

'We are never alone. We can be far, hostile; we can even say we are 'without God.' But Jesus Christ's Gospel reveals to us that God cannot be without us'

Rome, June 7, 2017, zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

There was something fascinating in Jesus' prayer, so fascinating that one day His disciples asked to be introduced to it. The episode is found in Luke's Gospel, who is, among the Evangelists, the one who in the main has documented the mystery of the "praying" Christ: the Lord prayed. Jesus' disciples were impressed by the fact that He would withdraw in solitude and "immerse" Himself in prayer, especially in the morning and in the evening. Therefore, one day they asked Him to teach them also to pray (Cf. *Luke* 11:1).

And it was then that Jesus transmitted what became the Christian prayer par excellence: the "Our Father." In truth, Luke, in regard to Matthew, gives us Jesus' prayer in a somewhat abbreviated form, which begins with the simple invocation: "Father" (v. 2).

All the mystery of Christian prayer is summarized here, in this word: to have the courage to call God with the name of Father. The liturgy also affirms it when, inviting us to recite Jesus' communal prayer, used the expression "we dare to say."

In fact, to call God with the name of "Father" is not in any way a fact taken for granted. We would have been led to use the highest titles, which seem to us more respectful of his transcendence. Instead, to invoke Him as "Father" puts us in a relationship of confidence with Him, as a child who turns to his father, knowing that he is loved and cared for by him. This is the great revolution that Christianity imprints in man's religious psychology. The mystery of God, which always fascinates us and makes us feel small, does not, however, make us more afraid, it does not crush us; it does not make us anxious. This is a difficult revolution to receive in our human mind, so true is this that even in the accounts of the Resurrection it is said that the women, after seeing the empty tomb and the Angel, "they went out and fled [. . .] for trembling and astonishment had come upon them" (*Mark* 16:8). However, Jesus reveals to us that God is a good Father, and he says to us: "Do not be afraid!"

We think of the parable of the merciful father (Cf. *Luke* 11-32). Jesus talks of a father who has only love for his children. A father who does not punish his son for his arrogance and who is even capable of entrusting to him his part of the inheritance and of letting him leave the home. God is Father, says Jesus, but not in the human way, because there is no father in this world who would behave as the protagonist of this parable. God is Father in His way: good, vulnerable before man's free will, capable only of conjugating the verb "To love." When the rebellious son, after having squandered everything, finally returns to his childhood home, that father does not apply criteria of human justice, but feels first of all the need to forgive, and with his embrace he makes his son understand that in all that long time of absence he failed, he painfully failed his father's love.

What an unfathomable mystery is a God who has this type of love in his dealings with his children! Perhaps it is for this reason that, evoking the center of the Christian mystery, the Apostle Paul did not feel like translating into Greek a word that Jesus pronounced in Aramaic: "abba." Twice in his Letters (Cf. *Romans* 8:15; *Galatians* 4:6) Saint Paul touches upon this subject, and twice he leaves that word un-translated, in the same way in which it flowered on Jesus' lips, "abba." An even more intimate term than "father," and that some translate "daddy, babbo [Italian way of saying 'daddy']."

Dear brothers and sisters, we are never alone. We can be far, hostile; we can even say we are "without God." But Jesus Christ's Gospel reveals to us that God cannot be without us: He will never be a God "without man"; it is He who cannot be without us, and this is a great mystery! God cannot be God without man: this is a great mystery! And this certainty is the source of our hope, which we find kept in all the invocations of the *Our Father*, When we are in need of help, Jesus does not tell us to be resigned and to shut ourselves in ourselves, but to turn to the Father and to ask Him with trust. All our needs, the most evident and daily as food, health, work to that of being forgiven and sustained in temptations, are not the mirror of our solitude: instead, there is a Father who always looks at us with love, and who certainly does not abandon us.

Now I propose something to you: every one of us has so many problems, so many needs. Let us think, a bit, in silence, of these problems and these needs. We also think of the Father, of our Father, who cannot be without us, and who is looking at us at this moment. And all together, with trust and hope, we pray: "Our Father, Who art in Heaven . . ."

