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Most Rev. Jerome Feudjio
BISHOP

Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands

Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral

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April 23, 2023

Third 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

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Saturday
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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
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:
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

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

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Sister Sylverine Fola

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Third Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2: 14, 22-23
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm **16: 1-2, 5, 7-11**
Second Reading: 1 Peter 1: 17-21
Gospel: Luke 24: 13-35

MEDITATION

All priests and religious throughout the world pray the Liturgy of the Hours each day. The second reading from this Sunday's Office of Readings, a part of the Liturgy of the Hours, is the following passage from St. Justin Martyr who lived from 100AD – 164 AD. It is a detailed explanation of the Mass from the early Church at that time. This is a good reflection for us because it shows how similar the Mass we celebrate today is to that of the early Church. Additionally, it offers insight into the significance of the breaking of the bread in the Road to Emmaus Gospel reading this Sunday.

From the first apology in defense of the Christians
by Saint Justin Martyr
The celebration of the Eucharist

No one may share the Eucharist with us unless he believes that what we teach is true, unless he is washed in the regenerating waters of baptism for the remission of his sins, and unless he lives in accordance with the principles given us by Christ. We do not consume the eucharistic bread and wine as if it were ordinary food and drink, for we have been taught that as Jesus Christ our Savior became a man of flesh and blood by the power of the Word of God, so also the food that our flesh and blood assimilates for its nourishment becomes the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus by the power of his own words contained in the prayer of thanksgiving.

The apostles, in their recollections, which are called gospels, handed down to us what Jesus commanded them to do. They tell us that he took bread, gave thanks and said: Do this in memory of me. This is my body. In the same way he took the cup, he gave thanks and said: This is my blood. The Lord gave this command to them alone. Ever since then we have constantly reminded one another of these things. The rich among us help the poor and we are always united. For all that we receive we praise the Creator of the universe through his Son Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday we have a common assembly of all our members, whether they live in the city or the outlying districts. The recollections of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as there is time. When the reader has finished, the president of the assembly speaks to us; he urges everyone to imitate the examples of virtue we have heard in the readings. Then we all stand up together and pray.

On the conclusion of our prayer, bread and wine and water are brought forward. The president offers prayers and gives thanks to the best of his ability, and the people give assent by saying, "Amen." The eucharist is distributed, everyone present communicates, and the deacons take it to those who are absent.

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

MEDITATION (continued)

The wealthy, if they wish, may make a contribution, and they themselves decide the amount. The collection is placed in the custody of the president, who uses it to help the orphans and widows and all who for any reason are in distress, whether because they are sick, in prison, or away from home. In a word, he takes care of all who are in need. We hold our common assembly on Sunday because it is the first day of the week, the day on which God put darkness and chaos to flight and created the world, and because on that same day our savior Jesus Christ rose from the dead. For he was crucified on Friday and on Sunday he appeared to his apostles and disciples and taught them the things that we have passed on for your consideration.

DAILY READINGS
EASTER WEEKDAYS

Monday, April 24, 2023
Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen
First Reading: Acts 6: 8-15
Gospel: John 6: 22-29

Tuesday, April 25, 2023
Saint Mark
First Reading: 1 Peter 5: 5b-14
Gospel: Mark 16: 15-20

Wednesday, April 26, 2023
First Reading: Acts 8: 1b-8
Gospel: John 6: 35-40

Thursday, April 27, 2023
First Reading: Acts 8: 26-40
Gospel: John 6: 44-51

Friday, April 28, 2023
Saint Louis Grignion de Monfort
First: Acts 9: 1-20
Gospel: John 6: 52-59

Saturday, April 29, 2023
Saint Catherine of Siena
First: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41
Gospel: John 10: 1-10

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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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Prayer for Priests

O Jesus, I pray for your faithful and fervent priests; for your unfaithful and tepid priests; for your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for your tempted priests; for your lonely and desolate priests; for your young priests; for your dying priests; for the souls of your priests in purgatory. But above all, I recommend to you the priests dearest to me: the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me your Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way O Jesus, keep them all close to your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity.

