this pandemic, our eyes on Jesus; and with this faith embrace the hope of the Kingdom of God that Jesus Himself brings us (see Mk 1:5; Mt 4:17; CCC 2816). A Kingdom of healing and of salvation that is already present in our midst (see Lk 10:11). A Kingdom of justice and of peace that is manifested through works of charity, which in their turn increase hope and strengthen faith (see 1 Cor 13:13). Within the Christian tradition, faith, hope and charity are much more than feelings or attitudes. They are virtues infused in us through the grace of the Holy Spirit (see CCC, 1812, 1813): gifts that heal us and that make us healers, gifts that open us to new horizons, even while we are navigating the difficult waters of our time.

Renewed contact with the Gospel of faith, of hope and of love invites us to assume a creative and renewed spirit. In this way, we will be able to transform the roots of our physical, spiritual and social infirmities and the destructive practices that separate us from each other, threatening the human family and our planet.

Jesus's ministry offers many examples of healing: when He heals those affected by fever (see Mk 1:29-34), by leprosy (see Mk 1:40-45), by paralysis (see Mk 2:1-12); when He restores sight (see Mk 8:22- 26; Jn 9:1-7), speech or hearing (see Mk 7:31-37). In reality, He heals not only the physical evil – which is true, physical evil – but He heals the entire person. In that way, He restores the person back to the community also, healed; He liberates the person from isolation because He has healed him or her.

Let's think of the beautiful account of the healing of the paralytic at Capernaum (see Mk 2:1-12) that we heard at the beginning of the audience. While Jesus is preaching at the entrance to the house, four men bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus. Not being able to enter because there was such a great crowd there, they make a hole in the roof and let the stretcher down in front of Him. Jesus who was preaching sees this stretcher coming down in front of Him. "When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Child, your sins are forgiven' " (v. 5). And then, as a visible sign, He adds: "Rise, pick up your mat, and go home" (v. 11).

What a wonderful example of healing! Christ's action is a direct response to the faith of those people, to the hope they put in Him, to the love they show that they have for each other. And so, Jesus heals, but He does not simply heal the paralysis. Jesus heals everyone, He forgives sins, He renews the life of the paralyzed man and his friend. He makes him born again, let's say it that way. It is a physical and spiritual healing, all together, the fruit of personal and social contact. Let's imagine how this friendship, and the faith of all those present in that house, would have grown thanks to Jesus's action, that healing encounter with Jesus!

# Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

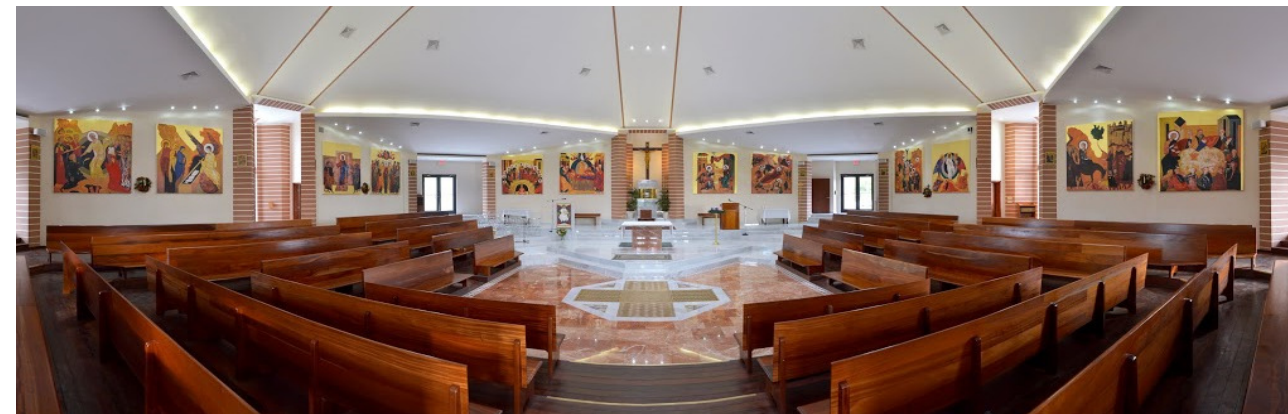
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## XIX SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



### 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.  
(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:** Sep. 27, 2020 Sunday

**Confirmation:** Date to be confirmed.

## From the pastor's desk:

Dear brothers and sisters,

During this time, despite the pandemic, people use to move away from their home to different places to take a kind of vacation. Jesus too moves from place to place, withdrawing to the mountain, to pray throughout the night. The Lord, having distanced himself from the people and the disciples, manifests his communion with the Father and the need to pray in solitude, far from the commotion of the world. Therefore, the church invites to pray because it is through prayer that we can find rest.

