

Pope Francis' General Audience: On Family Life - Work

"Work is sacred. Work gives dignity to a family. We must pray that work is not lacking in a family."
Vatican City, publication time August 19, 2015 (ZENIT.org)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

After reflecting on the value of celebrations in family life, today we pause on a complementary element, which is that of work. Both celebration and work are part of the creative design of God.

Work, it is commonly said, is necessary to maintain the family, for the children to grow, to ensure a dignified life to one's dear ones. The best thing that can be said about a serious and honest person is: "He is a worker," in fact, he is really one who works, he is one that doesn't live off the backs of others. There are so many Argentines today, I have seen, and I will say as we say: "no vive de arriba" (who don't live supported by others). You understand?

And, in fact, work, in its many forms, beginning with household work, also cares for the common good. And where does one learn this hard-working lifestyle? It is learned first of all in the family. The family educates how to work with the example of the parents: the father and mother that work for the good of the family and of society.

In the Gospel, the Holy Family of Nazareth appears as a family of workers, and Jesus himself is called "son of the carpenter" (*Matthew 13:55*) or actually "the carpenter" (*Mark 6:3*). And Saint Paul does not fail to admonish Christians: "If anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat" (*2 Thessalonians 3:10*). This is a good recipe for losing weight: don't work, don't eat!

The Apostle is referring explicitly to the false spiritualism of some that, in fact, live on the backs of their brothers and sisters "without doing anything," (*2 Thessalonians 3:11*). In the Christian concept, the commitment of work and the life of the spirit are not at all opposed to one another. It is important to understand this well! Prayer and work can and must be together in harmony, as Saint Benedict teaches. Lack of work also harms the spirit, as lack of prayer also harms practical activity.

To work – I repeat, in a thousand ways – is proper to the human person. It expresses his dignity of being created in the image of God. Therefore, it is said that work is sacred. And, consequently, the management of employment is a great human and social responsibility, which cannot be left in the hands of a few or discharged on a divinized "market." Causing the loss of jobs means creating serious social damage. I am saddened when I see that there are people without work, who don't find work, and don't have the dignity of bringing the bread home. And I rejoice so much when I see that some [political] leaders make many efforts to find jobs and see that all have work. Work is sacred. Work gives dignity to a family. We must pray that work is not lacking in a family.

Therefore, like celebration, work is also part of the design of God the Creator. In the Book of Genesis, the subject of the earth as home-garden, entrusted to the care and work of man (*23:8,15*), is anticipated with a very touching passage: "In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground" (*2:4b-6a*). It's not romanticism, it is a revelation of God; and we have the responsibility to understand and assimilate it in depth. The Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which proposes an integral ecology, also contains this message: the beauty of the earth and the dignity of work are made to be combined; both go together: the earth becomes good when it is worked by man. When work is detached from God's covenant with man and woman, when it is separated from its spiritual qualities, when it is hostage to the sole logic of profit and scorns the affections of life, the humiliation of the soul contaminates everything: even the air, the water, the grass, the food ... Civil life is corrupted and the habitat is damaged. And the consequences strike, above all, the poorest and the poorest families. The modern organization of work sometimes shows a dangerous tendency to consider the family a burden, a weight, a passive <element> for the productivity of work. But we ask ourselves: what productivity? And for whom? The so-called "smart city" is, without a doubt, rich in services and organization; however, it is often hostile, for instance, to children and the elderly.

Sometimes one who plans is interested in the management of the individual workforce, in assembling and using or discarding according to the economic convenience. The family is a great test bench. When the organization of work holds it hostage or, in fact, places obstacles in its way, then we are certain that the human society has begun to work against itself!

Christian families receive from this circumstance a great challenge and a great mission. They bring to the field the fundamentals of God's creation: the identity and bond of man and woman, the generation of children, the work that renders the earth domestic and the world habitable. The loss of these fundamentals is a very serious affair, and in the common home there are already too many cracks! The task isn't easy. At times, it might seem to family associations, that they are like David before Goliath ... but we know how that challenge ended! Faith and shrewdness are needed. In this difficult moment of our history, may God grant us to receive his call to work with joy and hope, to give dignity to oneself and to one's family.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



640 Edrie St. NE
Aiken, SC 29801
803 649-3203

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Joshua 24:1-2a,15-17,18b

Responsorial:

Psalms 34:2-3,16-17,18-19,20-21

Second Reading:

Ephesians 5:21-32

Gospel:

John 6:60-69

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time August 23rd, 2015

Lectionary Readings for the week of August 23rd

Monday: Revelation 21:9b-14;
John 1:45-51

Tuesday: Thessalonians 2:1-8;
Matthew 23:23-36

Wednesday: Thessalonians 2:9-13;
Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday: Thessalonians 3:7-13;
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday: Thessalonians 4:1-8;
Matthew 25:1-13



