

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Saint Paul's preaching is completely centred on Jesus and his Paschal Mystery. In fact, the Apostle presents himself as a witness of Christ, and Christ crucified (cfr. 1 Cor 2:2). He reminds the Galatians, tempted to base their religiosity on the observance of precepts and traditions, that the centre of salvation and faith is the death and resurrection of the Lord. He does so by placing before them the reality of the cross of Jesus. He writes thus: "Who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?" (Gal 3:1). Who has bewitched you so that you would move away from Christ Crucified? It is an awful moment for the Galatians....

Today, there are many who still seek religious security rather than the living and true God, focusing on rituals and precepts instead of embracing God's love with their whole being. And this is the temptation of the new fundamentalists, isn't it? Of those who seem to be afraid to make progress, and who regress because they feel more secure: they seek the security of God and not the God of our security.... This is why Paul asks the Galatians to return to what is essential – to return to God, to the essential, not to the securities of God: to the essential – to the God who gives us life in Christ crucified. He testifies to this in the first person: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20). And towards the end of the Letter, he affirms: "Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (6:14).

If we lose the thread of the spiritual life, if a thousand problems and thoughts assail us, let us heed Paul's advice: let us place ourselves in front of Christ Crucified, let us begin again from Him. Let us take the Crucifix in our hands, holding it close to our heart. Or we can even take some time in adoration before the Eucharist, where Jesus is Bread broken for us, Crucified, Risen, the power of God who pours out his love into our hearts.

And now, still guided by Saint Paul, let us take another step. Let us ask ourselves: what happens when we meet Jesus Crucified in prayer? The same thing that happened under the cross: Jesus gave up his Spirit (cf. Jn 19:30), that is, he gives his own life. And the Spirit which flows forth from Jesus' Passover is the origin of the spiritual life. He changes hearts: not our works. He is the one who changes the heart, not the things that we do, but the action of the Holy Spirit in us changes our heart! He guides the Church and we are called to be obedient to his action, who blows where and how he wills. Moreover, it was precisely the awareness that the Holy Spirit had descended over everyone, and that His grace was at work without excluding anyone, that convinced even the most reluctant of the Apostles that the Gospel was meant for everyone and not for a privileged few. And those who seek security, the small group, the things that were clear as they were back then, they live "as it was back then", they distance themselves from the Spirit, they do not permit the freedom of the Spirit to enter into them. Thus, the life of the community is regenerated in the Holy Spirit; and it is always thanks to Him that we nourish our Christian lives and continue to engage in our spiritual battle.

It is precisely the spiritual combat that is another important teaching in the Letter to the Galatians. The Apostle presents two opposing fronts: on the one side, the "works of the flesh", and on the other, the "fruit of the Spirit". What are the works of the flesh? They are behaviours that are contrary to the Spirit of God. The Apostle calls them works of the flesh not because there is something erroneous or bad about our human bodies. Instead, we have seen how much he insisted on the reality of the human flesh that Christ brought to the cross! Flesh is a word that indicates the person's earthly dimension, closed in on itself in a horizontal existence, following worldly instincts and closing the door to the Spirit who lifts us up and opens us up to God and others. But the flesh also reminds us that everything gets old, that it all passes, withers, while the Spirit gives life. Therefore, Paul lists the works of the flesh which refer to the selfish use of sexuality, to magical practices connected with idolatry and to all that undermines interpersonal relationships such as "enmity, jealousy, dissension, divisions, factions, envy..." (cf. Gal 5:19-21): all of this is the truth – we'll put it this way – of the flesh, of behaviour that is solely "human", *sickly* human. Because being human has its values, but this is *sickly* human.

The fruit of the Spirit, instead, is "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal 5:22-23), as Paul says. Christians, who in baptism have "put on Christ" (Gal 3:27), are called to live as such. It can be a good spiritual exercise, for example, to read Saint Paul's list and take a look at our own behaviour to see if it corresponds, if we are truly living according to the Holy Spirit, if we are bearing these fruits. These fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control: does my life bear these fruits? Is it the Spirit who gives? For example, the first three that are listed are love, peace and joy: a person in whom the Holy Spirit dwells can be recognized by these traits. A person who is in peace, who is joyful and who loves. With these three traits, the Spirit is seen.