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:

Exodus 34:4b-6,8-9(164A)

Responsorial Psalm:

Daniel 3:52,53,54,55

Second Reading:

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Gospel:

John 3:16-18

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for Week of June 11, 2017

Monday: *2 Corinthians 1:1-7;*

Matthew 5:1-12

Tuesday: *2 Corinthians 1:18-22;*

Matthew 5:13-16

Wednesday: *2 Corinthians 3:4-11;*

Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday: *2 Corinthians 3:15-4:1,3-6;*

Matthew 5:20-26

Friday: *2 Corinthians 4:7-15;*

Matthew 5:27-32

Saturday: *2 Corinthians 5:14-21;*

Matthew 5:33-37

Solemnity of The Holy Trinity June 11, 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.*

So he cut two tablets of stone like the first and, with the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up Mount Sinai in the early morning as Yahweh had ordered. And Yahweh descended in a cloud and stood with him there and pronounced the name Yahweh. Then Yahweh passed before him and called out, 'Yahweh, Yahweh, God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in faithful love and constancy, Moses immediately bowed to the ground in worship.

Exodus 34:4b-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:** 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**



Pray for our sick:
 Judy Riley
 Marge Glauser
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda Ligons
 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
 Lisa Solenberger, Secretary
 Art Wagner

Mass Intentions:
 4:00 PM Mass is said for the soul of Sue Hesik from Joan & Bill
 7:00 & 11:00 AM Masses are said for your own personal intentions.

Weekend Offering
June 4, 2017
 Collected \$3,946.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
 Over \$1,334.00
 Attendance 138
Stewardship a way of life

The Gathering Hymn 209 BB
Holy, Holy, Holy
The Offertory Hymn is 714 BB
O God, Almighty Father
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 715 BB
Come Now, Almighty King
Our Song of Praise is 420 BB
How Great Thou Art



Lay Ministers

Saturday June 17 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Linda Cooper E E Ministers: Ellen Heim	Sunday June 18 7:00 AM Mass Mary Kay L'Esperance Gerard L'Esperance	Sunday June 18 11:00 AM Mass Sheila Wagner Mary Rose
Saturday June 24 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Joan Hesik E E Ministers: Ellen Heim	Sunday June 25 7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinas Roger Gelinas	Sunday June 25 11:00 AM Mass Patricia Hayes Marge Glauser
Refreshment June 11 Shirley Paige/Anne Marie Key	Refreshments June 18 Patricia Hayes/Joan Lacombe	Refreshments June 25 Janet Menefee/Mike Solenberger

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



Finance Council Meeting June 13th at 5:00 PM
 Fall Festival Meeting June 13th 6:00 PM
 Parish Council Meeting June 13th at 7:00 PM

Our first Men's and Woman's groups meeting/program was well received with about 25 parishioners attending. We had food, a film with discussion, and a message from Deacon Joe. Our next program/meeting will be Monday, July 3 at 7 PM. The topic will be the Stephen Ministry and will feature a guest speaker. We encourage you to attend.

**The Diocese of Charleston has begun to prepare for our Bicentennial in 2020. Bishop Guglielmono 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 June 25th.**



Second Collection is for The Seminary

Volunteer Corner:
 Thanks to all who supplied food last Monday

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 may more opportunities. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13th at 6:00 PM at the parish. Contact the church office or Deacon Joe at josephadennis@yahoo.com or 843-743-8779.
 We need your help, your time, and your talents in order to be a success.

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 reached me at 317-523-0900 or check out the ministry at bowmanfrancismistry.com

Fr. Chester Smith FOR BROCHURE: Click link below.
http://www.bowmanfrancismistry.com/men_s_conference

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 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.

Family Charitable Outreach: Contact Marge Glauser or the office.

Scout's Honor
 Young, virile – he stands tall in a crowd
 Making his parents and grandparents proud.
 Raised in a loving atmosphere of care
 His talents with the community to share.
 Hard work, discipline and determination
 Honing his skills and earning this commendation.
 A sash of merit badges his proud banner
 A sign of future endeavors to test his capable manner.
 Thanks to those who provided a fertile environment
 His youthful life molded to meet this requirement.
 Yet, this is only the start
 For a young man ready to do his part.
 There will be more hurdles to clear
 More mountains to climb to a new frontier.
 More races to be run, more goals to achieve
 More skills to develop—honors to receive.
 This day to be remembered as **Crossing the Threshold**
 Writing a new page, new endeavors to be extolled.
 From boy scout to a young man “on the move.”
 More wrongs to right, more tenets to prove.
 A Court of Honor, a fitting tribute
 Your accomplishments we salute.
 Congratulations, Dennis Perea, Eagle Scout!
 An honor deserved without a doubt.
 --Joan M. Lacombe
 Aiken's Poet Laureate
 June 10, 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, rachelvineyard.org

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.