

Pope Francis' General Audience: On Education

These are doubts that make one grow! Therefore, it is good that we ask ourselves questions about the faith, because in this way we are pushed to deepen it. In any case, doubts can be overcome.'

Rome, Nov. 23, 2016. Zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning! The Jubilee having ended, we return today to normality, yet some reflections still remain on the works of mercy, so we continue on this. Today's reflection on the works of spiritual mercy concerns two actions strongly connected between themselves: *to counsel the doubters and to teach the ignorant*, namely, those that don't know. The word ignorant is too strong, but it means those who don't know something and who must be taught. They are works that can be lived by it in a simple, family dimension, within everyone's reach, be it – especially the second, that of teaching – on a more institutional, organized plane. We think, for instance, of all those children who still suffer from illiteracy. This is hard to understand: in a world where technical-scientific progress is so high, there are illiterate children! It's an injustice. How many children suffer from a lack of education; it's a condition of great injustice that affects the very dignity of the person. Without education, one then becomes easily prey to exploitation and to different forms of social hardship.

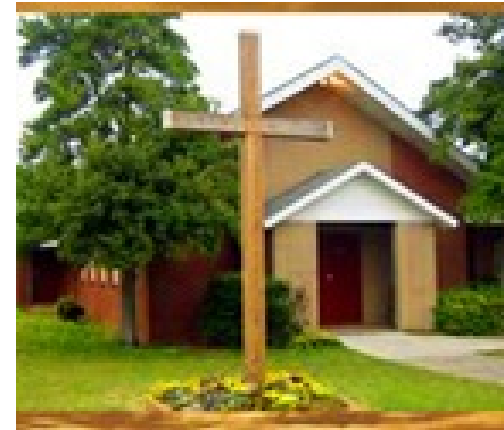
In the course of the centuries, the Church has felt the need to commit herself in the realm of education, because her evangelizing mission entails the commitment to restore dignity to the poorest. From the first example of a "school" founded in fact here at Rome by Saint Justin in the second century, so that Christians could know the Sacred Scriptures better, to Saint Joseph Calasanzius, who opened the first popular free schools of Europe, we have a long list of men and women Saints who at different times brought education to the most disadvantaged, knowing that through this way they would be able to surmount poverty and discriminations. How many Christians, laymen, consecrated brothers and sisters, and priests gave their life in education, in the education of children and of young people. This is great: I invite you to pay homage to them with loud applause!. These pioneers of education understood in depth the work of mercy, and such was their lifestyle as to transform society itself. Through simple work and few structures they were able to restore dignity to so many persons! And the education they imparted was often orientated also to work. But we think of Saint John Bosco, who prepared street kids to work, with the Oratory and then with schools, jobs. It is thus that many and different professional schools arose, which trained to work while educating to human and Christian values. Hence, education is truly a special form of evangelization.

The more education grows, the more individuals acquire certainties and awareness, of which we are all in need in life. A good education teaches us the critical method, which also includes a certain type of doubt, useful to pose questions and verify the results reached, in view of greater knowledge. However, the work of mercy of counseling the doubters does not concern this type of doubt. To express mercy to doubters means, instead, to soothe that pain and suffering that comes from fear and anguish, which are consequences of doubt. Therefore, it is a real act of love, with which one intends to support a person in the weakness caused by uncertainty.

I think that someone could ask me: "Father, but I have so many doubts about the faith, what must I do? Do you ever have doubts?" I have so many ... Certainly doubts come to everyone in some moments! The doubts that touch the faith, in a positive sense, are a sign that we want to know God, Jesus, the mystery of His love for us better and more in depth. "But, I have this doubt" I seek, study, see or ask advice on what to do." These are doubts that make one grow! Therefore, it is good that we ask ourselves questions about the faith, because in this way we are pushed to deepen it. In any case, doubts can be overcome. Therefore, it is necessary to listen to the Word of God, and to understand what He teaches us. An important way that helps much in this is *catechesis*, with which the proclamation of the faith comes to meet us in the concreteness of our personal and communal life. And, at the same time, there is another equally important way, that of *living* the faith as much as possible. We do not make of the faith an abstract theory where doubts multiply. Rather, we make the faith our life. We try to practice it in service to brothers, especially the most needy. And then so many doubts vanish, because we feel God's presence and the truth of the Gospel of love that, without our merit, dwells in us and we share with others.

