

**Pope Francis' General Audience: On Beloved Children, Certainty of Hope**

“In Him, in Jesus Christ, we were willed, loved and desired”

Rome, June 14, 2017. Zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning! Today we are doing this Audience in two places, but connected by the giant screens: the sick, so that they don't suffer the heat so much, are in Paul VI Hall, and we here. However, we remain all together and we are connected by the Holy Spirit, who is He who always makes unity. We greet those who are in the Hall!

None of us can live without love. And an awful slavery into which we can fall is to believe that love is merited. Perhaps a good part of contemporary man's anguish stems from this: to believe that if we are not strong, attractive and beautiful, then no one will be concerned with us. So many people today seek visibility only to fill an interior void: as if we were persons eternally in need of confirmation. However, can you imagine a world where all beg motives to awaken others' attention, and no one is willing, instead, to *freely love* another person? Imagine such a world: a world without the gratuitousness of loving! It seems a human world but, in reality, it is a hell. So many narcissisms of man are born from a sentiment of solitude and orphan hood. Behind so much apparently inexplicable behavior there lies the question: is it possible that I do not deserve to be called by name, namely, to be loved? Because love always calls by name . . .

When an adolescent is not or does not feel loved, then violence can be born. Behind so many forms of social hatred and of hooliganism there is often a heart that has not been recognized. Evil children do not exist, as there are not altogether evil adolescents, but *unhappy* persons do exist. And what can render us *happy* if not the experience of love given and received? A human being's life is an exchange of *looks*: someone who looking at us wrings from us the first *smile*, and we who freely smile at one who is closed in sadness, and thus we open to him a way out. Exchange of looks: look in the eyes and the doors of the heart open.

The *first step* that God took towards us was that of an anticipating and unconditional love. God loved us first. God does not love us because there is in us some reason that elicits love. God loves us because He Himself *is love*, and by its nature love tends to diffuse itself, to give itself. God does not even link His benevolence to our conversion: if anything this is a consequence of God's love. Saint Paul says it perfectly: “God shows His love for us in that *while we were yet sinners* Christ died for us” (*Romans 5:8*) – *While we were yet sinners* – an unconditional love We were “distant,” as the Prodigal Son of the parable: “While he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion . . .” (*Luke 15:20*). Out of love for us God undertook an exodus from Himself, to come to find us in this land where it was senseless that He should walk. God loved us also when we were mistaken.

Who of us loves in this way if not one who is father or mother? A mother continues to love her son even when this son is in prison. I remember so many mothers, who were in a queue to enter a prison, in my previous diocese. And they were not ashamed. The son was in prison, but it was *their* son and they suffered so many humiliations in the searches before entering, but: “It is my son!” “But lady, your son is a delinquent!” “He is my son!” Only this love of mother and of father makes us understand how God's love is. A mother does not ask for the cancellation of human justice, because every error calls for a redemption, but a mother never stops suffering for her son. She loves him even when he is a sinner. God does the same thing with us: *we are His beloved children!* But could it be that God has some children that he does not love? No, we are all loved by God. There is no curse on our life, but only a benevolent word of God, who drew our existence out of nothing. The truth of it all is that *relation of love* that binds the Father with the Son through the Holy Spirit is a relationship in which we are received by grace. In Him, in Christ Jesus, we were willed, loved (and) desired. There is someone who has imprinted in us a primordial beauty, which no sin, no mistaken choice will ever be able to cancel altogether. Before God's eyes, we are always little springs made to gush good water. Jesus said it to the Samaritan woman: “the water that I shall give [you] will become in [you] a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (*John 4:14*).

