

Pope Francis' Audience March 30, 2022

In our path of catecheses on the theme of old age, today we will look at the tender picture painted by the evangelist Saint Luke, who depicts two elderly figures, Simeon and Anna. Their reason for living, before taking leave of this world, is to await God's visit. They were waiting for God, that is, Jesus, to visit them. Simeon knows, by a premonition of the Holy Spirit, that he will not die before seeing the Messiah. Anna attends the temple every day, devoting herself to his service. Both of them recognize the presence of the Lord in the child Jesus, who fills their long wait with consolation and reassures them as they bid farewell to life. This is a scene of encounter with Jesus, and of farewell.

What can we learn from these two elderly figures filled with spiritual vitality?

First, we learn that the fidelity of waiting *sharpens the senses*. Besides, as we know, the Holy Spirit does precisely this: *enlightens the senses*. In the ancient hymn, *Veni Creator Spiritus*, with which we continue to this day to invoke the Holy Spirit, we say: "*Accende lumen sensibus*", "Guide our minds with your blest light", enlighten our senses. The Spirit is capable of doing this: of sharpening the senses of the soul, despite the limits and the wounds of the senses of the body. Old age weakens, in one way or another, the sensibility of the body: one is going blind, another one deaf. However, an old age spent in awaiting God's visit will not miss his passage; on the contrary, it will be even more ready to grasp it, will have greater sensitivity to welcome the Lord when he passes. Remember that it is typical of the Christian to be attentive to the visits of the Lord, because the Lord passes in our life, with inspirations, with invitations to better ourselves. And Saint Augustine used to say: "I fear that Jesus will pass me by unnoticed". It is the Holy Spirit who prepares the senses to understand when the Lord is visiting us, just as he did with Simeon and Anna.

Today we need this more than ever: we need *an old age gifted with lively spiritual senses* capable of recognizing the signs of God, or rather, the Sign of God, who is Jesus. A sign that challenges us, always: Jesus challenges us because he is "a sign that is spoken against" (Lk 2: 34) – but which fills us with joy. Because crisis does not necessarily bring sadness, no: being in crisis in service to the Lord very often gives you peace and joy. The *anaesthesia of the spiritual senses* – and this is bad – the anaesthesia of the spiritual senses, in the excitement and stultification of those of the body, is a widespread syndrome in a society that cultivates the illusion of eternal youth, and its most dangerous feature lies in the fact that it is mostly unaware. We do not realize we are anaesthetized. And this happens. It happens. It has always happened and it happens in our times. Numbed senses, without understanding what is happening: when they are numb, the inner senses, the senses of the Spirit that enable us to understand the presence of God or the presence of evil, cannot distinguish between them.

When you lose the sense of touch or of taste, you realize immediately. However, you can ignore that of the soul, that sensitivity of the soul, for a long time, living without realizing that you have lost the sensitivity of the soul. It is not simply a matter of thinking of God or religion. The insensitivity of the spiritual senses relates to compassion and pity, shame and remorse, fidelity and devotion, tenderness and honour, responsibility for oneself and for others. It is curious: insensitivity stops you understanding compassion, it stops you understanding pity, it stops you feeling shame or having remorse for having done something bad... It is like that. The numbed spiritual senses confuse you and you no longer feel those things, spiritually. And old age becomes, so to speak, the first casualty, the first victim of this loss of sensibility. In a society that exercises sensibility primarily for enjoyment, there cannot but be a lack of attention to the frail, and the competition of the winners prevails. And this is how sensitivity is lost. Certainly, the rhetoric of inclusion is the ritual formula of every politically correct discourse. But it still does not bring about a real correction of the practices of normal co-existence: *a culture of social tenderness struggles to grow*. The spirit of human fraternity – which I felt it was necessary to relaunch forcefully – is like a discarded garment, to be admired, but ... in a museum. One loses human sensibility, these movements of the Spirit that make us human.

It is true, in real life we can observe, with moving gratitude, many young people capable of honouring this fraternity to its fullest. But herein, exactly, lies the problem: there is a gap, a shameful gap, between the testimony of this lifeblood of social tenderness and the conformism that compels youth to present itself in an entirely different way. What can we do to bridge this gap?

