

GOTTLIEB'S QUICKWAY OPEN 24 HOURS 7 DAYS A WEEK (340) 774-1092 **L&G AUTO PARTS** Monday – Fridays 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (340) 774 - 5175 SERVICE IS OUR BUSINESS! **Religious articles for SALE** at the Cathedral's Gift Shop **Monday-Saturday** 7am **Open Sunday 9am** Serving Awesome breakfast selections 7am - 10:30am and Lunch 10:30am - 4:30pm: Grilled Sandwiches, Fresh Salads, Wraps, Fresh Local Fish, Conch in Butter Sauce, Stewed Meats, and Other Local Specialties. We Offer a Variety of drinks: Ginger Beer, Passion Fruit, Tamarind, Lemonade, Mike's Bloody Mary & Tropical Cocktails. Located on the waterfront above the Ferry Terminal. Visit us on Facebook 340-776-2976 petiter Pump Room Bar & Restaurant

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PRIESTS OF THE CATHEDRAL Rev. Fr. Modeste Digwou Rev. Fr. Andrew Lesko

DEACONS Rev. Mr. Wilfredo Acosta (Retired) Rev. Mr. Dan Daniel Rev. Mr. Frank Kearney Rev. Mr. José Vázquez

> **OFFICE HOURS** Monday - Friday 8:00AM - 4:00PM

Saturday 11:00 AM - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00AM - 2:00 p.m. **TELEPHONE: 340-774-0201**



Scan this QR Code to visit the Diocesan Website and/or to donate to the Bishop's Appeal.

WEEKENDS Saturday: 7:00AM, 4:30PM (Vigil Mass) Sunday: 6:30AM, 8:30AM, 10:30AM, and 12:15PM (Spanish)

WEEKDAYS Monday to Friday: 6:45AM Wednesday: 12:15PM **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Preaching the Good News to a Caribbean community according to the magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church. Furthering the faith of God's people with sound teaching and meaningful liturgies in keeping with the apostolic tradition. Promoting and implementing inclusive strategies to meet the needs of the people of God who worship at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral.

Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral

Post Office Box 301767, Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands 00803, Tel: 340-774-0201 Delivery: 2322 Kronprindsens Gade - Main Street, Charlotte Amalie, VI 00802 FedEx: 22 Kronprindsens Gade - Main Street, Charlotte Amalie, VI 00802 E-mail: cathedralvi@gmail.com Webpage: www.cathedralvi.org

Streaming of our Masses: Log on to our Webpage at www.cathedralvi.org and click on video streaming.

Apríl 30, 2023 *Fourth Sunday of Easter*





Wednesday from 7:30AM - 12:00PM

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Wednesday before Masses

MISSION STATEMENT *To continue the ministry* of Jesus Christ by:

CONFESSIONS Wednesday: 11:45AM - 12:10PM Saturday: 3:45PM - 4:25PM or by Request

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Every Sunday beginning with the 8:30AM Mass

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL **CONVENT** 340-774-0201 ext. 23

> Sister Adèle Gatsi Sister Sylverine Fola

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL **CATHOLIC SCHOOL** (JK-12)

PRINCIPAL Mrs. Maria Jules-Daniel, MLIS **OFFICE HOURS** Monday to Friday 8:00AM - 4:00PM 340-774-2199 or 340-774-5662

Scan this QR Code to visit the Cathedral Website and/or to make an online donation.



Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23: 1-6 Second Reading: 1 Peter 2: 20b-25 Gospel: John 10: 1-10

MEDITATION

FOURTH (4th) SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A. "GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY" by Rev. Fr. Modeste Digwou

Every year, on this 4th Sunday of Easter, the very famous parable of the Good Shepherd is read, in fragments. Contrary to certain mawkish and "bleating" representations, it does not evoke a peaceful pastoral scene: it is a weapon of combat. Jesus intended it for the Pharisees, his bitter opponents who accused him of being "possessed by Satan" (8:48) and who, together with the chief priests, were determined to have him killed as soon as possible. Jesus affirms the function that his Father has entrusted to him: to become the unique and definitive guide of men. And we must never forget that "the Pharisees" do not refer only to the group of Jewish adversaries of Jesus but to a mentality, a behavior, a hypocritical piety. And this dreadful drift can be found in any religion...including that of Jesus!