The Apostle's teaching poses quite a challenge for our communities too. Sometimes, those who approach the Church get the impression that they are dealing with a dense mass of rules and regulations: but no, this is not the Church! This can be whatever association. But, in reality, the beauty of faith in Jesus Christ cannot be grasped on the basis of so many commandments or of a moral vision developed in many layers which can make us forget the original fruitfulness of love nourished by prayer from which peace and joyful witness flow. In the same way, the life of the Spirit, expressed in the Sacraments, cannot be suffocated by a bureaucracy that prevents access to the grace of the Spirit, the initiator of conversion of heart. And how many times we ourselves, priests or bishops, follow so much bureaucracy to give a sacrament, to welcome people, so that people say: "No, I do not like this", and they do not go, and many times they do not see in us the power of the Spirit who regenerates, who makes everyone new. We therefore have the huge responsibility of proclaiming Christ crucified and risen, enlivened by the breath of the Spirit of love. For it is this Love alone that possesses the power to attract and change the human heart.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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XXXI 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: Corpus Christi, 2022.
Confirmation: January 16, 2022.

Today's Gospel puts to us this question, "How do I love the Lord with all my heart, soul and strength?" The answer is simple but very difficult to do. To love God with all your heart means putting everything else as of less importance than God. This is particularly money, but also affections of family, friends. All the things that you value are of less importance than God. Often you act out of fear of what will people think of you. This is a sign that God is not número uno in your heart. Loving God with all your strength means not relying on yourself at all. You may say, "But look God gave me all my strengths." Yet I am sure that you also take the applause for them and do not give to God His due, as you think most times that they are yours. To love the Lord with all the soul simply means to do the Lord's will above your own. It means to recognise that most times the way you think is not in accord with the Lord's way of thinking. So it involves a renunciation of your will. As I said these things are not easy to do and you fall short all the time. So what is there to do? Ask the Lord to begin to love him above everything, even your own family because family members can sometimes draw you away from doing the will of God. This requires a firm faith that the Lord will help you and it also requires wisdom to know how to put the Lord first in everything. If all your family stops going to Church you can still make a stand and continue alone, if necessary because Jesus Christ is with you and He can be found in the Church. Also it is in the Church that Jesus comes to feed your soul so that you can have the graces and the strength to do His will, in spite of any opposition. To sum up all this gospel is to say " Lord may your will be done not mine." It is only in doing the will of the Lord that you will experience His peace and his love. Our prayer today can be, "Teach me Lord to love as you have loved me." If the Lord gives us His grace everything is possible, despite our human weaknesses and never forget that the Lord is always immensely merciful when we fail to love as He loved us.

Fr. Paul

All Saints day

Please note that Monday, **Nov. 1, 2021** is All Saints day and 5:30pm mass is in the Church and the same for the next day which is All Soul's Day.

Our Lady of Divine Providence Celebration Month

Nov 12—Nov 20 Novena to our Lady after daily Mass.

Nov 20 Rosary at dawn. Starting at 5:45am at Holy Family Academy.

Nov 21 Parish Feast
Procession with the Blessed Sacrament at 9:00am from the Catholic School to the Church, continuing with multilingual mass.

Everyone is invited to attend wearing the typical costume of their home country.

Food to take out after Mass.

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 completet this project, the Lord will reward you a hundredfold for any contribution you make.

Donations can be made 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.31-Nov.7

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

Monday: 05:30pm Mass, **CHURCH**
ALLSAINTS 06:45pm NCW Eucharist, Church

Tuesday: 05:30pm Mass, **CHURCH**
ALL SOULS

Wednesday: ^{St.} St. Martin De Porres

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.
St. Charles Borromeo 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.



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: 649-941-7875

Some of **Holy Family Academy's** students, teachers, and staff attended a spiritual retreat this past weekend in which they had the blessed opportunity to receive a word from God through the catechesis that were aimed to inspire and enhance their spirituality. This retreat was done in order to help inspire, guide and develop both their faith and performance in our school.

We are happy to announce that we just had our first parent teacher conference of the year and were very happy to see our parents on our campus since the pandemic started.

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
- 3 tricycles
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255