



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



750 let Augustiniánů v Čechách

1262–2012

S nadějí a radostí

**THE AUGUSTINIANS IN THE CZECH
LANDS: 750 YEARS IN SERVICE OF THE
GOSPEL.**

With Hope and Joy!

March 10th and March 11th
2009

The Third Sunday of Lent

St. Thomas Church

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The Reflection of the Gospel

The Old or First Testament in the Greek *Septuagint* version consists of 45 accepted (designated as “canonical”) books. Of these, the first five, called in Hebrew *Torah* (“the Law”) or in Greek *Pentateuch* (“five scrolls”), are regarded as the most important in the bible. *Genesis*, begins with the theologically interpreted stories of creation, the fall, the flood and Israel’s earliest ancestors. *Exodus*, the second book, relates Israel’s dramatic redemption from Egyptian slavery and the “giving of the Law” on Sinai, a theme, which we shall momentarily consider. *Leviticus*, is a ceremonial and ritual code followed by *Numbers* describing Israel’s tribal structures and anecdotes of its desert experience. The final or fifth book, *Deuteronomy*, is a summary of divine Law ending with Moses’ death prior to the conquest of Canaan. The *Hebrew* version of our Old Testament consists only of 39 books according to an arrangement called **TANAKH**, “an acronym that brings together the initial Hebrew terms for the three principal parts of Sacred Scripture: **TA** (the Law or Torah), **NA**(the Prophets or Nevi’im) and **KH**(the Writings or Khetuvim)”. As mentioned in today’s first reading, the *declogue* (literally “ten words”) as in the “Ten Commandments”) was according to tradition given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai in the desert. Although framed in the manner of fifteenth century B.C. covenants or agreements, these commandments are unique in religious history. Of particular importance are the precepts of the Sabbath day of rest (Commandment three) and the avoidance of idolatry (Commandment one). In the history of the Church, *catechumens* or those under instruction before baptism, on the third Sunday of Lent were “given” these divine precepts both to be learned by heart and to be lived in moral commitment. To the Jewish people these commandments were meant to insure the survival of their community. As a religious and moral inheritance it is easy to see why Jesus acted with such burning zeal in today’s gospel of the cleansing of the Temple, the house of God, in Jerusalem.

Study of the First Reading

[1-2] The Commandments came from God with the reminder of his fidelity to the people. God is God because he takes the first step. The Hebrews were the first to believe in a God of history. God was not just the creator or preserver of nature; God was active in the lives of people. For the Hebrew, God was God because he first called, then people responded. [3] The commandments are in descending order of importance. The first commandment called for complete fidelity on the part of the believer. The believer can in no way attribute power or life and nature to anything else than the Hebrew God. God was to be first in the life of the believer. [4] Our society has reduced this commandment to swearing and cursing. In our society, both are considered to be tactless, but not ultimately harmful. This was not the intention of the commandment. Ancient people believed that a name revealed the power and purpose of the person or thing named. This commandment was meant to avoid abusing the name of God for purposes of manipulating God through excessive prayers. God’s name was to be used in a loving relationship with him, not in trying to use him. Note the use of “Lord” in the passage. The Hebrews replaced the name of God (spelled YHWH) with Lord so they could keep the letter of the commandment. The Hebrews ultimately lost the name of God; we can only speculate its original meaning. [8] “To keep holy God’s day” means more than going to church. Holiness means to do what God does; on the seventh day God rested, and people should as well. Rest means recreation: doing those things that refresh the person for another week. [12] The extended family was so important in the ancient world that fidelity to parents is more important than murder. In our society, family values have less weight. The third and fourth commandments were the only positive ones of the ten. These two were meant to define a society as faithful to God and to family. [13-15] These commandments affected our relationships with our neighbors. Taken in a positive manner, all could be reduced to one saying “Respect others.” [16-17] These commandments encouraged a single-hearted intent. Ethical conduct demanded an honest character.

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

Please contact, Fr. William Faix if you want to add announcements to the bulletin at “wfaix@yahoo.com” or osaprag@augustiniani.cz Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin

Parish project for Lent

Dear Parishioners in St. Thomas in Praha, here is the overview for a Scholarship for our Fr. Lucien Gumesa of the Congo who lives and works in Nairobi in Kenya:

Course fees: 3896 \$

The student is Fr. Lucien Gumesa who actually is the master of Professed in Nairobi and the Bursar. The studies are to be taken in Nairobi in Kenya. Fr. Lucien will be during the studies still the Bursar of the International House in Nairobi.

Thank you very much already now if you could realize a Scholarship for our Fr. Lucien Gumesa.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Franz Klein OSA, Assistant General in charge of Africa

AND WE ARE PART OF HISTORY!

