

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today's Liturgy offers us the encounter between Jesus and a man who "had great possessions" (Mk 10:22), and who went down in history as "the rich young man" (cf. Mt 19:20-22). We do not know his name. The Gospel of Mark actually speaks of him as "a man", without mentioning his age or name, suggesting that we can all see ourselves in this man, as though in a mirror. His encounter with Jesus, in fact, allows us to test our faith. Reading this, I test myself on my faith.

The man begins with a question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (v. 17). Notice the verbs he uses: "must do" – "inherit". Here is his religiosity: a duty, a doing so as to obtain; I do something to get what I need". But this is a commercial relationship with God, a *quid pro quo*. Faith, on the other hand, is not a cold, mechanical ritual, a "must-do-obtain". It is a question of freedom and love. Faith is a question of freedom, it is a question of love. Here is a first test: what is faith for me? If it is mainly a duty or a bargaining chip, we are off track, because salvation is a gift and not a duty, it is free and cannot be bought. The first thing to do is to free ourselves of a commercial and mechanical faith, which insinuates the false image of an accounting and controlling God, not a father. And very often in life we experience this "commercial" relationship of faith: I do this, so that God will give me that.

Jesus, in the second step, helps this man by offering him the true face of God. Indeed, the text says, "Jesus looking upon him loved him" (v. 21): this is God! This is where faith is born and reborn: not from a duty, not from something that is to be done or paid, but from a *look* of love to be welcomed. In this way Christian life becomes beautiful, if it is based not on our abilities and our plans; it is based on God's gaze. Is your faith, is my faith tired? Do you want to reinvigorate it? Look for God's gaze: sit in adoration, allow yourself to be forgiven in Confession, stand before the Crucified One. In short, let yourself be loved by him. This is the starting point of faith: letting oneself be loved by him, by the Father.

After the question and the look there is – the third and final step – *an invitation* from Jesus, who says: "You lack one thing". What was that rich man lacking? Giving, gratuitousness. "Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor" (v. 21). It is perhaps what we are missing too. Often, we do the bare minimum, whereas Jesus invites us to do the maximum possible. How many times are we satisfied with doing our duties – the precepts, a few prayers, and many things like that – whereas God, who gives us life, asks us for the impetus of life! In today's Gospel we see clearly this passage from duty to giving; Jesus begins by recalling the Commandments: "Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal...", and so on (v. 19) and arrives at a positive proposal: "Go, sell, give, follow me!" (cf. v. 21). Faith cannot be limited to "do not", because Christian life is a "yes" a "yes" of love.

Dear brothers and sisters, a faith without giving, a faith without gratuitousness is an incomplete faith. We could compare it to rich and nourishing food that nonetheless lacks flavour, or a more or less well-played game, but without a goal: no, it isn't good, it lacks "salt". A faith without giving, without gratuitousness, without works of charity, makes us sad in the end: just like that man whose "face fell" and returned home "sorrowful", even though he had been looked upon with love by Jesus in person. Today we can ask ourselves: "At what point is my faith? Do I experience it as something mechanical, like a relationship of duty or interest with God? Do I remember to nourish it by letting myself be looked at and loved by Jesus?" Letting oneself be looked at and loved by Jesus; letting Jesus look at us, love us. "And, attracted by him, do I respond freely, with generosity, with all my heart?"

May the Virgin Mary, who said a total "yes" to God, a "yes" without "but" – it is not easy to say "yes" without "but": Our Lady did just that, a "yes" without a "but" - let us savour the beauty of making life a gift.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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XXIX 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 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: Corpis Christi, 2022

Confirmation: January 16, 2022

We hear again in today's Gospel the call to become the last, i.e. the slave of all. This theme has been with us for the past 4 Sundays. This means that the Lord really wants to tell us that this is important. Do not be deaf to His voice. "Whoever wants to be first among you must be slave of all." Everyone wants to be first, even if it is only in your kitchen, house, shed or at work. This is what causes most divisions in life, both on the world stage and in our individual lives. We want to be first and its like an engine inside that never stops. Jesus gives the cure, which is to become the slave of all. If you think about this you will realise just how difficult, if not impossible, it is. Imagine being a slave to your spouse or the person at work you do not get along with, or anyone that you do not like or even those that you do like! How many times do you think in your heart, or under your breath, "I am not your slave. Do it your self." How far you and I are from this attitude. However, I am also sure that there have been times when, with the grace of the Lord, you have been able to serve the others around you without grumbling and been very happy to do so.

Let us pray that the Lord can give us this grace to serve others with a joyful heart even if we are not recognised, in fact much better if we are not.

Last Sunday in Rome Pope Francis opened the synod on Collegiality in the Church, meaning each diocese will have input into making the Church more open to listen to the voices of the local parishioners. This Sunday In dioceses all around the world this process of listening to the voice of the people of God will begin until April 2022. Then the bishops of each episcopal conference will gather and collate this information and send it to Rome and then in 2023 a formal synod of bishops will gather in Rome to examine all the process and present what the voice of the people of God has said.

Fr. Paul

Mission 2021 Theme:
"We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20)
Especial collection for Sunday October 17, 2021

The **Pontifical Mission Societies**, is an umbrella group of Catholic missionary societies under the pope's jurisdiction. They include: the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, the Holy Childhood Association, and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious.

World Mission Day also known as World Mission Sunday was established by Pope Pius XI in 1926. It is usually observed on the **third Sunday of October**.

May God bless all our missionaries.

The Parish Hall needs to be renovated and we need your help.

The Parish hall (old church) is finally being fully repaired and renovated. The roof was damaged since hurricane Irma and now is seriously affected by termites, as well.

If you would like to help complete this project, the Lord will reward you a hundredfold for any contribution you make.

Donations can be done by check to **Our Lady of Divine Providence** or bank transfer through Scotiabank. Instructions in the link below:

<https://www.catholic.tc/donate.html>

Parish Events Oct.17-Oct.24

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 Fraternitey, Red Room.
 05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice
 05:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday: **ST. LUKE**
 05:30pm Mass, D. Mass Chapel.

Tuesday: 05:30pm Mass, D. Mass Chapel.
 07:00pm 1st English. Church
 07:00pm 2nd English. Blue Chapel
 07:00pm 4th English. B. Sacrament
 07:00pm 2nd Spanish. Red Room

Wednesday: 07:00pm 1st Creole. Red Room.
 07:00pm 2nd Creole B. Sacrament.
 07:00pm 3rd English. Blue Chapel
 07:00pm 1st Spanish. church

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

Friday: **ST. JOHN PAUL II**
 5:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel.
 06:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction.
 06:00pm Confessions

Saturday: **ST. JOHN OF CAPISTRANO**
 05:30pm Mass, Blue Chapel.

Liturgy of the Eucharist NCW

07:00pm English: Church.



School Notes

Holy Family Academy
 Tel: 649-941-7875

HFA is blessed to have three priests/spiritual guides, as well as staff members to help students be checked in during drop-off in the mornings. We kindly want to remind parents and students to make sure your child is on time for perfect attendance (drop-off begins at 7:45am). There has been a big improvement in late drop-off but we want to emphasize that on-time attendance is crucial for students so they can start the day in prayer and be ready to learn!

They always are reminded that :

GOD IS LOVE, AND HE LOVES US!

For more information see 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 holyfamilytc@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
- Printing paper
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255