

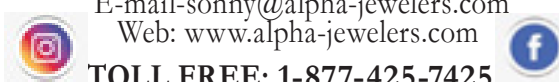


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~ Hebrews 13:16



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June 25, 2023

The Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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Rev. Fr. Andrew Lesko

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Rev. Mr. Dan Daniel
Rev. Mr. Frank Kearney
Rev. Mr. José Vázquez

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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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday from 7:30AM - 12:00PM
Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wednesday before Masses

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To continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by:

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.

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

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

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Jeremiah 20: 10-13
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 69: 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35
Second Reading: Romans 5: 12-15
Gospel: Matthew 10: 26-33

MEDITATION

“Don’t Stop in the Face of Obstacles”
By: Rev. Fr. Modeste DIGWOU

Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, May peace and grace be granted to you in His name, in communion with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

The readings for this 12th ordinary Sunday of the liturgical year A invite us not to stop in the face of the obstacles we encounter in our mission to proclaim the Gospel.

All the baptized have been given the mission to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth, as Jesus asked his disciples to do when he parted company with them. But the baptized are supposed to know that this mission can sometimes run into obstacles that can even paralyze their apostolic impetus. These obstacles include discouragement on the part of others, the shame of presenting oneself as a follower of Jesus, and the fear of bearing witness. And behind all these obstacles, it is in fact the Evil One who is subtly maneuvering to combat God’s work. It’s up to the disciples of Jesus to remain vigilant and courageously pursue their mission.

With regard to discouragement, it sometimes happens that people around us try to convince anyone who does good or proclaims the word, to show them that it’s not worth it. Jeremiah, in the first reading, was slandered by the crowd, who threatened to denounce him unjustly.

When it comes to the shame of proclaiming the Word, Christians are sometimes embarrassed to talk about Jesus in certain circles. Careful to safeguard their own image, they accommodate themselves to the language of their contemporaries and fear appearing old-fashioned or out-of-date when talking about Jesus. Jesus tells them in the Gospel that whoever denies him before men will also deny him before his Father in heaven.

Finally, fear is a major obstacle. Proclaiming the gospel can be a perilous undertaking, especially in environments hostile to the gospel. The disciples are confronted with the fear of losing their own lives. This is where Jesus exhorts us not to be afraid of those who can kill the body without having any power over our soul. For our soul belongs totally to God.

Meditation (continued)

In fact, Jesus took care to warn his disciples of the difficulty of the mission he entrusted to them, and of the trials they would face. “Behold, I send you out like sheep among wolves. [...] You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But he who perseveres to the end will be saved. (Cf. St Matthew, 10,16 ;22). So, Jesus did not hide the risks from his disciples, reminding them that the disciple is not above his master!

Instead, Jesus asks us to fear death or the loss of the soul. In the second reading, Saint Paul also shows that true death comes with sin. It is eternal death or the death of the soul. So, there’s a call to avoid sin in order to preach the gospel not just in words, but also through virtuous living.

It’s up to us to take care not only of our own souls, but also those of our neighbors. As disciples of Jesus, we have a responsibility to nurture the life of the soul through the proclamation of the gospel. For, whatever the obstacles, the word of God must go on. We can draw inspiration from the many martyrs who did not back down in the face of various obstacles. They bore witness to the Gospel to the point of giving their lives.

Do not be afraid,” says Jesus, “you are worth more than a multitude of sparrows.

Dear friends, brothers and sisters, faith -trust- in God is not the result of a demonstration. It is a gift that is given to everyone, and that each person is free to accept or refuse. When I trust someone, I don’t trust them because they deserve it, or because they’ve proved themselves worthy of my trust...

In the light of these readings, let us ask for the grace to trust more in the God who knows us and always watches over us, and may this assurance strengthen us in our mission to proclaim the gospel in season and out of season, Amen.

Prayer to Saints Peter and Paul

(courtesy catholicreadigs.org)

Oh, Lord our God, Saints Peter and Paul steered the early Church by Your Power and were leaders who modelled and strengthened the faith of the Church. Therefore; I ask Saints Peter and Paul to pray for my faith to grow stronger and stronger every day.

In his second letter to St Timothy, St Paul reminded him to stir into flame the gift of God that he had.

I plead with Saints Peter and Paul to pray for me to become mature spiritually. Wherever I become an infant in my relationship with You, weak and uncertain, help me, O Lord, to increase in faith and trust.

