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"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
~ Hebrews 13:16



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Log on to our Webpage at www.cathedralvi.org and click on **video streaming**.

May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter



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

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

MISSION STATEMENT

To continue the ministry
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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.

CONFESSIONS

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 6: 1-7
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19
Second Reading: 1 Peter 2: 4-9
Gospel: John 14: 1-12

MEDITATION

RELFECTION FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER
BY FR. DOMINIC UKAGBA

Readings: Acts 6:1-7, Psalms 32 (33), 1Peter 2:4-9
Gospel: John .14:1-12

Theme: Be Generous With Your God Given Talents

This Sunday is also called, “CANTATE SUNDAY” or singing Sunday (Cantate Domino), derived from today’s introit as is assigned for this day from the Roman Rite Missal.

We hear from the first reading of today (Acts .6:1-7), how the early Christians through the instrumentality of the Apostles, chose the seven Deacons who would be at the service of the table for the daily distribution of food, so that the Apostles would concentrate themselves to Prayer, and to the Ministration or the preaching of the Word of God. It gave the deacons the possibility of helping the Priests in the work of Evangelization, and making specification of duties and talents ,too. The lay Christians on their part bring their gifts and gather in support of the work of God, the Apostles inspired by the Holy Spirit, break and interpret the word of God to the people in an honest and sincere manner without distraction, and the deacons appointed, help to distribute the material need or welfare to the people in just distribution, and fairness, not in pride. Anyone who has the true spirit to work for God must be called, trained, prayed over, and sent, as we saw today in the first reading. Anyone who calls himself or herself is not of the sheepfold, and the fruit of his or her arrogant words and works will show such a person as not belonging to Christ. Through Baptism, all Christians are called to know and serve God in different capacities, and we must kind ,generous and truthful with such gifts, so as to win other souls to God ,not for us to be seen. God chooses and qualifies those he wants into His royal family (1Peter 2:4-9). And anyone who puts his trust in God shall never be disappointed. To the unbelievers, God chose the rejected stones by builders, but He makes them a corner stone to be agents of His Gospel message. The Apostles themselves were ordinary people of the society not really valued, but God chose them to be the earthenware of the Gospel treasures. See it to yourselves that you are called ,and seek God’s face in all you demand He will count you among the royal priesthood of all the believing Christians.

MEDITATION (continued)

Do not be troubled by you sins of many years, God will forgive them when you truly asks for His mercy and pardon, now is a favorable time to trust God, there are still many rooms in His Father’s Kingdom as He promised, and He has risen from the dead to go and prepare the place for anyone who may come to believe in His name and sincerely do His will. He, Jesus, is the only way to God the Father, no one can by-pass Him through other means to go to heaven, and that is one of the reasons why we must believe in Him and trust His works always, in all we do as Christians.(John 14:6.11-13).



DAILY READINGS
EASTER WEEKDAYS

Monday, May 8, 2023

First Reading: Acts 14: 15-18
Gospel: John 14: 21-26

Tuesday, May 9 , 2023

First Reading: Acts 14: 19-28
Gospel: John 14: 27-31a

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Saints John of Avila & Saint Damien de Venster
First Reading: Acts 15: 1-6
Gospel: John 15: 1-8

Thursday, May 11, 2023

First Reading: Acts 15: 7-21
Gospel: John 15: 9-11

Friday, May 12, 2023

Saints Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs; Saint Pancras, Martyr
First: Acts 15: 22-31
Gospel: John 15: 12-17

Saturday, May 13, 2023

Our Lady of Fatima
First: Acts 16: 1-10
Gospel: John 15: 18-21

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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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Upcoming Events

1.**Mother Day:** May 14, 2023

2.**Ascension of Our Lord:** Thursday, May 18 transferred to Sunday, May 21; Two masses are planned for this Ascension Thursday; 6:45am and 5:30pm

3.**Pentecost Sunday:** May 28. A Novena to the Holy Spirit is planned and other activities for the Hispanic Community

4.**Holy Trinity Sunday:** June 4: Confirmations are scheduled at SPPC for all St. Thomas parishes.

5.**Corpus Christi:** June 11: First Communion is scheduled here at SPPC at 8:30AM and the procession with the Blessed Sacrament from the Hurley Funeral hall to the cathedral at 4:30PM under police escort.

6 **Diocesan Family Picnic** June 19 at Magen’s Bay starting from 12:00pm Adult and Children activities are planned. All parishes are invited.

BISHOP’S APPEAL 2023

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!

