

GENERAL AUDIENCE OF POPE FRANCIS: On the Universal Importance of the Family

“The promise that God makes to man and woman, at the beginning of history, includes all human beings until the end of history.”

Vatican City, September 16, 2015 (ZENIT.org)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

This is our final reflection on the subject of marriage and the family. We are on the eve of beautiful and demanding events, which are directly connected with this great subject: the World Meeting of Families at Philadelphia and the Synod of Bishops here in Rome. Both have a worldwide breadth, which corresponds to the universal dimension of Christianity, but also to the universal importance of this fundamental and irreplaceable human community that, in fact, the family is.

The present period of civilization seems marked by the long-term effects of a society administered by economic technocracy. The subordination of ethics to the logic of profit has tremendous resources and enormous media support. In this scenario, a new alliance of man and woman becomes not only necessary but also strategic for the emancipation of people from the colonization of money. This alliance must return to orientate politics, the economy and civil coexistence! It decides the habitability of the earth, the transmission of the meaning of life, the bonds of memory and of hope.

Of this alliance, the conjugal-family community of man and woman is the generative grammar, the “golden bond,” we could say. Faith draws it from the wisdom of the creation of God, who has entrusted to the family not the care of an intimacy that ends in itself, but rather the exciting project of rendering the world “domestic.” The family, in fact, is at the beginning, at the base of this global culture that saves us. It saves us from so many, so many attachments, so many destructions, so many colonizations, such as that of money or those ideological ones that threaten the world so much; the family is at the base to defend oneself.

In fact, in our brief Wednesday meditations on the family, we took our fundamental inspiration from the biblical Word of creation. We can and must draw from this Word again with abundance and profundity. It is a great work that awaits us, but also very exciting. God’s creation is not a simple philosophical premise: it is the universal horizon of life and of faith! There is not a different divine design of creation and of its salvation. It is for the salvation of the creature – of every creature – that God became man: “for us men and for our salvation,” as the Creed says. And the Risen Jesus is “the first born of all creation” (Colossians 1:15).

The created world is entrusted to man and woman: what happens between them leaves an imprint on everything. Their rejection of God’s blessing leads fatally to a delirium of omnipotence that ruins everything. It is what we call “original sin.” And we all come into the world with this inherited sickness.

Despite this, we are not cursed or abandoned to ourselves. The ancient account of God’s first love for man and woman, already had pages written with fire in this regard! “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed” (Genesis 3:15a). They are the words that God addresses to the deceitful, beguiling serpent. Through these words God marks woman with a protective barrier against evil, to which she can take recourse – if she wishes – for every generation. It means that woman bears a secret and special blessing, for the defense of her child from the Evil One! As the Woman of Revelation, who runs to hide her son from the Dragon. And God protects her (cf. Revelation 12:6).

Think what depth opens here! There are many common places, sometimes even offensive, of the temptress woman that inspires to evil. Instead, there is room for a theology of woman that is equal to this blessing of God for herself and for the generation!

In any case, the merciful protection of God in the dealings of man and woman never fails for both. Let us not forget this! The symbolic language of the Bible tells us that before driving them out from the Garden of Eden, God made for the man and the woman garments of skins, and clothed them (cf. Genesis 3:21) This gesture of tenderness also means that in the painful consequences of our sin, God does not want us to remain naked and abandoned to our fate of sinners. We see this divine tenderness, this care for us, incarnated in Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God, “born of woman” (Galatians 4:4). And Saint Paul says again: “while we were yet sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Christ, born of woman, of a woman, is God’s caress on our wounds, on our mistakes, on our sins. But God loves us as we are and wants to lead us forward with this plan! And woman is the strongest who carries this plan forward.

The promise that God makes to man and woman, at the beginning of history, includes all human beings until the end of history. If we have sufficient faith, the families of the peoples of the earth will recognize themselves in this blessing. Whoever lets himself be moved by this vision in any way, regardless to what people, nation, or religion he belongs, let him get underway with us. He/she will be our brother and sister, without engaging in proselytism, no! We walk together under this blessing and under this objective of God to make us all brothers in life in a world that goes forward and is born in fact of the family, of the union of man and woman.

May God bless you, families of all corners of the earth! And may God bless you all!

