

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE: On Hope: Source of Mutual Comfort, Peace

'A Christian can never, never say: he'll pay for this! This isn't a Christian gesture; an offense is overcome with forgiveness —, to live in peace with all. This is the Church!'

Rome, February 8, 2017, zenit.org

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning! Last Wednesday, we saw that, in the First Letter to the Thessalonians, Saint Paul exhorts to remain rooted in the hope of the resurrection (cf. 5:4-11), with those beautiful words "we shall always be with the Lord" (4:17). In the same context, the Apostle shows that *Christian hope* does not only have personal, individual breadth, but *communitarian, ecclesial*. We all hope; we all have hope, also communally.

Paul's gaze is immediately widened to all the realities that make up the Christian community, asking them to pray for one another and to support each other — to help one another. But not only to help one another in needs, in the many needs of daily life, but to help one another *in hope*, to support each other in hope. And it is no accident that he begins in fact making reference to *those to whom responsibility and pastoral guidance is entrusted*. They are the first to be called to nourish hope, and this, not because they are better than the others, but by virtue of a divine ministry that goes well beyond their strength. Therefore, they are all the more in need of respect, of understanding and of the benevolent support of all.

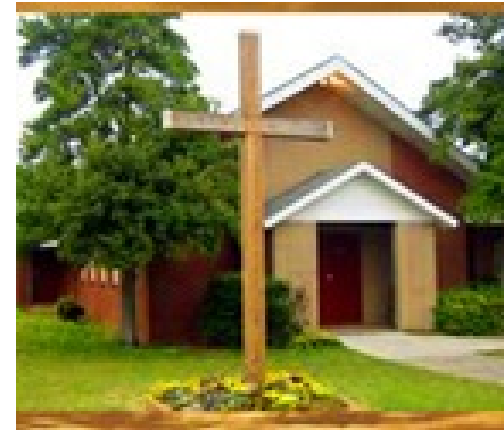
Attention is then drawn to *brothers that in the main risk losing hope*, of falling into despair. We always have news of people that fall into despair and do awful things ... Despair leads them to so many awful things. The reference is to one who is discouraged, who is weak, and who feels beaten by the weight of life and of his faults and is unable to be relieved. In these cases, the closeness and warmth of the whole Church must be more intense and loving, and must assume the exquisite form of compassion, which is not to have pity: compassion is to suffer with the other, to suffer with the other, to get close to one who suffers: a word, a caress, but it must come from the heart; this is compassion, for one who is in need of comfort and consolation. This is all that much more important: Christian hope can do no less than genuine and concrete charity. In the Letter to the Romans, the Apostle of the Gentiles himself affirms, with his heart in his hand: "We who are strong, ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves" (15:1) — to bear, to bear the weaknesses of others. This testimony, then, does not remain closed in the confines of the Christian community: it resounds also in all its vigor outside, in the social and civil context, as an appeal to not create walls but bridges, to not return evil for evil, to overcome evil with goodness, an offense with forgiveness, — a Christian can never, never say: he'll pay for this! This isn't a Christian gesture; an offense is overcome with forgiveness —, to live in peace with all. This is the Church! And this is what brings about Christian hope, when it assumes strong guidelines and at the same time the tenderness of love. Love is strong and tender; it is beautiful.

Then we understand that one does not learn to hope on one's own. No one learns to hope on his own. It is not possible. To be nourished, hope *necessarily has need of a "body,"* in which the various members support and revive one another. This means then that, if we hope, it is because many of our brothers and sisters have taught us to hope and have kept our hope alive. And distinguished among these are *the little ones, the poor, the simple and the marginalized*. Yes, because he knows not hope who is closed in his well being: he hopes only in his well-being and this is not hope: it is relative security; he knows not hope who closes himself in his contentment, who always feels right ...

Instead, those hope who every day experience trials, precariousness and their own limitation. It is these brothers who give us the most beautiful, the strongest testimony, because they remain firm in their entrustment to the Lord, knowing that, beyond the sadness, the oppression and of the ineluctability of death, the last word will be His, and it will be a word of mercy, of life and of peace. One who hopes, hopes to hear one day these words: "Come, come to me, brother; come, come to me, sister, for all eternity."

