

In our catechetical itinerary on the passion for evangelizing, today we start from the words of Jesus that we have heard: 'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Mt 28:19). 'Go,' says the Risen One, 'not to indoctrinate, not to make proselytes, no, but to make disciples, that is, to give everyone the opportunity to come into contact with Jesus, to know and love Him freely. Go and baptise: to baptise means to immerse; and therefore, before indicating a liturgical action, it expresses a vital action: to immerse one's life in the Father, in the Son, in the Holy Spirit; to experience every day the joy of the presence of God who is close to us as Father, as Brother, as Spirit acting in us, in our very spirit.' To be baptised is to immerse oneself in the Trinity

When Jesus says to His disciples – and also to us – 'Go!', He is not just communicating a word. No. He communicates *the Holy Spirit* at the same time, because it is only thanks to Him, thanks to the Spirit, that one can receive Christ's mission and carry it out (cf. Jn 20:21-22). The Apostles, in fact, out of fear, remain closed up in the Upper Room until the day of Pentecost arrives and the Holy Spirit descends upon them (cf. Acts 2:1-13). And in that moment the fear is gone, and with His power those fishermen, mostly unlettered, will change the world. 'But if they can't speak...?' But it is the word of the Spirit, the strength of the Spirit that bears them onward to change the world. The proclamation of the Gospel, therefore, is only realized in the power of the Spirit, who precedes the missionaries and prepares hearts: He is 'the engine of evangelisation.'

We discover this in the Acts of the Apostles, where on every page we see that *the protagonist of the proclamation* is not Peter, Paul, Stephen, or Philip, but is the Holy Spirit. Staying with the book of Acts, a pivotal moment in the beginning of the Church is recounted, which can also say a lot to us. Then, as now, tribulations were not lacking, beautiful moments and not so beautiful moments, joys were accompanied by worries, both of these. One worry in particular: how to deal with the pagans who came to the faith, with those who did not belong to the Jewish people, for example. Were they or were they not bound to observe the prescriptions of the Mosaic Law? This was no small matter for those people. Two groups were thus formed, between those who considered the observance of the Law indispensable and those who did not. In order to discern, the Apostles gathered in what was called the 'Council of Jerusalem,' the first in history. How to resolve the dilemma? They might have sought a good compromise between tradition and innovation: some rules are observed, and others are left aside. Yet the Apostles do not follow this human wisdom to seek a diplomatic balance between the one and the other, they don't follow this, but adapting to the work of the Spirit, who had anticipated them by descending upon the pagans as He had upon them.

And so, removing almost every obligation related to the Law, they communicate the final decisions, made – and this is what they write – 'by the Holy Spirit and by us' (cf. Acts 15:28), and this went out, 'the Holy Spirit with us,' and the Apostles always acted in this way. Together, without being divided, despite having different sensitivities and opinions, they listen to the Spirit. And He teaches one thing, which is also valid today: every religious tradition is useful if it facilitates the encounter with Jesus, every religious tradition is useful if it facilitates the encounter with Jesus. We could say that the historic decision of the first Council, from which we also benefit, was motivated by a principle, *the principle of proclamation*: everything in the Church must be conformed to the requirements of the proclamation of the Gospel; not to the opinions of the conservatives or the progressives, but to the fact that Jesus reaches people's lives. Therefore, every choice, every usage, every structure, and every tradition is evaluated on the basis of whether they favour the proclamation of Christ. And when decisions are found in the Church – for example ideological divisions: 'I am conservative because...' 'I am progressive because...' But where is the Holy Spirit? Be careful that the Gospel is not an idea, the Gospel is not an ideology: the Gospel is a proclamation that touches your heart and makes you change your heart, but if you take refuge in an idea, in an ideology, whether right or left or centre, you are making the Gospel a political party, an ideology, a club of people. The Gospel always gives you this freedom of the Spirit that acts within you and carries you forward. And how much it requires of us today to take hold of the freedom of the Gospel and allow ourselves to be carried forward by the Spirit.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Luis Orlando González
P. Vicar: Rev. Rafael Velázquez
P. Vicar: Rev. Paul Passant

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



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.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is led by the Holy spirit into the desert to be tested by the devil for 40 days. You, too, are to be led into the spiritual desert of Lent to be tested. In the desert, Jesus undergoes three temptations. These are firstly, to rely not on God but on bread, which can mean money or other securities. The second is to put God to the test by making a spectacle of the hidden power of God within Him and thus to escape Jesus' human condition. Thirdly, to rely on worldly things and power rather than on God. These are your daily temptations! Not to rely on the Lord but on money or your own strength. That is why the Church invites you to fast, to deny your flesh in some way, which can help you enter into a spiritual desert. This means to give something up that you really love, where you seek a bit of happiness from. The second temptation is to escape. Escape from suffering, or loneliness, or the reality of life. This is what everyone does, one way or another. Some go shopping, others go to the computer and others to social media, others to drugs or alcohol etc. This Lent is a time to turn to the Lord in prayer and to find that He is enough. For a Christian, prayer is essential, and not just formal prayers. There's a book on prayer, called 'Prayer for Pilgrims', by Sheila Cassidy, which describes prayer as "Wasting time with the Lord", just like wasting time with a friend. Many people do not pray because they think its boring or, even worse, no one is listening, and you have never experienced the love of the Lord in prayer. How unfortunate this is. Finally, to detach from this world you are invited to give money away

Let us all ask the Lord for His grace to make a good Lent. Fr. Paul



Catechesis for adults and youth

Have you found what you are looking for in life?

Are you suffering?

Do you find it difficult to be happy?

COME AND LISTEN

**Mondays and Thursdays
7 – 8 PM.**

**Everyone 13 & older
Free babysitting**



**World
Youth Day**

The youth of our parish is looking forward to meet the Pope and have an encounter with Christ, this coming summer.

We invite you to visit our stands. Your contributions will go to the fund that will help them travel all together.

We have snacks, bake goods, refreshments, island souvenirs and some more!

Parish Events Feb. 26-Mar. 5

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

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 D. and Mass Chapel

05:30 pm Catechesis SMG
07:00pm AA Parish Hall.
07:30pm

Tuesday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel

Wednesday

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
06:00pm Announcement of Lent, Church

Thursday St. Katherine Drexel

05:30 pm D. Mass Chapel
07:00pm Catechesis SMG

Friday

04:00pm Adoration
5:30pm Daily Mass, Blue Chapel .
07:30pm AA Parish Hall

Saturday

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



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941, 7875



Our students at HFA began the Lent season by celebrating Ash Wednesday. Students were reminded of the three pillars to receive the coming of Christ which are fasting, praying and almsgiving. HFA welcomed members from the TCI Department of Environment and Coastal Resources. They brought awareness and encouragement to our students on the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling, and almsgiving.

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