Dear Lord, Enkindle Your fire that flickers inside me and let it become a big flame that brightens other people’s lives. Saints Peter and Paul, pray for me. Amen.



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*Pray
without
ceasing*
1 Thessalonians 5:17

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)




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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

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.



DAILY READINGS
TWELFTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Monday, June 26, 2023
First Reading: Genesis 13: 1-9
Gospel: Matthew 7: 1-5

Tuesday, June 27, 2023
Saint Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
First Reading: Genesis 13: 2, 5-18
Gospel: Matthew 7: 6, 12-14

Wednesday, June 28, 2023
Saint Irenaeus, Bishop Martyr
First Reading: Genesis 1 5: 1-12, 17-18
Gospel: Matthew 7: 15-20

Thursday, June 29, 2023
Saints Peter & Paul Apostles
First Reading: Acts: 12: 1-11
Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-19

Friday, June 30, 2023
The First Martyrs of the Roman Catholic Church
First Reading: Genesis 17: 1, 9-10, 15-22
Gospel: Matthew 8: 1-4

Saturday, July 1, 2023
Saint Junipero Serra, Priest
First Reading: Genesis 18: 1-15
Gospel: Matthew 8:5-17



The beautiful flowers on the main altar are to celebrate the birthday of Gail Shulterbrandt, Lillia King, and Elma Moolenaar Francis; additionally, the flowers are for the patronal feast day of Saints Peter and Paul.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CATHOLIC VOICE:
Every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. We are pleased to announce that our diocese has been blessed with a new weekly Television and Radio Program, titled the “The Catholic Voice” we will be airing our program every Wednesday 5:00 p.m./ Replay on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. on Television, and on Sundays 6:00 p.m. on CBN (Caribbean Super Station) Radio frequency 90.0 FM to promote our mission, visions, and objectives.

SAINTS PETER & PAUL FEAST:
Saints Peter and Paul Feast Day is on Thursday, June 29th; however, we will celebrate the Feast at all our masses at the Cathedral this weekend. The 250th Anniversary Jubilee Committee would like to invite everyone after each mass for refreshments in the Hospitality Lounge.

250th ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE DIOCES PICNIC:
The picnic, held last Monday at Magen’s Bay, was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who participated. It was truly a joyous and fun-filled event. Thanks to everyone who worked behind the scenes with the planning and food preparation.

BISHOP’S APPEAL 2023:
We are grateful to all those who have donated to the Bishop’s Appeal. Our schools, Catholic Charities, and Evangelization efforts still need everyone’s support! Your gift helps feed the hungry and gives safe shelter to mothers and children in desperate need. For your convenience, you can still make a pledge and pay it in installments. The Bishop’s Appeal 2023 will formally end on **December 31, 2023**, so you have ample time to fulfill your pledge. For your convenience, you may choose to make a pledge now and spread your donation over the next 6 months. Donations may be made in the form of cash, check or credit card. Checks should be made payable to “Diocese of St. Thomas”. Please see the brochure for further information.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, June 24, 2023
7:00AM Humphrey, Hendricks, & Larsen families - Rb. Pearla Larsen and family
4:30PM † Deceased Creseta Carty - Rb. the Carty, Sturdivant, and Farrington families
† Deceased Theodore and Ann Boschulte - Rb their family

SUNDAY, June 25, 2023
6:30AM Special Intention - Rb. Marcial LaPlace
8:30AM † Deceased Dale Garee & Ronald S. Lockhart Rb. family and friends
10:30AM † Deceased Joan & Mary Rose Benjamin - Rb. the Connell & Watlington families
12:15PM

MONDAY, June 26, 2023
6:45AM †Deceased Dale Garee & Ronald S. Lockhart Rb. family and friends

TUESDAY, June 27, 2023
6:45AM Priests of the Diocese

WEDNESDAY, June 28, 2023
6:45AM Yvonne Mills Birthday Blessings - Rb. her children
12:15PM † Deceased Dale Garee & Ronald S. Lockhart - Rb. family and friends

THURSDAY, June 29, 2023
6:45AM † Deceased Dale Garee & Ronald S. Lockhart Rb. family and friends

FRIDAY, June 30, 2023
6:45AM †Deceased Dale Garee & Ronald S. Lockhart Rb. family and friends

SATURDAY, July 1, 2023
7:00AM Sister Sylverine Fola - Rb. a parishioner
4:30PM † Lionel Boschulte - Rb. his family and friends

Hurricane Prayer

God, All-powerful Father, Christ, Our Savior, Spirit of Love, You reveal yourself in the depths of our being, drawing us to share in Your life and love. Be near to the people formed in in Your image, close to the world Your love brings to life.