Dear friends, if — as we have said — the natural dwelling of hope is a supportive "body," in the case of Christian hope this body is *the Church*, while the vital breath, the soul of this hope is *the Holy Spirit*. See then why the Apostle Paul invites us at the end to invoke Him continually. If it is not easy to believe, much less so is it to hope. It is more difficult to hope than to believe; it is more difficult. However, when the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts, it is He who makes us understand that we must not fear, that the Lord is close and takes care of us; and it is He who molds our communities, in a perennial Pentecost, as living signs of hope for the human family. Thank you.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Sirach 15:15-20(76A)

Responsorial:

Psalms 119:1-2,4-5,17-18,33-34

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Gospel:

Matthew 5:17-37

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for the
week of February 12, 2017

Monday: *Genesis 4:1-15,25;
Mark 8:11-13*

Tuesday: *Genesis 6:5-8;7:1-5,10;
Mark 8:14-21*

Wednesday: *Genesis 8:6-13,20-22;
Mark 8:22-26*

Thursday: *Genesis 9:1-13;
Mark 8:27-33*

Friday: *Genesis 11:1-9;
Mark 8:34-9:1*

Saturday: *Hebrews 11:1-7;
Mark 9:2-13*

The Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time February 12, 2017

Mission Statement

Called to be a People for Others

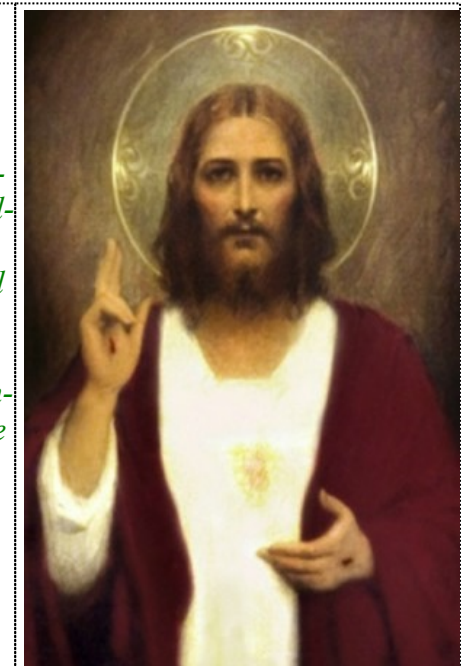
Vision Statement

*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.*

Father Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator

*Jesus said to his disciples:
"Do not think that I have come to
abolish the law or the prophets.
I have come not to abolish but to
fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven
and earth pass away, not the smallest
letter or the smallest part of a
letter will pass from the law, until all
things have taken place. Therefore,
whoever breaks one of the least of
these commandments and teaches others
to do so will be called least in the
kingdom of heaven. But whoever
obeys and teaches these command-
ments will be called greatest in the
kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 5:17-19



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

First Friday Benediction after Mass

Weekend Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 11:00 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:** Sundays 10:00 AM

RCIA: No Class at this time

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:
 Judy Riley
 Marge Glauser
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Lena Mickens
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda Ligons
 Joe Fulmer

*Lord Jesus, Create in us a new heart.
 Pour your Spirit upon us so that we
 may do the will of the Father.
 Nourish us with your Eucharist and
 heal us of sin. Let our commitment to
 stewardship be a sign of our love for you.
 Amen*



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:
 Robert Erikson,
 Chairman
 Leon Gagnon and
 Anna Marie Key,
 Auditors
 Lisa Solenberger,
 Secretary
 Art Wagner

Weekend Offering
February 4-5, 2017

Mass Intentions
 4:00 PM Mass is said for the soul of William E. Beckert From The Beckerts and for the soul of Sr. DeLourdes Gogarty From Ellen Brown. The 7:00 AM is said for the soul of Michael McNamee From The Macks. 11:00 AM Mass is said for your own personal intentions.

