

"Do you have in your heart the wind of joy?"

Rome, August 30, 2017. Zenith .Org

Today I would like to return to a very important topic: the relation between hope and memory, with particular reference to the memory of a vocation. And I take as an example Jesus' call to the first disciples. This experience remained so imprinted in their memory, that one of them even made a note of the hour: "for it was about the tenth hour" (*John* 1:39). The evangelist John recounts the episode as a clear memory of youth, which remained intact in his memory as an elderly man, because John wrote these things when he was already elderly.

The meeting happened near the river Jordan, where John the Baptist was baptizing; and those young Galileans had chosen the Baptist as spiritual guide. One day Jesus came, and had Himself baptized in the river. He went there again the next day, and then the Baptizer, that is, John the Baptist said to two of his disciples, "Behold the Lamb of God!" (v. 36).

It was a "spark" for those two. They left their first teacher and went to follow Jesus. On the way, He turned to them and asked the decisive question: "What do you seek?" (v. 38). Jesus appears in the Gospels as an expert of the human heart. At that moment He had met two youths who were seeking, healthily restless. In fact, what youth is a satisfied youth without a question of meaning? Young people who don't seek anything are not young people; they are retired, they have grown old before the time. It's sad to see young people in retirement. And Jesus, throughout the Gospel, in all the meetings that happen to Him along the way, appears as an "ignitor" of hearts. Hence His question seeks to have the desire emerge for life and of happiness that every youth bears inside: "What do you seek?" I would also like to ask the young people who are here in the Square today, and those listening through the media: "You, who are young, what do you seek? In your heart, what do you seek?"

John's and Andrew's vocation began thus. It was the beginning of such a strong friendship with Jesus as to impose a commonality of life and of passions with Him. The two disciples begin to be with Jesus and are transformed immediately into missionaries, because when the meeting ends they don't return home calmly: so true is this that their respective brothers – Simon and James – are soon involved in the following. They went to them and said: We have found the Messiah; we have found a great prophet": they gave the news. They are missionaries of that encounter. It was such a touching, happy encounter that the disciples would remember for ever that day that illumined and oriented their youth.

How does one discover one's vocation in this world? It can be discovered in many ways, but this page of the Gospel tells us that the first indication is the joy of the encounter with Jesus. Marriage, consecrated life, priesthood: every vocation begins with an encounter with Jesus who gives us a new joy and hope and leads us, also through trials and difficulties, to an ever fuller encounter, that encounter grows greater; the encounter with Him and to the fullness of joy.

The Lord doesn't want reluctant men and women walking behind Him, without having in their heart the wind of joy. You, who are in the Square, I ask you – each one answer to himself – do you have in your heart the wind of joy? Each one should ask himself: "Do I have in me, in my heart, the wind of joy?" Jesus wants people who have experienced that to be with Him giving an immense happiness, which can be renewed every day of life. A disciple of the Kingdom of God who isn't joyous doesn't evangelize this world; he is sad. We become preachers of Jesus not by sharpening the arms of rhetoric: you can talk, talk, talk but if there isn't something else, how do we become preachers of Jesus? By keeping in our eyes the twinkle of true happiness. We see so many Christians, also among us, who with their eyes transmit to one the joy of the faith: with their eyes!

Therefore, a Christian, as the Virgin Mary, protects the flame of his falling in love, in love with Jesus. Certainly, there are trials in life; there are moments in which one must go on despite the cold and adverse winds, despite much bitterness. But Christians know the way that leads to that sacred fire that lighted them once and for all.

But please, I recommend: let us not heed disappointed and unhappy persons, let us not listen to one who recommends cynically not to cultivate hope in life; let us not trust one who extinguishes at birth every enthusiasm saying that no enterprise is worth the sacrifice of a whole life. We don't listen to the "old" of heart who suffocate youthful euphoria. We go to the old who have eyes shining with hope! Instead, we cultivate healthy utopias: God want us capable of dreaming as He does and with Him, while we walk very attentive to the reality, to dream of a different world. And if a dream is extinguished, go back to dream it again, drawing with hope from the memory of the origins, of those embers that, perhaps after a not very good life, are hidden under the ashes of the first encounter with Jesus.

