

The Holy Father's Catechesis

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Today I wish to speak to you about my Apostolic Journey that, with God's help, I carried out in the past days to Egypt. I went to that country following a fourfold invitation: of the President of the Republic, of His Holiness the Coptic Orthodox Patriarch, of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar and of the Coptic Catholic Patriarch. I thank each one of them for their truly warm hospitality to me. And I thank all the Egyptian people for their participation and the affection with which they lived this visit of the Successor of Peter.

The President and Civil Authorities made an extraordinary effort so that this event could unfold in the best ways; so that it could be a sign of peace, a sign of peace for Egypt and for all that region that, unfortunately, suffers due to conflicts and terrorism. In fact, the motto of the trip was "The Pope of Peace in an Egypt of Peace."

My visit to Al-Azhar University, the oldest Muslim University and highest academic institution of Sunni Islam, had a double horizon: that of dialogue between Christians and Muslims and, at the same time, that of promotion of peace in the world. The meeting with the Grand Imam happened at Al-Azhar, a meeting that then extended to the International Conference for Peace. In this context I offered a reflection, which valued the history of Egypt as land of civilization and land of covenant. For the whole of humanity Egypt is synonym of ancient civilization, of art treasures and knowledge, and this reminds us that peace is built through education, formation of knowledge, a humanism that includes as an integral part the religious dimension, the relation with God as the Grand Imam recalled in his address. Peace is built also by starting again from the covenant between God and man, foundation of the covenant among all men, based on the Decalogue written on the stone tablets of Sinai, but much more profoundly in the heart of every man of every time and place, a law that is summarized in the two Commandments of love of God and of neighbor.

The same foundation is also at the basis of the construction of the social and civil order, in which all citizens of every origin, culture and religion are called to collaborate. Such a vision of healthy laicism emerged in the exchange of addresses with the President of the Republic of Egypt, in the presence of the Authorities of the country and of the Diplomatic Corps. The great historical and religious patrimony of Egypt and its role in the Middle Eastern region confer on it a peculiar task in the path to a stable and lasting peace, that leans not on the right of force but on the force of law.

Christians in Egypt, as in every nation of the earth, are called to be leaven of fraternity. And this is possible if they live in themselves communion in Christ. We were able to give a strong sign of communion, thanks be to God, together with my dear brother Pope Tawadros II, Patriarch of the Orthodox Copts. We renewed the commitment, also signing a joint declaration to walk together and our commitment [...] We prayed together for the martyrs of the recent attacks that, tragically, struck that venerable Church, and their blood has fecundated that ecumenical meeting, in which the Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew also participated: the Ecumenical Patriarch, my dear brother.

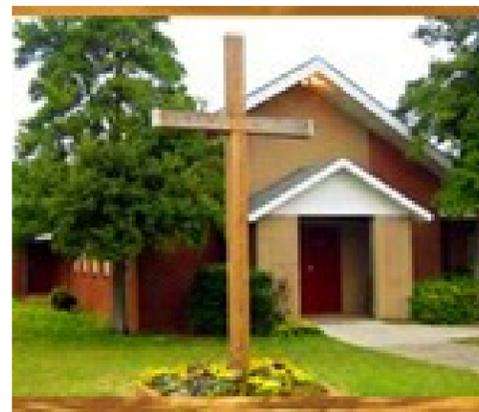
The second day of the trip was dedicated to the Catholic faithful. The Holy Mass celebrated in the Stadium, put at our disposition by the Egyptian Authorities, was a celebration of faith and of fraternity, in which we felt the living presence of the Risen Lord. Commenting on the Gospel, I exhorted the small Catholic community in Egypt to relive the experience of the disciples of Emmaus: to always find in Christ, Word and Bread of life, the joy of the faith, the ardor of hope and the strength to witness in love that "we have encountered the Lord!"