Save us from all harm, draw us ever closer to You as we confidently seek Your protection from the destructive force of all storms which frighten us. Let every hurricane or natural threat of disaster serve only to blow us ever more securely into Your loving, merciful embrace.

We ask this, Father, with the intercession of the Virgin Mother, Mary, Lady of all Nations, through your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Duodécimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Primera lectura: Jeremías 20:10-13
Salmo responsorial: Salmo 69: 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35
Segunda lectura: Romanos 5:12-15
Evangelio: Mateo 10:26-33

Meditación

“No te detengas ante los obstáculos”
Por: Rev. P. Modeste DIGWOU

Hermanos y hermanas en Cristo Jesús, que se os conceda la paz y la gracia en su nombre, en comunión con el Padre y el Espíritu Santo.

Las lecturas para este 12º domingo ordinario del año litúrgico A nos invitan a no detenernos ante los obstáculos que encontramos en nuestra misión de anunciar el Evangelio.

A todos los bautizados se les ha dado la misión de difundir el evangelio hasta los confines de la tierra, como Jesús pidió a sus discípulos que hicieran cuando se separó de ellos. Pero se supone que los bautizados deben saber que esta misión a veces puede encontrarse con obstáculos que incluso pueden paralizar su ímpetu apostólico. Estos obstáculos incluyen el desaliento por parte de los demás, la vergüenza de presentarse como un seguidor de Jesús y el miedo a dar testimonio. Y detrás de todos estos obstáculos, es de hecho el Maligno quien está maniobrando sutilmente para combatir la obra de Dios. Depende de los discípulos de Jesús permanecer vigilantes y perseguir valientemente su misión. Con respecto al desánimo, a veces sucede que las personas que nos rodean intentan convencer a cualquiera que haga el bien o proclame la palabra, para mostrarles que no vale la pena. Jeremías, en la primera lectura, fue calumniado por la multitud, que amenazó con denunciarlo injustamente.

Cuando se trata de la vergüenza de proclamar la Palabra, los cristianos a veces se avergüenzan de hablar de Jesús en ciertos círculos. Con cuidado de salvaguardar su propia imagen, se acomodan al lenguaje de sus contemporáneos y temen parecer anticuados o anticuados cuando hablan de Jesús. Jesús les dice en el Evangelio que quien lo niega delante de los hombres también lo negará ante su Padre en el cielo.

Finalmente, el miedo es un obstáculo importante. Proclamar el evangelio puede ser una empresa peligrosa, especialmente en ambientes hostiles al evangelio. Los discípulos se enfrentan con el temor de perder sus propias vidas. Aquí es donde Jesús nos exhorta a no tener miedo de aquellos que pueden matar el cuerpo sin tener ningún poder sobre nuestra alma. Porque nuestra alma pertenece totalmente a Dios.

De hecho, Jesús se encargó de advertir a sus discípulos de la dificultad de la misión que les había confiado y de las pruebas que enfrentarían. “He aquí, te envío como ovejas entre lobos. [...] Serás odiado por todos por amor a mi nombre. Pero el que persevera hasta el fin será salvo. (Cf. San Mateo, 10,16-22). Por lo tanto, Jesús no ocultó los riesgos de sus discípulos, recordándoles que el discípulo no está por encima de su maestro.

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 nosotros lo antes posible. Gracias.

Meditación
continuado

En cambio, Jesús nos pide que temamos a la muerte o a la pérdida del alma. En la segunda lectura, San Pablo también muestra que la verdadera muerte viene con el pecado. Es la muerte eterna o la muerte del alma. Por lo tanto, hay un llamado a evitar el pecado para predicar el evangelio no solo con palabras, sino también a través de una vida virtuosa.

Depende de nosotros cuidar no solo de nuestras propias almas, sino también de las de nuestros vecinos. Como discípulos de Jesús, tenemos la responsabilidad de nutrir la vida del alma a través de la proclamación del evangelio. Porque, cualesquiera que sean los obstáculos, la palabra de Dios debe continuar. Podemos inspirarnos en los muchos mártires que no retrocedieron ante los diversos obstáculos. Dieron testimonio del Evangelio hasta el punto de dar su vida.

