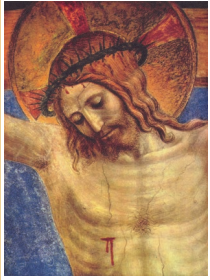


The Mercy of God in the Mission of the Church



Last Friday, Pope Francis issued his apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, "The Joy of Love", on love in the family "especially timely in this Jubilee Year of Mercy" (AL 5). There have been all kind of reactions, from enthusiasm to distress. The media headlines can deceive us. But for us, Catholics, we should read it calmly and prayerfully. As we do so, I would like to continue our presentation of St. John Paul II's encyclical

Rich in Mercy wishing that, mercy being one of the themes of Francis' new text; it would give us more clues to read Pope Francis. For our pontiff draws on the teachings of St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict, and his other contemporary predecessors.

Up to this point in the encyclical, John Paul II echoes the revelation of God's mercy in the Old and New Testaments. In n.13 he begins to consider that the Church must bear witness to the mercy of God revealed in Christ "following in the footsteps of the tradition of the Old and the New Covenant, and above all of Jesus Christ Himself and His Apostles" (RM 12).

Faithful to her mission, the Church professes the mercy of God and proclaims it in different ways. The first is in the daily reading of the Bible, especially in the Liturgy. Contemplating Christ and especially his pierced heart helps in a unique way to embrace God's mercy: "The Church seems in a particular way to profess the mercy of God and to venerate it when she directs herself to the Heart of Christ" (RM 13).

Second, the Church lives God's mercy through a conscious and mature participation in the Eucharist, which brings us ever nearer to that love which is more powerful than sin and death, that merciful love of the Father who gave his only Son for the salvation of all.

Third, the sacrament of Reconciliation "prepares the way for each individual, even those weighed down with great faults. In this sacrament each person can experience mercy in a unique way, that is, the love which is more powerful than sin" (RM 13).

In this context that St. John Paul II has a most insightful statement which I invite you to consider prayerfully: "It is precisely because sin exists in the world that God, who is love, cannot reveal Himself otherwise than as mercy" (RM 13).

Finally, St. John Paul II reminds that mercy and conversion are joined as the two sides of a coin. It's my favorite quote that I invite you also to consider in your prayer:

"Authentic knowledge of the God of mercy, the God of tender love, is a constant and inexhaustible source of conversion, not only as a momentary interior act but also as a permanent attitude, as a state of mind. Those who come to know God in this way, who "see" Him in this way, can live only in a state of being continually converted to Him" (RM 13).

Nourishing Our Souls with Holy Scripture

Readings for Next Week:

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 14:21-27 Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13

Rev 21:1-5a Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Masses this Week

Monday, April 18:

6:30 am +Teofilo Ospici
9:00 am +Stephanie Doyle

Tuesday, April 19:

6:30 am +Florence Teves
9:00 am +Joanne Bonk

Wednesday, April 20:

6:30 am +Laura Shigenaga
9:00 am +Arturo Tanod

Thursday, April 21:

6:30 am Souls in Purgatory
9:00 am + Joseph Mazur

Friday, April 22:

6:30 am +Grace Okemo
9:00 am + Rov Kasenge

Saturday, April 23:

8:00 am +Dr. and Mrs. W.J. McAuliffe
5:00 pm +Lance Atiyeh
7:00 pm +Raul Zalles

Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 24:

7:30 am +Robert Scholl
9:00 am +George Davis
10:30 am Living and Deceased Parishioners
12:00 pm +William S. Quinn

Toward a Family Friendly Parish (TFFP)

April's Theme: **Maturing in Love**

Mark your calendar for April's TFFP activities in Hannan Hall:

Friday, **Apr. 22** - Doors open at 6 pm

Talk at 6:30 pm on

Vocations: *Called to Love* by Fr. Leopoldo

Saturday, **Apr. 23** - 6:00 pm movie, *Beauty and the Beast* at the School Library



"The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit."

Does a life of joy in knowing you are following the Lord as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life inspire you? Contact Fr. Juan at general@queenofapostles.org, or Fr. J.D. Jaffe at (703) 841-2514, or j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org.

Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 17, 2016

That the coming of the new heaven and new earth will be hastened though the holy lives and faithful witness of all those called to serve the Lord as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers, we pray to the Lord.

Please pray for the members of our parish who are ill

Francis Walter, Eduardo Vega, Teddy Schwab, Patricia León-Duarte, Deborah DuBrul, Kathleen Donohoe, Clarissa Trono De Guzman, Lyda Tanco, Mark Bush, Joseph Covas, Luta "Cornie" McGrath, Margaret Peiffer, David Stemcosky, Irma Mori, Rita Sulit, Jason Banis, Emma Collins, Teresa Sabina Piecyk, Bridgetta Jenkins, Juana Mejia, Lisa Nyce, Monique Brooks, Debby Sprah, Consuelo Jocson, Cheryl McGlynn, Teresa Subalusky, Theresa Corcoran, Cordelia Carcamo, Donna Smith.