The Augustinians we have been in what is now the Czech Republic for over 750 years. So many friars and sisters, so many projects, so much work had been undertaken over these centuries. And, now, it is up to us - not only the Augustinians but the whole extended "Augustinian family" including our families, friends, benefactors, parishioners; in other words, all who are close to us. During this coming year beginning in March and ending in December we wish to remind you of various events important to us as Augustinians laboring now for the glory of God and the spread of the gospel in the Czech Republic. Our Anniversary jubilee will be commemorated in the various monasteries throughout the country.

At **Svata Dobrotiva** we will open our jubilee year on March 24 marking the traditional date of Our Lady's appearance to Lord Ulrich of Valdek who invited the Augustinians to the Czech lands in 1262. At Svata Dobrotiva the 15th Annual Marian Pilgrimage on May 19th will take place followed on June 30th with the visit of Cardinal Duka, OP, who will confer the sacrament of Confirmation at Mass.

On April 23rd through the 26th the XV Annual Augustinian Week will be held here at **Saint Thomas, Prague**.

On August 15th in **Dolní Ročov** the titular Patroness of the Church, Our Lady of the Assumption, will be solemnly celebrated.

On September 28th in **Běla pod Beždezem**, the Solemnity of Saint Wenclaus coincides with the 300th Anniversary of the consecration of the Monastery Church.

Special tours of our former monasteries and churches in Domazlice (founded 1287), Mělník (1268) and Česká Lipa (1623) will be organized.

On November 13th in **Saint Thomas Church, Prague**, we will commemorate both the birthdate of Saint Augustine (AD 354) and the last consecration date of our Church (2004).

For further information concerning our jubilee events please refer to www.augustiniani.cz Thank you for your participation

Ongoing Activities

- ❖ If you would like to receive a **copy of the bulletin by email**, please contact osaprag@augustiniani.cz
- ❖ **Marriage Preparation:** The next one-day marriage preparation course (for the English speaking community) will be held by Fr. William on Saturday 17th March from 9:15am - 3pm at St. Thomas Parish for those who wish to participate.
- ❖ **Help at Sv. Dobrotiva** in Zaječov the 3rd Saturday of every month. If you're at least 11 years old and you wish to help, meet at Sv. Thomas before 9:15. In March will be the 17th.
- ❖ **Annual March for Life:** March 24th, 2012: Sv. Jilji. (St. Giles) Church, Husova 8, Prague 1.
Mass: 13 -14 pm. March: 14 - 16pm. From the Church to Vaclavske Namesti. Since 1957 3,200,000 preborn children in this nation have lost their lives to abortion.
- ❖ On 10 March, our first communicants received the **Sacrament of First Reconciliation**. Congratulations!!

Lenten Services

-**Wednesdays.** Bible studies from 06:30 7:30 pm. An opportunity to explore the Word of God.

-**Thursdays.** Mass will be offer at 06:15 pm in St Barbara's Chapel. Confession will be heard before and after Mass.

- **Fridays.** Stations of the Cross at 06:00 pm. Follow by devotions to Saint Nicholas of Tolentine. Confession will be heard immediately afterwards.

- **Saturdays.** Mass at 06:00pm follow by Confessions.

* *Please note:* Confessions will also be heard upon request at anytime

Praying Lent 2012:

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/>

<http://www.villanova.edu/mission/officeofthevicepresident/publications/seasonalreflections/lent/>

THE 750TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH AND MONASTERY OF THE ANNUNCIATION AND SAINT DOBROTIVA IN ZAJECOV

According to the earliest records, in the year 1262, Lord Valdek, a pious Christian devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, considered what fitting votive gift might be offered her. A chronicler relates that on the evening of Annunciation day (24. March) he was awakened from sleep and, as it were, transported to a wooded area where he was instructed:

Ulrich, my son, it is the will of my Son and myself that in this place you are now looking at that you build a monastery in his honor and my name for my servants. My Son will gladly accept this generous gift for his servants.

PROGRAM

March 24, 2012

The Opening of the Festival commemorating the Appearance of the Blessed Virgin, March 24, 1262

1:00pm The Opening of the Photo Exposition of the Church and Monastery in Zjecov.

2:00pm Mass in the Church

3:15pm Conferences relating to the history of the Church given by:

PhDr. William Stanislav Faix, OSA, *The Vision of Mary and the Foundation of the Church in Sv.Dobrotiva*

Mgr. Stepan Svoboda, *The Organ in the Church of Sv. Dobrotiva: a Musical Treasure.*

4:30pm Light refreshments.