As you can also see, dear brothers and sisters, these two works of mercy are not far from our life. Each one of us can commit himself in living them to put into practice the Lord's word when He says that the mystery of the love of God was not revealed to the wise and the intelligent, but to the little ones (cf. *Luke 10:21; Matthew 11:25-26*). Therefore, the most profound teaching that we are called to transmit and the safest certainty to come out of doubt is the love of God with which we have been loved (cf. *1 John 4:10*) – a great love, free and given for ever. God never takes back His love! He always goes ahead and waits; He gives His love forever, of which we must feel a strong responsibility, to be witnesses of it by offering mercy to our brothers. Thank you.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Isaiah 2:1-5(1A)

Responsorial:

Psalm 122:1-2,3-4,4-5,6-7,8-9

Second Reading:

Romans 13:11-14

Gospel:

Matthew 24:37-44

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for the week of November 27, 2016

Monday: Isaiah 4:2-6;

Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday: Isaiah 11:1-10;

Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday: Romans 10:9-18;

Matthew 4:18-22

Thursday: Isaiah 26:1-6;

Matthew 7:21,24-27

Friday: Isaiah 29:17-24;

Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday: Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26;

Matthew 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8

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: 9 AM Thursdays

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**

The First Sunday of Advent November 27, 2016

Mission Statement

Called to be a People for Others

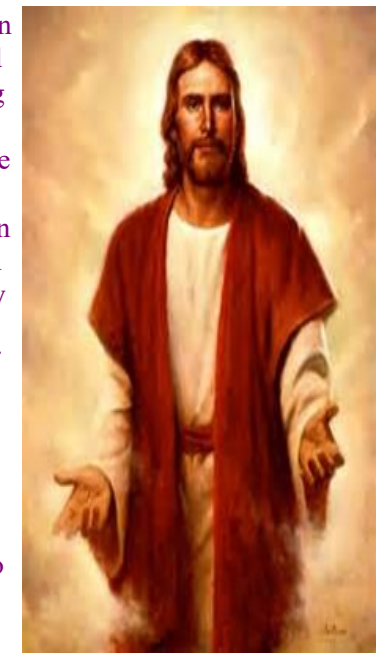
Vision Statement

*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

'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept them all away. This is what it will be like when the Son of man comes. Then of two men in the fields, one is taken, one left; of two women grinding at the mill, one is taken, one left. 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24:37-44



Pray for our sick:

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

Saints help give us direction on the path of discipleship. They inspire us to give freely and gratefully of our time, abilities, and resources.



Pastoral Council:

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

Finance Council:

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

Mass Intentions

4:00 PM, 7:00 AM and 11:00 AM are said for your own personal intentions,

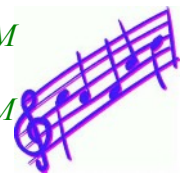
Weekend Offering

November 26-27, 2016

Collection \$2,459.00
Needed \$2,612.00
Short \$153.00
Attendance 131

Stewardship a way of life

The Gathering Hymn 21 M
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
The Offertory Hymn is 55 M
Creator of the Stars of Night
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 31 M
Blessed and Holy
Our Song of Praise is 46 M
The Whole World Is Waiting for Love



Lay Ministers

Saturday December 3

4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Lector: Diane Begic
E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek

Sunday December 4

7:00 AM Mass

Denise Gelinas
Roger Gelinas

Sunday December 4

11:00 AM Mass

Janet Menefee
Jackie Brown

Saturday December 10

4:00 PM Vigil Mass

Lector: Tami Schaeffer
E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer/Joe Dennis

Sunday December 11

7:00 AM Mass

Mary Kay L'Esperance
Gerard L'Esperance

Sunday December 11

11:00 AM Mass

Lisa Soleneberger
Mike Solenberger



Refreshments November 27

Janet Menefee/Jeanette Lacombe

Refreshments December 4

Jackie Brown/Jeanette Coleman

Refreshments December 10

Jackie Cobbs/Rosa DiStefano

Christmas flowers in memory of loved ones.