This Week in Our Parish

Sunday, April 17:

Hannan Hall	9:30 am-3:00 pm Stephen Ministry Initiation
Church	11:30 am-12:00 pm Stephen Ministry Commissioning
School	9:00-10:15 am Religious Education
Hannan Hall	3:00-5:30 pm Ghana Group
School Library	2:00-4:00 pm Vacation Bible School Volunteer Meeting
Adoration Chapel	6:00-8:00 pm Prayer Group

Monday, April 18:

Church	6:30-8:30 pm Confirmation Rehearsal
Hannan Hall	6:30-8:00 pm CGS Talk Fr. Peter Mitchell
Parish Office	7:00 -8:00 pm RCIA

Tuesday, April 19:

Hannan Hall	10:00 am-12:00 noon Bible Study
Cupertino Room	7:00-9:00 pm RCIA in Spanish
Hannan Hall	7:30-9:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 20:

Rectory	7:30-8:45 pm Baptism Class in Spanish
Hannan Hall	7:00-9:00 pm Ghana Prayer Group

Thursday, April 21:

Hannan Hall	10:00 am -12:00 noon Women's Craft Group
Rectory	5:00-6:00 pm Liturgy Coordinator Meeting
Hannan Hall	6:30-8:00 pm High School Bible Study
Parish Office	6:30-8:00 pm Legion of Mary

Friday, April 22:

Adoration Chapel	11:00 am-12 noon Children's Adoration Hour
Adoration Chapel	3:00-4:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Cupertino Room	5:00-7:00 pm Jr. Legion of Mary
Hannan Hall	6:00-7:30 pm TFFP Vocations Talk - Fr. Leopoldo
Cupertino Room	7:00-9:00 pm Hispanic Legion of Mary

Saturday, April 23:

Outside	9:00-11:30 am School Fitness Fair
Parish Office	1:00-3:30 pm Stephen Ministry Meeting
School	1:00-3:00 pm Banica Breakfast Setup
School Library	6:00-9:00 pm TFFP Movie Night

Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 24:

Hannan Hall	7:00 am-2:00 pm Banica Breakfast Fundraiser
Hannan Hall	2:00 pm-5:30 pm Ghana Prayer Group
Adoration Chapel	6:00-8:00 pm Prayer Group

Confirmation rehearsal for students from QofA School, Religious Education, Ghana Catholic Community and those who are home schooled, is on Monday, **Apr. 18** at 6:30 pm in QofA Church. A Confirmation student and his/her sponsor are to attend this mandatory rehearsal. The rehearsal will last about 2 hours.

Registration for the 2016-2017 Religious Education (RE) Program is now open. Queen of Apostles offers RE classes from kindergarten (age 5 by Sep.) through high school. Classes, taught in English, are held on Sundays from 9-10:15 am in QoA School, **Sep. 11, 2016 - Jun. 4, 2017**. Parish families and returning students are given first opportunity to register. Tuition is: \$70 for 1 child; \$120 for 2 children; \$150 for 3+ children in the same family. To register, stop by the Parish Office (4329 Sano Street) or on Sundays during RE class.

Seeking Parish Families to Host a Student or Teacher from Spain Thanks to the parish families who are opening their homes and hearts to students/teachers from Spain. Now in its second year, the Summer Exchange Program seeks more parish families to host a student or teacher, **Jun. 30-Jul. 24, 2016**. Contact Susan Gray at (703) 354-8711 or s.gray@queenofapostles.org for more information. Additionally, if you are interested in sending your high school aged student to Spain, please call the parish office to arrange a meeting with Fr. Leopoldo.

Vacation Bible School We will be "Surfin' with the Holy Spirit"! Save the dates: **Jun. 27 - Jul. 1** from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. For current 8th graders through adults interested in helping out, there will be a meeting in the school library on Sunday, **Apr. 17** from 2 to 4 pm. (If you will be 18 on Jun. 18, you will need to be VIRTUS Compliant. Please contact the rectory for paperwork and information on training.) For current fifth graders through adults interested in participating, there will be two preparation meetings: Saturday, **Jun. 18** from 1 to 4 pm starting in the school library, and Saturday, **Jun. 25** from 1 to 8 pm. Please contact vbs@queenofapostles.org for more information.

Banica Mission Breakfast/Brunch Fundraiser Join us next Sunday, **Apr. 24** in Hannan Hall after all Masses for the Banica Mission sponsored breakfast featuring pancakes, eggs, pastries, fruit, juice, coffee and tea. A free will donation will be gratefully accepted. Thank you for your support of the parish youth who will be participating in the Banica Mission that provides an opportunity for them to serve those less fortunate and share their faith through the example of Jesus Christ.

Stephen Ministry—Day of Commissioning Sunday, **Apr. 17** after the 10:30 am Mass is a joyous occasion. Stephen Ministers and a Stephen Leader who are currently undergoing training will be commissioned at Queen of Apostles Church for this special & confidential Christ-centered ministry of care and concern for others. Let's thank God for their gifts of caring and listening. Let us keep them in our prayers as they carry the love of Christ to those who are in pain or going through life's difficulties.

Seeking Storage Space If you have a garage or a storage space where furniture and household goods can be stored until fall when items will be donated to Monsignor Beiting's Appalachia Mission, please call Karen at (703) 671-0089. Thank you!

The Women's Craft Group will meet on Thursday, **Apr. 21** at 10 am in Hannan Hall. All are invited to come and work on crafts for the sale in November.

Rebuilding Together ACCA is repairing two homes in Anandale on Saturday, **Apr. 30**. Volunteers are needed to help with repairs. Please contact mamonsen@verizon.net or (703) 354-9408 or Karen Barnoski (703) 256-4088 for more information.

Tune in to 2minutes2virtue and take the Weekly Challenge with Fr. Chris Christensen. He hosts the April videos series designed to help Catholics on the go get the most out of Sunday readings. Sign up to receive the weekly videos at arlingtondiocese.org/2minutes2virtue.

Hogar Immigrant Services - English Classes We offer English classes on Mondays and Wednesdays 7-9 pm at Queen of Apostles Catholic School. Registration for classes will be on **Apr. 25** and **27** from 7-9 pm. We offer six levels of classes. The cost is \$50 for the semester and includes the textbook. We only accept cash or money orders. For more information call Hogar Immigrant Services at (571) 208-1572.

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Poor Box. This weekend the collection will go toward **Christ House**. Next weekend the collection will go toward the **Poor Sisters of St. Joseph**.