

PASTORAL CARE

Sacrament of Confession: Every Saturday from 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Sacrament of Baptism of Infants: First Saturday of every month. Please call at the Church's office for a baptismal form.

Instructions: Thursday preceding the date for baptism @ 5pm
Visitation to the Sick and Aged: Thursdays at 7.00 am. Contact the office if you have a sick or aged Person(s) to be visited.

Sacrament of Marriage: Arrangements must be made at least six months to a year with the priests. The couple or one of them must be a registered member of the Church for at least 6 months.

Consultation of Priests: (STM) Monday, Tuesday and Fridays (In the Evenings) Time: 6.30 - 8.00 pm. (SJF) **Wednesdays at 5:00pm.** In case of any emergency call on the Priest.

Church office hours: STM - Mon. to Thur.: 8am -1pm & 2 pm - 4pm: Sat. 4 pm to 8pm: Sun: 9 am -1.30pm: SJF - Monday & Wednesday 10am - 6pm; Sat 4pm-6pm; Sunday 12pm- 2pm

SUNDAY MASS: FIRST MASS - 7:00AM AT STM,
SECOND MASS - 9:30AM AT SJF

NEXT SUNDAY: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Singing: First Mass: Akan Kuo

Second Mass: Main Choir

Offertory and Bidding Prayers:

First Mass: May Borns

Second Mass: May Borns

WEEKDAY MASS

Tuesday 6:15am
Wednesday 6:15am (STM) & 7:00pm (SJF)
Thursday 6:15am

SLOGAN: Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher: Besohwɛ!

Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher.: Justice and Truth!!

Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher: Pray for us!

THANKS FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US.

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. All those who were baptized from the 7th March, 2015 to 5th September, 2015 should kindly pick their cards from the church office.

2. The Harvest Committee reminds all parishioners who made pledges during the 2015 Harvest to kindly redeem them.

3. Bible's are available at the office for Ghc 26.

4. All those who were confirmed last year Nov 29th should see the secretary with an amount of Ghc 10 for stole fee and collect their baptismal cards.

5. Marriage Banns: (3rd) John Ten Senyo and Hilda Yaa Oppongwaa.

6. The funeral arrangement for the late Mr. Thomas Kingsley Acheampong is as follows; Burial mass: 4th June at SJF at 8:00am, final funeral rite follows at SJF after interment at the Achimota cemetery, Sunday 5th June thanksgiving mass at SJF at 9:30am; family gathering after mass at the church grounds.

7. The Funeral arrangement for the late Madam Emelia Mansa Abaloo a member of the Ave Maria Society, Achimota Town Community is as follows; Friday 29th April lying in state at her residence near Achimota Market, Sat Burial mass at SJF at 8am. Interment follows at the Achimota cemetery. Funeral continues at SJF grounds after burial. Sunday; thanksgiving mass at SJF at 9:30am

ADVERT

A parishioner has a piece of land at Dawhenya for sale. Interested persons should contact the following numbers for details: 0244605874/0277122442.

QUIZ

Last Week: Where did Jesus spend the majority of his life on earth?

Ans: Nazareth

This Week: Which is the longest book in the Bible?

Quote

Talents are best nurtured in solitude; but character is best formed in the stormy billows of the world.

- Johan Wolfgang Goethe

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH, ACHIMOTA & ST. JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH, NEW ACHIMOTA

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



APRIL 24th 2016: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THEME FOR THE WEEK: A MISSION OF LOVE



TODAY'S READINGS

1st Reading: Acts 14:21-27.

Paul and Barnabas complete the first mission by retracing their steps and encouraging the little faith communities which they had founded.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:8-9,10-11,12-13

I WILL BLESS YOUR NAME FOREVER, MY KING AND MY GOD.

2nd Reading: Rev. 21:1-5.

One the final scenes of the Apocalypse, this opens with the vision of a new world, and the splendour of the new, heavenly Jerusalem.

GOSPEL: Jn 13:31-35.

During his last supper with his apostles, Jesus emphasised a new commandment - to love one another as he had loved them.

