

## On Promises Made to Children

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

As the weather forecasts were rather uncertain and rain was expected, today this Audience is made contemporaneously in two places: we, here, in the Square and 700 sick in Paul VI Hall, who are following the Audience on a giant screen. We are all united and we greet them with applause.

Jesus' word is strong today: "Woe to the world because of scandals." Jesus is realistic and he says: It is inevitable that scandals come, but woe to the man who causes the scandal. Before beginning the catechesis, in the name of the Church I would like to ask you for forgiveness for the scandals that have happened in these recent times, whether in Rome or in the Vatican, for which I ask forgiveness.

Today we will reflect on a very important theme: the promises we make to children. I am not speaking so much of the promises we make here and there during the day to make them happy or to make them be good (perhaps with some innocent gimmick: I'll give you a sweet and similar promises), to entice them to be committed in school or to dissuade them from some whim. I am speaking of other promises, more important promises, which are decisive for their expectations in situations of life, for their trust in dealings with human beings, for their capacity to conceive God's name as a blessing. They are promises we make to them.

We, adults, are quick to speak of children as a promise of life. We all say: children are a promise of life. And we are also easily moved, saying to young people that they are our future, it's true. However, I sometimes wonder if we are as serious with their future, with the future of children and the future of young people! A question we should ask ourselves more often is this: how loyal are we with the promises we make to children, making them come into our world? We make them come into the world and this is a promise -- what do we promise them? Acceptance and care, closeness and attention, trust and hope, are as many basic promises, which can be summarized in a single one: love. We promise love, namely, love that is expressed in acceptance, in care, in closeness, in attention, in trust and in hope, but the great promise is love. This is the most just way to receive a human being that comes into the world, and we all learn it, even before being conscious. It pleases me so much when I see fathers and mothers, when I go among you, bringing me a small boy or girl and I ask: "How old is he/she?" "Three weeks, four weeks ... I ask for the Lord's blessing." This also is called love. Love is the promise that man and woman make to each child: from the moment he or she is conceived in thought. Children come into the world and expect to have confirmation of this promise: they expect it in a total, confident, vulnerable way. Suffice it to look at them: in all ethnic groups, in all cultures, in all conditions of life! When the opposite happens, children are wounded by a "scandal," by an unbearable scandal, all the more grave when they do not have the means to decipher it. They cannot understand what is happening. God watches over these promises from the first instant. Do you remember what Jesus says? The children's Angels reflect the look of God, and God never loses sight of the children (cf. *Matthew* 18:10). Woe to those who betray their trust, woe! Their trusting abandonment to our promise, which commits us from the first instance, and judges us.

And I would like to add something else, with much respect for all, but also with much frankness. Their spontaneous trust in God must never be wounded, especially when that happens because of a certain presumption (more or less unwitting) of substituting ourselves for Him. The tender and mysterious relation of God with children's souls must never be violated. It is a real relation, which God wishes and God protects -- from birth the child is ready to feel loved by God, he is ready for this. No sooner a child is able to feel that he is loved for himself, he also feels there is a God who loves children.

As soon as they are born children begin to receive as a gift, together with nourishment and care, the confirmation of the spiritual quality of love. Acts of love pass through the gift of the personal name, the sharing of language, the intentions of looks, the illuminations of smiles. Thus they learn that the beauty of the bond between human beings points to our soul, seeks our freedom, accepts the difference of the other, recognizes and respects him as interlocutor. A second miracle, a second promise: we -- father and mother -- give ourselves to you, to give you to yourself! And this is love, which brings a spark of that of God! However, you, fathers and mothers, have this spark of God that you give to the children, you are an instrument of the love of God and this is beautiful, beautiful, beautiful!

It is only if we look at children with Jesus' eyes that we can really understand in what way, by defending the family, we protect humanity! The point of view of children is the point of view of the Son of God. In Baptism, the Church herself makes great promises to children, with which she commits the parents and the Christian community. May the Holy Mother of Jesus -- through which the Son of God came to us, loved and generated as a child -- make the Church capable of following the way of her maternity and her faith. And may Saint Joseph -- just man, who received and protected, and honored courageously the blessing and promise of God -- make us all capable and worthy of receiving Jesus in every child that God sends on earth.

# St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

## Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 18, 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

*James and John, the sons of Zebedee,  
approached him. 'Master,' they said to  
him, 'We want you to do us a favour.' He  
said to them, 'What is it you want me to  
do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us  
to sit one at your right hand and the other  
at your left in your glory.' But Jesus said  
to them, 'You do not know what you are  
asking. Can you drink the cup that I shall  
drink, or be baptised with the baptism  
with which I shall be baptised?' They  
replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The  
cup that I shall drink you shall drink, and  
with the baptism with which I shall be  
baptised you shall be baptised,<sup>40</sup> but as  
for seats at my right hand or my left,  
these are not mine to grant; they belong  
to those to whom they have been allotted.'*

*Mark 10:35-40*



### SUNDAY READINGS

#### First Reading:

*Isaiah 53:10-11(146B)*

#### Responsorial:

*Psalm 33:4-5,18-19,20,22*

#### Second Reading:

*Hebrews 4:14-16*

#### Gospel:

*Mark 10:35-45*

### Lectionary Readings for the week of October 18th

Monday: *Romans 4:20-25; Luke  
12:13-21*

Tuesday: *Romans 5:12,15b,17  
19,20b-21; Luke 12:35-38*

Wednesday: *Romans 6:12-18; Luke  
12:39-48*

Thursday: *Romans 6:19-23; Luke  
12:49-53*

Friday: *Romans 7:18-25a; Luke  
12:54-59*

### Today's Missal

**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 (Insight to the scriptures)

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

**Contact Us:** Phone 803 649-3203, E-Mail [stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net)

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

Father Don's address is Carter May Home/St. Joseph Residence, Room 201,  
1660 Ingram Rd., Charleston, SC 29407 Cell # 843 599-1620. **Call or write him please.**





**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



Stewards appreciate all they have been given. Their response is service. Their reward is the joy of knowing they are disciples building the kingdom of God as part of God's plan.