But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset who did not believe and who was to betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me except by the gift of the Father.' After this, many of his disciples went away and accompanied him no more. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we have come to know that you are the Holy One of God.' John 6:64-69

Mass Times: Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM, First Friday Benediction after Mass

Weekend Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 11:15 AM

Confessions: after weekday Masses and by Appointment

Office Hours: 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM Tuesday - Thursday

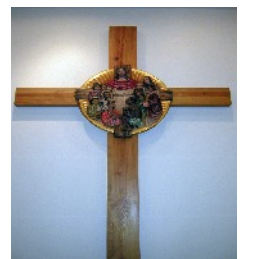
Bible Study: Fridays 10:00 AM this fall

Baptisms, Confirmations and Marriages By Appointment, Contact the office.

Contact Us: Phone 803 649-3203, E-Mail stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net

Facebook @stgerardaiken, **Emergency number for Father 803 637-2027**

Fr. Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator



Pray for our sick:
 Gary Gilbert
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Lena Mickens
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda Ligons
 Meg Schaeffer
 Joe Fulmer
 Patricia Bailey

Promoting Parish Stewardship
Stewards hope and strive to be strong witnesses of faith to others. We realize we are sent forth in love and service to walk with those in need.
Stewardship a way of life

Pastoral Council:
 Wayman Johnson,
 Chairman
 Payson Borst
 Jacqueline Brown
 Fredrick Cadek
 Nancy Durden
 Marge Glauser
 Janet Menefee
 Gregory Wright
 Joan Hesik

Mass Intentions: August 22-23
 4:00 & 7:00 Masses are said for your own personal intentions.
 11:15 Wayman and Rosa Johnson celebrated their 51st Wedding Anniversary on August 22nd. From: The Johnson Family

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| Our Song of Praise is | 29 M | Tell the Good News |
| The Offertory Hymn is | 613 H | I Have Decided to Follow Jesus |
| The Communion Hymn is | CHOIR | 376 BB |
| The Gathering Hymn | 669 H | We Gather Together |

Sunday Offering August 16th

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| Collection | \$2,063.00 |
| Needed | \$2,612.00 |
| Under | \$49.00 |
| Holy Day Attendance | \$197.00 115 |

Finance Council:
 Robert Erikson,
 Chairman
 Leon Gagnon and
 Anna Marie Key,
 Auditors.
 Judy Riley
 Lisa Solenberger

Lay Ministers

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| | <u>Saturday August 29</u> | <u>Sunday August 30</u> | <u>Sunday August 30</u> |
| | <u>4:00 PM Vigil Mass</u> | <u>7:00 AM Mass</u> | <u>11:15 AM Mass</u> |
| Lector: | Tami Schaeffer | Mary Kay L'Esperance | Patricia Hayes |
| E E Minister: | Jerry Schaeffer | Gerard L'Esperance | Jacqueline Brown |
| | <u>Saturday September 5</u> | <u>Sunday September 6</u> | <u>Sunday September 6</u> |
| | <u>4:00 PM Vigil Mass</u> | <u>7:00 AM Mass</u> | <u>11:15 AM Mass</u> |
| Lector: | David Didimamoff | Denise Gelinis | Richardean Paige |
| E E Minister: | Mary Rose | Roger Gelinis | Marge Glauser |
| Refreshments August 30th Open | Counters August 30th Nancy Durden and Anna Marie Key | | |



“I want to ask a favor. I want to ask you to walk together, and take care of one another” –Pope Francis
St Gerard Fall Festival/Bazaar is to get us to walk together with parishioners from all three Masses working together to make it successful. Need all working to get vendors at \$20.00 per table or spot for selling items and items for a silent auction. Most of all we need your support attending the festival. Funds raised are for the St Gerard and Rectory improvements. Fall Festival is scheduled for November 7, 2015. Hot dogs, hamburgers and fried fish with fries will be sold. Plans are to have activities for the children. All are welcomed to attend this festival so bring your friends and extended family. Contact the office with the names of the vendors and items they plan to sell.

ROMAN CATHOLIC Diocese of Charleston
2015 Bishop's Annual Appeal
 Thank you to our many generous parishioners who have returned gifts and pledges in support of the 2015 BAA. Your generosity help to aid our parish family with our financial responsibility to our larger diocesan family. We are close to our goal of \$6583.00 at 95% of goal with 41% participation. Thank you for your ongoing support. Remember that half of any amount that exceeds our goal will be returned to St Gerard for use by our parish.