The only true guide of humanity

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever enters the sheepfold and does not go through the gate, but climbs in through another place, he is a thief and a bandit. He who enters through the gate is the shepherd, the shepherd of the sheep.

The doorkeeper opens it for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls each of them by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. They will never follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." I make my voice heard: Jesus' only weapon is his Word, the Good News that he never stopped proclaiming. In front of all audiences, in the city as well as in the villages, he speaks without guile, without intellectual pretension; he respects everyone, he does not violate consciences, he appeals to the freedom of each person. Besides, **He** is the word, the logos, the meaning, the reason.

I call my brewers, each by his name: Jesus does not enlist a mass, he does not hold any electoral speech to bait the crowd with random promises. His Word calls each one "by name", that is to say in a personal way: such a disciple will find a family, such another will leave everything to follow him on a difficult road, such another will carry a heavy handicap. But each one, in his own way, feels called and has a vocation. Jesus does not boast of his own qualities: those who trust him are those whom the Father gives him (10:29; 17:2-6-9), he receives them as gifts from his Father. They are "his sheep": his love for them is such that they are never alienated.

The Shepherd walks at their lead: Jesus is not a leader hiding in the back and sending his troops to the front. The Gospel shows him always walking at the head of his disciples, the first to be taunted, criticized, and insulted. And when danger threatens, he is the one who advances towards Judas and the troops who have come to arrest him. "I am the one; let these men go" (18:8). When it is a question of giving his life, it is he alone who offers himself.



Rev. Fr. Modeste Digwou Cathedral Administrator (340) 203-0607

MEDITATION (continued)

The brewers follow him because they know his voice: the disciples are not pilgrims in the Holy Land looking for unlikely remnants of Jesus. To follow him means to listen to what he says and to obey his Will in all faithfulness. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we think we know the Scriptures, but we don't. If the first Christians called themselves "disciples", it was not because they accepted a "discipline" but because they wanted to "learn" better and better the message of a Voice that commanded radical refusals and forced them to distance themselves from their surroundings.

They never follow a stranger because they don't know his voice. Bombarded by seductive messages, solicited by promises of happiness and fulfillment, the true disciple develops his instinct of faith which allows him to discern among all the Voice of his Lord. On the religious, social, and political levels, he flushes out the lies, he sniffs out the traps, he refuses to be led by the nose. For the disciple of Jesus is anything but "a sheep of Panurge".

Jesus the door to freedom and life

Jesus used this parable to address them, but they did not understand what he was talking about. So Jesus spoke again: "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All those who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters through me, he will be saved: he will be able to go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal, slaughter, and destroy. I have come so that people may have life, life in abundance.

And today's page ends with one of the most magnificent statements of Jesus, Shepherd and Gatekeeper:

"I have come that men may have life, life in superabundance".



DAILY READINGS EASTER WEEKDAYS

Monday, May 1, 2023 Saint Joseph the Worker First Reading: Acts 11: 1-18 Gospel: John 10: 11-18

Tuesday, May 2 , 2023 Saint Athanasius First Reading: Acts 11: 19-26 Gospel: John 10: 22-30

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 Saints Philip and James First Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-8 Gospel: John 14: 6-14

Thursday, May 4, 2023 First Reading: Acts 13: 13-25 Gospel: John 13: 16-20

> **Friday, May 5, 2023** First: Acts 13: 26-33 Gospel: John 14: 1-6

Saturday, May 6, 2023 First: Acts 13: 44-52 Gospel: John 14: 7-14



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in all things and desire You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You in the Sacrament, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; do not permit me ever to be separated from You. Amen.

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori)



7

FOR VOCATIONS

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin

O Lord of the harvest, your Word finds a home in our hearts, calls us to community, and invites us to generous ser-vices of the human family. Bless with courage and spirit your priestly people, called to full participation in the Body of Christ. May many choose to respond in public service to your call offered in Jesus' name. Amen

St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do Thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

St. Michael the Archangel Prayer

PASTORAL SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Baptisms are generally held on the last Sunday of the month. Requests for a different date and time will be honored to the extent possible. Parents and sponsors who have not yet received the required baptismal instruction are expected to do so by attending our baptismal preparation program. Call the parish office well in advance so that class arrangements can be made.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Anyone wishing to have his or her wedding celebrated at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral must contact the parish office 9-12 months prior to the celebration and talk to a priest for pre-wedding counseling. Please visit our website www.cathedralvi.org or call us at 340-774-0201. The Sacrament of Marriage is generally celebrated on a Saturday between the hours of 11:00AM and 2:00PM. Please contact the parish priest if you would like a different time for your wedding. (Note that Saturday mornings are reserved for cleaning and decorating the cathedral.)

