



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

Today's Prayer

Say this Prayer Today:

"Be still and know that I am
God."

Lord, Your words lead us to
the
calmness and greatness of
your presence.

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June 25th and June 26th 2011

Corpus Christi

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St. Thomas Church

The Reflection of the Gospel

In contrast to Mark, Matthew and Luke, John does not assume that the "Last Supper" or Jesus' final farewell meal is a *Passover celebration*. Whereas the first three evangelists in so emphasizing the Passover atmosphere of this meal appear to link Jesus' own mission of salvation to that singular *Exodus* event in Israel's history. For contemporary Jews the Passover meal was something more than a meticulously regulated culinary experience. It had to be prepared by a male of the household (*Exodus 12:3*) and served by a widow first to all the males of the household then to the women and children. Mark even footnotes that the place for the repast would be readily identified by a *man carrying a pitcher of water* (*Mark 14:13*)- a task assumed only by women. There were other aspects to a formal meal in ancient Judaism. Mutual *table fellowship* confirmed one's status in the community. *To break bread together and to drink of one cup* denoted shared recognized values and common beliefs. It was during such a meal that Judas Iscariot definitively *had* to break ranks with Jesus (*Mark 14:17*). Ordinarily, great attention was paid to such circumstances as one's dining companions, ritual ablutions, priority in seating arrangements, the type and manner of food being served, the utensils, the order of servings- not to mention the carefully chosen topics for discussion. For such cultural infractions Jesus was more than once vehemently attacked and stigmatized as "*a sinner*." Thus, for Jesus this Passover-farewell dinner already steeped in symbolism became itself a means of cementing his loving relationship with his disciples. In the face of impending evil *Do this-* that is, break bread and drink of this cup *in memory of me*. This Eucharist or *Thanksgiving* is not only to be remembered but is to be eaten, drunk and rightly adored by us who believe, hope, love and follow him whatever the cost discipleship may exact.

The feast of Corpus Christi or the Most Sacred Body and Blood of the Lord is that feast wherein we as a Christian community are given the opportunity to manifest our worship of the Lord in the Holy Eucharist. This honor is shown in many ways. The solemn procession or "walk" with Jesus Christ present in the Host is a sign of willing discipleship (*Luke 19:36*); incense is used in recognition of the kingship of the Lord and a sign "of the prayers of God's holy people" (*Revelation 5:8*). The four altars (in St. Thomas in St. Joseph's Church, in St. Mary's Church and The Infant Jesus of Prague Church) represent the Four Corners of the earth. Before each altar the following rite is observed:

1. The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar and incensed during which the hymn *Down in Adoration Falling* is sung;
2. The Gospel is read followed by a moment of reflection;
3. Prayers of the Faithful;
4. The Priest recites a short prayer and then blesses the congregation with the Monstrance.
5. The Procession then continues on to the next station or altar.

"Adoration means entering the depths of our hearts in communion with the Lord, who makes Himself bodily present in the Eucharist. In the monstrance, He always entrusts Himself to us and asks us to be united with His Presence, with his risen Body."

„The Holy Eucharist is the "source and summit" [*fons et culmen*] of the life and mission of the Church. This section of the Adoremus web site provides resources for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, meditations, prayers and music centered on the Holy Eucharist, as well as recommended resources for study“

Pope Benedict XVI

Address to Roman Clergy - March 2, 2006

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 contact Dias Fernando at Dias.Fernando@pbschool.cz Please send at latest by the Friday of the week as it has to be added to the bulletin.

Flash Points: Vol. #4

The World Warms to Catholic AIDS approach.

In a previous Flash Point bulletin I reported that on a visit to Africa in 2009, Holy Father was lambasted by the international press, government institutions and NGO's for his comments on Aids. He stated that the problem would not be alleviated by the distribution of condoms alone but required a serious change in people's behavior.

According to the Vatican official to the UN in Geneva, Archbishop Tomasi international relief agencies are now beginning to show a willingness to consider the solution advocated by the Catholic Church. It comes on the heels of a new report charging western governments for increasing the number of AIDS cases because of exclusive reliance on condoms. The report entitled "The Catholic Church and the Global Aids Crisis" by Mathew Hanley, an American public health expert has estimated 6 million cases of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa would have been averted if the Catholic approach emphasizing fidelity and abstinence had been endorsed by officials. It would have been far more effective had healthcare organizations considered Uganda's ABC model promoted between 1991 and 2001 which had the blessing of the President. At that time the Aids rate fell by 10%. In the 30 years since the AIDS first appeared it has infected 65 million people and killed 25 million. Last month the Vatican held a two day conference on how best to fight the disease hoping to establish common ground with other stakeholders including those who do not agree with the Church's approach.

When Jesus took, blessed and distributed bread and wine he, thereby, cemented his already close fellowship with the disciples. In face of the impending "hour of darkness" he gave them the further assurance of salvation with an indissoluble guarantee of help, strength and healing. *Do this-* that is, break this bread and drink this cup together- *in memory of me.* His presence in the Eucharist ['thanksgiving'] is not only to be rightfully adored but also to be eaten as a sign the Lord's true presence in our community and in us, who believe in him.

I offer ACCOMMODATION for summer season for one man sharing with other man one room flat for 3000,- Kč per one month in Prague 5 in villa, quiet place, nature. Telephone: 728 272 476, 607 881 933, 776 654 578

Announcements and Ongoing Activities

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

-To **everyone!** The new rota for refreshments is on the notice board in the refectory. Please sign up for a week - it's easy and a great way to meet other parishioners! Any questions see Jim Willetts

-Anyone interested in teaching **Religious Education Classes** next year (starting in September) - please contact Monika Shaheen at mshaheen@iol.cz

-*HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED SUMMER. Until we meet again, God bless!*

-We are looking for an **English teacher** for our school. If you are interesting, please see Fr. Juan

Saint Augustine's School

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FEASTS and ANNIVERSARIES: JUNE and JULY

29. *The Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul* has been celebrated since the year 258 in Rome where they were martyred and buried.

01. *Oliver Plunkett* (+1681), the Archbishop of Armagh, was martyred in Tyburn his faith. *Junipero Serra* (+1784), a Franciscan missionary, evangelized California and founded the famous missions on the *camino real*.

-Canada celebrates its national day commemorating the confederation of 1867.

-Both Burundi and Rwanda celebrate their independence gained in 1962.

03. *THOMAS, THE APOSTLE*, one of the earliest disciples of Jesus, is best remembered for his recognition of the Risen Lord in John 20:19-31. According to an ancient tradition T. preached the gospel in India where he was subsequently martyred near Meliapur for his generosity to the poor.