Amen

This week's Tabernacle light is lit in Memory of Mrs. Agnes A. Schuster-King Requested by her daughter Lillia E. King

St. Michael the Archangel Prayer

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

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 be an active and effective part of our missionary efforts! Have you told anyone about how the Bishop's Appeal helps Catholic Charities of the Virgin Islands, our Catholic schools, and our outreach efforts? Is there someone to whom you can give a Bishop's Appeal brochure? Please help us to promote the mission of the Church. 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!

JUBILEE ANNOUNCEMENTS:
The 250th Jubilee T-Shirts are available for pickup in the Hospitality Lounge after each mass for those that ordered and paid for a shirt.
Mark your calendar for the following events:
Jubilee Diocesan Picnic: Monday, June 19, 2023 at Magen's Bay - Noon
250th Jubilee Closing Luncheon: Sunday, June 25, 2023 at UVI - 1:00pm. Details to follow on a later date

DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMAN:
The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will host their first Convention, **'An Afternoon with the Bishop, and the Board'**. All women and women's organizations are invited to attend. The St. Croix meeting will be held at St. Ann's Church on Sunday, May 21, 2023, and the St. Thomas/St. John meeting will be held at the Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral on Sunday, May 28, 2023. Both meetings will be from 3-5 p.m. Please contact the Chancery at (340) 774-3166 ext. 104 or email **usviccw@gmail.com** for further information.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023
7:00AM Brother Ronan Sarmiento
rb. the Cathedral family
4:30PM People of the Parish

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023
6:30AM Kalay Mitchell - rb. his mother
8:30AM † Randy L. Barnes - rb. his wife and children
† Mrs. Agnes A. Schuster King
rb. Mrs. Charlotte A. Banks
10:30AM Alfred A. Heath - rb. the senior choir
12:15PM People of the Parish

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023
6:45AM † Elesa Watlington - rb. the Connell & Watlington families
† Agatha Williams - rb. the Carty, Sturdivant, and Farrington families

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023
6:45AM Addison Alfred - rb himself

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023
6:45AM Young people of the Diocese
12:15PM Mathia & Shaila Philip 50th Anniversary
rb. their children

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023
6:45 AM No Mass

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023
6:45 AM No Mass

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
7:00AM No Mass
4:30PM No 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

CATECHESIS

WHAT IS MORTAL SIN?

If we define sin as an offense committed against God, why do we speak of mortal sin? If God is love, why does sin cause death and what kind of death is it?

"It is well known what the flesh does: misconduct, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, rivalry, jealousy, anger, intrigues, divisions, sectarianism, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I have warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God," St. Paul harangues in his letter to the Galatians (Gal 5:19-21). In The City of God, St. Augustine goes so far as to define sin as "love of self to the point of contempt for God," as opposed to charity, "love of God to the point of contempt for self. In its Catechism (CCC §1849), the Church characterizes sin as "a failure to show true love for God and neighbor" and distinguishes between "venial" sin, from the Latin venialis, that is, "forgivable" sin, and "mortal" sin, which cuts off love for God completely.

(continued on page 5)

Tercer Domingo de Pascua

Primera lectura: Hechos 2: 14, 22-23
Salmo responsorial: Salmo 16: 1-2, 5, 7-11
Segunda lectura: 1 Pedro 1:17-21
Evangelio: Lucas 24: 13-35

MEDITACIÓN

Todos los sacerdotes y religiosos de todo el mundo rezan la Liturgia de las Horas cada día. La segunda lectura del Oficio de Lecturas de este domingo, una parte de la Liturgia de las Horas, es el siguiente pasaje de San Justino Mártir que vivió desde 100 dC hasta 164 dC. Es una explicación detallada de la Misa de la Iglesia primitiva en ese momento. Esta es una buena reflexión para nosotros porque muestra cuán similar es la Misa que celebramos hoy a la de la Iglesia primitiva. Apartir de entonces, ofrece una visión del significado de la fracción del pan en la lectura del Evangelio Camino a Emaús este domingo.