VISITING AND ANNOINTING THE SICK:

If anyone in your family is sick or shut-in, please inform the parish office so that we can pray for them and arrange to visit them. Please note that the hospital does not notify us when Catholics are in the hospital. Please call the parish office to inform us of a Catholic in the hospital who needs to have a priest visit. Thank you!

FUNERAL MASSES:

Funeral Masses at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral are held on the designated day at 9:30AM. Please make arrangements with the Church office before the funeral home to assure availability of the date requested. The Funeral Program should read "Christian Burial" on the cover. If you would like a different time, please contact the parish priest. Viewings will not take place inside the cathedral. Funerals generally are not held on weekends (Saturday or Sunday). Thank you for your cooperation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BISHOP'S APPEAL:

We are reminded of our call to be "good stewards" of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and give an acceptable portion of our TIME, TALENT and TREASURE for the Kingdom of God. The Bishop's Appeal 2023 is a practical opportunity for you to practice your Catholic faith by serving Christ and His poor and needy brothers and sisters, Bethlehem Houses, Soup Kitchens and Evangelization Efforts.For your convenience, you may choose to make a pledge now and spread your payments over several months. Donations may be made in the form of cash, check, credit card or direct online payments. Please fill out the form in the brochure and make your checks payable to "Diocese of St. Thomas". Please see the brochure for further information. Thank You!

DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMAN:

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in the Virgin Islands will host their first Convention, 'An Afternoon with the Bishop and the Board'. All women and women's organizations are invited to attend. The Bishop would like to meet with all women and women's groups at the Convention, to dialogue with you and to bring awareness to the mission of the board. The St. Croix Meeting will be held at the St.Ann's Church on Sunday May 21, 2023, from 3-5 pm (light refreshments will be served). The St. Thomas/ St. John meeting has been postponed to a later date to be announced. Please contact the Chancery at (340) 774 3166 ext. 104 or email usviccw@gmail.com.

MONTH OF MARY:

May is the month of Mary and we are all invited to join in praying the rosary here at the cathedral daily before each mass.

JUBILEE YEAR PRAYER In preparation for the 250th Anniversary of presence in this territory

Eternal Father, In this, the Jubilee Year of Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, we praise you for all blessings we have received over the past 250 years of our existence. We bless you for the lives of all those who, throughout the centuries, have helped build this vibrant community of love and service. May they rest eternally in Your divine and merciful presence. We give you thanks for all the people who gather in this Cathedral to worship you, striving to turn away from sin and follow the teachings of the faithful disciples of your Son Jesus-Christ. May Your Holy Spirit continue to lead us on the path of faith, hope, and charity, so that in every aspect of our lives, and inspired by the example of our patron saints Peter and Paul, we may always be joyous witnesses of Jesus Christ in the world.

Amen

Rb. Senior Choir

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023 6:30AM + Mrs. Enid Niles Blyden

Rb Cleone J. Beverhoudt + Knolly Beazer - Rb. Marie Hansen (sister)

8:30AM Keeon Connor - Rb. his mother and family

10:30AM Faye Francois & family for healing

12:15PM People of the parish

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023 6:45AM + Karen Sewer - Rb. Cleone Creque and family

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023 6:45AM Deacons of the Diocese

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023 6:45AM Priests of the Diocese 12:15PM + Arthur Beazer - Rb. Doreen B. Peters, Dominic Beazer, & Pauline Beazer James

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023 6:45 AM Addison Alfred for success and protection Rb. himself

FRIDAY, MAY 5 2023 6:45 AM Elmirah Ferdinand's birthday -Rb. her mother + Dorvial Etienne - Rb. Vernelda Alexander

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023 7:00AM Andrew & Brittany Wedding Anniversary -Rb. their family

4:30PM Denise LaPlace - Rb. Serge LaPlace Holy Souls in Purgatory - Rb. Marcial LaPlace

CATECHESIS

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK OR EXTREME **UNCTION: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?** by Rev. Fr. Modeste Digwou

We no longer say 'extreme unction' but 'sacrament of the sick", we often hear in our parishes. But do these two expressions designate the same reality?