What is the medicine to change the heart of an unhappy person? What is the medicine to change the heart of a person that is not happy? [They answer: love] Louder! [They shout: love!] Good! Good, all good! And how does one make a person feel that he is loved? It is necessary first of all to embrace him. To make him feel wanted, that he is important, and he will stop being sad. *Love calls love*, in a stronger way than hatred calls death. Jesus did not die and rise for Himself, but for us, so that our sins would be forgiven. Hence, it is the time of resurrection for all: time to raise the poor from discouragement, especially those lying in a sepulcher for a much longer time than three days. Blowing here, on our faces, is a wind of liberation. Germinating here is the gift of hope. And the hope is that of God the Father who loves us as we are: He loves us all and always. 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:

*Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14b-16a(167A)*

### Responsorial Psalm:

*Psalm 147:12-13,14-15,19-20*

### Second Reading:

*1 Corinthians 10:16-17*

### Gospel:

*John 6:51-58*

### Today's Missal

#### Lectionary Readings for Week of June 18, 2017

**Monday:** *2 Corinthians 6:1-10;*

*Matthew 5:38-42*

**Tuesday:** *2 Corinthians 8:1-9;*

*Matthew 5:43-48*

**Wednesday:** *2 Corinthians 9:6-11;*

*Matthew 6: 1-6,16-18*

**Thursday:** *2 Corinthians 11:1-11;*

*Matthew 6:7-15*

**Friday:** *Deuteronomy 7:6-1;*

*1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 11:25-30*

**Saturday:** *Isaiah 49:1-6; Acts 13:22-26;*

*Luke 1:57-66,80*

**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**

# Feast of Corpus Christi June 18, 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 Jews quarreled among  
themselves, saying,*

*"How can this man give us his flesh to  
eat?" Jesus said to them,  
"Amen, amen, I say to you,  
unless you eat the flesh of the Son of  
Man and drink his blood,  
you do not have life within you.  
Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my  
blood has eternal life,  
and I will raise him on the last day.*

**John 6:52-54**





**Pray for our sick:**  
 Judy Riley  
 Marge Glauser  
 Leonard Saunders  
 Shirley Paige  
 William and Jackie Cobbs  
 Woody Alexander  
 Rosa Johnson  
 Brenda Ligon  
 Joe Fulmer  
 Jean Schodowski  
 Agnes Beckert

*“Jesus asks us to commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent, and our treasure as an outward sign of the love and gratitude we have for Him.”* Bishop of Bismarck ND



**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  
 Secretary, Vacant  
 Art Wagner

**Mass Intentions:**  
 4:00 PM Viola & William Beckert 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Memorial from  
 The Beckerts, 7:00 & 11:00 AM Masses are said for  
 your own personal intentions.

**Weekend Offering**  
**June 11, 2017**

Collected	\$2,613.00
Needed	\$2,612.00
<b>Over</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>133</b>

*Stewardship a way of life*

*The Gathering Hymn* 714 BB  
*O God, Almighty Father*  
*The Offertory Hymn* 324 BB  
*Gift of Finest Wheat*  
*The Communion Hymn is* CHOIR 511 BB  
*We Have Been Told*  
*Our Song of Praise is* 493 BB  
*Faith of Our Fathers*



  
**Lector:**  
 E E Ministers: Ellen Heim

  
**Lector:**  
 E E Ministers: Mary Rose

Refreshments June 18  
 Shirley Paige/Anne Marie Key

**Lay Ministers**

<b>Saturday June 24</b> 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Joan Hesik E E Ministers: Ellen Heim	<b>Sunday June 25</b> 7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinis Roger Gelinis
<b>Saturday July 1</b> 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Diane Begic E E Ministers: Mary Rose	<b>Sunday July 2</b> 7:00 AM Mass Mary Kay L'Esperance Gerard L'Esperance

Refreshments June 25  
 Janet Menefee/Mike Solenberger

**Sunday June 25**  
 11:00 AM Mass  
 Patricia Hayes  
 Marge Glauser

**Sunday July 2**  
 11:00 AM Mass  
 Vacant  
 Jeanette Coleman

Refreshments July 2  
 Vacant

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*



**The Diocese of Charleston has begun to prepare for our Bicentennial in 2020. Bishop Guglielmone asks all parishioners to complete a brief online survey. Go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CharlestonMAP>  
 The Spanish survey link - <https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/EncuestaCharleston>  
 Please complete by July 5th**

Rescheduled Finance Council Meeting on  
 June 20 at 5 PM

**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**



**Happy Father's Day**



**Volunteer Corner:**  
 We need Finance Council members we will have 3 vacancies by August

**Family Charitable Outreach:**  
 Contact Marge Glauser or the office.

**Planning has begun for the Saint Gerard annual Fall Festival.**  
 Although it is scheduled for October 14, there is much work to be done. Our parish's health and growth are contingent on the success of the festival. 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: Bake Sale, Youth Activities, Set Up, Clean Up, Food Service, Registration, Cash Handling, Vendor Coordinator, Signs, Artwork, as well as many more opportunities. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday June 28 at 7:00 PM** at the parish. Contact the church office or Deacon Joe at [josephadennis@yahoo.com](mailto:josephadennis@yahoo.com) or 843-743-8779.  
 We need your help, your time, and your talents in order to be a success.