De la primera disculpa en defensa de los cristianos
por San Justino Mártir
La celebración de la Eucaristía

Nadie puede compartir la Eucaristía con nosotros a menos que crea que lo que enseñamos es verdad, a menos que sea lavado en las aguas regeneradoras del bautismo para la remisión de sus pecados, y a menos que viva de acuerdo con los principios dados por Cristo. No consumimos el pan y el vino eucarísticos como si fuera comida y bebida ordinaria, porque se nos ha enseñado que así como Jesucristo nuestro Salvador se hizo hombre de carne y hueso por el poder de la Palabra de Dios, así también el alimento que nuestra carne y sangre asimilan para su alimento se convierte en la carne y la sangre del Jesús encarnado por el poder de sus propias palabras contenidas en el Oración de acción de gracias.

Los apóstoles, en sus recuerdos, que se llaman evangelios, nos transmitieron lo que Jesús les ordenó que hicieran. Nos dicen que tomó pan, dio gracias y dijo: Haced esto en memoria mía. Este es mi cuerpo. De la misma manera que tomó la copa, dio gracias y dijo: Esta es mi sangre. El Señor les dio este mandamiento a ellos solamente. Desde entonces nos hemos recordado constantemente estas cosas. Los ricos entre nosotros ayudan a los pobres y siempre estamos unidos. Por todo lo que recibimos alabamos al Creador del universo a través de su Hijo Jesucristo y por el Espíritu Santo.

El domingo tenemos una asamblea común de todos nuestros miembros, ya sea que vivan en la ciudad o en los distritos periféricos. Los recuerdos de los apóstoles o los escritos de los profetas se leen, siempre que haya tiempo. Cuando el lector ha terminado, el presidente de la asamblea nos habla; Insta a todos a imitar los ejemplos de virtud que hemos escuchado en las lecturas. Entonces todos nos levantamos juntos y oramos.

Al concluir nuestra oración, el pan, el vino y el agua se adelantan. El presidente ofrece oraciones y da gracias lo mejor que puede, y la gente da su consentimiento diciendo:

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)

"Amén". La eucaristía se distribuye, todos los presentes se comunican y los diáconos la llevan a los ausentes.

Los ricos, si lo desean, pueden hacer una contribución, y ellos mismos deciden la cantidad. La colección se pone bajo la custodia del presidente, quien la utiliza para ayudar a los huérfanos y viudas y a todos los que por cualquier razón están en apuros, ya sea porque están enfermos, en prisión o lejos de casa. En una palabra, cuida de todos los necesitados. Celebramos nuestra asamblea común el domingo porque es el primer día de la semana, el día en que Dios puso en fuga la oscuridad y el caos y creó el mundo, y porque ese mismo día nuestro salvador Jesucristo resucitó de entre los muertos. Porque fue crucificado el viernes y el domingo se apareció a sus apóstoles y discípulos y les enseñó las cosas que hemos transmitido para su consideración.

ANUNCIOS

LLAMAMIENTO DEL OBISPO:
¡Por favor, sea una parte activa y eficaz de nuestros esfuerzos misionales! ¿Le ha contado a alguien sobre cómo la Campaña del Obispo ayuda a Caridades Católicas de las Islas Vírgenes, nuestras escuelas católicas y nuestros esfuerzos de divulgación? ¿Hay alguien a quien pueda dar un folleto de Apelación del Obispo? Por favor, ayúdanos a promover la misión de la Iglesia. Para su comodidad, puede optar por hacer una promesa ahora y distribuir sus pagos durante varios meses. Las donaciones pueden hacerse en forma de efectivo, cheque, tarjeta de crédito o pagos directos en línea. Por favor llene el formulario en el folleto y haga sus cheques pagaderos a "Diócesis de St. Thomas". Consulte el folleto para obtener más información. ¡Gracias!