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.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Wisdom 2:12,17-20(134B)

Responsorial:

Psalm 54:3-4,5,6,8

Second Reading:

James 3:16-4:3

Gospel:

Mark 9:30-37

Lectionary Readings for the week of September 20h

Monday: Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13;

Mathew 9:9-13

Tuesday: Ezra 6:7-8,12b,14-20;

Luke 8:19-21

Wednesday: Ezra 9:5-9;

Luke 9:1-6

Thursday: Haggai 1:1-8;

Luke 9:7-9

Friday: Haggai 2:1-9;

Luke 9:18-22

Today's Missal

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 20, 2015

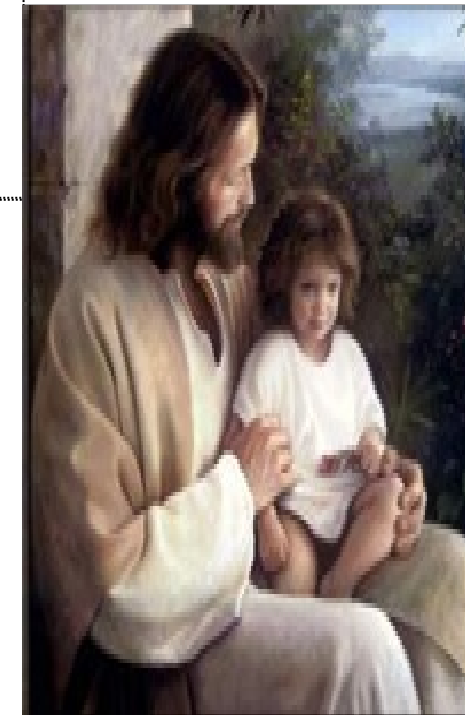
Mission Statement

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.*

Fr. Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator



*He then took a little child
whom he set among them
and embraced, and he
said to them,
'Anyone who welcomes a
little child such as this in
my name, welcomes me;
and anyone who
welcomes me, welcomes
not me but the one who
sent me.'*

Mark 9:36-37

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

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**

Just Three weeks away, The Rosary Rally (America Needs Fatima) October the 10th



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 create a community – the Church. In that community we share our gifts, our time, our talents, our treasures. Baptism unites us in our faith. We cherish as our mission the mission of the Church to proclaim and teach, to serve and make holy.

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


Mass Intentions 9/19-9/20
 4:00 PM for the soul of Carrol Ouimet From: The Pedleys
 7:00 AM Mass is said for your own personal intentions.
 11:15 AM for birthday Koli Aniedobe From: Family

Our Song of Praise is	40 M
	God, We Praise You
The Offertory Hymn is	32 M
	Blessed by Your Sacrifice
The Communion Hymn is	CHOIR
	Te Deum (Hymn of Praise)
The Gathering Hymn	669 H/37 M
	We Gather Together

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

Sunday Offering September 13th
 Collection \$2,088.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
 Short \$524.00
 Attendance 129
Stewardship a way of life

	Lay Ministers		
	<u>Saturday September 26</u>	<u>Sunday September 27</u>	<u>Sunday September 27</u>
	4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:15 AM Mass
Lector:	David Didimamoff	Mary Kay L'Esperance	Patricia Hayes
E E Ministers:	Barbara Dixon	Gerard L'Esperance	Wayman Johnson
	<u>Saturday October 3</u>	<u>Sunday October 4</u>	<u>Sunday October 4</u>
	4:00 PM Vigil Mass	7:00 AM Mass	11:15 AM Mass
Lector:	Daine Begic	Denise Gelinas	Richardean Paige
E E Minister:	Pat Ziomek	Roger Gelinas	Jacqueline Brown
Refreshments	September 27		Counters September 27
	Nancy Cadek		Open

 **Columbus HOPE Foundation (Helping Other People Every Day)**

The Knights of Columbus will be taking up a collection today outside of church for the Columbus HOPE foundation. They will be handing out free Tootsie Rolls as a reminder of this most important program. All donations will go to help people in our community with intellectual disabilities and to support the Special Olympics of Aiken.

Please be generous and show them that we care.
 You may contribute after Mass today in front of church: Thank you.