No tengáis miedo”, dice Jesús, “valéis más que una multitud de gorriones. Queridos amigos, hermanos y hermanas, la fe -la confianza- en Dios no es el resultado de una demostración. Es un regalo que se da a todos, y que cada persona es libre de aceptar o rechazar. Cuando confío en alguien, no confío en ellos porque se lo merecen, o porque han demostrado ser dignos de mi confianza... A la luz de estas lecturas, pidamos la gracia de confiar más en el Dios que nos conoce y vela siempre por nosotros, y que esta seguridad nos fortalezca en nuestra misión de anunciar el Evangelio a tiempo y fuera de tiempo, amén.

ANUNCIOS

LA VOZ CATÓLICA:

Todos los miércoles a las 5:00 p.m. Nos complace anunciar que nuestra diócesis ha sido bendecida con un nuevo programa semanal de televisión y radio, titulado “La voz católica”, transmitiremos nuestro programa todos los miércoles a las 5:00 p.m. / Repetición el domingo a la 1:30 p.m. en televisión, y los domingos a las 6:00 p.m. en CBN (Caribbean Super Station) Radiofrecuencia 90.0 FM para promover nuestra misión, visiones y objetivos.

FIESTA DE LOS SANTOS PEDRO Y PABLO:

La fiesta de los Santos Pedro y Pablo es el jueves 29 de junio; sin embargo, celebraremos la fiesta en todas nuestras misas en la Catedral este fin de semana. El Comité del Jubileo del 250 Aniversario desea invitar a todos después de cada misa a tomar un refrigerio en el Hospitality Lounge.

PICNIC DIOCES JUBILAR DEL 250 ANIVERSARIO:

El picnic, celebrado el lunes pasado en Magen's Bay, fue un gran éxito. Gracias a todos los que participaron. Fue realmente un evento alegre y lleno de diversión. Gracias a todos los que trabajaron entre bastidores con la planificación y preparación de alimentos.

LLAMAMIENTO DEL OBISPO 2023:

Estamos agradecidos a todos aquellos que han donado a la Campaña del Obispo. ¡Nuestras escuelas, Caridades Católicas y esfuerzos de evangelización todavía necesitan el apoyo de todos! Su donación ayuda a alimentar a los hambrientos y brinda refugio seguro a madres y niños que lo necesitan desesperadamente. Para su comodidad, aún puede hacer una promesa y pagarla en cuotas. La Apelación del Obispo 2023 terminará formalmente el 31 de diciembre de 2023, por lo que tiene tiempo suficiente para cumplir su promesa. Para su comodidad, puede optar por hacer una promesa ahora y distribuir su donación durante los próximos 6 meses. Las donaciones pueden hacerse en efectivo, cheque o tarjeta de crédito. Los cheques deben hacerse a nombre de “Diócesis de Santo Tomás”. Consulte el folleto para obtener más información.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION
WILL BE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:
June 25, 2023 - Peter's Pence

OFFERTORY / OFERTORIO
LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY AMOUNTED TO:
LA OFRENDA DE LA SEMANA PASADA SUMÓ

	JUNE 18, 2023	
	(Diocesan seminarians 2nd)	
4:30PM	\$ 449.00	\$ 242.00
6:30AM	\$ 936.00	\$ 337.75
8:30AM	\$ 1,393.25	\$ 131.00
10:30AM	\$ 929.65	\$ 170.50
12:15PM	\$ <u>303.00</u>	\$ <u>0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 4,010.90	\$ 881.25
Music Ministry 8:30 AM	\$304.00,	10:30AM \$217.00, 12:15PM \$195.00 = \$716.00
Wed: 12:15 PM	\$71.00	June 15, 2023 Memorial Mass \$553.00

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Income:		Expenses:	
Collection:	\$19, 793.69	Parish Life & Worship:	\$ 22,395.70
Other Income:	\$ 6, 570.72	Utilities(WAPA, Telephone, Interent)	\$ <u>7,416.66</u>
Donation/Contribution:	\$ 101.00	Total Expenses:	\$ 29,812.36
Youth Ministry:	\$ 1,416.35		
Fundraising:	\$ (3,725.00)	Total Income:	\$ 28,834.19
Building Fund:	\$ <u>4,677.43</u>	Total Expenses:	\$ <u>29,812.36</u>
Total Income	\$ 28,834.19		(978.17)