Collection \$3,618.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
 Over \$1,006.00
 Attendance 166
Stewardship a way of life

The Gathering Hymn 567 H (Music Liturgy 11 AM Mass)
Sing A New Song
The Offertory Hymn is 463 BB
Eye Has Not Seen
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 750 H
Taste and See
Our Song of Praise is CHOIR
Go In Peace



Lay Ministers
Saturday 18 February
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
 Lector: Joan Hesik
 E E Ministers: Barbara Dixon
Saturday 25 February
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
 Lector: Tami Schaeffer
 E E Ministers: Mary Rose

Sunday 19 February
 7:00 AM Mass
 Denise Gelinas
 Roger Gelinas
Sunday 26 February
 7:00 AM Mass
 Mary Kay L'Esperance
 Gerard L'Esperance

Sunday 19 February
 11:00 AM Mass
 Richardean Paige
 Marge Glauser
Sunday 26 February
 11:00 AM Mass
 Paula Thurston
 Jeanette Coleman

Refreshment February 12
 Janet Menefee/Mike Solenberger

Refreshment February 19
 Jean Schodowski/Richardean Paige

Refreshment February 26
 Jackie Brown/Jeanette Coleman

*The Legion of Mary is meeting at 1:30 on Fridays.
 Please consider joining. Call the office with
 questions. Please Pray the Rosary.*

4:00 PM and 7:00 AM Masses Music Liturgy
The Gathering Hymn 136 M God, We Praise You
The Offertory Hymn is 122 M Soul of My Savior
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 750 H Taste and See
Our Song of Praise is 405 H How Great Thou Art

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



The Brown Scapular
 St. Gerard's has scheduled Consecration of the Brown Scapular to Mary's Service. The date is February 19 at 2:00 PM please sign up (for those who wear a Brown Scapular, Mary's promise to us is that "Whosoever dies clothed in this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire." Call Marge for more info. 649-7408

Ike Ligons passed away on 7 February, Services will be held at 1:00 PM in Ridge Spring at Faith Christian Outreach Center, Davis Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Our prayers are with The Ligons Family.

Volunteer Corner:
 Thanks to those that filled in at the store when Leonard was in the hospital

Parish Council
 Next meeting is on Tuesday February 14 at 6:00 PM
Finance Council
 No Meeting this month

Family Charitable Outreach:
 Someone in need? Maybe we can help.
 Contact Marge Glauser or the office.

Please ask any veterans (especially post-9/11 veterans) to contact ACTS at ph#803.642.5919 They served us now let's help ACTS serve them.

And Jesus Wept. John 11:35
GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

St. Mary's has an ongoing grief support group that meets on Wednesdays. The 13-week program uses Griefshare, a special, lay-led weekly seminar and support group that embraces a biblical, Christ-centered approach to grieving. Please join us for help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. We provide a safe and loving environment to encourage sharing and exchanging of concerns and feelings as you are comfortable. This group is open to anyone in our community, regardless of Church affiliation. Please pass the information along to anyone you know who might need it. People may join the group at any point during the 13 weeks; each session stands alone. The meetings are held downstairs in Smith Hall from 3:30 until 5:00 pm but we join for coffee and fellowship any time after 3:00. The registration fee is \$20 and scholarships are available. Registration information is available at the St. Mary Parish Office. Please contact Bette Ross at 803.649-4777 or bross@stmarys-aiken.org for additional information or questions.
I will turn their mourning into joy; I will console and gladden them after their sorrows
 — Jeremiah 31:13

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS
 Each year the Aiken Knights of Columbus Council #3684 awards scholarship assistance to eligible applicants. Scholarships are based solely on ability and will be awarded based on school grades, standardized test scores, quality of the essay submitted, letters of recommendation, and community or extracurricular involvement. With few exceptions, scholarship assistance will require a minimum grade average of B or 3.00 in high school and 1600 or higher SAT scores (or equivalent). All scholarship applications must be received by April 30, 2017. All scholarships awarded are renewable upon reapplication provided a recipient maintains a B or 3.00 grade average and is a worthy campus citizen. Scholarship interviews may be an integral part of the evaluation. For more information or an application form, call Tom Meisner at (803) 649-4721 or Chuck Goergen at (803) 649-4097.

The Black Catholic Ministry of the Church of the Most Holy Trinity invites you to join us on a bus trip to **The National Black Catholic Congress in Orlando, Florida July 6-9, 2017** More information as it comes available, however, we would like to have an idea of the level of interest for transportation purposes. The trip is open to everyone and you **DO NOT** have to be a part of the ministry or culture to attend.
Helen W. Griffin, Secretary, Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Augusta, GA, 06-722-4944

Feed the Valley, Thank you and bless your gifts of food.