In today's Gospel, this distancing, however, must not be seen as social distance to avoid the spread of the virus or a lack of interest in individuals or trust in the Apostles. On the contrary, Matthew recounts that Jesus made the disciples get into the boat, "and go before him to the other side", where he would see them again. In the meantime, the boat "was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them". And so in the fourth watch of the night Jesus came to them, walking on the sea"; the disciples were terrified, mistaking him for a ghost and "cried out for fear". They did not recognize him, they did not realize that it was the Lord.

Nonetheless Jesus reassured them: "**Take heart, it is I; have no fear**". The Fathers of the Church drew a great meaning: The sea symbolizes this life and the instability of the visible world; the storm points to every kind of trial or difficulty that oppresses human beings. The boat, instead, represents the Church, built by Christ and steered by the Apostles. Jesus wanted to teach the disciples to bear life's adversities courageously, trusting in God, in the One who revealed himself to the Prophet Elijah on Mount Horeb "in a still small voice".

The passage then continues with the action of the Apostle Peter, who moved by an impulse of love for the Teacher, asks him to bid him to come to him, walking on the water. "But when he saw the strong wind, Peter was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me!'" (Mt 14:30).

St. Augustine, imagining that he was addressing the Apostle, commented: the Lord "leaned down and took you by the hand. With your strength alone you cannot rise. Hold tight to the hand of the One who reaches down to you", and he did not say this to Peter alone but also to us. Peter walks on the water, not by his own effort but rather through divine grace in which he believes. And when he was smitten by doubt, when he no longer fixed his gaze on Jesus but was frightened by the gale, when he failed to put full trust in the Teacher's words, he risked sinking in the sea of

life. It means that he was interiorly distancing himself from the Teacher. So it is also for us: if we look only at ourselves we become dependent on the winds and can no longer pass through storms on the waters of life. Romano Guardini wrote that the Lord "is always close, being at the root of our being. Yet we must experience our relationship with God between the poles of distance and closeness. By closeness we are strengthened, by distance we are put to the test". The experience of the Prophet Elijah who heard God passing and the troubled faith of the Apostle Peter enable us to understand that even before we seek the Lord or invoke him, it is he himself who comes to meet us, who lowers Heaven to stretch out his hand to us and raise us to his heights; all he expects of us is that we trust totally in him, that we really take hold of his hand. God Bless you all.

Fr. Orlando

### Remember:

- Masks are required **ALL TIME** while being inside and in public covering the nose and mouth. (Attendees, choir and lectors as well.)
- Keep 2mts / 6ft of physical distance.
- Attendees must register at the entrance.
- Sanitize your hands.

If you feel sick or can't attend Mass, you can follow our online Sunday Mass at our **YouTube** channel below:

### Our Lady of Divine Providence Roman Catholic Church

<https://qrگو.page.link/U6mGg>

### Catechesis for adults resumed last Monday, August 3, 2020.



**Come and listen!**

**Mondays & Thursdays**

**7:00 - 8:00 PM**

Parish Hall

## Parish Events Aug 9—Aug 16

**Sunday:** Holy Mass: 09:00am, 10:30am and 12:30pm  
04:00pm 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.  
07:00pm Adult Catechesis  
Parish Hall

**Tuesday:** 05:30pm Mass, Church.

### Liturgy of the Word, NCW.

06:30pm 2nd English: Blue Chapel.  
07:00pm Spanish: S.M. Goretti.  
07:00pm 2nd Spanish BS Chapel:

**Wednesday:** 6:30pm Creole: Parish Hall  
06:30pm 3rd English: Blue Chapel  
06:30pm 1st English: S. M. Goretti.

**Thursday:** 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.  
06:00pm Creole Choir Practice  
Parish Hall.  
06:30pm English Choir Practice,  
D. Mass Chapel.  
07:00pm Adult Catechesis  
Parish Hall

**Friday:** 05:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel.  
06:00pm Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament & Benediction.  
06:00pm Confessions.

**Saturday:** 05:30pm Mass, Church.

### Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW

05:00pm 2nd English: SM. Goretti.  
06:45pm 1 & 3 English Church.  
6:45pm Creole: Blue Chapel.  
7:00pm Spanish: S.M. Goretti.



## School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: 649-941-7875

Holy Family Academy Catholic School is currently closed for Summer Break. We will re-open our **ONLINE** activities on **Monday, August 24th, 2020.**

We wish to thank everyone that has contributed with their money, time and talent during this past academic year.

We wish everyone a safe and blessed summer

For more information 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:

- Art supplies (paint, brushes, canvas, etc.)
- Sharpies, assorted colors.
- Ping Pong table
- Hula hoops
- Jump ropes
- Three Tricycles
- Stationery
- Hand Sanitizer / alcohol
- Toner or ink refill for Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255

Thank you!