We need a Maintenance Person/Coordinator
 There is much to keep up with and to plan for, such as repairs and renovations. We need some one with the experience to tackle the work around the campus. Jackie Brown and Matt Fitzpatrick are responsible for the grounds but we have no one for the buildings. If you think you are the one we need please call or e-mail us.

Refreshments
 It has been a problem getting people to sign up for food after 11:15 Mass. In October we will start assigning people to bring food and not leave it to chance. If you feel you can't participate call and let us know. If you need to change a date please arrange that with some one on the list. Thank you.

If you know of someone in need of The Blessed Sacrament brought to their home or hospital please call the office.

Active Ministries of St. Gerard

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| Altar Care: | Judy Riley | Altar Linens |
| Altar Servers: | | Assist at Sat. & Sun. Masses |
| CCD Ministry: | Payson Borst | Advisor/Coordinator |
| Beginner Class: | Rosa & Wayman Johnson | |
| Intermediate Class: | Payson Borst | |
| Confirmation Class: | Jeanette Coleman | |
| 1st Communion: | Carole Miller | |
| Collection counters: | Nancy Durden | Count Collection after Sun Masses |
| Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministry: | Jacqueline Brown | Assist with Cup at Mass |
| Family Assist Outreach: | Marge Glauser: Chair, Tami Schaffer: Vice Chair | |
| Greeter & Ushers: | Jackie Cobbs: Benefit Bank, Sheila Wagner: Health and Medical | Assist with Cup at Mass |
| | George Kingman | Greet & Seat Sat. & Sun. Masses |
| | Tony DiStefano | |
| Home Communion/Visits: | Sheila Wagner | Take Communion to Homebound |
| Lectors: | Jacqueline Brown | Read Epistle & Prayers Sat. & Sun. Masses |
| Legion of Mary: | Cathy Ciani | Visit hospitals & shut-ins |
| | Rosa Johnson | |
| Maintenance & Capital: | Vacant | Maintenance, Repairs, & Capital Improvements |
| Music Ministry: | Joan Lacombe | Direct Choir & Music |
| | Mary Welsh | Saturday Mass Organist |
| Parish Finance Chair: | Robert Erikson | Oversight of Finances & Accounting Records |
| Prayer Chain: | JoAnne Schander | Organize & send our Prayer Requests |
| Prayer Shawl Ministry: | Ellen Heim | Knit blankets & lap robes for shut-ins |
| | | Hospitals, Armed Forces, etc. |
| Refreshments: | Richardean Paige | Refreshments after Mass/Special Occasions |
| RCIA Ministry: | Marge Glauser | Exploring Our Faith (for newcomer(s)) |
| Sacristans: | William Hesik & Joe Begic | Prepare Church & Sacristy for Sat. & Sun. Masses |
| | Wayman Johnson | Special Fund Raising & Volunteers |
| Stewardship: | Nancy Cadek | Lenten Renewal, Advent Mission, Bible Study & others |
| Spiritual Enrichment: | | Management of Parish Thrift Shop |
| Thrift Shop: | Leonard Saunders | Food in support of Families with a deceased member |
| Bereavement Committee: | Nancy Durden | |

Ministry training/installation
 Anyone that has not received Father's Ministry training or has been to training and needs to be installed, call or email the office and we will schedule you. Thank you, Mike 803 649-3203

Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Tuesdays at 8:15 Mass.

Hospital Visits: If you or a loved one is in Aiken Regional Hospital (ARMC) please let St Gerards know. Remember - ARMC does not inform us of Catholic patients, even if you register as a Catholic; it is up to the patient or family to do so. You can: ask the ARMC Chaplain to call the Catholic church, ask your nurse to inform the Catholic church (name & room number), call-St.Gerard at 649-3203 and leave a message or email St Gerard at: stgerardscatholi@Atlanticbbn.net.

In Harms' Way: Please remember in your prayers our Nation and loved ones of our parishioners Currently serving in harms' way: James Ligon, Robert McHugh, Jacob Hershey, and James Rossini. Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

The Salvation Army needs help at the shelter on Park Ave. They are losing older people that have been helping with serving lunch. We already have at least one parishioner helping. Please if you have the time to help call Rose at 641-4149 or call Mary Welsh at 648-2140. Feed God's children.

Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment; where women and men can express their post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration and healing. Our next retreat in SC is October 9-11, 2015 in Greenville. For more information, please contact Christy at 803 554 6088 or Kathy at 803 546 6010 or grace4healing@gmail.com Now is the time.

Sorry to have to bring this up but the vessels are not being cleaned properly or purified after some Masses. Until we have sacristans for all Masses the Eucharistic Ministers should assure the vessels are purified after mass. The Chalice was un useable last Tuesday when we got it out for Mass. Thank you: Fr. Emmanuel