Here then is a fundamental dynamic of Christian life: to remember Jesus. Paul said to his disciple: "Remember Jesus Christ" (2 *Timothy* 2:8); this is the advice of the great Saint Paul: "Remember Jesus Christ." To remember Jesus, the fire of love with which one day we conceived our life as a project of goodness, and to revive our hope with this flame.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

Fr. Emmanuel O. Andinam: Administrator
Joseph A. Dennis: Deacon

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Jeremiah 20:7-9(124A)

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 63:2,3-4,5-6,8-9

Second Reading:

Romans 12:1-2

Gospel:

Matthew 16:21-27

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for Week of September 3, 2017

Monday: *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;*

Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-6,9-11;*

Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday: *Colossians 1:1-8;*

Luke 4:38-44

Thursday: *Colossians 1:9-14;*

Luke 5:1-11

Friday: *Micah 5:1-4;*

Matthew 1:1-16,18-23

Saturday: *Colossians 2:6-15;*

Luke 6:12-19

The Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time September 3, 2017

Mission Statement

Called to be a People for Others

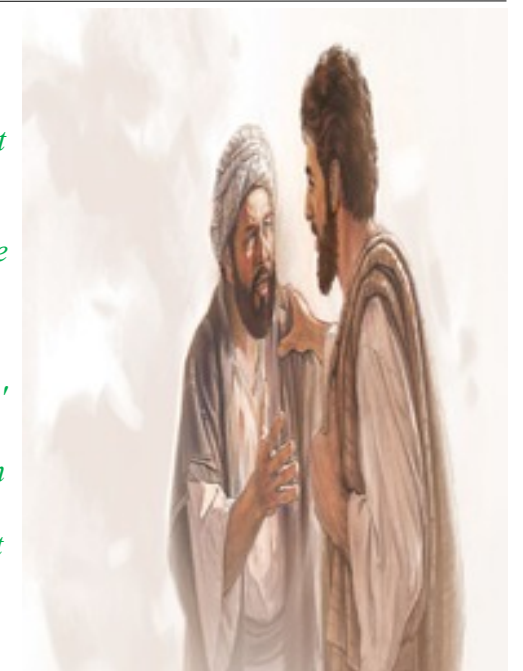
Vision Statement

Anchored by faith hope and love in Jesus Christ, we strive to be active disciples, serving each other and all God's people by welcoming and embracing the enriching diversity of our community of faith.



From then onwards Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to rebuke him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said, 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because you are thinking not as God thinks but as human beings do.'

Matthew 16:21-23



Mass Times: Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM,
First Friday Benediction after Mass
Weekend Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 11:00 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 , **CCD:** No Class at this time

RCIA: Contact Deacon Joe 843 743-8779

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

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

Facebook @stgerardaiken, **Emergency number for Father 803 341-5933**



Pray for our sick:
 Marge Glauser
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda Ligons
 Joe Fulmer
 Jean Schodowski
 Dick Smoot

We are grateful for the gifts we have received and are eager to use them to show our love for God and for one another. We look to the life and teaching of Jesus for guidance in living as Christian stewards. USCCB



Pastoral Council:
 Marge Glauser, Chairperson
 Janet Menefee, Vice Chair
 Payson Borst
 Jacqueline Brown
 Fredrick Cadek
 Joan Hesik
 Gregory Wright
 Patricia Hayes
 Matt Fitzpatrick

Finance Council:
 Clyde Hall, Chairman
 Anna Marie Key & Patricia Miles, Auditors
 Agnes Beckert, Secretary
 Art Wagner
 Michele Bullington

Mass Intentions:
 4:00 PM Mass is said for the soul of Howard Hadlock From: the Beckerts
 7:00 & 11:00 AM Masses are said for your own personal intentions.

Weekend Offering
August 27, 2017

Collected \$2,301.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
Under \$311.00
 Attendance 147

Stewardship a way of life

The Gathering Hymn 718 BB
Take Up Your Cross
The Offertory Hymn is 376 BB
The Servant Song
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 497 BB
We Remember
Our Song of Praise is 420 BB
How Great Thou Art



