

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 emergency, call on the Priest.

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

SUNDAY MASS

FIRST MASS: 6:30 AM AT SJF
SECOND MASS: 7:00 AM AT STM
THIRD MASS: 9:30 AM AT SJF

NEXT SUNDAY: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Singing Schedule:

First Mass: Chari SM
Second Mass: Youth Choir
Third Mass: Main Choir

Offertory and Bidding Prayers:

First Mass: Lectors
Second Mass: Achimota E/W/Abofu
Third Mass: Francophone Society

WEEKDAY MASS

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. There is Bible sharing within mass this and every Wednesday evening at SJF at 7.00pm. Come and deepen your knowledge in the Holy Scriptures.

2. Parishioners who made pledges during 2018 Harvest are kindly reminded to redeem them. Pledges can be redeemed through Mobile Money Number 0558362191 with the name St. Thomas More. Receipts for such payments will be issued later for collection.

3. **Marriage Banns (2nd)** Joseph Amuzu and Vida Nkrumah.

4. Christian Mother's Association and St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Society is inviting all females to join them for a program with Nutrifoods Gh. Ltd, manufactures of **TASTY TOM** tomato paste after 2nd mass at STM.

5. There is morning mass on Saturdays at SJF at 6.30am

QUIZ

Last week: At what sea did Jesus encounter and have breakfast with the disciples?

Ans: Tiberias

This Week: Who was chosen as replacement of Judas Iscariot?

QUOTE

*You must love one another,
just as I have loved you.
- Jesus of Nazareth*

SS. THOMAS MORE & JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC CHURCH, ACHIMOTA

P.O. BOX AH 283, ACHIMOTA-ACCRA

Website: www.thomasmorejohnfisher.com

E-mail: besohwe@yahoo.com(STM) johnfisher.achimota@gmail.com

Office Tel: 030-3931800 (STM) 030-3939862 (SJF)

Rev. Fr. George Obeng - Appah (*Priest-in-charge*) Tel: 020-8592020

Rev. Fr. Bright Elorm Fumey (*Assistant Priest*) Tel: 0245904620

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

19TH MAY, 2019: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THEME FOR THE WEEK: NEW COMMANDMENT, NEW BEGINNINGS

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: 145:8-9,10-11,12-13

I WILL BLESS YOUR NAME FOR EVER, MY KING AND MY GOD.

2nd Reading: Revelation 21:1-5

John speaks of the vision of a new world portrayed as the new heavenly Jerusalem, prepared as a bride for a husband.

Gospel: Gospel: John 13:31-33; 34-35

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 with his closest companions and opened out 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". Being a Christian is much more than being a member of a club. It means having an urgent, important mission in life; the mission to love.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- ❖ Mon 20TH MAY, 2019
Acts 14:5-18
Ps 114:1-4,16-17
Jn 14:21-26
- ❖ Tues 21ST MAY, 2019
Acts 14:5-28
Ps 114:1-4,16-17
Jn 14:21-26
- ❖ Wed 22ND MAY, 2019
Acts 15:1-6
Ps 122:1-5
Jn 15:1-8
- ❖ Thu 23RD MAY, 2019
Acts 15:7-21
Ps 96:1-3,11
Jn 15:9-11
- ❖ Fri 24TH MAY, 2019
Acts 15:22-31
Ps 57:8-13
Jn 15:12-17
- ❖ Sat 25TH MAY, 2019
Acts 16:1-10
Ps 100:1-3,5
Jn 15:18-21

26TH MAY, 2019

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

1st Reading: 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

WHAT IS AN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

The Pope and General Councils

The relations between the pope and general councils must be exactly defined to arrive at a just conception of the functions of councils in the Church, of their rights and duties, and of their authority. The traditional phrase, "the council represents the Church", associated with the modern notion of representative assemblies, is apt to lead to a serious misconception of the bishops' function in general synods.

The nation's deputies receive their power from their electors and are bound to protect and promote their electors' interests; in the modern democratic State they are directly created by, and out of, the people's own power.

The bishops in council, on the contrary, hold no power, no commission, or delegation, from the people. All their powers, orders, jurisdiction, and membership in the council, come to them from above — directly from the pope, ultimately from God. What the episcopate in council does represent is the Divinely instituted magisterium, the teaching and governing power of the Church; the interests it defends are those of the depositum fidei, of the revealed rules of faith and morals, i.e. the interests of God.

The council is, then, the assessor of the supreme teacher and judge sitting on the Chair of Peter by Divine appointment; its operation is essentially co-operation — the common action of the members with their head — and therefore necessarily rises or falls in value, according to the measure of its connection with the pope.

A council in opposition to the pope is not representative of the whole Church, for it neither represents the pope who opposes it, nor the absent bishops, who cannot act beyond the limits of their dioceses except through the pope. A council not only acting independently of the Vicar of Christ, but sitting in judgment over him, is unthinkable in the constitution of the Church; in fact,

KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH

such assemblies have only taken place in times of great constitutional disturbances, when either there was no pope or the rightful pope was indistinguishable from antipopes.

In such abnormal times the safety of the Church becomes the supreme law, and the first duty of the abandoned flock is to find a new shepherd, under whose direction the existing evils may be remedied. In normal times, when according to the Divine constitution of the Church, the pope rules in the fullness of his power, the function of councils is to support and strengthen his rule on occasions of extraordinary difficulties arising from heresies schisms, relaxed discipline, or external foes.

General councils have no part in the ordinary normal government of the Church. This principle is confirmed by the fact that during nineteen centuries of Church life only twenty Ecumenical councils took place.

It is further illustrated by the complete failure of the decree issued in the thirty-ninth session of the Council of Constance (then without a rightful head) to the effect that general councils should meet frequently and at regular intervals, the very first synod summoned at Pavia for the year 1423 could not be held for want of responses to the summons.

It is thus evident that general councils are not qualified to issue independently of the pope, dogmatic or disciplinary canons binding on the whole Church.

As a matter of fact, the older councils, especially those of Ephesus (431) and Chalcedon (451), were not convened to decide on questions of faith still open, but to give additional weight to, and secure the execution of, papal decisions previously issued and regarded as fully authoritative.

To be continued.....

MOTIVATION

The Struggles of Our Life

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire.

Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter.

The daughter, moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing. After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup.

Turning to her, he asked. "Daughter, what do you see?"

"Potatoes, eggs and coffee," she hastily replied. "Look closer" he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft.

MOTIVATION

He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face. "Father, what does this mean?" she asked.

He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity-the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently. The potato went in strong, hard and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak.

The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard.

However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

"Which one are you?" he asked his daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

FINANCE CORNER