



St. Thomas Church: established July 1, 1285 by King Vaclav II

Today's Prayer

We must never say that it is no use for them to live chastely in the married state, to direct their houses and families in a Christian way, or to heap up for themselves heavenly treasures by their acts of mercy.

February 26th and 27th 2011

The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

St. Thomas Church

Josefská 8, Malá Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

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GOSPEL REFLEXION

What does it mean to be a disciple? We can ask that question in a general context, but what does discipleship mean for me in my day-to-day struggle? This is the small picture question of faith. Jesus answered it by asserting the priority of the Kingdom even in the present moment. After all, we can't serve God and worry about our finances at the same time. It's too stressful. Something would have to give.

Jesus compared the priority of faith to mundane worry about financial stability in a series of rhetorical questions and analogies from nature. By itself, worry cannot give us food or drink or clothes; it cannot add to our life span. In fact, excessive worry can distort our priorities in life, blowing life's "necessities" far out of proportion. Worry can even lead to sin, if its out of control. So, what restores some balance to our spiritual life? Jesus gave simple answer: give all your worries to God. Keep you eye on the Kingdom and let God take care of our food, clothes and life span.

Such simple faith, however, requires discipline. It requires we make prayer a priority, even over such daily matters as a budget and cash flow. Notice, Jesus isn't diminishing worries over these concerns; he's saying that focus on God is more important. So, prayer trumps daily concerns. We are to seek the Kingdom and what it means to walk on the path to the Kingdom. That requires an active, vibrant prayer life, a prayer life that says, "Alright God, I trust you." Such a prayer life is an ideal, but it is a goal that can put our concerns in context.

Don't Worry, Be Happy?

In 1988, jazz singer Bobby McFerrin had a pop hit with his song "Don't Worry, Be Happy." Bobby sang the catchy tune almost a capella, with several over-dubs of his voice. The sentiment of the song reflected the philosophy of Indian mystic Meher Baba: worry only inhibits happiness and does nothing to enhance it.

That message seems almost a truism, but there is a problem with the message. Happiness is not a void of anxiety. Happiness is not a decision against concern. In fact, such a definition of happiness is immature at best, vacuous at worst. Happiness is not found in a carefree but self-centered life. True happiness can only be found in relationship with another person. Indeed, someone can be very happily married, for example, and still face daily worries. Happiness is found in sharing the joys and anxieties of life with someone in whom we love, trust and share hope. Happiness, then, is a life directed to another. The ultimate happiness is a life focused on God. So, it is the direction of life that allows us to sweep away anxiety and seek our goal: the Kingdom.

Please contact, Fr. William Faix if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at "wfaix@yahoo.com" or contact Dias Fernando at "diasfernando04@gmail.com" Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin

Collection Appeal

Please Contribute Generously to the Parish Collection as we are not meeting our required budget to run all of the activities. We thank you greatly for your kindness Our Weekly Budget is 10,000kč/week.

Ongoing Activities

Coffee, Cookies & Conversation follow Sunday Mass in the Monastery Refectory off the Cloister Garden. **All are invited, especially our visitors.**

If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, please contact osaprag@augustiniani.cz

Bible Study sessions are held each Wednesday evening at 6:30pm/18:30 in the Tagaste room. All are welcome to join and reflect on the Word of God.

Prayer & worship

Each Sunday we are beginning with a prayer & worship from 10a.m. till 11a.m. in St. Barbara's Chapel. We will also be seeking people who would be willing to come and play an instrument while we worship and/or pray. We pray that the Lord moves more of our members to take action in prayer and worship, as there is much to pray for.

Painting course, every Friday at 6:00 pm in the summer refectory of the monastery.

Religious Education Reminder (First Communion Class):

The first communicants will have their First Reconciliation Retreat and receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation on *Saturday, 12 March 2011* (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.). We ask the congregation to please pray for the class in the coming weeks.

A **parent meeting** regarding preparations for the First Holy Communion (to be held on 29 May 2011) will take place on *20 March 2011* during class time (9.45-10.45).

More information will follow from Monika and the teachers shortly.

Roots of Augustinian Spirituality

Augustinian Spirituality is based on principles found in Holy Scripture and guided by the thought of St. Augustine of Hippo, the great Fifth Century African Doctor of the Church and framer of the ideals of our community life.

Some key elements of Augustinian Spirituality are

- **Holy Scripture as a primary place of encountering God**
 - **Discovering God in Community**
 - **Interiority**
 - **Promotion of Justice, Unity, Harmony, Peace and Reconciliation**
 - **Apostolic Service**
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Saint Augustine's School

"A Comprehensive School with a heart open to wisdom"
Hornokrčská 3, 140 00 Praha 4 – Krč
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Registrations open!