Reflection

Today, we are reminded of the New Commandment that Christ gave us the day before he suffered. We are brought back to that Last Supper, when Jesus was gathered with his closest companions and opened his heart to them. It was the night when his heart overflowed with love as it never had before. It was the night when he revealed the secret identity of every Christian, the distinguishing mark: "This is how all will know that you are my disciples," he said, "if you have love for one another." And not just any kind of love, but Christ-like love: "I give you a new commandment... As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

❖ **Mon 25TH APRIL, 2016**

1 Pt 5:5-14/ Ps 89:2-3,6-7,17-18/
Mk 16:15-20

❖ **Tues 26TH APRIL, 2016**

Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:11-14,22/
Jn 14:27-31

❖ **Wed 27TH APRIL, 2016**

Acts 15:1-6/ Ps 122:1-5/
Jn 15:1-8

❖ **Thu 28th APRIL, 2016**

Acts 15:7-22/ Ps 96:1-3,11/
Jn 15:9-11

❖ **Fri 29th APRIL, 2016**

Acts 15:22-31/ Ps 57:8-12/
Jn 15:12-17

❖ **Sat 30th APRIL, 2016**

Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1-3,5/
Jn 15:18-21

1ST MAY, 2016
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

1stReading: Acts 15:1-2,22-29

Resp. Ps : Ps 67:2-3,5-6

2nd Reading: Rev 21:10-14,22-23

Gospel : Jn 14:23-29

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

Summary of the post-Synodal apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love) on love in the family

Families face many challenges, from migration to the ideological denial of differences between the sexes (“ideology of gender”); from the culture of the provisional to the anti-birth mentality and the impact of biotechnology in the field of procreation; from the lack of housing and work to pornography and abuse of minors; from inattention to persons with disabilities, to lack of respect for the elderly; from the legal dismantling of the family, to violence against women.

The Pope insists on concreteness, which is a key concept in the Exhortation. And it is concreteness, realism and daily life that make up the substantial difference between acceptable “theories” of interpretation of reality and arbitrary “ideologies”.

Citing *Familiaris Consortio*, Francis states that “we do well to focus on concrete realities, since ‘the call and the demands of the Spirit resound in the events of history’, and through these ‘the Church can also be guided to a more profound understanding of the inexhaustible mystery of marriage and the family’”. Conversely, if we fail to listen to reality, we cannot understand the needs of the present or the movements of the Spirit. The Pope notes that rampant individualism makes it difficult today for a person to give oneself generously to another. Here is an interesting picture of the situation: “The fear of loneliness and the desire for stability and fidelity exist side by side with a growing fear of entrapment in a relationship that could hamper the achievement of one’s personal goals”. The humility of realism helps us to avoid presenting “a far too abstract and almost artificial theological ideal of marriage, far removed from the concrete situations and practical possibilities of real families”. Idealism does not allow marriage to be understood for what it is, that is, a “dynamic path to personal development and fulfillment”. It is unrealistic to think that families can sustain themselves “simply by stressing doctrinal,

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

bioethical and moral issues, without encouraging openness to grace”. Calling for a certain “self-criticism” of approaches that are inadequate for the experience of marriage and the family, the Pope stresses the need to make room for the formation of the conscience of the faithful: “We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them”. Jesus proposed a demanding ideal but “never failed to show compassion and closeness to the frailty of individuals like the Samaritan woman or the woman caught in adultery”.

Chapter three: “Looking to Jesus: The vocation of the family” (58-88)

The third chapter is dedicated to some essential elements of the Church’s teaching on marriage and the family. This chapter is important because its 30 paragraphs concisely depict the vocation of the family according to the Gospel and as affirmed by the Church over time. Above all, it stresses the themes of indissolubility, the sacramental nature of marriage, the transmission of life and the education of children. The Vatican Council II document *Gaudium et Spes* is widely quoted, along with Paul VI’s *Humanae Vitae*, and St. John Paul II’s *Familiaris Consortio*.

The chapter provides a broad view and touches on “imperfect situations” as well. We can read, in fact: “Discernment of the presence of ‘seeds of the Word’ in other cultures can also apply to the reality of marriage and the family. In addition to true natural marriage, positive elements exist in the forms of marriage found in other religious traditions’, even if, at times, obscurely”.

The reflection also includes the “wounded families” about whom the Pope – quoting the Final Report of the 2015 Synod extensively – says that “it is always necessary to recall this general principle: ‘Pastors must know that, for the sake of truth, they are obliged to exercise careful discernment of situations’. The degree of responsibility is not equal in all cases and factors may exist which limit the ability to make a decision.

To be continued.....

MOTIVATION

THE BLACK DOT

One day, a professor entered his classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin.

The professor handed out the exams with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers. To everyone’s surprise, there were no questions—just a black dot in the center of the paper.

The professor, seeing the expression on everyone’s faces, told them the following: “I want you to write about what you see there.” The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable task.

At the end of the class, the professor took all the exams, and started reading each one of them out loud in front of all the students. All of them, with no exception, defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the center of the sheet. After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain:

MOTIVATION

“I’m not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot – and the same thing happens in our lives.

However, we insist on focusing only on the black dot – the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friend.

The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they are the ones that pollute our minds. Take your the eyes away from the black dots in your lives. Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life filled with love!”