There will be a Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend on the following dates: St. Andrew, Clemson on July 29-30, St. Michael, Murrell's Inlet on October 7-8, and All Saints, Lake Wylie on November 11-12. Please see the web site at: [www.cee-sc.org](http://www.cee-sc.org) for more information and to register.

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

**BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE**  
 OCTOBER 5-7, 2017 MIAMI, FLORIDA

The Bowman Francis Ministry team would like to invite you to the fourteen annual Black Catholic Men's conference in Miami Florida October 5-7. This conference invitation is extended to all males and youth males 10-17 years of age. Come to the conference and be blessed to be the best youth you can be in the church, community and world. If you have any concerns you can reach me at 317-523-0900 or check out the ministry at [bowmanfrancisministry.com](http://bowmanfrancisministry.com)

Fr. Chester Smith FOR BROCHURE: Click link below.  
[http://www.bowmanfrancisministry.com/men\\_s\\_conference](http://www.bowmanfrancisministry.com/men_s_conference)

**The Stars and Stripes**

The flag, the Stars and Stripes, Old Glory  
 Its colors--red, white and blue--tell America's story.  
 On a day so clear and bright, what a moving sight!  
 The flag hoisted high waving in the breeze  
 Each draft of wind its colors seize.

Soldiers carry it bravely into the fray  
 Ordinary folks proudly put it on public display.  
 This flag, some wear it as a pin on their lapel  
 Boasting happiness in this land to dwell.  
 I wear it in my heart, pledging to do my part.

This flag has been spat on, stomped on, burned and defiled  
 No soldier/veteran would ever commit an act so vile.  
 Yet by these very veterans, some lives given in sacrifice  
 For our citizens, their First Amendment rights to exercise  
 From the ashes, like a Phoenix, the flag will rise  
 Snatched up by a young Olympian racing for the prize  
 Leading the Parade of Champions for Team USA  
 Colors boldly unfurled leading the way.

From the ultimate place of honor above the Capitol Dome  
 To the doorpost of the most modest of rural homes  
 by ordinary citizens it is honored and respected,  
 This humble sense of pride so easily detected.

RED for the blood of patriots shed for our freedom,  
 The FAITH of courageous citizens pledging life and fortune.  
 WHITE stars for the purity of purpose on a field of blue  
 BLUE for the HOPE of a nation so brand spanning new.  
 Blue stretching to the heights of heaven and to the depths of the sea.  
 Blue for the oceans that define our boundaries, east and west  
 Determining the heights and depths to which we go to pursue our quest.

As a student, with hand over heart,  
 I stood to pledge allegiance to this flag.  
 For all veterans disabled by war who cannot stand  
 And even for those who will not stand—I will do so to honor this  
 “Grand Old Flag.”

--Joan M. Lacombe Flag Day June 14, 2017

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats bring spiritual healing and strengthening of faith to individuals who have had or participated in an abortion. The retreat is a journey to healing, peace and reconciliation. July 7-9, 2017 in Charleston, SC For information and registration call Christy 803 554 6088 or Kathy 803 546 6010 or [grace4healing@gmail.com](mailto:grace4healing@gmail.com), [rachelvineyard.org](http://rachelvineyard.org)

**National Black Catholic Congress XIII**  
 Registration is still open! The Congress will be held in Orlando, Florida on July 6th-9th, 2017. Father Emmanuel has appointed Wayman and Rosa Johnson to represent St. Gerard at the conference. The Diocese's Ethnic Ministries Office has granted the registration scholarship to The Johnson Family. Thank you for representing us and congratulations.