	Lay Ministers	Saturday September 9	Sunday September 10	Sunday September 10
		4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:00 AM Mass
Lector:		Diane Begic	Mary Kay L'Esperance	Janet Menefee
E E Ministers:		Barbara Dixon	Gerard L'Esperance	Jackie Brown
		Saturday September 16	Sunday September 17	Sunday September 17
		4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:00 AM Mass
Lector:		Joan Hesik	Denise Gelinas	Nancy Cadek
E E Ministers:		Pam Ziomec	Roger Gelinas	Jeanette Coleman
Refreshments September 3	Refreshments September 10	Refreshments September 17		
Matt Fitzpatrick/Rosa DiStefano	Richardean Paige/Patricia Hayes	Rosa DiStefano/Jeanet Menefee		

The Legion of Mary is meeting at 1:30 on Fridays. Please consider joining. Call Paula Thurston at 803 226-1120

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



Second Collection for Catholic University

Remember Your Offerings

Bible study resumes on September 8 at 10:00 AM

Fall festival meeting Wednesday September 6, at 7:00 PM

12 September Finance Council Meeting 5:30
Parish Council Meeting 7:00

BINGO Columbus Club Hall Every Monday at 7:10 PM till 9:00 PM
 5 Cards \$ 10.00. Each Additional Card \$2.00 15 Regular Games
 \$20 Payout 1 Coverall Jackpot \$150 Payout



Volunteer Corner:
 Thanks to Patricia Miles and Michele Bullington for joining the finance council. Volunteers make the church a community.

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

The Saint Gerard Religious Education program is in need of teachers or assistants for the following classes: Preschool, Second/Third Grade, Post Confirmation. We have students signed up for these classes, it is imperative that we have teachers for them. Your church is growing, please respond to the Holy Spirit and assist how you can. Teaching materials will be provided. Please contact the church office to help.

Registration has begun for the Saint Gerard Religious Education program 2017-2018 school year. Classes will be available for ages 3/4 through those recently confirmed. It is the diocese's policy that each child be enrolled in a religious education program two years prior to first Eucharist and two years prior to Confirmation. Please see the representative after each Mass to sign up or contact the church office at 803-649-3203 or Dottie Dennis at 843-743-8676.

Registration forms are also available in the church hall lobby. Classes will begin in September and will be held on Sundays at 10 AM in the church hall. Please contact the Dottie Dennis if you wish to assist with Religious Education this year, either teaching or as an assistant. 843-743-8676 or o2readmore@yahoo.com

Handyman or 2 (or 3) Needed!
 We are happy to announce that Lowe's has graciously donated all the materials needed to build the children's games for the Fall Festival. Now, we need volunteers to build the games. If you have tools, space and skills please contact Dot Dennis at o2readmore@yahoo.com or call/text 843-743-8676
 Please contact Dot Dennis at o2readmore@yahoo.com or call/text 843-743-8676 if you have an empty aquarium that we can borrow for the Fall Festival on Oct. 14

BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE
 OCTOBER 5-7, 2017 MIAMI, FLORIDA
 Fr. Chester Smith FOR BROCHURE: Click link below.
http://www.bowmanfrancisministry.com/men_s_conference

Planning continues for the Saint Gerard annual Fall Festival. Although it is scheduled for October, there is much work to be done. Our parish's health and growth are contingent on the success of the festival. You have been very responsive to Fathers request for assistance in the past with this event and parish needs and this year is no exception. To be blunt, now is not the time for resting and the success of this event and the parish depends on the participation of all in whatever way you can. There are many aspects of the event, all of which need volunteers and people to take the lead. Please consider participating or leading one of the following ways: Raffle, Bake Sale, Youth Activities, Set Up, Clean Up, Food Service, Registration, Cash Handling, Vendor Coordinator, Signs, Artwork, as well as may more opportunities. The next meeting is scheduled for 6 September at 7:00 PM at the parish. Contact the church office or Deacon Joe at josephadennis@yahoo.com or 843-743-8779. We need your help, your time, and your talents in order to be a

Your Spiritual Guide to the HOLY LAND & Holy Sites
 Our Vision is to assist Catholics/Christians have a truly spiritual and meaningful pilgrimage experience while touring the Holy Land and other major religious sites in Europe, call us at **1-844-400-9559**

In Harms' Way: Please remember in your prayers our Nation and loved ones of our parishioners currently serving in harms' way: James Ligons, Robert McHugh, Deja MS Pringle and Chris Solenberger. 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.

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@atlanticbnn.net. You should follow this advice for Nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities also.

If you are on the Eucharistic Minister, Lector of refreshment schedule and have a conflict please switch with someone so we have someone serving.