From the story of Simeon and Anna, but also from other biblical accounts of the Spirit-sensitive elderly, comes a hidden indication that deserves to be brought to the forefront. In what, in real terms, does the revelation that kindles the sensitivity of Simeon and Anna consist? It consists in recognizing in a child, whom they did not beget and whom they see for the first time, the sure sign of God's visitation. They accept *not to be protagonists, but only witnesses*. And when one accepts not being a protagonist, but gets involved as a witness, it is good: that man or that woman is maturing well.

Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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PALM SUNDAY



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.

Fridays: 04:00pm Adoration of Blessed
Sacrament and Rosary.
05:30pm 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: 19 June, 2022.

Confirmation: TBA

Today begins Holy Week with the reading of the Lord's Passion. I would like to focus on one aspect of this Gospel and that is the Good Thief. He says to the other thief, that He deserves the cross he is on and asks Jesus to remember him and Jesus says, "Today you will be with me in paradise". Well, everyone of you has a cross and it could be loneliness, sickness, problems in marriage or the family or the trials of being a teenager and so on. But have you ever thought to say to the Lord, "I deserve this cross for all my sins?" Not very likely I would think. But the Lord invites you to begin to see your cross in this way and so it would help you to stop complaining about your spouse or your children or your boss or whatever is your cross today. If you recall your many sins, which is what Lent is about, then the crosses in life take on a different perspective. I deserve this spouse with all their sins because I have done worse things. Ask the Lord to see your cross in this way and then you will hopefully begin to see the good things that come out of it. This is the equivalent of Jesus telling the good thief "You will be with me in Paradise, today". To see that the cross leads to the resurrection. For example, I know a person who suffered greatly from loneliness but decided to use this to develop a prayer life. Their loneliness drove them to pray and it has enriched their life immensely. But any thing that makes you suffer can be used this way. In fact, when you suffer often it drives you to pray. Let us ask the Lord the grace to accept the cross.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

Apr. 09: 05:30 pm English
Apr. 10:* 09:00 am English — Church.
11:00 am Multilingual

*Solemn Procession from downtown to the church. 10:00 am

HOLY THURSDAY— Apr. 14

06:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper and washing of the feet. Multilingual: English / Creole / Spanish.

GOOD FRIDAY — Apr. 15:

03:00 pm The Passion of the Lord.
 Multilingual: English / Creole / Spanish.
04:00 pm Living Stations of the Cross

SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL

Apr. 16: 10:30 pm

(There will NOT be any Mass this Saturday at 05:30pm).

EASTER SUNDAY

Apr. 17: 09:00 am English at the Church.
11:00 am Multilingual at the Church.
05:30 pm English at the Church.

HOLY HOUR

All are invited to come and adore the Lord in the blessed sacrament at the **new time of 4:00 pm –5:15pm** on every Friday in the daily mass chapel. There will be adoration, rosary, spiritual reading and confessions. This can also be a good preparation for the daily mass at 5:30pm. The change comes so that those who could not stay after 6pm due to other reasons can now come earlier.

Parish Events April 10-17

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

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

Monday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel

Tuesday 05:30pm D. Mass, Chapel,

Wednesday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel
 07:00pm 4th English, Blue Chapel

Holy Thursday: 06:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper. Multilingual.

04:00pm Live stations of the Cross.

Good Friday: 03:00pm The Passion of the Lord. Multilingual

Holy Saturday: 10:30pm Solemn Easter Vigil, Church



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

Tel: (+1649) 941-7875

The students of Holy Family Academy are preparing vigorously for the upcoming Palm Sunday Mass. They have spent the entire lent preparing their souls to receive the resurrection of Christ in their lives and are excited for the Sunday procession.

HFA's 11th graders are awaiting the coming of their Economic Presentations in which they will present the economic knowledge they have gained this year. This is a very significant presentation that will be a huge part of their grade this term in which they have to present their understanding of the vocabulary and the correlations between the demands of society with the limited resources around them.

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:

- Abacus
- Jumping Ropes, Pingo Pong table
- Hand Sanitizer, alcohol and paper hand towels
- Cleaning Tools (mops, brooms, gloves.)
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255