

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!*

In the Gospel of today's Liturgy we see Jesus react somewhat unusually: He is indignant. And what is most surprising is that his indignation is not caused by the pharisees who put him to the test with questions about the legality of divorce, but by his disciples who, to protect him from the crowd of people, rebuke some children who had been brought to Jesus. In other words, the Lord is not angry with those who argue with him, but with those who, in order to relieve him of his burden, make the children go away from him. Why? It is a good question: why does the Lord do this?

Let us remember – it was the Gospel reading two Sundays ago – that Jesus, performing the gesture of embracing a child, identified himself with the little ones: he taught that it is indeed the little ones, namely, those are dependent on others, who are in need and cannot reciprocate, who must be served first (see *Mk 9:35-37*). Those who seek God find him there, in the little ones, in those in need: in need not only of material goods, but of care and comfort, such as the sick, the humiliated, prisoners, immigrants, the incarcerated. He is there: in the little ones. This is why Jesus gets angry: any affront to a little one, a poor person, a child, a defenceless person, is done to Him.

Today the Lord picks up this teaching again and completes it. In fact, he adds: “Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it” (*Mk 10:15*). Here is what is new: the disciple must not only serve the little ones, but also *acknowledge himself as a little one*. And every one of us, do we recognise ourselves as small before God? Let's think about it, it will help us. Awareness of being *little*, awareness of the need of salvation is indispensable for receiving the Lord. It is the first step in opening ourselves up to Him. Often, however, we forget about this. In prosperity, in wellbeing, we have the illusion of being self-sufficient, that we are enough, that we do not need God. Brothers and sisters, this is a deception, because each one of us is a person in need, a little one. We must seek out our smallness and recognise it. And there, we will find Jesus.

In life, recognising one's littleness is a starting point for becoming great. If we think about it, we grow not so much on the basis of our successes and the things we have, but above all in difficult and fragile moments. There, in our need, we mature; there we open our hearts to God, to others, to the meaning of life. Let us open our eyes to others. Let us open our eyes, when we are little, to the true meaning of life. When we feel small in the face of a problem, small in front of a cross, an illness, when we experience fatigue and loneliness, let us not get discouraged. The mask of superficiality is falling and our radical weakness is re-emerging: it is our common ground, our treasure, because *with God weakness is not an obstacle but an opportunity*. A beautiful prayer would be this: “Lord, look at my frailties...” and to list them before Him. This is a good attitude before God.

Indeed, it is precisely in weakness that we discover how much God takes care of us. The Gospel today says that Jesus is very tender with the little ones: “He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands upon them” (v. 16). The difficulties and situations that reveal our weakness are privileged opportunities to experience His love. Those who pray with perseverance know this well: in dark or lonely moments, God's tenderness towards us makes itself, so to speak, even more present. When we are little, we feel God's tenderness more. This tenderness gives us peace; this tenderness makes us grow, because God draws close to us in His way, which is nearness, compassion and tenderness. And, when we feel we are little, small, for whatever reason, the Lord comes closer, we feel he is closer. He gives us peace; he makes us grow. In prayer the Lord draws us close to him, like a father with his child. This is how we become great: not in the illusory pretence of our self-sufficiency – this makes no-one great - but in the strength of placing all our hope in the Father, just like the little ones do, they do this.

Today let us ask the Virgin Mary for a huge grace, that of littleness: to be children who trust the Father, certain that He will not fail to take care of us.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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XXVIII 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: Corpis Christi, 2022

Confirmation: January 2022, Date to be confirmed.

Eternal Life and how to get it, is the theme of today's Gospel. Jesus says to the rich man, 'just keep the commandments' and you will get it. But he is blind to the fact that money has a hold on him and he cannot accept that he is weak in the face of it. So weak that he leaves Jesus and misses out on being one of the disciples. He leaves Jesus and his company because of his pride. He is unable to fulfil the commandments and becomes sad. This word about money is always for you and me. Money and riches are what separate us from the Lord. In another gospel passage Jesus says that a person either serves Him or money. That's the only choice and it seems a bit extreme but it is true nonetheless. To have eternal life is to experience the love of God for you as a sinner and then to start to begin to love the Lord. If you begin to love the Lord really and truly you will no longer put your treasure in the 'green stuff'. How does this work? If you look at your life and what you do you will discover that much of what you do is because of money. You go to work for it. You get a good education for yourself or your children so that you can get a good job that pays a lot of money. You do not buy some things because you do not have enough money to buy them but you still wish you were able to. So, instead of money being at your service you are at its service. How easy it is to be a slave of money and this applies to both rich and poor. The rich person worries about their money and how to protect it or how to protect their expensive house or goods against thieves, The poor person thinks that with a lot of money that they will be happy which often is not the case. For example, I grew up in a working class family where money was always tight, but my uncle and his family were well off. However, I realised one day that us poorer kids had more fun than my cousins and their house was 'sterile' and they could not make a mess at home because everything in it was valuable. What is the Lord trying to tell us? That you can experience eternal life on this earth and a sign of this, is detachment from wealth and goods. This is a sure sign that you are beginning to love the Lord a little bit., but we need the grace of the Lord for this and to be in relationship with HIM. Let us all pray that the Lord can give us an intimate relationship with Him so that we can be free of our slavery to money and wealth and so truly become His children.

Pope Francis has called for a Synod on Collegiality, meaning each diocese will have input into making the Church more open to listen to the voices of the local parishioners.

Mission 2021 Theme:
“We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20)

Sunday October 17, 2021

The **Pontifical Mission Societies**, is an umbrella group of Catholic missionary societies under the pope's jurisdiction. They include: the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, the Holy Childhood Association, and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious.

World Mission Day also known as World Mission Sunday was established by Pope Pius XI in 1926. It is usually observed on the **third Sunday of October.**

May God bless all our missionaries

PRAYER .

We stand before You, Holy Spirit as we gather in your Name
 With You alone to guide us, Make yourself at home in our hearts.
 Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
 We are weak and sinful.
 Do not let us promote disorder.
 Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.
 Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.
 All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.

AMEN

Parish Events Oct.10-Oct.17

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

Monday: Pope St. John XXIII
 05:30pm Mass, D. Mass Chapel.

Tuesday: 05:30pm Mass, D. Mass Chapel.
 07:00pm 1st English. Church
 07:00pm 2nd English. Blue Chapel
 07:00pm 4th English. B. Sacrament
 07.00pm 1st Spanish. Parish Hall
 07:00pm 2nd Spanish. Red Room

Wednesday: 07:00pm 1st Creole. Red Room.
 07:00pm 2nd Creole B. Sacrament.
 07:00pm 3rd English. Blue Chapel

Thursday: 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.
 06:00pm Creole Choir Practice Parish Hall.
 06:30pm English Choir Practice, D. Mass Chapel.

Friday: St. TERESA OF AVILA
 5:30pm 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



Caribbean through food, dress, song and dance.

This past Friday, our staff and students' celebration of Culture Day was a success! It was a beautiful event that celebrated the diverse cultures of the

Our students are continually receiving Christian Formation throughout the history of the Beatified and Saints. This week they had the grace to celebrate St. Francis of Assisi, Oct 4 and St. Faustina Kowalska, Oct 5. They always are reminded that:

GOD IS LOVE, AND HE LOVES US!

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 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:

- Tablets
- Hand Sanitizer / alcohol
- Paper hand towels
- Printing paper
- Tonner Canon ImageRunner ADVANCE C5255