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

**Mass Intentions 10/17-10/18**

4:00 PM, 7:00 AM Mass are said for your own personal intentions.  
 11:15 AM Mass is said to thank Almighty God for the Blessings and Gifts in this persons life. From: A Parishioner

The Gathering Hymn 343 H  
 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name  
 The Offertory Hymn is 752 H  
 Alleluia, Sing to Jesus  
 The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 379 BB  
 City of God  
 Our Song of Praise is 552 H  
 Faith of Our Fathers (A Living Faith)



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

**Sunday Offering October 11th**

Collection	\$2,622.00
Needed	\$2,612.00
Over	\$10.00
Attendance	135

*Stewardship a way of life*

	<b>Saturday October 24</b>	<b>Sunday October 25</b>	<b>Sunday October 25</b>
<b>Lector:</b>	David Didimamoff	Mary Kay L'Esperance	Patricia Hayes
<b>E E Ministers:</b>	Ellen Heim	Gerard L'Esperance	Wayman Johnson
<b>Lector:</b>	Diane Begic	Denise Gelinas	Richardean Paige
<b>E E Minister:</b>	Pam Ziomek	Roger Gelinas	Mary Rose
<b>Refreshments October 25</b>	<b>Counters October 25</b>		
Sheila Wagner/Patricia Hayes	Open		

**Dinner & Dance Fundraiser**

The Knights of Columbus is hosting a steak dinner and dance on November 7/2015, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus home on 1003 Spaulding Drive in Aiken. The meal will consist of a ribeye steak, baked potato, salad, bread, and dessert. Music will be provided by a local DJ, and a silent auction will also be held at the dinner. The dinner and dance will cost \$20 per person. All money raised will go to the Columbus H.O.P.E. Foundation to support the Special Olympics in Aiken. Tickets can be bought from the following Knights: Randall Brown - 803-292-1353, Steve Graft - 803-640-2178, Greg Wright - 803-641-7354, Mark Krajc - 803-507-7521



St. Gerard will have a table for baked goods at the Fall Festival on Nov. 7. Since all monies collected will be pure profit for the church, we are asking everyone to contribute a baked item or two. Goodies may be dropped off the day before the festival from 2:00 - 4:00 or on the morning of the festival. If these times are not convenient, please call Judy Riley @ 642-2540 or Nancy Durden @ 215-8008 to make other arrangements.

**Second Collection for: Mission Sunday**  
 (Propagation of the Faith)



**Refreshments**  
 Every body please look at the schedule.

**Volunteer Corner**

Thanks to the Knights of Columbus for there help with the rectory. Paint prep and painting.  
 Thanks to Dennis Hoo Chung.

The next parish council meeting is 3 November at 6:30 PM.

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

There has been a resignation from the finance council. We need another member. Please contact us if you are interested.

**Need a Car? "05" PT Cruiser**  
 Call Richardean 803 648-0500

*Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal*  
 Tuesdays at the 8:15 Mass. When it continues on 10/27/15

**ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
 Friday, November 6, 2015  
 Four Person Captain's Choice  
 9:00 am Registration ~ 10:00 am Shotgun Start  
 Pine Ridge Golf Club, Edgefield, SC  
 Lunch and Prizes  
 \$50.00 per person ~ Lunch only - \$12.00  
 For more information call St. Mary's C.C. -803-637-6248  
 Paula Ford - 803-442-3324  
 Rocco and Mary Benedetto - 803-637-6699

**Bible Study, Fridays at 10:00 AM**  
 We want to buy new vestments for servers but I need sizes. Please get with me about the servers sizes.

Fr. Emmanuel is out of the country from the 5<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup> of October. Masses, in his absence, will be Fri., Sat. and Sun. at regular times. The only change is no Mass on Tues. and Thurs. Daily Masses will resume October 27<sup>th</sup> with the Tuesday Mass. And Bible Study will continue in his absence.

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.

**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](mailto:kathy3of6k@gmail.com) or call 843-696-4912. Deadline for Registration is Oct. 11th.

**ATTENTION!** Voices needed. Once again Joel Scaper, Director of Choral Activities at USC Aiken, will conduct a mass choir to benefit ACTS (Area Churches Together Serving). This is the third year for the Harvest Home Concert and rehearsals began Monday, September 8. The concert will be held on Sunday, November 15 at St. John's United Methodist Church beginning at 4:00 pm. The overall theme will be praise and thanksgiving. We would like to hear as many voices as possible to be representative of as many churches as possible. Joel will be responsible for preparing the choir and the music. Anyone interested is asked to join the Masterworks Chorale in rehearsal on Monday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Etheredge Center, Room 125. There will be seven rehearsals, plus the performance. Please consider joining in support of this event and if you're not a singer, SAVE THE DATE to come enjoy the performance. Attendees will be asked to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to ACTS and a love offering will be taken up during the intermission, also to be given to ACTS. THANKS! Carla Cloud ACTS Executive Director 649.3800

**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](mailto:stgerardscatholi@Atlanticbnn.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.