

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

The Gospel of today's Liturgy (Mk 9:30-37) narrates that, on the way to Jerusalem, Jesus' disciples were discussing "with one another who was the greatest" (v. 34). So, Jesus directed harsh words toward them that are still valid today: "If any one would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all" (v. 35). If you want to be first, you need to get in line, be last, and serve everyone. Through this shocking phrase, the Lord inaugurates a reversal: he overturns the criteria about what truly matters. The value of a person does not depend any more on the role they have, the work they do, the money they have in the bank. No, no, no, it does not depend on this. Greatness and success in God's eyes are measured differently: they are measured by *service*. Not on what someone *has*, but on what someone *gives*. Do you want to be first? Serve. This is the way. Today, the word "service" appears a bit hackneyed, worn out by use. But it has a precise and concrete meaning in the Gospel. To serve is not a courteous expression: it means *to act like Jesus*, who, summing up his life in a few words, said he had come "not to be served, but to serve" (Mk 10:45). This is what the Lord said. Therefore, if we want to follow Jesus, we must follow the path he himself traced out, the path of service. Our fidelity to the Lord depends on our willingness to serve. And we know this often costs, because "it tastes like a cross". But, as our care and availability toward others grows, we become freer inside, more like Jesus. The more we serve, the more we are aware of God's presence. Above all, when we serve those who cannot give anything in return, the poor, embracing their difficulties and needs with tender compassion: and we in turn discover God's love and embrace there. After having spoken of the *primacy of service*, Jesus does something precisely to illustrate this. We have seen that Jesus' actions are stronger than the words he uses. And what is that action? He takes a child and puts him in the midst of the disciples, at the center, in the most important place (cf. v. 36). In the Gospel, the child does not symbolize innocence so much as littleness. For like children, the little ones depend on others, on adults, they need to receive. Jesus embraces those children and says that those who welcome a little one, a child, welcome him (cf. v. 37). The ones who are to be served above all are: those in need of receiving who cannot give anything in return. To serve those who need to receive and cannot give anything in return. In welcoming those on the margins, the neglected, we welcome Jesus because *He is there*. And in the little one, in the poor person we serve, we also receive God's tender embrace. Dear brothers and sisters, challenged by the Gospel, let us ask ourselves: Am I, who follow Jesus, interested in the one who is neglected? Or am I rather seeking personal gratification, like the disciples that day? Do I understand life in terms of competing to make room for myself at others' expense, or do I believe that being first means serving? And, concretely: do I dedicate time to a "little one", to a person who has no means to pay me back? Am I concerned about someone who cannot give me anything in return, or only with my relatives and friends? These are the questions we need to ask ourselves. May the Virgin Mary, the humble servant of the Lord, help us understand that to serve does not belittle us, but helps us grow. And that there is more joy in giving than in receiving (cf. Acts 20:35).

# Our Lady of Divine Providence

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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### XXVI 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:** Corpis Christi, 2022  
**Confirmation:** January 2022, Date to be confirmed.

The Lord in today's Gospel gives us a warning. It is imperative to keep vigilant in the spiritual battle. "If your eye should cause you to sin pluck it out..." This sounds a bit dramatic but Jesus is trying to tell us that sin can affect other people's salvation. You can become a scandal or a cause of falling for someone and this is tragic. He is trying to get us to recognize the seriousness of sin and its consequences on other people. He is not to be taken literally, that is, He does not want you to physically pluck out your eye or cut off your hand or your foot, but instead warns that through the eye a lot of sin can enter into the heart. This is so true that there is a whole industry dedicated to just that. It is a disgrace that there are so many pornographic websites on the internet and that these have serious consequences on people's lives and that is why Jesus is so severe in this matter. You need the grace of the Lord not to sin with the eyes and it is not just "a guy thing", anymore. What is there to be done? Well, the Lord in the Gospel speaks about the "little ones". Who are they? The little ones are the Christians who have become small and insignificant. In fact, to be a Christian you need to become small, just as it was said in last Sunday's Gospel. The problem of the Apostles, and you and I, is that we want to be someone. If the Lord grants us the grace to become humble and accept the

last place, to be overlooked, to be set aside as insignificant, etc., then surely He would grant us also the gift of Chastity of the eyes and also the gift not to scandalize anyone. St. John of the Divine Ladder, says that if someone completely admits their own powerlessness in regard to the eyes then unperceptively small the grace of chastity will be born within them. If someone has a problem in this regard do not despair. Jesus Christ can come to help anyone. Let us implore the Lord to keep His hand upon us so that we may be vigilant and may not be a scandal.

### Catechesis for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation



### Children's catechism

If your children are not enrolled in the Catholic School Holy Family, the Classes for the sacraments of Confession, First Communion and Confirmation started the 18th of September, 2021 at the Catholic School. Every Saturday at 11:00 am.

Registration forms (green) are at the main entrance of the

## Parish Events Sep.26—Oct. 3

**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 Fraternite, 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.

**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 1st Spanish. Parish Hall  
 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

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

**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.  
 Creole: Blue Chapel.



## School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: 649-941-7875

### HFA Act of Reconciliation

The Holy Family Academy grades sixth through ninth have had the opportunity this week to receive the sacrament of confession. The HFA community recognizes this as a privilege because it is a time when the Church comes to us and demonstrates the most important thing we believe which is that...

**GOD IS LOVE,  
AND HE LOVES US!**

For more information see

[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
- Printing paper
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255