

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE: On Welcoming the Stranger, Clothing the Naked

Let us not fall into the trap of withdrawing into ourselves, indifferent to the needs of brothers and concerned only about our interests.'

Rome, Oct 26, 2016, Zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

We continue with the reflection on the works of corporal mercy, which the Lord Jesus has given us to keep our faith always alive and dynamic. These works, in fact, make evident that Christians are not tired and lazy in awaiting the final encounter with the Lord, but they go to encounter Him every day, recognizing His face in that of the many individuals who ask for help. Today we reflect on this word of Jesus: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me" (Matthew 25:35-36). How much more timely in our time is the work regarding strangers. The economic crisis, armed conflicts and climate changes drive many people to emigrate. However, migrations are not a new phenomenon, but belong to humanity's history. It is a lack of historical memory to think that they are in fact only of our years.

The Bible gives us so many concrete examples of migration. Suffice it to think of Abraham. God's call drives him to leave his country and go to another: "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1). It was so also for the people of Israel, who from Egypt, where they were slaves, went marching for forty years in the desert until they reached God's Promised Land. The Holy Family itself – Mary, Joseph and the little Jesus – was constrained to emigrate to flee from Herod's threat: "Joseph rose and took the child and His Mother by night, and departed to Egypt, where he remained until Herod's death" (Matthew 2:14-15). The history of humanity is the history of migrations: in all latitudes there are no people that have not known the migratory phenomenon.

In this connection, in the course of the centuries we witnessed great expressions of solidarity, even though social tensions were not lacking. Today, unfortunately, the context of economic crisis fosters the emergence of closed and unwelcome attitudes. Walls and barriers rise in some parts of the world. It seems sometimes that the silent work of many men and women, who spend themselves in different ways to help and assist refugees and migrants, is overshadowed by the noise of others who give voice to an instinctive egoism. But closure is not a solution; rather it ends by fostering criminal trafficking. The only way of solution is that of solidarity — solidarity with the migrant, solidarity with the stranger.

Christians' commitment in this field is as urgent today as it was in the past. To look only at the last century, we recall the stupendous figure of Saint Frances Cabrini, who dedicated her life, together with her companions, to immigrants in the United States of America. Today we are also in need of these testimonies so that mercy can reach the many who are in need. It is a commitment that involves everyone; no one is excluded. The dioceses, the parishes, the Institutes of Consecrated Life, the Associations and Movements, as well as individual Christians, we are all called to receive brothers and sister fleeing from war, from hunger, from violence and from inhuman conditions of life. All of us together are a great force of support for all those who have lost their homeland, family, work and dignity. A little story happened a few days ago in the city. A refugee was looking for a street and a lady approached him and said to him: "But are you looking for something?" That refugee was without shoes. And he said: "I would like to go to Saint Peter's to enter the Holy Door." And the lady thought: "But he doesn't have shoes, how can he walk?" And she called a taxi. But that migrant, that refugee stank and the driver of the taxi almost did not want him to get in, but in the end he let him get into the taxi. And, in the course of the trip, the lady, who was beside him, asked him about his story as a refugee and migrant: <it took> ten minutes to arrive here. The man told his story of grief, of war, of hunger and why he fled from his country to migrate here. When they arrived, the lady opened her purse to pay the taxi driver and the driver, who at first did not want the migrant to get in because he stank, said to the lady: "No, lady, I should pay you because you made me hear a story that has changed my heart." This lady knew the pain of a migrant because she had Armenian blood and knew the suffering of her people. When we do something of this sort; initially we refuse because it gives us some bother, "but ... he stinks ..." But in the end, the story perfumes our soul and makes us change. Think of this story and let us think what we can do for the refugees.

And the other thing is to clothe the naked: what does it mean if not to restore dignity to one who has lost it? Certainly, to give garments to those deprived of them, but we think also of the women victims of trafficking thrown out on the streets, or of the others, too many ways of using the human body as merchandise, even of minors. And so, also, to not have work, a home, a just salary is a form of nakedness, or to be discriminated because of race or because of faith – they are all forms of 'nakedness,' in face of which as Christians we are called to be attentive, vigilant and ready to act.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us not fall into the trap of withdrawing into ourselves, indifferent to the needs of brothers and concerned only about our interests. It is precisely in the measure in which we open to others that life becomes fecund, societies re-acquire peace and individuals recover their full dignity. And do not forget that lady, do not forget that migrant who stank and do not forget the driver whose soul was changed by the migrant.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Wisdom 11:22--12:1

Responsorial:

Psalms 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14

Second Reading:

Second Thessalonians 1:11--2:2

Gospel:

Luke 19:1-10

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for the week of October 30, 2016

Monday: *Philippians 2:1-4;*

Luke 14:12-14

All Saints: *Revelation 7:2-4,9-14(667);*

Psalms 24:1bc-2,3-4ab,5-6; 1John 3:1-3;

Matthew 5:1-12a

Wednesday: *Wisdom 3:1-9; Romans 5:5-11;*

John 6:37-40

Thursday: *Philippians 3:3-8a; Luke 15:1-10*

Friday: *Philippians 3:17-4:1;*

Luke 16:1-8

Saturday: *Philippians 4:10-19;*

Luke 16:9-15

The Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time October 30, 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

He entered Jericho and was going through the town and suddenly a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He kept trying to see which Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I am to stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house,' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

Luke 19:1-10



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**



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
 Ligon
 Joe Fulmer
 Chuck Simkin

Mary shows us the meaning of following the will of God. She gave her life completely to God with absolute trust and a faith-filled open heart. As stewards, we pray for her guidance as we strive to become faithful disciples of her son, Jesus.