Many hands make easy work for all! We are one parish. Support your parish. We need parishioners from all three Masses working together to **make our Fall Festival/Bazaar successful**. Need someone from each of the Masses to work on the Fall Festival Committee. Call the office if you can join the committee. Also need all to make an effort to get items donated for a silent auction and vendors. If you can, contact the businesses you frequent and request a donation for the silent auction. This is an example of support one can provide. We hope you all plan to attend the Festival and mark off some time on your calendar, **November 7, 2015 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**, if you can't support it all day. Let's unite and support our Parish, St Gerard of Aiken

We made it!
 100.9% of Bishop Annual Appeal Goal
 with 42.3% participation. We still have some outstanding pledges.
 Remember 50% of funds over the goal are returned to the parish.

Volunteer Corner
 I personally want thank all those who come to my aid when I am swamped. You know who you are. You help this church run logistically. Mike

Refreshments
 There is a list in the hallway on the board. Please let me know if you can not participate. And if a weekend is bad for you please contact a replacement. The list has been up dated so check it out.

Thank You
 For what was collected for Fr. Anthony
 Total \$785 costs (part \$430.00, shipping \$459.79). The part was shipped on 15 September by UPS with expected delivery within 5 days.
 Thanks to Fred and all who contributed.

CALVARY CEMETERY
 Please be aware that from September 21-24 there will be tree trimming done at Calvary Cemetery. For your safety, we would appreciate you not visiting the cemetery during this time. Thank you for your patience. If you have any questions, please call Carlos Dorthalina at 803 295-2530

Knights of Columbus and Sheppard Community Blood Center are conducting a blood drive at the Chocolate Festival Sat. Oct. 3rd from 10:00am to 3:00pm. In Mrs. Noel's class room at the school. Open your hearts and donate the gift of life. It takes just a few moments of your time, So why not consider giving blood! Every blood donor is a hero to someone. Will you Choose 2 Give? After you donate, stay and enjoy the Chocolate Festival. Bring your family, there will be fun for all. Each donor will receive a free T-Shirt and Free Lipid Profile after your 3rd donation in A calendar year. Bring a picture ID, Driver's license or donor card! Donors should drink plenty of water prior to donating. Every BLOOD DONOR is a HERO THE NEED IS CONSTANT. THE GRATIFICATION IS INSTANT.

Black Catholics' Heritage Celebration, "An Advent Gathering of the Faithful"
 December 12, 2015 Columbia, SC
 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2015 Diocese of Charleston Office of Black Catholics' Heritage Celebration. Our guest homilist and keynote speaker at this year's celebration will be the Most Reverend Joseph N. Perry, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Other highlights of this special day will include a discussion on Bishop Edward Braxton's document "The Racial Divide in the United States: A Reflection for the World Day of Peace 2015" led by the Honorable Arthur C. McFarland, a panel discussion on the World Meeting of Families and the papal visit. There will also be a separate youth track. Follow this event and others on the web at sccatholic.org/ethnic-ministries

Have you ever contemplated a devotion to St. Therese of Lisieux, The Little Flower, Patroness of Humility, Doctor of the Church?
 On Nov. 13-15th, 2015 the Charleston Theresians are sponsoring the USA Theresian National Conference "Faith on Fire" here in Charleston at the Charleston Marriott, 170 Lockwood Boulevard, 29403. Hear wonderful speakers who will, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, fill you with joy and love. Enjoy beautiful music and join us in meaningful prayers and Holy Mass on Sunday. There will also be a Silent Auction. Registration is \$275. Includes Friday Reception, 3 Meals + Banquet and Registration Fee.
 If interested or have any questions, please contact Kathy Dornetto at: Email: kathy3of6k@gmail.com or call 843-696-4912. Deadline for Registration is Oct. 11th.

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.

Legion of Mary and the Rosary Rally on October 10, 2015
 Cathy Ciani is the chair of the Legion and the Rosary Rally. Please call her or the office for information on either one of the above. 803 643-9011 or 908 675-1069 (Cathy) 803 649-3203 (office)

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. We need servers to attend also. If you child is a server we need to get their size for new vestments. Thank you, Mike 803 649-3203

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.

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.

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

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