Formerly called 'extreme unction', it was the Second Vatican Council that redefined the sacrament of the sick. Today, the Church considers it to be a sacrament of life, to accompany those who are suffering, rather than the "last" of the sacraments, long associated with death. "The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC §1514) states: "The Anointing of the Sick is not only the sacrament of those who are at the end of their lives. It was the liturgical reform of 1972 that transformed the anointing into a sacrament of accompaniment, in response to the instruction received from St. James in his epistle:

30 de Abril, 2023

| | | OFFERTO WEEK'S OFF RENDA DE I | ERTO | | TED TO: | Thank |
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3. Attempt to maintain a social distance of six feet.

. Consider receiving Holy Communion in the hand

KEEP OUR SICK & SHUT-INS IN PRAYER

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PARISHIONERS:

HOME OR NURSING HOME

LENO ABRAHAM JENVILLE ANDREWS ORDETTE ANDREWS EDWIN ARROYO MONICA BIRKLEY EDRIS CALLWOOD DELITA DELAGARDE PRISCA DAVIS RITA DUNCAN DARIEL EVANS MICHAEL FARRINGTON JOKATA GARCÍA MERCEDES GARCÍA WILFRED GARDIER ALFREDO GASKIN ETLA V. GASKIN ERIC GRAF ESONIA HASSELL MILDRED HODGE KEITH JAMES ROSE MARIE JOSEPH EDITH LEBLĂNC BERECIA LEWIS GRACIELA MILLIN HUGO MOULON JOSEPH MORRELL ARACELY NICHOLSON LEIDA PIZARRO SONIA PIZARRO WALTON RAVARIERE PHYLLIS RODNEY CYRUS SAMPSON RAFAELA SANES PETRONA STANISLAUS CECILIA HILL-THOMAS LESTEL TURBE JOHN H. VENZEN ULRICA VIALET RUTH WALCOTT

ROY SCHNEIDER HOSPITAL

The hospital does not notify us when Catholics are in the hospital. Please call the parish office to inform us of a Catholic in the hospital who needs to have a priest visit. Thank you!



OFF-ISLAND BISHOP HERBERT A. BEVARD

FR. SIMON PETER OPIRA FR. JOHN SOLOMON JÄNET BENSON RENEL BREDY JOYCE CORREA **CELESTINE DAVIS** PRISCA DAVIS ALBERTA FOY LAVERNE FRANCIS DELTA GEORGE MAURITZER Y. GUMBS JOSEPH HODGE **WINIFRED HODGE** RITA KING STEPHANY LOUZAN GWYNNETH MOOLEAAR **IOSEPHINE NOCH** FELIX O'NEAL RAMÓN ORTIZ MIRIAM GARCIA RIIO ROSE ROBERTS VENIA SAKHRANI CARLOS SÁNCHEZ CÉSAR JULIO TIRADO LIAN VÁZQUEZ

Cuarto Domíngo de Pascua

Primera lectura: Hechos 2: 14a, 36-41 Salmo responsorial: Salmo 23: 1-6 Segunda lectura: 1 Pedro 2:20b-25 Evangelio: Juan 10:1-10

MEDITACIÓN CUARTO (4°) DOMINGO DE PASCUA, AÑO A. **"DOMINGO DEL BUEN PASTOR"** por el Rev. P. Modeste Digwou

Cada año, en este 4º domingo de Pascua, se lee en fragmentos la famosa parábola del Buen Pastor. Contrariamente a ciertas representaciones malhumoradas y "baladas", no evoca una escena pastoral pacífica: es un arma de combate. Jesús lo pretendía para los fariseos, sus acérrimos oponentes que lo acusaron de estar "poseído por Satanás" (8:48) y que, junto con los principales sacerdotes, estaban decididos a matarlo lo antes posible. Jesús afirma la función que su Padre le ha confiado: convertirse en guía único y definitivo de los hombres. Y nunca debemos olvidar que "los fáriseos" no se refieren sólo al grupo de adversarios judíos de Jesús, sino a una mentalidad, un comportamiento, una piedad hipócrita. Y esta terrible deriva se puede encontrar en cualquier religión... incluyendo el de Jesús!