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

Mass Intentions
 4:00 PM Mass, 7:00 AM Mass are said for your own personal intentions, 11:00 AM Mass is said for Jackie and Bill Cobbs 40th anniversary From A. Lauer

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

Weekend Offering
 October 22-23, 2016

Collection \$2,914.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
 Over \$302.00
 Attendance 141

The Gathering Hymn 407 H
 All Creatures of Our God and King
 The Offertory Hymn is 598 H
 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
 The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 757 H
 Gift of Finest Wheat
 Our Song of Praise is 486 H
 Let All Things Now Living



Stewardship a way of life



Lay Ministers

Saturday November 5
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
 Lector: Diane Begie
 E E Ministers: Joe Dennis/Pam Ziomek

Sunday November 6
 7:00 AM Mass
 Denise Gelinas
 Roger Gelinas

Sunday November 6
 11:00 AM Mass
 Patricia Hayes
 Mary Rose

Saturday November 12
 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
 Lector: Tami Schaeffer
 E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer

Sunday November 13
 7:00 AM Mass
 Mary Kay L'Esperance
 Gerard L'Esperance

Sunday November 13
 11:00 AM Mass
 Richardean Paige
 Marge Glauser

Refreshments October 30
 Veronica Barker

Refreshments November 6
 Shirley Paige/Anna Marie Key

Refreshments November 13
 Richardean Paige/Marilu Alarcon



The Legion of Mary schedule is flexible. If you want to know if they are meeting at 1:30 on any Friday call the office on Thursday and we can tell you. Please continue to pray the Rosary.

Tuesday November First (this Tuesday) is All Saints Day A Holy Day of Obligation: Mass times 8:15 AM and 6:00 PM

This weekend is a special collection for the Diocese's Hurricane Matthew Relief Fund.

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

We will have a joint Parish/Finance Council Meeting on November 8 at 6:30 PM And Fall Festival follow-up.

Sunday at the 11:00 AM Mass is the Baptism of Anneliese Katherine Barker, Daughter of David and Veronica Lind Andreassen-Barker Godmother: Anne Henry Cash, Godfather: Micah Cash. Let us all welcome her into our church family.

Music liturgy for 11:00 AM Mass
 The Gathering Hymn 433 H
 Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing
 The Offertory Hymn is 365 H
 Oh, How I Love Jesus
 The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 376 BB
 Servant Song
 Song of Praise is 637 H
 This Little Light of Mine

Choir Practice will be held on the following Tuesdays November 15, 29 and December 6 & 13. Time 6:00 PM till 7:15 PM. (Note: November the 8th was canceled).

Volunteer Corner:
Thanks to all that worked to make the Fall Festival a success. Before, during and after the event.

If you have an unresolved issue with an abortion experience, Rachel's Vineyard Retreats are for you. Now is the time as we are in the last few weeks of the Jubilee year of Mercy. Come and experience the love and mercy of Jesus. Confidential and Non Judgmental!! The next retreat is in Greenville, November 4-6, 2016. Please contact Christy 803 554 6088 or Kathy 803 546 6010 or grace4healing@gmail.com for more information. Thanks

Emergency Assistance Caseworker, Receptionist, and Voicemail Person Food Pantry Helper on Monday during the summer If interested please contact Deondra Roper, Volunteer Coordinator at 803.857.6053

Childcare Worker Position Opening
 The individual selected will provide care and supervision for children in a daycare-type environment. Lead games and activities for multiple children, keeping them engaged. Change diapers and/or clean children up after activities. The opening is a part time position and is available immediately. It is the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month (except Nov-Dec will be only the 2nd Thurs); 5:45 pm-8:15 pm (2.5 hrs per day).
Location is Hope Center Graniteville, SC.
 Skills and abilities required: experience with children; a positive, friendly demeanor and ability to stand, kneel, bend, stoop and lift up to 30 lbs. This position supports a program that is an affiliation of ACTS, Christ Central, FamCo, and HUGS, LLC. Beginning pay \$8.00/hr. Submit resume to carla@actsofaiken.org.



ACTS has a position opening that supports our Women's Enrichment Program, 'Coffee with JoJo'. If you have questions or need more information, please call Carla at ACTS, 649-3800.

Marian Eucharistic Conference
 The 4th Annual Marian Eucharistic Conference will be held in Greenville on November 4th and 5th. Please see the bulletin board or www.meconferencesc.net for more information.

ACTS is partnering with the Augusta/Aiken Warrior Project (AWP) to provide available assistance to local Warriors of all service branches, regardless of era of service or wounded status. 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.

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.

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

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@atlanticbnn.net.

BINGO
 Columbus Club Hall Every Monday at 7:10 PM till 9:00 PM 5 Cards \$ 10.00 Each Additional Card \$2.00

B I N G O				
1	16	40	47	72
12	18	50	74	
22		46	64	
8	17	32	68	
6	28	37	54	61

B I N G O				
5	29	42	52	68
14	17	38	60	75
7	22	49	62	
13	28	33	46	63
3	27	32		73

15 Regular Games \$20 Payout
1 Coverall Jackpot \$150 Payout