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
Please return the Bishop’s Appeal envelopes with your contribution. Thank you for your generosity.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMAN
There will be a big meeting of all the Catholic women of the Diocese with the Bishop on May 21, 2023 at St. Ann’s Church for the women of St. Croix and on June 4, 2023 at the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul at 3:00pm for all the women of St. Thomas. All women are expected to attend.

MONTH OF MARY:
For this Month of Mary we are invited to pray daily the Rosary as a Family, Community or Individually. Here at the Cathedral the rosary is said before each mass. We encourage the faithful to offer their prayer intentions to the Virgin Mary and to light candles for her. Candles are available at the church office for \$5 and small candles inside the church for \$1. Place all your written prayer intentions at the feet of the virgin and we will collect them. The closing of this month of Mary will take place on May 31 at all masses: 6:30 am; 12:15 pm and 5:30 pm.

BLESSING OF HOUSES FOR MAY:
In this month of May, the priests will visit and bless houses. If you are interested in having your homes blessed, please sign up at the Church office.

AFRICAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS:
The African Eucharistic Congress will be held from July 21 to July, 23, 2023 in Washington, D.C. If you are interested in taking part, please let us know.

BAPTISM:
The next Sacrament of Baptism for infants will take place on May 28, 2023. Please register at the church office if you would like to have your child baptized.

OFFETORY ENVELOPES:
The offertory envelopes are here and can be picked up in the Hospitality Lounge after each mass. Please check with the Church office if you need offertory envelopes. Thank you for your support.

JUBILEE YEAR PRAYER

In preparation for the 250th Anniversary

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

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023
6:30AM Sherece Isidore (Birthday) Rb. her mother
8:30AM Thanksgiving Mass in Honor of St. Jude Rb. Bernadine

10:30AM † Enid Niles Blyden - Rb. Cleone J. Beverhoudt
12:15PM

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2023
6:45AM Lita Daniel (Birthday) Rb. her husband, Danny

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023
6:45AM † Teddy Larsen - Rb. Pearla Larsen and family
† Ann S. Boschulte - Rb. The Boschulte family

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023
6:45AM Fr. Louis Kemayou
12:15PM † Maria DeGraff - Rb. her family

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023
6:45 AM Lana Trotman - Rb. herself

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023
6:45 AM Nichel Daniel Rb. Auntie Avis

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023
7:00AM † Faye Elskoe-Liburd -Rb. her children & granddaughter

4:30PM † Lionel Boschulte - Rb. his family
† Mr. & Mrs. Jules, Marie and Theresa Olive Rb. Dominique Olive

CATECHISM & SPRITUALITY

FIVE STEPS TO HEAVEN ACCORDING TO SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX

How to reach Heaven? For Thérèse of Lisieux, as the Church prepares to celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ on May 18,2023, there is nothing better than to take the “spiritual elevator” directly. Here are the five floors to climb.

In Thérèse of Lisieux, everything is finally a bit upside down. While the traditional vision of holiness is compared to climbing a steep mountain, little Thérèse had the intuition to reach Heaven in the opposite way: instead of climbing the steps of the “rough staircase of perfection”, she wants to take... the elevator. No wonder: it was in her time that the elevator appeared as a technological invention that made everyone dream:

“I want to look for a way to go to Heaven by a small, very straight, very short way, a small brand new way. We are in a century of inventions, now it is no longer necessary to climb the stairs, in the homes of the rich an elevator replaces it advantageously. I would also like to find an elevator to lift me up to Jesus, because I am too small to climb the rough stairs of perfection.

Then I looked in the holy books for the indication of the elevator, object of my desire, and I read these words coming out of the mouth of the Eternal Wisdom: If someone is very small, let him come to me.

Quinto Domingo de Pascua

Primera lectura: Hechos 6:1-7
Salmo responsorial: Salmo 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19
Segunda lectura: 1 Pedro 2:4-9
Evangelio: Juan 14:1-12

MEDITACIÓN

RELFECCIÓN PARA EL QUINTO DOMINGO DE PASCUA,
POR EL P. DOMINIC UKAGBA.