La única guía verdadera de la humanidad

Jesús dijo a los fariseos: "Amén, amén, os digo que el que entra en el redil y no pasa por la puerta, sino que sube por otro lugar, es ladrón y bandido. El que entra por la puerta es el pastor, el pastor de las ovejas.

El portero se lo abre y las ovejas escuchan su voz. Él llama a cada uno de ellos por su nombre y los conduce. Cuando ha expulsado a todos los suyos, se adelanta a ellos, y las ovejas lo siguen, porque conocen su voz. Nunca seguirán a un extraño, sino que huirán de él, porque no conocen la voz de los extraños". Hago oír mi voz: la única arma de Jesús es su Palabra, la Buena Nueva que nunca dejó de proclamar. Frente a todos los públicos, tanto en la ciudad como en los pueblos, habla sin engaño, sin pretensiones intelectuales; Respeta a todos, no viola las conciencias, apela a la libertad de cada persona. Además, Él es la palabra, el logos, el significado, la razón.

Llamo a mis cerveceros, cada uno por su nombre: Jesús no recluta una misa, no tiene ningún discurso electoral para atraer a la multitud con promesas al azar. Su Palabra llama a cada uno "por su nombre", es decir, de manera personal: tal discípulo encontrará una familia, tal otro dejará todo para seguirlo en un camino difícil, tal otro llevará una pesada desventaja. Pero cada uno, a su manera, se siente llamado y tiene una vocación. Jesús no se jacta de sus propias cualidades: los que confían en él son aquellos que el Padre le da (10,29; 17,2-6-9), los recibe como dones de su Padre. Son "sus ovejas": su amor por ellas es tal que nunca se alienan.

El Pastor camina a su ejemplo: Jesús no es un líder escondido en la parte de atrás y enviando sus tropas al frente. El Evangelio lo muestra siempre caminando a la cabeza de sus discípulos, los primeros en ser burlados, criticados e insultados. Y cuando el peligro amenaza, él es el que avanza hacia Judas y las tropas que han venido a arrestarlo. "Yo soy el indicado; deja ir a estos hombres" (18:8). Cuando se trata de dar la vida, sólo él se ofrece.

NUESTRA IGLESIA Y NUESTRA **ESCUELA SON AMBIENTES SEGUROS:**

Todos estamos comprometidos con la protección de los niños en nuestras instituciones. Si nota algún comportamiento nocivo hacia nuestros hijos, no dude en ponerse en contacto con nósotros lo antes posible. Gracias.

MEDITACIÓN (continuado)

Los cerveceros lo siguen porque conocen su voz: los discípulos no son peregrinos en Tierra Santa en busca de restos improbables de Jesús. Seguirlo significa escuchar lo que dice y obedecer su Voluntad con toda fidelidad. Al igual que los discípulos en el camino a Emaús, creemos que conocemos las Escrituras, pero no las conocemos. Si los primeros cristianos se llamaban a sí mismos "discípulos", no era porque aceptaran una "disciplina", sino porque querían "aprender" cada vez mejor el mensaje de una Voz que ordenaba negativas radicales y los obligaba a distanciarse de su entorno. Nunca siguen a un extrañoque usa beca, no conocen su voz. Bombardeado por mensajes seductores, solicitados por promesas de felicidad y realización, el verdadero discípulo desarrolla su instinto de fe que le permite discernir entre todos la Voz de su Señor. A nivel religioso, social y político, elimina las mentiras, olfatea las trampas, se niega a dejarse llevar por la nariz. Porque el discípulo de esús es cualquier cosa menos "una oveja de Panurge". Jesús la puerta a la libertad y a la vida Jesús usó esta parábola para dirigirse a ellos, pero ellos no entendieron de lo que estaba hablando. Entonces Jesús habló de nuevo: "Amén, amén, os digo: Yo soy la puerta de las ovejas. Todos los que vinieron antes que vo son ladrones y ladrones, pero las ovejas no los escucharon. Yo soy la puerta. Si alguien entra a través de mí, será salvo: podrá entrar y salir y encontrar pasto. El ladrón viene sólo para robar, matar y destruir. He venido para que la gente tenga vida, vida en abundancia. Y la página de hoy termina con una de las declaraciones más magníficas de Jesús, Pastor y Portero: "He venido para que los hombres tengan vida, vida en superabundancia".