And I lived the last moment together with the priests, men and women religious and seminarians in the Major Seminary. There are so many seminarians: this is a consolation! It was a Liturgy of the Word, in which the promises of consecrated life were renewed. In this community of men and women, who have chosen to give their life to Christ for the Kingdom of God, I saw the beauty of the Church in Egypt, and I prayer for all Christians of the Middle East so that, led by their Pastors and accompanied by the consecrated, they are salt and light in those lands, in the midst of those peoples. For us, Egypt has been a sign of hope, of refuge and of help. When that part of the world was hungry, Jacob went there with his sons; then, when Jesus was persecuted, He went there. Therefore, to tell you about this trip means to follow the path of hope: for us, Egypt is that sign of hope be it because of the history be it because of today, of this fraternity of which I wished to tell you.

I thank again those who made this trip possible and all those who in different ways made their contribution, especially the many persons who offered their prayers and sufferings. May the Holy Family of Nazareth, which emigrated <to> the banks of the Nile to escape Herod's violence, bless and always protect the Egyptian people and guide them on the way of prosperity, fraternity and peace.

Thank you!

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:

Acts 2:14a,36-41(49)A

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4,5,6

Second Reading:

1 Peter 2:20b-25

Gospel:

John 10:1-10

Lectionary Readings for Week of 5/7, 2017

Monday: Acts 11:1-18;

John 10:11-18

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26;

John 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24-13:5a;

John 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25;

John 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33;

John 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52;

John 14:7-14

The Fourth Sunday of Easter May 7, 2017

Mission Statement

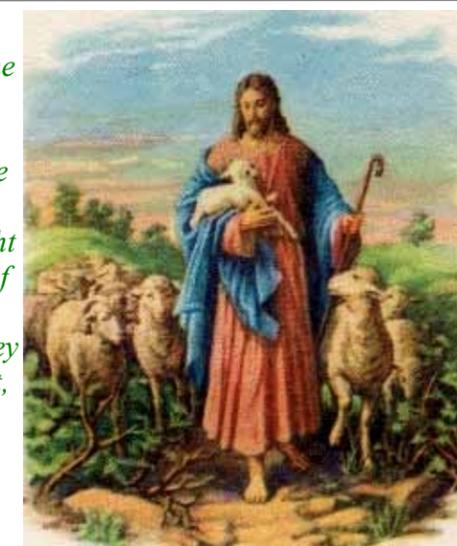
Called to be a People for Others

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.*

The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice."

John 10:2-5



Mass Times: Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM, **No weekday Masses till May 23**

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:** No Class at this time **No bible study till May 26**

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

Weekend Offering
April 30, 2017

Collection \$2,477.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
Under \$135.00

Attendance 129

Stewardship a way of life

The word "repent" means to turn from sin, to change our actions. When it comes to change, do we take responsibility for change or do we think that others have to change instead? Change that is permanent comes from within, we must take control and disciplined. Remember though that we are not alone, Jesus is there to help lighten the load. Archbishop Carlson



Mass Intentions
 4:00 PM, 7:00 AM & 11:00 AM Masses are said for your own personal intentions.

The Gathering Hymn 318 BB
The God of All Grace
The Offertory Hymn is 601 H
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 746 H
Baptized in Water
Our Song of Praise is 573 BB
Alleluia #1



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

Lay Ministers
Mother's Day Weekend



Saturday May 13
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
 Lector: Joan Hesik
 E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek

Sunday May 14
 7:00 AM Mass
 Denise Gelinis
 Roger Gelinis

Sunday May 14
 11:00 AM Mass
 Sheila Wagner
 Jackie Brown



Saturday May 20
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
 Lector: Diane Begic
 E E Ministers: Ellen Heim

Sunday May 21
 7:00 AM Mass
 Mary Kay L'Esperance
 Gerard L'Esperance

Sunday May 21
 11:00 AM Mass
 Richardean Paige
 Marge Glauser

Refreshments May 7
 Mike Solenberger/Carol Miller

Refreshments May 14
 Jean Schodowski/Richardean Paige

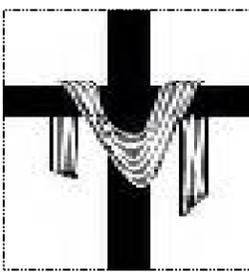
Refreshments May 21
 Jackie Brown/Rosa DiStefano

The Legion of Mary is meeting at 1:30 on Fridays. Please consider joining. Please Pray the Rosary.

