

Pope Francis Angelus 17 September 2023

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

Today, the Gospel talks to us about *forgiveness* (cf. *Mt 18:21-35*). Peter asks Jesus: “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” (v. 21). Seven, in the Bible, is a number that indicates completeness, and so Peter is very generous in the assumptions of his question. But Jesus goes further, and answers him: “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven” (v. 22). He tells him, that is, that when one forgives, one does not calculate; that it is good to forgive everything, and always! Just as God does with us, and as those who administer God’s justice are required to do: *forgive always*. I say this a lot to priests, to confessors: always forgive, as God forgives.

Jesus then illustrates this reality through a parable, which again has to do with numbers. A king, after being implored, forgives a servant the debt of 10,000 talents: it is an excessive, immense value, ranging from 200 to 500 tons of silver: excessive. It was an impossible debt to settle, even by working a lifetime: yet this master, who recalls our Father, forgives it out of sheer “pity” (v. 27). This is God’s heart: he always forgives, because God is compassionate. Let us not forget how God is: he is close, compassionate and tender; this is God’s way of being. Then, however, this servant, whose debt has been forgiven, shows no mercy towards a fellow servant who owes him 100 denarii. This too is a substantial sum, equivalent to about three months’ wages - as if to say that forgiving each other costs money! - but not at all comparable to the previous figure that the master had forgiven.

Jesus’ message is clear: God forgives incalculably, exceeding all measure. This is how he is; He acts out of love, and gratuitously. God is not bought, God is free, he is all gratuitousness. We cannot repay Him but, when we forgive a brother or a sister, we imitate Him. Forgiving is not, therefore, a good deed that we can choose to do or not do: forgiving is a fundamental condition for those who are Christians. Every one of us, in fact, is “forgiven”: let us not forget this, we are forgiven, God gave his life for us and in no way can we recompense his mercy, which he never withdraws from his heart. However, by corresponding to his gratuitousness, that is, by forgiving one another, we can bear witness to him, sowing new life around us. For outside of forgiveness there is no hope; outside of forgiveness there is no peace. Forgiveness is the oxygen that purifies the air of hatred, forgiveness is the antidote to the poisons of resentment, it is the way to defuse anger and heal so many maladies of the heart that contaminate society.

Let us ask ourselves, then: do I believe I have received from God the gift of immense forgiveness? Do I feel the joy of knowing that He is always ready to forgive me when I fall, even when others do not, even when I am not even able to forgive myself? He forgives: do I believe that he forgives? And then: can I in turn forgive those who wrong me? In this respect, I would like to propose a little exercise to you: let us try, now, each one of us, to think of a person who has hurt us, and ask the Lord for the strength to forgive them. And let us forgive them out of love for the Lord: brothers and sisters, this will do us good; it will restore peace to our hearts.

May Mary, Mother of Mercy, help us to receive the grace of God and to forgive each other

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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XXV SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30 pm English, Church.

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

Weekdays: 05:30 pm English, B. Chapel.

Fridays: 04:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary.

05:30 pm Blue Chapel.

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

1st Confessions: 09 June, 2023.

1st Communions: 11 June, 2023.

Confirmations: 22 October, 2023.

Marriage: Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.

Confessions: Everyday before Mass or

In today's Gospel Jesus gives the parable of the labourers in the vineyard. Some work hard all the day in the heat and others come at the last moment and all get paid the same. Isn't that unfair? You could say that it is! The reading is talking about you and I. You are called to be holy, not only today but for the rest of your life. It is a struggle to be good in the present world. There are many temptations, such as money, whether you have much or very little, sexual sins, faithlessness and so on. Well, if you negotiate through all of these then you will get the same pay as those who convert on their death beds and have lived a disordered life full of sins. Is this unfair? But it is only because of those who belong to the Church that she continues and therefore can be there for those who repent at the last moment. Without your being in the Church there would be no chance for the late comers. That is why it's important for you to remain faithful, not just for your sake but for others.

But there is more to the parable than this and that is, that God can do what he likes. Obviously He cannot be unjust or unloving but still He is free to arrange things as He deems necessary. So, when things go wrong in your life and everything seems unfair then think about this Gospel. The Lord can use what you think are injustices for the good. For example, I was second born and the last child as well. My brother was not only first born but he had all the talents and I was lacking in them to the same degree as him. This caused a lot of jealousy on my part but eventually he left the church and became a communist and I became a priest. The Lord gave us the grace to reconcile and when he was dying he asked for the last rites of the church. What seemed unjust to me became a wonderful plan of the Lord. May we all have this grace to see our lives in this perspective.

Fr. Paul



HOLY HOUR
FRIDAYS
4:00 pm—5:00pm.

Sing Praise 

If you Join the choir, to sing, you will pray twice says St. Augustine. Come and



CHOIR



Children's Catechism

The Classes for the sacraments of Confession, First Communion and Confirmation will start on the 23rd of September, 2023 at the Catholic School. Every Saturday at 11:00 am

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

Parish Events Sept.17-24

Sunday Holy Mass: 09:00 am.10:30am. and 12:30pm.

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

Monday

05:30 pm D. and Mass Chapel
07:30pm AA meetings Parish Hall.

Tuesday St.s Cosmas and Damian

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm First English Parish Hall
07:00pm Second English SMG
07:00pm First Spanish Blue Chapel
07:00pm Second Spanish Red Room

Wednesday St. Vincent de Paul

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm First Creole Parish Hall
07:00pm Third English S.M. Goretti
07:00pm Fourth English, Red Room
07:00pm Fifth English Blue Chapel

Thursday St. Wenceslaus

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel

Friday Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael

04:00pm Adoration, Blue Chapel
05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

Saturday St. Jerome

05:30pm Mass Church
07:00pm NCW Eucharist



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

This past weekend HFA welcomed Dr. David Armstrong, president of St. Thomas University, and Michelle Johnson Garcia, Chief Academic Officer to meet with the nine HFA students enrolled in STU courses this year. Dr. Armstrong reminded the students that while they strive for their academic goals, the purpose of an education is to form their morality. His visit concluded with a mass led by the students.



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:

- AED
- Asthma Inhalers
- Walkie-Talkie Radios
- Projectors