

Today, the Gospel presents us with a dramatic parable that has a sad ending. A landowner planted a vineyard and took good care of it. Then, needing to go away, he entrusted it to some tenants. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to collect his harvest. But the tenants maltreated and killed them. So, the owner sent his son, and those tenants even killed him. How come? What went wrong? There is a message of Jesus in this parable. The landowner did everything well, with love. He himself toiled to plant the vineyard; he surrounded it with a fence to protect it; dug a winepress, and built a watchtower. Then he entrusted his vineyard to some tenants, leasing his prized possession to them, thus treating them on an equal plane, so that his vineyard might be well cultivated and might bear fruit. Given these circumstances, the harvest should have come to a happy end, in a festive atmosphere, with a fair division of the produce to everyone's satisfaction. Instead, *ungrateful* and *greedy* thoughts insinuated themselves into the minds of the tenants. You see, at the root of conflicts there is always some ungratefulness and greedy sentiments to quickly take possession of things. "We do not need to give anything to the owner. The product of our work belongs to us alone. We need not give an account to anyone!" This is the discourse these labourers make. And this is not true: they should be grateful for what they received and for how they had been treated. Instead, ingratitude gave rise to greed and a progressive sense of rebellion grew within them, which led them to see the situation in a distorted way, to feel that the owner was in their debt rather than that they were in debt to the owner who had given them work. When they saw the son, they end up saying: "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance!" And from being tenants, they become assassins. It is a whole process. And many times, this process takes place in the hearts of people, even in our hearts. With this parable, Jesus reminds us what happens when a person deceives him/herself into thinking that he or she does things on their own, and they forget to be grateful, they forget the real basis of life: that good comes from the grace of God, that good comes from his free gift. When someone forgets this gratitude to God, he or she ends up no longer facing their own situation and their own limits with the joy of feeling loved and saved, but with the sad illusion of needing neither love nor salvation. That person stops letting him/herself be loved and finds him/herself a prisoner of their own greed, a prisoner to the need to have more than others, of the desire to stand out over others. This process is ugly, and many times it happens to us. Let us think seriously about this. This in turn gives rise to many dissatisfactions and recriminations, so many misunderstandings and so many feelings of envy; and, driven by resentment, the person can fall headlong into a spiral of violence. Yes, dear brothers and sisters, ungratefulness generates violence, it takes peace away, and makes us feel and yell when we speak, without peace, while a simple "thank you" can bring back peace! So, let us ask ourselves: Am I aware that life and the faith are gifts I have received. Am I aware that I myself am a gift? Do I believe that everything comes from the grace of the Lord? Do I understand that, without merit, I am the beneficiary of these things, that I am loved and saved gratuitously? And above all, in response to grace, do I know how to say "thank you"? Do I know how to say "thanks"? The three phrases that are the secret of human coexistence: thanks, please, I'm sorry. Do I know how to say these three things? Thanks, please, I'm sorry, excuse me. Do I know how to pronounce these three phrases? It is a small word, "thanks" - "please" is a small word, two small words to ask for forgiveness, "I'm sorry" - is what God and our brothers and sisters expect every day. Let us ask ourselves if these small words, "thanks", "please", "pardon me, I'm sorry", are present in our lives. Do I know to thank, to say "thanks"? Do I know how to excuse?

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XXVIII 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.

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 by appointment.

In today's Gospel the Father invites the guests to His son's banquet but they all refuse to come. Even though you are in the Church you too are invited to come. What is this banquet? It is to come to know the joy of being a real Christian. St. Teresa is reputed to say "A sad saint is really a sad saint." This means that sadness is not the sign of holiness. In other words, joy should radiate from you and if it does not this means there is a problem. What is the problem? It is not to know the Lord and his merciful love. It is not to see that the Lord is behind everything that is going on in your life, even in the difficulties and crosses that come to every human being, as part of God's plan. Faith is the only way out of this difficulty. Faith is not just believing. It is much more than this. It is to come to know the Lord and in knowing Him to begin to see Him acting in your daily life, and as I said even in the sufferings that inevitably come to everyone. Faith, therefore, implies a new vision, new eyes, as it were, to see things in a new light. For example, many parents of children with handicaps are initially discouraged by this event but eventually they say that the handicapped child is what held both marriage and family together. They then give thanks to God for the blessing of such a cross. This is faith and seeing life in this light changes everything, but you still need to ask the Lord for the grace of faith so that you can begin to see things in this way and also there will soon be another cross which again needs to be enlightened. The early Christians called Baptism an enlightenment. It threw light on their whole life and the newly baptized were transformed by this experience and so much so, that they were willing to die for their faith and many did. Let us all ask the Lord to enlighten us and give us the joy of Faith.

Fr. Paul



HOLY HOUR
FRIDAYS
4:00 pm—5:00pm.

CONFIRMATION

Next Sunday, 22 October at 9AM Mass the Sacrament of Confirmation will be given. The Mass will be presided by Msgr. Rozniak, Vicar General of our Mission.

POST-CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

In many cases the newly confirmed 'disappear' from our midst and so we are bringing something new to help all those just confirmed and also for those, who in the past few years have received the sacrament and want further formation.

Post-Confirmation will begin soon. It is open to all youth who have been confirmed and wish to continue to stay close to the Lord. Different couples will host small groups of youth in their homes every Friday night to listen to the Word of God and discuss it and other themes relevant to their lives. This is a great opportunity so do not miss out. The youth who have done this all agree that it helped them through their teenage years.

Parish Events October 15-22

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 St. Margret Mary Alacoque

05:30 pm D. and Mass Chapel

Tuesday St. Ignatius of Antioch

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

Wednesday St. Luke the Evangelist

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm Second Creole Bl. Sac. Chapel
07:00pm Third English S.M. Goretti
07:00pm Fourth English, Red Room
07:00pm Fifth English Blue Chapel

Thursday Martyrs of North America

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel

Friday St. Paul of the Cross

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

Saturday

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

The past few weeks have been busy at HFA. Ms. Amour hosted a mock debate to determine who would represent the school on the Debate Team, several classes went on field trips to other islands or to view the wildlife on a semi-submarine, and the college students received in-person instruction from Prof. Martin. In addition, the school held its annual culture day where our students celebrated Turks and Caicos.



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