

Beginning with one's own misery and looking at that, trying to find out how to reach forgiveness, because even in one's own misery we will always find a light that is the way to go to the Lord. He gives us light in our misery. This morning, for example, I thought about this when, as we were arriving in L'Aquila and we could not land – thick fog, everything was dark, you couldn't land. The helicopter pilot was circling, circling, circling.... In the end, he saw a small hole and he went through there – he succeeded, a master-pilot. And I thought about this misery and how the same things happens with our own misery. How many times we look at who we are – nothing, less than nothing – and we circle, circle.... But at times, the Lord makes a small hole. Put yourself in there, they are the Lord's wounds! That is where mercy is, but it is in your misery. There is a hole in your misery that the Lord makes in order to enter into it. Mercy that comes into you, into my, into our misery.

Dear brothers and dear sisters, you have suffered much because of the earthquake. And as a population, you are trying to get back up and get back on your feet. But those who have suffered must be able to create a treasure out of their own suffering, they must understand that in the darkness they experienced they also received the gift of understanding the suffering of others. You can treasure the gift of mercy because you know what it means to lose everything, to see everything that had been constructed crumble, to leave everything that was dear to you, to feel the hole left by the absence of those whom you loved. You can treasure mercy because you have experienced mercy.

In their lives, everyone, even without living through an earthquake, can experience an "earthquake of the soul", so to speak, that puts us in contact with our own frailty, our own limitations, our own misery. In this experience, we can lose everything, but we can also learn true humility. In such a circumstance, we can allow life to make us bitter, or we can learn meekness. So, humility and meekness are the characteristics of those who have the mission of treasuring and witnessing to mercy. Yes, because mercy, when it comes to us and because we treasure it, we can also bear witness to this mercy. Mercy is a gift to me, for my misery, but this mercy must also be transmitted to others as a gift from the Lord.

There is, however, a wake-up call that tells us if we are going the wrong way. Today's Gospel reminds us of this (cf. *Lk* 14:1, 7-14). Jesus is invited to dinner, we heard, in the house of a Pharisee, and attentively observes how many are running to get the best seats at table. This gives him the cue to tell a parable that remains valid even for us today: "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Please, give your place to this person and you go back there!' And then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place" (vv. 8-9). Too many times people base their worth on the place they occupy in the world. A person is not the position he or she holds. A person is the freedom that he or she is capable of that is fully manifested when he or she occupies the last place, or when a place is reserved for that person on the Cross.

The Christian knows that his or her life is not a career after the manner of the world, but a career after the manner of Christ who said of himself that he had come to serve and not to be served (cf. *Mk* 10:45). Unless we understand that the revolution of the Gospel is contained in this type of freedom, we will continue to witness war, violence and injustice, which are nothing other than the external symptoms of a lack of interior freedom. Where there is no interior freedom, selfishness, individualism, personal interest, and oppression, and all these miseries, find their way in. And misery takes control.

Brothers and sisters, may L'Aquila truly be the capital of forgiveness, the capital of peace and of reconciliation! May L'Aquila know how to offer everyone that transformation that Mary sings about in the *Magnificat*: "He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate" (*Lk* 1:52), the transformation that Jesus reminded us of in today's Gospel, "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (*Lk* 14:11). And precisely to Mary, whom you venerate under the title of *Salvation of the People of L'Aquila*, we wish to entrust the resolution to live according to the Gospel. May her maternal intercession obtain pardon and peace for the entire world. The awareness of one's own misery and the beauty of mercy

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

1310 Leeward Highway, P.O. Box 340
Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands
Phone: (649) 941-5136

www.catholic.tc - oldpchurch@catholic.tc



XXIV SUNDAY IN 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.

Fridays: 04:00pm Adoration of Blessed
Sacrament and Rosary.
05:30pm Blue Chapel.

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: 11 June, 2023.

Confirmation: TBA

In this week's Gospel . You hear of the Lord's mercy for the sinner. This is particularly clear in the parable of the prodigal son. However, there are two sons and you are either one or the other of them! Which one are you? To be the prodigal son you must have led a fairly serious life of sin. At least, that is how it looks to you.

The interesting thing is that this life of debauchery leads him to repentance and conversion. In fact it seems that this is most necessary for their to be such conversion. Why? Because sin destroys you. It kills the Holy Spirit in you and therefore it makes you suffer because what the heck are you living for? Then the grace of God can work because the life of sin has not made you happy but instead has made you miserable and also a bit humble. That is why Jesus has such compassion on sinners as He sees how much they suffer needlessly.

Many times a life of sin was not premeditated but the poor person just simply fell into it and could not get out. Then the Lord intervenes. The older brother is a different case and is perhaps closer to us than the younger. He has done the right thing all his life and never done anything wicked or too sinful. He never disobeyed his father. However, when he sees that his father forgives his younger brother he is incensed and why? Because he feels he has been good on his own strength and fails to see that the life of sin brought misery to his brother. And so he has no mercy because he has never received mercy. In fact, his sin is the greater as he disowns his brother, calling him, "This son of yours." What a total lack of charity from a so called sinless man! Pope Francis , 2 weeks ago in L'Aquila, said that to receive mercy there is only one way and that is to discover your own misery. (see the back cover for his homily). Then you can begin to see the mercy of God in the midst of your misery and you will begin to have mercy and love for the others.

Let us pray that the Lord can give us the grace to see our misery and not to be scandalized by it and so that it can become the means of us seeing the immense mercy of God

Fr. Paul



HOLY HOUR

All are invited at **4:00 pm – 5:15pm** on every **Friday** in the daily mass chapel. There will be adoration, rosary, spiritual reading, confessions and Holy Mass at 5:30pm.

Catequesis en Español para Jovenes y adultos empezando el lunes 19 de Septiembre a las 7:00pm en el centro parroquial.



Catechism-CCD

Please register your children for next year. Registration forms are at the main entrance of the Church. **The classes will start on Saturday 17of September at 11:00 am at the Catholic School.**

Parish Events 11 Sept.-18

Sunday: Holy Mass: 09:00am,10:30am,12:30pm

04:00pm Coeur de Marie: Children's group.
05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
05:00pm Fraternitey, Red Room.
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice
05:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday: 05:30pm D. and Mass Chapel

Holy Name of Mary

Tuesday 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel,

St. John 07:00pm 1st English. Red Room
Chrysostom 07:00pm 2nd English Maria Goretti
07.00pm 1st Spanish. Blue Chapel
07:00pm 2nd Spanish. B. Sacrament

Wednesday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

Exaltation of the Holy Cross 07:00pm 1st Creole, Red Room.
07:00pm 3rd English, Maria Goretti
07:00pm 2nd Creole, B. Sacrament
07:00pm 4th English Blue Chapel

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.

Our Lady of Sorrows

Friday: 04:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction. Confessions
St.s Cornelius & Cyprian 05:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel.

Saturday: 05:30pm Mass, Church

St. Robert Bellarmine 07:00pm NCW Eucharist



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
Tel: (+1649) 941, 7875



Holy Family Academy has completed its second week of school! Students are transitioning well in their courses and come to school ready and excited to learn.

Spirituality

This past week, students received the opportunity of reconciling with God the Father. They were able to receive guidance and forgiveness and returned to class with joy and the knowledge that from death the Lord can give Life.

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:

- Automatic hand dryers
- Microwave x 3
- Walkie-Talkie Radios
- Electric pencil sharpeners
- Sound / Speaker System
- Ping Pong table.
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255