

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

In these days we are talking about the freedom of faith, listening to the Letter to the Galatians. But I was reminded of what Jesus was saying about the spontaneity and freedom of children, when this child had the freedom to approach and move as if he were at home... And Jesus tells us: "You too, if you do not behave like children, you will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven". The courage to approach the Lord, to be open to the Lord, not to be afraid of the Lord: I thank this child for the lesson he has given us all. And may the Lord help him in his limitation, in his growth because he has given this testimony that came from his heart. Children do not have an automatic translator from the heart to life: the heart takes the lead. Thank you.

The Apostle Paul, with his letter to the Galatians, gradually introduces us to the great novelty of faith. Slowly, step by step... that is the novelty of faith. It is truly a great novelty, because it does not merely renew a few aspects of life, but rather it leads us into that "new life" that we have received with Baptism. There the greatest gift, that of being children of God, has been poured out upon us. Reborn in Christ, we have passed from a religiosity made up of precepts – we have moved on from a religiosity made up of precepts - to a living faith, which has its centre in communion with God and with our brothers and sisters, that is, in love. We have passed from the slavery of fear and sin to the freedom of God's children. Here, again, is the word *freedom* ...

Today we will try to understand better what the heart of this freedom is for the Apostle, what the core of this is. Paul affirms that it is anything but an "opportunity for the flesh" (Ga/5:13): freedom, therefore, is not a libertine way of living, according to the flesh or following the instincts, individual desires or one's own selfish impulses; no, on the contrary, the freedom of Jesus leads us to be, the Apostle writes, "servants of one another" (*ibid*). But is this slavery? Yes, freedom in Christ has an element of slavery, a dimension that leads us to service, to living for others. True freedom, in other words, is fully expressed in love. Yet again, we find ourselves faced with the paradox of the Gospel: we are freed by serving, not in doing whatever we want. We are free in serving, and freedom comes from there; we find ourselves fully to the extent to which we give ourselves. We find ourselves fully to the extent to which we give ourselves, to which we have the courage to give ourselves; we possess life if we lose it (cf. Mk 8:35). This is pure Gospel.

But how can this paradox be explained? Because it is a paradox! The Apostle's answer is as simple as it is demanding: "through love" (Ga/5:13). There is no freedom without love. The selfish freedom of doing what I want is not freedom, because it turns in on itself, it is not fruitful. Through love: it is Christ's love that has freed us and it is love that also frees us from the worst slavery, that of the self; therefore, freedom increases with love. But beware: not with self-centred love, with the love of a soap opera, not with the passion that simply looks for what we want and like: not with that, but with the love we see in Christ, charity – this is the love that is truly free and freeing. It is the love that shines out in gratuitous service, modelled on that of Jesus, who washes the feet of his disciples and says: "I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you" (Jn 13:15). Serving one another. Therefore, for Paul freedom is not "doing what you want and what you like": no. This type of freedom, without a goal and without points of reference, would be an empty freedom, a freedom of the circus: it is not good. And indeed, it leaves emptiness within: how often, after following instinct alone, do we realise that we are left with a great emptiness inside and that we have used badly the treasure of our freedom, the beauty of being able to choose true goodness for ourselves and for others. True freedom always frees us, whereas when we exercise that freedom of what we like and don't like, we remain empty, in the end. Only this freedom is complete, genuine, and inserts us into real everyday life.

In another letter, the first to the Corinthians, the Apostle responds to those who support an incorrect idea of freedom. "All things are lawful!" Ah, all things are lawful, they can be done. No: it is a mistaken idea. "Yes, but not all things are helpful", would be the reply. "All things are lawful but not all things are helpful!", Paul answers. "All things are lawful, yes, but not all things build up", retorts the Apostle. He then adds: "Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbour" (1 Cor 10:23-24). This is the rule for unmasking any type of selfish freedom. In addition, to those who are tempted to reduce freedom only to their own tastes, Paul puts before them the need for love. Freedom guided by love is the only one that sets others and ourselves free, that knows how to listen without imposing, that knows how to love without coercing, that builds and does not destroy, that does not exploit others for its own convenience and does good without seeking its own benefit. In short, if freedom is not at the service – this is the test – if freedom is not in the service of good, it runs the risk of being barren and not bearing fruit. If freedom is not in the service of good, it does not bear fruit. On the other hand, freedom inspired by love leads towards the poor, recognising the face of Christ in their faces.

Our Lady of Divine Providence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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XXX 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 16, 2022
firmed.

Persistence is the most important attribute says St. Philip Neri. Why? Obviously, if you persist in your faith you will get eternal life. If you don't you won't! The blind man in today's Gospel was a difficult person, I am sure, but he persisted in his crying out to Jesus and got what he wanted, which was his sight returned. Why does the Lord seem to ignore him at first and then calls him? Precisely to see if the man has a persistent faith. Why doesn't the Lord answer your prayers immediately? Because He wants to see if you really have faith and also that what little faith you may have, may grow. Another aspect to note is that the crowd all tell him to be quiet, but this only encourages him to shout louder. You see what kind of difficult person we are dealing with here and yet he has faith. Faith is not the preserve of nice people! Nice people would not make a scene like this man is doing but he has faith and it saves him. So faith is not like you think it is. It is not polite but persistent, and gets what it asks for. Secondly, the crowd represent the internal voices which try to stop you from praying. What do they say? "Praying is useless, God does not listen to your prayers", "Has he answered any of them. Remember how all those things you prayed about and He did not answer them", etc. You are called to pray and remember that prayer is dialogue with the Lord and that means there are times when you need to listen to what God is trying to tell you and not what you are trying to tell God.. But back to our blind man, He does persist and he gets what he wants. Let us ask the Lord for the gift of faith, first of all, so that we can persist in our prayer and see that the Lord will grant them, if they are according to His will and not ours. Sometimes the Lord does not listen to our

prayers because we pray wrongly, i.e., for the wrong thing or you may be hating someone or not forgiving someone and so how can He grant us our prayers in this situation? He cannot until we forgive and begin to love. Finally, the Lord can never refuse a humble person's prayer. May all of us receive the gift of prayer and see its fruit in our lives.

Fr. Paul

The Parish Hall needs to be renovated and we need your help.

The Parish hall (old church) is finally being fully repaired and renovated. The roof was damaged since hurricane Irma and now is seriously affected by termites as well.

If you would like to help complete this project, the Lord will reward you a hundredfold for any contribution you make.

Donations can be made by check to **Our Lady of Divine Providence** or bank transfer through Scotiabank. Instructions in the link below:

<https://www.catholic.tc/donate.html>

Parish Events Oct.24-Oct.31

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

Monday: 05:30pm Mass, D. Mass Chapel.

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

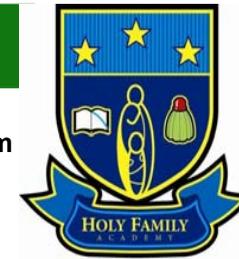
Thursday: St.s Simon and Jude
 05:30pm D. Mass Chapel.
 06:00pm Creole Choir Practice Parish Hall.
 06:30pm English Choir Practice, D. Mass Chapel.

Friday: 05:30pm 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

All Saints Day!

The students at Holy Family Academy are anticipating the coming of **All Saints Day**. Each class has selected a Class Saint and are working hard to prepare and present a school play for the Saint they have chosen.

The Math teachers of Holy Family Academy have attended a very beneficial workshop to prepare and enable them to develop more accurate ways to understand each child's academic challenges.

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 holyfamilytc@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