

## Pope Francis Catechesis on the Letter to the Galatians : 4. The Mosaic Law

Continuing from last week:

So, the observance of the Law guaranteed to the people the benefits of the Covenant and guaranteed a particular bond with God. This people, this population, this person, they are connected with God and they make it seen, this union with God, in the fulfillment, in the observance of the Law. In making the Covenant with Israel, God offered them the Torah, the Law, so they could understand his will and live in justice. We have to think that at that time, a Law like this was necessary, it was a tremendous gift that God gave his people. Why? Because at that time paganism was everywhere, idolatry was everywhere and human behaviour was a result of idolatry. Because of this, the great gift God gave his people is the law, so they could persevere. Several times, especially in the prophetic books, it is noted that not observing the precepts of the Law constituted a real betrayal of the Covenant, provoking God's wrath as a consequence. The connection between the Covenant and the Law was so close that the two realities were inseparable. The Law is the way a person, a people express that they are in covenant with God.

So, in light of all this, it is easy to understand how well those missionaries who had infiltrated the Galatians found such fair game by sustaining that adhering to the Covenant also included observing the Mosaic Law as it was done at that time. Nevertheless, precisely regarding this point, we can discover Saint Paul's spiritual intelligence and the great insights he expressed, sustained by the grace he received for his evangelizing mission.

The Apostle explains to the Galatians that, in reality, the Covenant and the Law are not linked indissolubly – the Covenant with God and the Mosaic Law. The first element he relies on is that the Covenant established by God with Abraham was based on faith in the fulfillment of the promise and not on the observance of the Law that did not yet exist. Abraham began his journey centuries before the Law. The Apostle writes: "This is what I mean: the law, which came four hundred and thirty years afterward [with Moses], does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God [with Abraham when he called him], so as to make the promise void". This word is very important. The people of God, we Christians, we journey through life looking toward a promise, the promise is what attracts us, it attracts us to move forward toward the encounter with the Lord. "For if the inheritance is by the law, it is no longer by promise [that came before the Law, the promise to Abraham]; but God gave it to Abraham by a promise" (Gal 3:17-18), then the Law came four hundred and thirty years after. With this reasoning, Paul reached his first objective: the Law is not the basis of the Covenant because it came later, it was necessary and just, but prior to that there was the promise, the Covenant.

Such an argument disqualifies all those who sustain that the Mosaic Law was a constitutive part of the Covenant. No, the Covenant comes first, and the call came to Abraham. The Torah, the Law, in fact, was not included in the promise made to Abraham. Having said this, one should not think, however, that Saint Paul was opposed to the Mosaic Law. No, he observed it. Several times in his Letters, he defends its divine origin and says that it possesses a well-defined role in the history of salvation. The Law, however, does not give life, it does not offer the fulfillment of the promise because it is not capable of being able to fulfill it. The Law is a journey, a journey that leads toward an encounter. Paul uses a word, I do not know if it is in the text, a very important word: the law is the "pedagogue" toward Christ, the pedagogue toward faith in Christ, that is, the teacher that leads you by the hand toward the encounter (cf. Gal 3:24). Those who seek life need to look to the promise and to its fulfillment in Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters, this first exposition of the Apostle to the Galatians presents the radical newness of the Christian life: all those who have faith in Jesus Christ are called to live in the Holy Spirit, who liberates from the Law and, at the same time, brings it to fulfillment according to the commandment of love. This is very important. The Law leads us to Jesus. But one of you might say to me: "But, Father, just one thing: does this mean that if I pray the Creed, I do not need to observe the commandments?" No, the commandments are valid in the sense that they are "pedagogues" [teachers] that lead you toward the encounter with Christ. But if you set aside the encounter with Jesus and want to go back to giving greater importance to the commandments, this was the problem of these fundamentalist missionaries who had infiltrated the Galatians to confuse them.

May the Lord help us to journey along the path of the commandments but looking toward the love of Christ, with the encounter with Christ, knowing that the encounter with Jesus is more important than all of the commandments.

## Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González  
P. Vicar: Rev. Rafael Velázquez  
P. Vicar: Rev. Paul Passant

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### XXI SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



#### HOLY MASS

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

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

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

**Fridays:** 05:30pm Blue Chapel.  
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 Sunday

**Confirmation:** Fall 2021, Date to be confirmed.

## From the pastor's desk:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Continuing our meditation on silence, which is a fundamental element to have a good vacations. Last Friday, August 20, the calendar mentions among the day's saints Bernard of Clairvaux, a great Doctor of the Church who lived between the 11th and 12th centuries. His example and teachings are proving more useful than ever, even in our time. His dedication to silence and contemplation did not prevent him from carrying out intense apostolic activity.

He was also exemplary in his commitment to battle against his impetuous temperament, as well as his humility by which he recognized his own limitations and shortcomings. The riches and merits of his theology do not lie in having taken new paths, but rather in being able to propose the truths of the faith in a style so clear and incisive that it fascinated those listening and prepared their souls for recollection and prayer. In every one of his writings, one senses the echo of a rich interior experience, which he succeeded in communicating to others with a surprising capacity for persuasion.

For him, love is the greatest strength of the spiritual life. **God, who is love**, creates man out of love and out of love redeems him. The salvation of all human beings, mortally wounded by original sin and burdened by personal sins, consists in being firmly attached to divine love which was fully revealed to us in Christ Crucified and Risen. Three thousands

In his love, God heals our will and our sick understanding, raising them to the highest degree of union with him, that is, to holiness and mystical union. It is necessary, St. Bernard observes, to beware of the dangers of excessive activity whatever one's condition and office, because, as he said to the Pope of that time and to all of us, many occupations frequently lead to "hardness of heart", "they are none other than suffering of spirit, loss of understanding, dispersion of grace" (*De Consideratione* II, 3).

God Bless you all.

Fr. Orlando



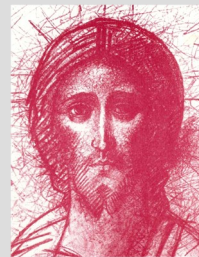
## Children's Catechism

The Classes for the sacraments of Confession, First Communion and Confirmation will start on the 18th of September, 2021 at the Catholic School. Every Saturday at 11:00 am

Registration forms (blue) are at the main entrance of the Church.

## 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!"**

Vini e koute yon anons kè kontan.  
Katechis Pou granmoun ak jen: Lendi ak Jedi a 7:00 p.m.

## Parish Events Aug.22—Aug 29

**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, D. Mass Chapel.  
07:00pm Creole Catechesis Parish Hall

**Tuesday:** 05:30pm Mass, D. Mass Chapel.  
**Liturgy of the Word, NCW.**  
07:00pm Spanish: Red Room.

**Wednesday:** Liturgy of the Word, NCW.  
07:00pm English: Blue Chapel.  
07:00pm Creole: Red Room.

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

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

**Saturday:** 05:30pm Mass, Blue Chapel.  
**Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW**  
07:00pm English: Church.  
Spanish: Blue Chapel.



## School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: 649-941-7875

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

Our Main Office will be open, on August 23rd, during weekdays, from 10 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

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](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:

- Tablets
- Hand Sanitizer / alcohol
- Paper hand towels
- Toner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255

Thank you!