Lecturas: Hechos 6:1-7, Salmos 32(33), 1Pedro 2:4-9, Evan-
gelio Juan: 14:1-12

Tema: Sed generosos con nuestro Dios

Este domingo también se llama ‘CANTATE SUNDAY’ o do-
mingo cantando (Cantate Domino), derivado del introito de
hoy, como se asigna para este día del Misal del Rito Romano.
Escuchamos de la primera lectura de hoy (Hechos 6:1-7),
cómo los primeros cristianos, a través de la instrumentalidad
de los Apóstoles, eligieron a los siete diáconos que estarían al
servicio de la mesa para la distribución diaria de alimentos,
para que los Apóstoles se concentraran en la oración y en
la ministración o la predicación de la Palabra de Dios. Dio
a los diáconos la posibilidad de ayudar a los sacerdotes en la
obra de evangelización, y también de especificar deberes y
talentos. Los cristianos laicos por su parte traen sus dones
y se reúnen en apoyo de la obra de Dios, los Apóstoles
inspirados por el Espíritu Santo, quebrantan e interpretan la
palabra de Dios a la gente de una manera honesta y sincera
sin distracciones, y los diáconos nombrados, ayudan a distri-
buir la necesidad material o el bienestar a las personas en una
distribución justa, y justicia, no en el orgullo. Cualquiera que
tenga el verdadero espíritu para trabajar para Dios debe ser
llamado, entrenado, orado y enviado, como vimos hoy en la
primera lectura. Cualquiera que se llame a sí mismo no es del
redil, y el fruto de sus palabras y obras arrogantes mostrará
que tal persona no pertenece a Cristo. A través del Bautismo,
todos los cristianos están llamados a conocer y servir a Dios
en diferentes capacidades, y debemos ser amables, generosos
y veraces con tales dones, para ganar otras almas para Dios,
no para que seamos vistos. Dios escoge y califica a aquellos
que quiere para su familia real (1 Pedro 2: 4-9).). Y cualquiera
que ponga su confianza en Dios nunca será decepcionado.
Para los incrédulos, Dios escogió las piedras rechazadas por
los constructores, pero Él las convierte en una piedra angular
para ser agentes de Su mensaje del Evangelio. Los apóstoles
mismos eran personas comunes de la sociedad que no eran
realmente valoradas, pero Dios los eligió para ser la loza de
los tesoros del Evangelio.

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)

Vean que son llamados y busquen el rostro de Dios en todo
lo que exijan Él los contará entre el sacerdocio real de to-
dos los creyentes. No te preocupes por tus pecados de
muchos años, Dios los perdonará cuando realmente pidas
Su misericordia y perdón, ahora es un momento favorable
para confiar en Dios, todavía hay muchas habitaciones en el
Reino de Su Padre como Él prometió, y Él ha resucitado de
entre los muertos para ir y preparar el lugar para cualquiera
que pueda llegar a creer en Su nombre y sinceramente hacer
Su será. Él, Jesús, es el único camino a Dios el Padre,
nadie puede pasarlo por alto a través de otros medios para
ir al cielo, y esa es una de las razones por las que debemos
creer en Él y confiar en Sus obras siempre, en todo lo que
hacemos como cristianos. Juan 14:6.11-13).

ANUNCIOS

LLAMAMIENTO DEL OBISPO:

Se nos recuerda nuestro llamado a ser “buenos administradores”
de las obras de misericordia corporales y espirituales y dar una
porción aceptable de nuestro TIEMPO, TALENTO y TES-
ORO para el Reino de Dios. La Campaña del Obispo 2023 es
una oportunidad práctica para que practiques tu fe católica sir-
viendo a Cristo y a Sus hermanos y hermanas pobres y necesita-
dos, Casas de Belén, Comedores de Beneficencia y Esfuerzos de
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St. Thomas”. Consulte el folleto para obtener más información.
¡Gracias!

CONSEJO DIOCESANO DE LA MUJER CATÓLICA:

El Consejo Diocesano de Mujeres Católicas en las Islas Virgenes
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 St. Ann el domingo
21 de mayo de 2023 y la reunión de St. Thomas es el domingo
4 de junio de 2023 en la Catedral de Sts. Peter & Paul. Ambas
reuniones son de 3 a 5 pm (se servirán refrigerios ligeros). Se
está ultimando la fecha de la reunión de San Juan. Comuníquese
con la Cancillería al (340) 774 3166 ext. 104 o envíe un correo
electrónico usvicw@gmail.com.

BENDICIÓN DE CASAS PARA MAYO:

En este mes de mayo, los sacerdotes visitarán y bendecirán las
casas. Si están interesados en que sus hogares sean bendecidos,
por favor inscribanse en la oficina de la Iglesia.

SOBRES OFFETORY:

Los sobres del ofertorio están aquí y se pueden recoger en el
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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:

May 7, 2023 - Music Ministry
May 14, 2023 - Catholic Education

OFFERTORY / OFERTORIO
LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY AMOUNTED TO:
LA OFRENDA DE LA SEMANA PASADA SUMÓ
APRIL 30, 2023

4:30PM	\$ NO MASS	\$ NO MASS
6:30AM	\$ 620.00	\$ 258.81
8:30AM	\$ 1,024.00	\$ 429.00
10:30AM	\$ 1,219.00	\$ 303.00
12:15PM	\$ 211.00	\$ 119.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,074.00	\$ 1,109.81

WEDNESDAY APRIL 19, 2023 12:15 P.M. \$72.00
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023: 6:45 AM \$40.00, 12:15 P.M. \$69.00

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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.