ANUNCIOS

CONSEJO DIOCESANO DE LA MUJER CATÓLICA:

El Consejo Diocesano de Mujeres Católicas organizará su primera Convención, "Una tarde con el obispo y la Junta". Todas las mujeres y organizaciones de mujeres están invitadas a asistir. La reunión de St. Croix se llevará a cabo en la Iglesia de St. Ann el domingo 21 de mayo de 2023, y la reunión de St. Thomas / St. John se llevará a cabo en la Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo el domingo 28 de mayo de 2023. Ambas reuniones serán de 3 a 5 p.m. Comuníquese con la Cancillería al (340) 774-3166 ext. 104 o envíe un correo electrónico usviccw@gmail.com para obtener más información.

CONSEJO DIOCESANO DE LA MUJER CATÓLICA:

El Consejo Diocesano de Mujeres Católicas en las Islas Vírgenes organizará su primera Convención, 'Una tarde con el obispo y la Junta'. Todas las mujeres y organizaciones de mujeres están invitadas a asistir. Al Obispo le gustaría reunirse con todas las mujeres y grupos de mujeres en la Convención, para dialogar con ustedes y dar a conocer la misión de la junta. La reunión de St. Croix se llevará a cabo en la Iglesia de Santa Ana el domingo 21 de mayo de 2023, de 3 a 5 pm (se servirán refrigerios ligeros). La reunión de Santo Tomás / San Juan se ha pospuesto para una fecha posterior que se anunciará. Comuníquese con la Cancillería al (340) 774 3166 ext. 104 o envíe un correo electrónico usviccw@gmail.com.

MES DE MARÍA;

Mayo es el mes de María y todos estamos invitados a unirnos para rezar el rosario aquí en la catedral todos los días antes de cada misa.

OUR CHURCH AND OUR SCHOOL ARE SAFE ENVIRONMENTS:

We are all committed to the protection of the children in our institutions. If you notice any harmful behavior toward our children, do not hesitate to contact us as soon as possible. Thank you.

CATECHESIS (continued from page 3) by Rev. Fr. Modeste Digwou

"Is one of you ill? Let him call the elders in charge of the Church: they will pray over him after having anointed him with oil in the name of the Lord. This prayer inspired by faith will save the sick person: the Lord will raise him up and, if he has committed sins, he will receive forgiveness" (Jas 5:14-15). The ritual of the anointing of the sick, promulgated by Paul VI on November 30, 1972, thus modifies the sacramental formula of the Council of Trent, which gave the sacrament its name of extreme unction, modifying its previous name: the first Christians already called it "anointing of the sick" or "sacrament of the dying". The nature of the sacrament, however, has not changed: the Council of Trent already declared that extreme unction "is administered as a true remedy" ("On the Sacraments", §II), without being reserved "for the moment when all hope of recovery is lost".

*The sacrament of the sick: a special help in times of trial

Thus, the Church tells us, "the sacrament of the sick is intended to give special help to a Christian facing the difficulties of a serious illness or old age. However, any baptized person can receive this sacrament several times, each time he or she is afflicted with a serious illness, whether mental or physical.

And since the sacraments are the acts that make visible an invisible reality, just as the sacrament of reconciliation signifies the forgiveness of sins, the sacrament of the sick is what manifests the presence of God at the side of the one who suffers in trial, whether it be illness or old age. "The appropriate time to receive the sacrament is when the faithful begin to be in danger of death because of physical weakness or old age," the Council states.

*A grace of comfort, peace and courage

"Sacramentals are the sacred signs instituted by the Church whose purpose is to prepare men to receive the fruit of the sacraments and to sanctify the various circumstances of life" (CCC §1677). The celebration of this sacrament is based on the use of sacramentals: the laying on of hands and the anointing with oil, consecrated by the bishop during the Chrism Mass. This oil penetrates the skin to spread its good odor and strengthen the body. "By this holy anointing, may the Lord in his great goodness comfort you with the grace of the Holy Spirit," the celebrant proclaims as he smears the forehead and palms of the patient. These gestures recall those that Jesus himself taught his disciples, when he washed the eyes of the blind, straightened the lame or healed the sick.

By repeating Christ's gestures, the priest, through the Lord who consecrated him, makes visible the grace of comfort, peace and courage to the suffering person, to sustain him in the face of the temptations of discouragement and in the anguish of death.