

To love always and to love everyone: Let us stop and reflect on this.

First, Jesus' words today (cf. *Mt 5:38-48*) invite us to *love always*, that is, to always remain in his love, to cultivate that love and to put it into practice, whatever the situation in which we live. Notice, though, that Jesus' vision is completely practical; he does not say it will be easy, and he is not talking about sentimental or romantic love, as if in our human relationships there will not be any moments of conflict or grounds for hostility among peoples. Jesus is not idealistic, but realistic: he speaks explicitly of "evil" and "enemies" (vv. 38, 43). He knows that within our relationships there is a daily struggle between love and hatred. Within our hearts too, there is a daily clash between light and darkness: between our many resolutions and desires, and the sinful weakness that often takes over and drags us into doing evil. He also knows that, for all our generous efforts, we do not always receive the good we expect and indeed sometimes, incomprehensibly, we suffer evil. What is more, he suffers when he sees in our own day and in many parts of the world, ways of exercising power that feed on oppression and violence, seeking to expand their own space by restricting that of others, imposing their own domination and restricting basic freedoms, and in this way oppressing the weak. And so, Jesus says, conflict, oppression and enmity exist among us. In light of all this, the important question to ask is: What are we to do in such situations? Jesus' answer is surprising, bold and daring. He tells his disciples to find the courage to risk something that seems sure to fail. He asks them to remain always, faithfully, in love, despite everything, even in the face of evil and our enemy. A purely human reaction would restrict us to seeking "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," but that would be to exact justice by using the same weapons of evil used on us. Jesus dares to propose something new, different, unthinkable, something that is *his own way*. "I say to you, do not resist one who is evil. But, if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also". That is what the Lord asks of us: not to dream idealistically of a world of fraternity, but to choose, starting with ourselves, to practice universal fraternity, concretely and courageously, persevering in good even when evil is done to us, breaking the spiral of vengeance, disarming violence, demilitarizing the heart. The Apostle Paul echoes Jesus when he writes, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good". What Jesus asks us to do does not primarily concern the great problems of humanity, but the concrete situations of our daily lives: our relationships in the family and in the Christian community, in the workplace and in society. There will be cases of friction and moments of tension, there will be conflicts and opposing viewpoints, but those who follow the Prince of Peace must always strive for peace. And peace cannot be restored if a harsh word is answered with an even harsher one, if one slap leads to another. No, we need to "disarm," to shatter the chains of evil, to break the spiral of violence, and to put an end to resentment, complaints and self-pity. We need to keep loving, always. This is Jesus' way of giving glory to the God of heaven and building peace on earth. *Love always*. Now we come to the second aspect: *to love everyone*. We can be committed to loving, but it is not enough if we restrict this commitment to the close circle of those who love us, who are our friends, who are like us or who are our family members. Again, what Jesus asks us to do is amazing because it transcends the boundaries of law and common sense. Loving our neighbor, those close to us, though reasonable, is exhausting enough. In general, this is what a community or a people tries to do to preserve its internal peace. If people belong to the same family or nation, or have the same ideas or tastes and profess the same beliefs, it is normal for them to try to help one another and to love one another. Yet what happens if those who are far distant approach us, if foreigners, who are different or hold other beliefs, become our neighbours? This very land is a living image of coexistence in diversity, indeed an image of our world, pluralism of ideas, customs and traditions. It is important, then, to embrace Jesus' challenge: "If you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?" (*Mt 5:46*). If we want to be children of the Father and build a world of brothers and sisters, the real challenge is to learn how to love everyone, even our enemies: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (vv. 43-44). Concretely, this means choosing not to have enemies, choosing to see in others not an obstacle to be overcome, but a brother or sister to be loved. To love our enemies is to make this earth a reflection of heaven; it is to draw down upon our world the eyes and heart of the Father who does not distinguish or discriminate, but "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (v. 45).

Brothers and sisters, the power of Jesus is love. Jesus gives us the power to love in this way, which for us seems superhuman. This ability, though, cannot be merely the result of our own efforts; it is primarily the fruit of God's grace. A grace that must be implored insistently: "Jesus, you who love me, teach me to love like you. Jesus, you who forgive me, teach me to forgive like you. Send your Spirit, the Spirit of love, upon me." Let us ask for this grace. So often we bring our requests before the Lord, but what is essential for us as Christians is to know how to love as Christ loves. His greatest gift is the ability to love, and that is what we receive when we make room for the Lord in prayer, when we welcome his presence in his transforming word and in the revolutionary humility of his broken Bread. Thus, slowly, the walls that harden our hearts tumble, and we find our joy in carrying out works of mercy towards everyone. Then we come to realize that happiness in life comes through the Beatitudes and consists in our becoming peacemakers

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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XXXIII 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.