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 GARCIA
MERCEDES GARCIA
WILFRED GARDIER
ALFREDO GASKIN
ETLA V. GASKIN
ERIC GRAF
MARIA GRIFFIN
ESONIA HASSELL
MILDRED HODGE
KEITH JAMES
ROSE MARIE JOSEPH
EDITH LEBLANC
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
JANET BENSON
RENEL BREDY
JOYCE CORREA
CELESTINE DAVIS
PRISCA DAVIS
KENNETH DE'GOUT
ALBERTA FOY
LAVERNE FRANCIS
DELTA GEORGE
MAURITZER Y. GUMBS
LOUISE HASSELL ARMSTRONG
JOSEPH HODGE
WINIFRED HODGE
RITA KING
STEPHANY LOUZAN
GWYNNETH MOOLENAAR
JOSEPHINE NOCH
FELIX O'NEAL
RAMÓN ORTIZ
MIRIAM GARCIA RIJO
ROSE ROBERTS
VENIA SAKHRANI
CARLOS SANCHEZ
CÉSAR JULIO TIRADO
LIAN VÁZQUEZ



CATECHESIS

SOLEMNITY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

By: Rev. Fr. Modeste DIGWOU

The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, or Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, is a liturgical feast celebrated on June 29 in honor of the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul. It is the patron saint of our cathedral. This year, the 250th anniversary of the cathedral will be celebrated on Sunday June 25 by His Excellency Jerome Feudjio, Bishop of the Diocese of Saint Thomas, at the 10:30 mass.

According to the Catholic calendar of saints, it is celebrated as a solemnity. In the 1962 general Roman calendar, it is defined as a first-class feast. In England and Wales, it is celebrated as a perceptual day, which is not the case in the USA and Canada. In Malta, it's a public holiday.

In the Catholic tradition, this is the day of the liturgical year when newly-created metropolitans receive the pallium, the main symbol of their title, from the Pope. Since January 29, 2015, Pope Francis has decided that it is no longer the pope who will impose the pallium on the new metropolitan archbishop, but the apostolic nuncio in the archbishop's cathedral. However, the new archbishops will continue to travel to Rome on June 29 to attend the blessing of the new pallium in St. Peter's Basilica, where they will receive the pallium privately from Pope Francis and have it imposed on them later.

Saints Peter and Paul: Two Martyrs, One Solemnity

Under the reign of Nero, Peter and Paul were martyred. Pillars of the Catholic Church, the patron saints of the city of Rome are celebrated on June 29. “Peter and Paul both accepted God's love and allowed themselves to be transformed by his mercy, becoming his witnesses and friends. This is why the Church celebrates their memory, for they still show us today the way to salvation”, the words are from Pope Francis, during his Angelus on June 29, 2014. Patron saints who “transmitted the Gospel of Christ”, according to Pope Clement, bishop of the city between 92 and 99.

Who were they?

Simon, who later became **Peter**, was a Galilean sinner living in Capernaum on the shores of Lake Tiberias. Saul, before becoming **Paul**, was a Pharisaic Jew, a literate citizen of the city of Tarsus in Asia Minor. Both had their lives turned upside down by the call of Christ. **Peter** left his nets to follow Jesus: “And he said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of me. They immediately left their nets and followed him”, according to Matthew's Gospel. **Paul**, for his part, met Christ on the road to Damascus; blinded by a dazzling light, thrown to the ground, he heard “a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me” (Acts 9).

Martyred Under Nero

Both saints were martyred in Rome during the Neronian persecutions, between 64 and 67. Peter was crucified upside down in the Vatican circus; Paul was beheaded on the road to Ostia.

Why June 29?

Saints Peter and Paul are celebrated not only by the Catholic Church, but also by Orthodox and Eastern Christians. June 29 is the date on which Scripture records the martyrdom of Peter, crucified upside down.

It is on this date that the Supreme Pontiff blesses the palliums destined for the archbishops appointed during the past year. The pallium, a piece of white woolen cloth worn over the chasuble, was adopted by popes between the 5th and 9th centuries.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Please be aware that during the COVID-19 pandemic, we recommend the following practices:
1. Wear a face covering in the cathedral.
2. Sanitize your hands.
3. Attempt to maintain a social distance of six feet.
4. Consider receiving Holy Communion in the hand.