ANUNCIOS DE JUBILEO:
Las camisetas del 250º Jubileo están disponibles para recoger en el Hospitality Lounge después de cada misa para aquellos que ordenaron y pagaron una camisa.
Marque su calendario para los siguientes eventos:
Picnic diocesano del Jubileo: lunes 19 de junio de 2023 en Magen's Bay - mediodía
250º Almuerzo de Clausura del Jubileo: Domingo 25 de junio de 2023 en UVI - 1:00pm. Detalles a seguir en una fecha posterior

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.

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:
April 23, 2023 - **Youth Ministry**
April 30, 2023 - **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**

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

APRIL 16, 2023

4:30PM	$ 555.00	$ 199.00
6:30AM	$ 831.00	$ 407.00
8:30AM	$ 1,010.00	$ 489.00
10:30AM	$ 1,335.00	$ 383.96
12:15PM	$ 222.00	$ 174.35
TOTAL	$ 3,953.00	$ 1,653.31

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023: 6:45 AM $35.00 **12:15PM** $ 35.00
FRIDAY 6:45 AM $10.00

Thank you for your donation!

Gracias

E-GIVING:
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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:

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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
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CÉSAR JULIO TIRADO
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CATECHESIS (continued from page 3)

Distinguishing the forms of sin
The distinction of sins according to their gravity is already present in Scripture, when Saint John invites "if someone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death" to pray so that "God may give him life" and specifies that "there is a sin that leads to death, but it is not for this one that I say to pray. All unrighteous conduct is sin, but not all sin leads to death" (1 Jn 5:16-17). Thus, if "mortal sin destroys charity in the heart of man by a grave infraction of God's law [and] turns man away from God, who is his ultimate end and beatitude, preferring to Him an inferior good, venial sin allows charity to subsist, even if it offends and wounds it" (CCC §1855).
Three conditions make the fault fall on the side of mortal sin: it must have as its object "a serious matter"; it must be "committed in full awareness" and it must be "deliberate", as Saint John Paul II states in his apostolic exhortation Reconciliatio et paenitentia. The "serious matter" is announced in the Old Testament, when God dictates the Decalogue to Moses (Ex 20:1-18) and is then taken up by Christ Himself in the face of the rich young man: "You shall not commit murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. Honor thy father and thy mother. And also: Love your neighbor as yourself. (Mt 19:18-19).
This is the very image of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, whose acceptance of the fruit presented by the serpent in spite of the divine prohibition consists of an entirely free personal act. Indeed, the human being is not a malleable toy subjected to the Evil One who manipulates him and forces him to turn away from God: when we sin, we freely consent to temptation, like Adam and Eve who reached out their hand to eat the fruit that the serpent offered them in the garden. Let us not be discouraged, St. Paul himself lamented: "I do not do the good I would like to do, but I commit the evil I would not like to do" (Rom 7:19).
By refusing a reconciliation with God, that is to say a return to grace which requires the renunciation of this situation, man makes choices in complete freedom which commit his whole life, here below and at the moment of his death. How can we imagine that someone who has deliberately rejected God all his life can choose to plunge entirely into His love, in His presence, on the day of the encounter? As St. Augustine continues, "As a deserter of eternal life, he was condemned to an equally eternal death, unless he was freed by grace" (Cit. XIV, XV). It is therefore the sinner who condemns himself.
The Council of Trent reminded us, however, that while it is an inexhaustible grace, the absolution offered at confession is not a subterfuge for sinning with impunity (Catechism of the Council of Trent, 11 §IV):
The faithful must be warned that such a great facility for forgiveness, so extensive in terms of faults, and so unlimited in terms of time, should not make them freer to indulge in sin, nor slower to repent. In the first case they would obviously be convinced of an insulting contempt for this Divine Power, and consequently they would be unworthy of God's Mercy. In the second case there would be great fear that they would be surprised by death.