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



Father will be gone 24 April through 16 May. No Daily Masses during that time. No bible study until 26 May, Weekday Masses resume May 23. Weekend Masses at regular times.



Fall Festival Meeting May 9th 4:00 PM
Second Collection is for Trinity Dome

It is time to take pictures for the new Church Directory
 Dates for photos are June 2nd, 3rd & 4th You can get on line and schedule yourself at <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/9rjrez14/>
Anyone that can't get the on line site to work please call or e-mail the office.
 We need everyone to register. We have a limited number of pictures we can submit, at no cost, for people that will not be available for photo sessions. Your cooperation is needed to make this work.

Volunteer Corner:
Still need help with the fall festival. This has been a good money raiser for The Parish.

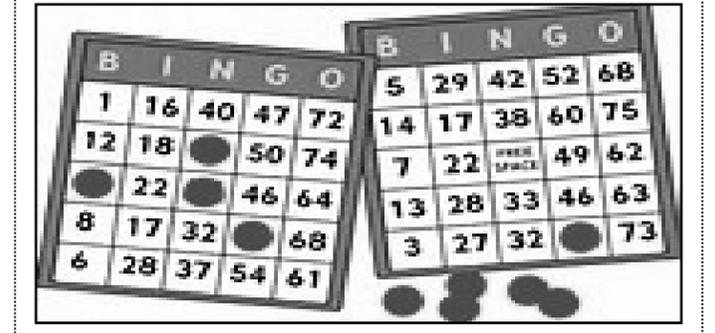
Monday June 5th at 7:00 PM we are having a, get to know your church and its members, gathering. There will be light refreshments a brief film about St. Gerard Church's beginning and discussion with some of our founding members. This is presented by the members of the fledgling men's and woman's groups. Please plan to attend. A time to meet members from all Masses. **Make St. Gerard one community**

Little Bethlehem Christians will be here May 27 & 28 selling Rosewood crafts from The Holy Land in support of Christians there.

Please join St. Mary Help of Christians in Aiken, SC for Stoke the Fire: Rekindling Your Gift of the Holy Spirit
 May 27 * May 31 * June 3
 Old St. Mary's on Park Ave.
 3-Day Retreat on the Holy Spirit, featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka TOR and The Wild Goose series. The retreat is open to all ages and is intended to help you deepen your relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit. Each day is independent from the others. There is no charge. Study guides and materials will be provided. Bring a friend!
 Day 1: Saturday, May 27 - After morning Mass (approx. 9 a.m.)
 Featuring: God's Love Poured Out
 Short talk on the Gift of Fear
 Day 2: Wednesday, May 31 - After evening Mass (approx. 6 p.m.)
 Featuring: The Breath of God
 Short talk on the Gift of Understanding
 Day 3: Saturday, June 3 - After morning Mass (approx. 9 a.m.)
 Featuring: Baptism in the Spirit and Fire
 Short talk on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit
 For more information contact Mary Ellen Jackson at 803.642.2676 or mejackson@stmarys-aiken.org

Family Charitable Outreach:
 Contact Marge Glauser or the office.

This is Feed the Valley weekend
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



"Many veterans are not aware of the services for which they are entitled or where to begin applying for those services. ACTS is partnering (on a sub-grant basis) with the Augusta/Aiken Warrior Project (AWP) to 1) assist in identifying and gathering/maintaining demographic information on post 9/11 veterans, and 2) provide available assistance to local Warriors (veterans and service members) of all service branches, regardless of era of service or wounded status. ACTS remains autonomous throughout this process. ACTS needs your help in "spreading the word." Please ask any veterans (especially post-9/11 veterans) to contact ACTS at ph#803.642.5919 about filling in a Veteran's Information Sheet (VIS form)."

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

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

In Harms' Way: Please remember in your prayers our Nation and loved ones of our parishioners currently serving in harms' way: James Ligans and Robert McHugh. 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.