

Pope Francis Audience 9 April 2025

Today we will look at another of Jesus' encounters, narrated by the Gospels. This time, however, the person encountered does not have a name. The evangelist Mark presents him simply as "*a marr*" (10:17). He is a man who has observed the commandments ever since his youth but who, despite this, has not yet found the meaning of his life. He is searching for it. Perhaps he is one who has not yet truly made up his mind, despite his appearance as a committed person. Indeed, beyond the things we do, our sacrifices and successes, what truly counts in order to be happy is what we carry in our heart. If a ship has to set sail and leave the port to navigate in the open sea, it can be a wonderful ship, with an exceptional crew, but if it does not pull up the ballast and the anchors that hold it down, it will never manage to depart. This man has made himself a luxurious ship, but he has stayed in the port! As Jesus makes His way through the street, this fellow runs up to Him, kneels before Him and asks: "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (v. 17). Notice the verbs: "what *must I do to have* eternal life". Since observance of the Law did not give him the happiness and security of being saved, he turns to the Master Jesus. What is striking is that this man does not know the vocabulary of gratuitousness! Everything seems to be owed. Everything is a duty. Eternal life is for him an inheritance, something that is obtained by right, through meticulous observance of commitments. But in a life lived in this way, although certainly for good purpose, what space can love have?

As always, Jesus goes beyond appearances. While on the one hand this man sets out before Jesus his fine resume, Jesus goes beyond and looks within. The verb that Mark uses is very significant: "*looking at him*" (v. 21). Precisely because Jesus looks within each one of us, He loves us as we truly are. Indeed, what will He have seen inside this person? What does Jesus see when He looks within every one of us and loves us, despite our distractions and our sins? He sees our fragility, but also our desire to be loved as we are. Looking at him, says the Gospel, He "*loved him*" (v. 21). Jesus loves this man before He even extended the invitation to follow Him. He loves him just as he is. Jesus' love is gratuitous: exactly the opposite of the logic of merit that has beset this person. We are truly happy when we realize we are loved in this way, freely, by grace. And this also applies to the relationships between us: as long as we try to buy love or beg for affection, those relationships will never make us feel happy. The proposal Jesus makes to this man is to change his way of living and relating with God. Indeed, Jesus recognizes that inside him, as in all of us, something is lacking. It is the desire we carry in our heart to be loved. There is a wound that belongs to us as human beings, the wound through which love passes. To overcome this lack we do not need to "buy" recognition, affection, consideration: instead, we need to "sell off" everything that weighs us down, to make our hearts freer. There is no need to continue to take for ourselves, but rather to give to the poor, to provide, to share.

Finally, Jesus invites this man not to stay alone. He invites him to follow Him, to be within a bond, to live a relationship. Indeed, only in this way will it be possible to emerge from his anonymity. We can hear our name only within a relationship, in which someone calls us. If we remain alone, we will never hear our name spoken, and will continue to be that "*marr*", anonymous. Perhaps today, precisely because we live in a culture of self-sufficiency and individualism, we find ourselves more unhappy because we no longer hear our name spoken by someone who loves us freely. This man does not accept Jesus' invitation and stays alone, because the ballast of his life keeps him in the port. His sadness is the sign that he has not managed to leave. At times, what we think are riches are instead only burdens that are holding us back. The hope is that this person, like each one of us, will sooner or later change and decide to set sail.

Sisters and brothers, let us entrust to the Heart of Jesus all people who are sad and undecided, so that they may feel the loving gaze of the Lord, who is moved by looking tenderly within us.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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EASTER SUNDAY 2025



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, Upper Room, St. Maria Goretti.

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

05:30 pm Upper Room St. Maria Goretti.

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

1st Confession: 13 June, 2025.
1st Communions: 22 June, 2025.

Confirmations: To be confirmed.

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.

Finally Easter has arrived. This is the most important feast in the whole of the Church's year. Why is it like that? Because Jesus Christ has Risen over death which includes your death and mine.

Out of the biggest tragedy which was his passion and death Jesus rises to new life. He had to go through that painful death so as to become something new. Kind of like the butterflies. They are worms who get transformed out of their cocoons into something completely new. Jesus had to go through the cross in order to become the first born of the new creation.

So this also is for us and not just for Himself.

Out of, what looks like tragedies in our lives the Lord not only resurrects the situation but changes you. Even running shoe manufacturers say "no pain, no gain." The crises in your life are there to make you grow. This is easy to say, or to write, but some of the most difficult times in my life have really helped me. When I was a missionary with another seminarian we did not get along at all.

We argued and disagreed all day, every day but it forced me to get up in the night to pray and after a few nights I discovered the problem was not the other guy but who he represented. And that was my older brother who was a universal genius. My brother came first at everything from school work to sports and I wasn't first at anything..

However, through this crisis I understood who I was and the Lord granted me the grace of reconciling, not only with the other seminarian but also with my brother and it gave me a great deal of self knowledge as I was completely blind to my deep envy of my brother.

Let us ask the Lord that He can share with us His resurrection concretely in our lives and that this can give us the grace never to lose hope in Him, no matter how "hopeless" things seem.

Fr. Paul

Christ is Risen, It is Truly Risen!!!

This will be our greetings for the 50 days of Easter, until Pentecost.

Easter Season 2025

Blessings of the houses: If you would like your house to be blessed, approach one of the priests to make arrangements.

Baptisms

Baptisms are celebrated on Saturdays at 3:00 pm.

Spanish: 2nd Saturday of the month.

Creyol: 3rd Saturday of the month.

English: 4th Saturday of the month.

WORLD YOUTH DAY

PLEASE HELP US GET THERE

(around 50 young & adults
\$3,000 e/a)

Any help God will reward you a hundred fold, not only spiritually but materially as well.

Parish Events April 20-27

Holy Mass: 09:00 am, 11:00 am

04:00pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.
05:00pm Fraternite, Red Room.
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice.
05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
06:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday 2nd Day of Easter Octave

05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room

Tuesday 3rd Day of Easter Octave

05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room
07:00pm First English Blue Chapel
07:00pm Second English Red Room
07:00pm Spanish SMG, Upper Room

Wednesday 4th Day of Easter Octave

05:30pm Daily Mass., SMG Upper Room
07:00pm Third English SMG, Upper Room
07:00pm Fourth English Red Room
07:00pm Fifth English Blue Chapel
07:00pm Creole Blessed Sac. Chapel

Thursday 5th Day of Easter Octave

05:30 pm Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room

Friday 6th Day of Easter Octave

04:00 pm Adoration, SMG upstairs
05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG upstairs

Saturday 7th Day of Easter Octave

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

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CSP (Community Service Program) students in 11th grade presented their projects where they learned about happiness, the importance of serving others, and how they helped their community through these projects.



Students have been doing the Stations of the Cross during this Lenten season, which reminds them that Christ is with them during their suffering and he is the one best suited to help them carry the weight of their own personal struggles.

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.

Your sponsorship payment can be done through direct deposit or bank transfer or by donating any of the items below.

- Projectors and projector screens
- Projector stands
- Art Supplies
- Printing Paper
- Sport supplies
- Asthma Inhalers & AED

Click on our [Wish List](#) or scan the code to see more!