Memorials are \$10 each. Please make donations not later than December 18 so we can purchase the flowers and put the memorials in the bulletin. Contact the office, Jackie Brown or put donation in the collection baskets with the info on the loved one. Thank you and have a blessed Advent



Advent And Christmas Mass Schedules:

Weekend Masses will remain the same with the exception of Christmas Masses.

Christmas Eve Mass is at 7:00 PM and Christmas Day Mass is at 9:00 AM.

Weekday Masses will remain the same with the exception of December the 8th, Feast of The Immaculate Conception Holy Day, Masses are at 8:15 AM and 6:00 PM.

We will have a Penitential Service at 7:00 PM Tuesday the 6th of December

(We need Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers and Sacristans for the penance service, the Holy Day and the two Christmas Masses.)

Social interaction before Mass in the Church

There is no doubt that the lack of a gathering place is a burden on many of us, especially when we gather for Mass. Many rightly see the time before Mass as a good opportunity for social contact. It would be much appreciated if our social interaction in the church before Mass is done with due consideration for those that may be saying prayers or are having a moment of reflection. It would be helpful if all social interactions could be stopped and a quiet moment is observed five minutes before the start of Mass. Thank you very much.

Volunteer Corner: Thanks to Payson Borst and Jackie Brown for providing the meal for the upcoming December 20th Aiken Deanery meeting. Dennis Hoo Chung for all the repairs and maintenance he does.

Black Catholics' heritage Celebration 2016 Theme: Forgiveness, reconciliation and Racial Harmony
Saturday December 10, 2016-9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Embassy Suites by Hilton Charleston Airport Hotel and Conference
Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone, Bishop Edward K. Braxton, Father Michael Okere,
The Heritage Choir under the direction of Mr. Charlton Singley, a youth track and much more.
Registration /information contact Office of Ethnic Ministries @ 864 331-2627
or ethnicministriessecretary@catholic-doc.org

The first of our ongoing Lector Development series in November. If you are currently serving as a lector or wish to know more about how to serve in this capacity, you are strongly encouraged to attend. The second session will be on Monday December 5 at 3 PM. The same program was presented at the other session so it recommended that you attend if you missed the first one.

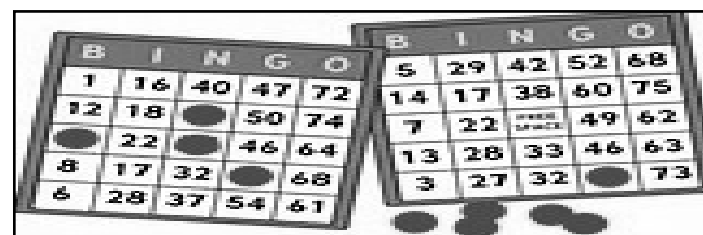
Choir Practice will be held on the following Tuesdays November 29, December 6 & 13.
Time 6:00 PM till 7:15 PM.

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



2016 Bishop's Annual Appeal Update

As of October 31, 2016, our parish has raised \$ 8,620.00 towards our goal of \$ 7,904.00. That is 105.64% with 120 parish families 40 % participating. The Bishop's Annual Appeal funds critical ministries in our diocese doing very important work. It is vital that every parish participate to support the mission of the diocese. Through charitable works, outreach, and education, we are making a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in need. If you have not yet made a gift, please help us reach our parish's financial and participation goals. 50% of all funds raised in excess of our parish goal will be returned to St. Gerard in January so that we may continue the work of our parish. Visit www.sccatholic.org/giving or mail a check payable to the Bishop's Annual Appeal to: The Diocese of Charleston, Office of Stewardship and Mission Advancement, 901 Orange Grove Road, Charleston, SC 29407.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreats bring spiritual healing and strengthening of faith to individuals who have had or participated in an abortion. Join us on the journey to healing, peace and reconciliation. December 9-11, 2016 in Rock Hill, SC. For information and registration please call Sarah 803 6271209. Or email grace4healing@gmail.com

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

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

Christ Central is looking for volunteers for their 4 Aiken County locations. 2 in Aiken and 2 in Graniteville. Mentors and Youth Leaders are needed and these are only 2 of the needs for volunteers. For more information call 803 644-0705

If you attend St. Gerard on a regular basis and feel welcome, Why not consider becoming a member. We would love to have you. Feel free to talk to a member or call the office 649-3203.
Registration forms are in the the church hall lobby.