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 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
ALBERTA FOY
LAVERNE FRANCIS
DELTA GEORGE
MAURITZER Y. GUMBS
JOSEPH HODGE
WINIFRED HODGE
RITA KING
STEPHANY LOUZAN
GWYNNETH MOOLEAAR
JOSEPHINE NOCH
FELIX O'NEAL
RAMÓN ORTIZ
MIRIAM GARCIA RIJO
ROSE ROBERTS
VENIA SAKHRANI
CARLOS SÁNCHEZ
CÉSAR JULIO TIRADO
LIAN VÁZQUEZ

CATECHISM & SPIRITUALITY
continued from page 3

Then I came, guessing that I had found what I was look-
ing for and wanting to know, O my God! what you would
do to the little one who would answer your call, I con-
tinued my search and here is what I found: - As a moth-
er caresses her child, so I will comfort you, I will carry
you on my breast and I will swing you on my knees! Ah!
never have more tender, more melodious words come
to rejoice my soul, the elevator which must raise me to
Heaven, they are your arms, O Jesus! (History of a soul,
Manuscript C).

THE FIVE FLIGHTS OF STARIRS TO HEAVEN

Therese has this intuition that despite her smallness, she
can aspire to holiness by taking the elevator which are the
arms of Jesus. This is how she discovered her to reach
Heaven. As Jacques Gauthier explains in his article for
Aleteia, Thérèse found her joy in “letting herself be car-
ried by her God. Her only merit is... not to have any,” he
writes. So, in concrete terms, how can we follow her? By
taking the five floors of her “spiritual elevator”:

FLOOR 1 HAVING THE SPIRIT OF CHILD-
HOOD

Thérèse understood: to go to Heaven, we must become
like children. But beware, her “little way” of spiritual
childhood is anything but infantilism! It is a matter of
cultivating a childlike spirit, that is to say, desiring the
greatest things, but relying entirely on God. It is finally
throwing oneself into his arms as a child throws himself
into his mother’s arms. God is for Therese the first, last
and only recourse.

FLOOR 2 TRUSTING BLINDLY IN THE FA-
THER

“I have always found, when I have compared myself to
the saints, that there is between them and me the same
difference that exists between a mountain that is lost in
the heavens and a dark grain of sand trodden under the
feet of passers-by,” she writes. But instead of being dis-
couraged, little Thérèse knew how to achieve holiness: by
not letting go of the Father.

Paradoxically, as she grew up, it was not a question of
taking on independence, but of trusting blindly in God
and expecting everything (and without complexes) from
God. The more we surrender to him, the more we open
ourselves to his love and the more we climb towards
Heaven.

FLOOR 3 WELCOME WHAT HE COMES

Therese grasped it. She was introduced by her sister Mary
to the value of small things - those that seem to have no
value - to the real price they have when done with fidelity
and love. For the Carmelite, it is through them and in the
present moment that one can climb even higher to reach
Heaven. How can this be done? One must “do ordinary
things in an extraordinary way,” she advises.

FLOOR 4 CHOOSE TO STAY SMALL

Do not want to be great - not a great mystic, not a great
saint, not someone who raises the dead, casts out spir-
its, evangelizes, etc. For Teresa, pride can be hidden in
any desire for greatness. For her, the key is to be like a
“little nothing”. It is not easy to reach this level, because
to remain small and to be more and more small is not an
invitation to childishness or passivity. It is to rely on one’s
weakness to bear witness to the love of God! It is to let
oneself be loved freely in humility! Finally, through this
assumed weakness, it is to offer oneself fully to God.

FLOOR 5 TASTE THE MERCY OF GOD

Thérèse understood it well: it is the refusal of his mercy
that hurts Jesus the most. The key is not to do much, but
to love much. Through her “little way”, Therese shows
the true face of God: a face of goodness, tenderness
and mercy. “I assure you that the good God is much bet-
ter than you think. He is content with a look, with a sigh
of love... For me, I find perfection very easy to practice,
because I have understood that there is only need to
take Jesus by the heart...” (LT 191) According to Teresa,
in order to ascend to Heaven, it is a matter of staking
everything on divine mercy and replacing the image of
the vigilant God with the image of a merciful God who
is only “love and mercy!” (LT 266)

Rev. Fr. Modeste Digwou