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: 11 June, 2023.

Confirmations: TBC



Today's Gospel puts before us the end of time. That is because we are coming to the end of the Church's year. Next Sunday is Christ the King and then it is Advent. Jesus, in the Gospel says that the end of time is not here yet and the signs He speaks of are not evident yet, such as great signs in the heavens, but every day you face the possibility of dying. This means you need to be prepared. How to be prepared?

First of all, examine your conscience after a time of prayer in which you ask the Lord to show you any areas in your life that need to be fixed. Also to ask Him to show you if there is someone you need to reconcile with. This can range from those closest to you, to the kid who bullied you in the 8th grade. This is a good time to go to confession. Make a will so that you start to think about your death. Many became saints by thinking about their death. Oddly enough it puts life into perspective. You will see these are things that you just do not want to do. Why? Because of the fear you have of death and what are you afraid of? That is the question and it is good to ask yourself and to meditate on it. Deep down there is a fear that you have not lived up to God's expectation or you do not feel forgiven for some things you have done. Jesus does say, however, that not a hair of your head will be lost and that your perseverance will save you. St. Philip Neri, so-called second apostle of Rome, says that perseverance is the most important virtue because if you persevere you will get to Heaven. The reason to persevere is to know that Jesus Christ has died and risen for you and so if He has done that how can He now renege on His commitment to save you?

Let us all take courage, especially in the face of all the violence around us and in the world, knowing that the Lord will never abandon His own.

Fr. Paul

PARISH FEAST

Sunday, November 20, 2022.

Everyone is invited. There will only be one multilingual Mass at **11:00 a.m.**

Fun and games for the whole family!

Novena Schedule

Friday, Nov. 11, 6:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction and catechesis.

Saturday, Nov. 12, 11:00 a.m.

Confessions during Catechism classes at the School.

Sunday, Nov. 13, 6:00 p.m.

Novena Prayer recited and catechesis in Creole.

Monday, Nov. 14, 6:00 p.m.

Recitation of the Joyful Mysteries
Catechesis-Reflection.

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 6:00 p.m.

Recitation of the Sorrowful Mysteries
Catechesis-Reflection.

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 6:00 p.m.

Recitation of the Glorious Mysteries
Catechesis-Reflection

Thursday, Nov. 17, 6:00 p.m.

Recitation of the Luminous Mysteries
Reflection-catechesis

Friday, Nov. 18, 6:00 p.m.

Eucharist Adoration, catechesis en español sobre Bendita eres tú Virgen María

Saturday, Nov. 19, 5:30 a.m. 6:30 a.m.

Morning prayer walk - starting at the Catholic School, HFA, and ending at the Catholic Church.

All welcome. We will have water, coffee, tea, fruits...

Parish Events November 13-20

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

04:00 pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
05:00 pm Fraternitey, 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.
06:00pm **Rosary and Catechesis**

Tuesday St. Albert the Great

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel.
06:00pm Rosary and Catechesis
07:00 pm 1st English. Blue Chapel
07:00 pm 2nd English Maria Goretti.
07:00 pm 2nd Spanish. B. Sacrament
07:00pm 1st Spanish Red Room

Wednesday St. Margaret of Scotland

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
06:00pm Rosary and Catechesis
07:00 pm 1st Creole, Red Room.
07:00 pm 3rd English, Maria Goretti.
07:00 pm 2nd Creole, B. Sacrament.
07:00 pm 4th English Blue Chapel.

Thursday St. Elizabeth of Hungary

05:30 pm Daily Mass Chapel
06:00pm Rosary and catechesis.

Friday St. Philipine Duchesne

04:00pm Adoration
5:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel
06:00 pm **NOVENA**, Catechesis in Spanish

Saturday

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941, 7875

Spirituality

As we approach the end of ordinary time, the church teaches us of the maturing of Jesus Christ in the scriptures. Through this knowledge, at Holy Family Academy, we foster and guide our students with the necessary means to help nurture and mature their faith.

Academics

Students from Holy Family Academy were invited to participate and attend this year's annual TCI Film Festival. There was joy and excitement reverberating from our students as they were exposed to the beautiful art and culture of TCI through film!

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:

- Automatic hand dryers
- Microwave x 3
- Walkie-Talkie Radios
- Electric pencil sharpeners
- Sound / Speaker System
- Ping Pong table.
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255