

Catechesis: Paul, the true apostle

Continues...

Firstly, Paul feels his duty to remind the Galatians that he is a true apostle not by his own merit, but by God's calling. He recounts the story of his vocation and conversion, which coincided with the apparition of the Risen Christ during the journey to Damascus (cf. Acts 9:1-9). It is interesting to observe what he affirms of his life prior to that event. And this is what he says, about his "former" life: "I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors" (Gal 1:13-14). Paul dared to affirm that in Judaism he surpassed all others, he was a truly zealous pharisee, "as for righteousness based on the law, faultless" (Phil 3:6). Twice he emphasises that he was a defender of the "traditions of the fathers" and a "staunch upholder of the law". This is the story of Paul.

On the one hand, he insists in underlining that he had fiercely persecuted the Church and that he had been a "blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence" (1 Tim 1:13). He spares no adjectives: he himself describes himself in this way. On the other hand, he highlights God's mercy towards him, which led him to experience a radical transformation, well known to all. He writes: "I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, 'The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy'" (Gal 1, 22-23). He converted, he changed, he changed his heart. Paul thus highlights the truth of his vocation through the striking contrast that had been created in his life: from being a persecutor of Christians for not observing the traditions and the law, he was called to become an apostle to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But we see that Paul is free: he is free to proclaim the Gospel and he is also free to confess his sins. "I was like that": it is the truth that gives freedom to the heart, and it is the freedom of God.

Thinking back on this story, Paul is full of wonder and gratitude. It is as if he wanted to tell the Galatians that he could have been anything but an apostle. He had been brought up as a boy to be a blameless observer of the Mosaic Law, and circumstances had led him to fight the disciples of Christ. However, something unexpected had happened: God, by His grace, had revealed to him His Son who had died and rose again, so that he could become a herald among the Gentiles (cf. Gal 1:15-6).

How inscrutable are the ways of the Lord! We experience this every day, but especially if we think back to the times when the Lord called us. We must never forget the time and the way in which God entered our lives: let us keep fixed in our hearts and minds that encounter with grace, when God changed our existence. How often, in the face of the Lord's great works, does the question arise: but how is it possible that God uses a sinner, a frail and weak person, to do His will? And yet, none of this happens by chance, because everything has been prepared in God's plan. He weaves our history, the story of each one of us: He weaves our history and, if we correspond with trust to His plan of salvation, we realise it. The calling always implies a mission to which we are destined; that is why we are asked to prepare ourselves seriously, knowing that it is God Himself who sends us, it is God Himself who supports us with His grace. Brothers and sisters, let us allow ourselves to be led by this awareness: the primacy of grace transforms existence and makes it worthy of being placed at the service of the Gospel. The primacy of grace covers all sins, changes hearts, changes lives, and makes us see new paths. Let us not forget this. Thank you.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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XVII 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, Blue Chapel.
(Except Wednesdays)

Fridays: 05:30pm Church.
06:00pm Adoration Blessed
Sacrament and Rosary.
Confessions

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.

From the Pastor desk:

Dear brothers and sisters,
Let us pray for all those that are in the National Youth Day Pilgrimage, may the Holy Spirit bears in them many fruits.

Continuing our reflection on vacation from last Sunday, about to taking a time to rest, let us think also about food. It is a fundamental part of vacation.

In today's reading Jesus presents himself as the "Bread of life". In the multiplication of the Bread, which St. John describes as the "bread that came down from Heaven", Jesus says: "if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever: and the bread, which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh"... The Jews who were arguing heatedly among themselves, questioned: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" The world still debates this and in every age Jesus replies, "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you". We too should reflect on whether or not we have really understood this message.

Following him fills our hearts with joy, our soul nourished and gives full meaning to our existence, but it entails difficulties and sacrifices because very often we must swim against the tide to defend both the dignity of the Holy Eucharist and Communion with the Church's Teachings.

When we confront a very difficult situation our temptation is to run away or to act worldly, so Jesus question us: "will you also go away?" Peter answers Jesus' question on the Apostles' behalf, and in the name of all of us believers of every century: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God." We too need to repeat Peter's answer, aware of course, of our human frailty, of our problems and difficulties, but trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit which is expressed and manifested in communion with Jesus. Faith is a gift of God to man and at the same time man's free and total entrustment to God; faith is docile listening to the word of the Lord who is the "lamp" for our feet and a "light" for our path (cf. Ps 119[118]:

If we open our hearts to Christ with trust, if we let ourselves be won over by him, we can also experience, like, for example, the holy Curé d'Ars, that "our only happiness on this earth is to love God and to know that he loves us". Because God is Love and He Love us.

Blessings, Fr. Orlando

CATECHESIS FOR ADULTS IN CREOLE



W'ap chèche konprann lavi w? W fatigué ak lavi a, w Santi w sèl? W eskandalize de soufrans?

**"JEZI AP PASE"
"Vini, Pou w tande yon bòn nouvèl"**

Lendi ak Jedi a 7:00pm

Parish Events July 25—Aug 1

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.
07:00pm Creole Catechesis for adults. Parish Hall.

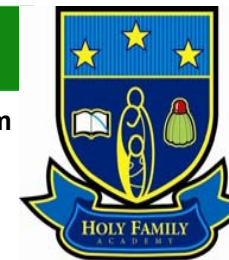
Tuesday: 05:30pm Mass, Church.

Wednesday: Liturgy of the Word, NCW.
07:00pm. All Communities church.
Welcome the youth pilgrimage

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Church.
06:00pm Creole Choir Practice
06:30pm English Choir Practice
07:00pm Creole Catechesis for adults. Parish Hall.

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

Saturday: 05:30pm Mass Church.
NCW. Eucharist
06:45pm All church
06:45pm Creole Blue Chapel



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!