



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

### Today's Prayer

I pause for a moment  
and think of the love and  
the grace that God  
showers on me: I am  
created in the image and  
likeness of God; I am  
God's dwelling-place.

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February 06<sup>th</sup> and 07<sup>th</sup> 2016

The Fifth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time-Year C

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# St. Thomas Church

## Reflection on the Gospel

Luke, in contrast to the other three evangelists, dates the call of the first disciples well into the public ministry of Jesus. This seems the more likely. Undoubtedly, this would have given people like Simon and the other disciples time to reflect on the message and person of this mysterious rabbi of Nazareth. As Peter would play an important role in the early Church community, Luke concentrates on some important features of his vocation. At first, Peter dimly begins to see the meaning of Jesus' mission. That wondrous "catch of fish" which brought Peter to his knees marks the beginning of a relationship between the two, though loving yet fraught at times with misunderstanding and even abject denial. No matter, Jesus takes this into account and tells this gruff Galilean workingman that he is destined for the great task of "catching" men and women "alive" to the knowledge of truth. He is to launch out "into the deep"- an interesting metaphor for mission endeavor. The "called" will not "jump" into the Church, the apostle must go out, search for them and bring them in. So, it is the same injunction for each of us. We cannot beg off for "lack of skill," "training" or time. All of us are part of this evangelization to "announce the good news of Jesus Christ" whenever or wherever we find ourselves. If we are convinced our very hearts will call out! Is that true?

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

## Blessed Anselm Polanco, OSA February 7

Anselm Polanco (1881-1939) was martyred during the Spanish Civil War.

He was born April 16, 1881 in Buenavista de Valdavia, Palencia, Spain. He joined the Augustinian Order as a young man. He studied in Germany, then returned to Spain to teach at Valladolid and La Vid.

He was named Prior Provincial in 1932. He gave particular importance to visitation of all the Augustinians in his Province. This required difficult journeys to China, the Philippines, the United States, Peru and Colombia, since many of the Spanish Augustinians were engaged in missionary activity. On his visits, he encouraged his brothers in their work of evangelization and urged them to live a religious life faithful to the ideals of Saint Augustine.

In 1935 Anselm was named Bishop of Teruel and Albarracin. When Civil War broke out in Spain, in 1936, Anselm voluntarily remained in his Diocese, in spite of the strong anti-Catholic persecutions brought by the war. In deciding to remain with his people, he followed the same advice that Saint Augustine himself had given to Bishop Honoratus centuries earlier:

*When all are threatened by the same danger, that is, Bishops, clergy and laity, those who need the others must not be abandoned by those of whom they have need.* --Possidius, *Life of Augustine* 30, In 1938, Anselm was captured by anti-Catholic forces and thrown into prison at Pont de Molins. While in prison, he organized an intense life of prayer along with the other prisoners. He was executed February 7, 1939. The Vicar General of his Diocese, Philip Ripoli, was killed at the same time.

The martyrdom of Anselm and Philip gave strong witness to their faith in Jesus Christ and their faithfulness to his Church.

Anselm was beatified in 1995 by Pope John Paul II.



## Announcements and Ongoing Activities

\*If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, please contact [osaprag@augustiniani.cz](mailto:osaprag@augustiniani.cz)

\* Every Saturday at 9:00am **feeding of the homeless**, as a social service

\* **Bible Study** takes place every Tuesday from 18:30-19:30 in Tagaste room. Everyone is welcome to come and learn more about our sacred scriptures.

\*Wednesday at 18:30. Tagaste room takes place **Adult Religious education**.

\***Fr. William** will be in USA for the next month. Fr. Juan will be taking care of the community: 602684538

\* The **season of Lent** begins ASH WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY. Ashes will be distributed both on that day( at 06:00pm) and on Sunday 14 February, after Mass. Catholics are urged to enter into the spirit of this holy season of conversion.

\*During **Lent season** every Friday at 6pm in the church will be the Stations of the Cross.

## Pope Francis's message for Lent 2016

*"I desire mercy, and not sacrifice" (Mt 9:13)*

2. *God's covenant with humanity: a history of mercy*

The mystery of divine mercy is revealed in the history of the covenant between God and his people Israel. God shows himself ever rich in mercy, ever ready to treat his people with deep tenderness and compassion, especially at those tragic moments when infidelity ruptures the bond of the covenant, which then needs to be ratified more firmly in justice and truth. Here is a true love story, in which God plays the role of the betrayed father and husband, while Israel plays the unfaithful child and bride. These domestic images – as in the case of Hosea (cf. Hos 1-2) – show to what extent God wishes to bind himself to his people.

This love story culminates in the incarnation of God's Son. In Christ, the Father pours forth his boundless mercy even to making him "mercy incarnate" (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 8). As a man, Jesus of Nazareth is a true son of Israel; he embodies that perfect hearing required of every Jew by the Shema, which today too is the heart of God's covenant with Israel: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" (Dt 6:4-5). As the Son of God, he is the Bridegroom who does everything to win over the love of his bride, to whom he is bound by an unconditional love which becomes visible in the eternal wedding feast.

This is the very heart of the apostolic kerygma, in which divine mercy holds a central and fundamental place. It is "the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 36), that first proclamation which "we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and moment" (*ibid.*, 164). Mercy "expresses God's way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe" (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 21), thus restoring his relationship with him. In Jesus crucified, God shows his desire to draw near to sinners, however far they may have strayed from him. In this way he hopes to soften the hardened heart of his Bride.

## Year of Mercy

### "Merciful like the Father"

**Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy:**

1. to feed the hungry,
2. give drink to the thirsty,
3. clothe the naked,
4. welcome the stranger,
5. heal the sick,
6. visit the imprisoned,
7. bury the dead.

**And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy:**

1. to counsel the doubtful,
2. instruct the ignorant,
3. admonish sinners,
4. comfort the afflicted,
5. forgive offences,
6. bear patiently those who do us ill,
7. pray for the living and the dead."

## Feasts

08 Mary, Queen of Scots, was executed in Fotheringay Castle in 1587.

09 Maron, the Patron and Apostle of Lebanon, is venerated this day.

-*Apollonia* (+249), a deaconess of Alexandria, first had her teeth bashed in and then was thrown into the fire. She is the Patroness of dentists.

-Today, Fr. William Faix, OSA, the pastor, celebrates his priest ordination day. Please pray for him and all priests.

10 *Scholastica* (+543), the sister of *Benedict of Monte Cassino*, supported him in the establishment of monastic life for women, a precedent for later founders.

11 *Our Lady of Lourdes* is venerated under this title from apparitions in that site. Beginning this day to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858. The Pope has designated this day as a day of prayer for the sick.

13 *Christina of Spoleto* (+1453), after leading a rather disordered life, became a Tertiary of Saint Augustine and devoted herself to works of charity.

14 *Valentine* (+3<sup>rd</sup> century), a Roman priest, who after his arrest for performing illegal marriages, was executed. That incident along with the tradition that birds mate and sing this day exalted this Saint as the *Patron of Lovers and Engaged*. Happy St. Valentine's Day! Let us pray for those engaged and our married couples.