



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



YEAR OF FAITH: oct. 11, 2012-NOV. 24, 2013

"The 'door of faith' (Acts 14:27) is always open for us, ushering us into the life of communion with God and offering entry into his Church."---Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Letter Porta Fidei for the Indiction of the Year of Faith.

June 15th and 16th 2013

11th Ordinary Sunday -C

St. Thomas Church

Josefská 8, Malá Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Tel: 257 530 556, 602 643 365

Forgiveness Ritual

In Luke's gospel, a woman suddenly rushed into an all male party, planted herself at the feet of the honored guest, and sobbed so much that she washed the feet of the guest. This unusual display of ill manners was actually a self-chosen ritual to say "I'm sorry." There are some rituals like this in modern society. Chastened husbands send flowers to their wives as a way to say those two simple words. Wives make delicious meals to sooth the anger of their mates. Children write notes to parents so they can be forgiven. Despite their informality, these rituals can be effective in renewing relationships. With Luke 7:36-49 in mind, discuss such forgiveness rituals. Which ones are appropriate? (Do not let your family members confuse that question with the manipulative question: Which ones work? That question is, of course, out of bounds.) Use examples in your life that might help move the discussion along. Such a conversation is important to promote the well-being of the family. Forgiveness is that important

First Reading commentary

How do you react to hypocrisy? How do you judge a hypocrite?
In public life, hypocrisy is the unforgivable sin. Elected officials soon find no forgiveness for saying one thing, then doing another. The self-righteous preacher caught in a compromising situation soon finds he has no flock (and, sometimes, no family). People will forgive the sincere repentant, but never the two-faced hypocrite.
These few verses from 2 Samuel were the judgment of King David. He enjoyed the favor of YHWH, but over-reached when he took the wife of a loyal servant, Urriah the Hittite, then send that soldier to his death. David's adultery and cowardice shocked his inner court, including the court prophet, Nathan. Nathan told the parable of the plundered lamb to set up David for his judgment. David wanted justice for the loss of the lamb, only to have Nathan use the parable as a mirror for his own crime.
In 12:7, Nathan confronted David with the truth: "You are the man." Then, the prophet declared God's word over the king. YHWH blessed David with rule over the kingdom, freedom from the grip of the former king (Saul), and dominance over the house (clan and assets) of the former king. The phrase "your master's wives into your bosom" (12:8 RSV) has a sexual connotation; Nathan inferred David had many opportunities to satisfy his lust in a way that publically showed his royal dominance. But David abused his stature for the lust of a married woman. The sword (the symbol of judgment and evil) would turn on the King; David would never be free of war, rebellion, and intrigue. David confessed to his sin and received forgiveness, but the consequences of his act would haunt him for the rest of his days.
We do not primarily remember David for his hypocrisy or his repentance, but we Christians do invoke his memory through his heir, Solomon. His mother, Bathsheba, was the former wife of Urriah. David gave his kingdom to his son, Solomon, and, thus, began the Davidic line that culminated in the birth of his descendant, Jesus of Nazareth. So, good came from evil; the sin of one man resulted in the salvation of all.
The story of David should give us pause. No one is innocent of hypocrisy; sin does sometimes lead to good through repentance. As God forgave David, possibly we should try to forgive the hypocrites in our lives.
How are you like David? Like Nathan? How has God's forgiveness helped you overcome your situation and produce good from bad?

Saint John of Sahagún, OSA

June 12

John (1430?-1479) was a peacemaker and worker for justice in society. He defended the rights of workers. A sincere and humble man, he was a noted preacher, whose devotion to the Eucharist marked all aspects of his life.

Born in Sahagun, Leon, Spain around the year 1430, John was raised in a prominent family. While he was still young, John's father obtained for him a position which would guarantee him a substantial income.

John refused to accept this position, because he saw it as contrary to God's way. His family was very disappointed. Seeing the good qualities of his life, Alphonsus of Carthage, the Bishop of Burgos, ordained John a priest and gave him a position of responsibility in the administration of the Church.

John did not find this work fulfilling, however. So he went to live in Salamanca, where he engaged in study and preaching. While John was ministering at the Church of Saint Bartholomew, the Duke of Alba complained when he used the pulpit to denounce not only the sins of common people, but also the sins of the nobility.

"Father, you do not know how to control your tongue," the Duke angrily charged.

John responded, "Sir Duke, tell me why did I walk into that Pulpit: To proclaim the truth to all who would listen, or to shamefully praise you? A preacher must be prepared in his soul to speak the truth, both in denouncing and correcting shortcomings and in praising virtue, to such a point that he is willing in that cause even to face death."

Still not satisfied with his life as a diocesan Priest, he joined the Augustinians in 1463. The Friars recognized his abilities, and chose him twice to serve as Prior (local superior) of the Salamanca Monastery. He was a delegate to every Province Chapter held during his years in the Order.

The people saw him as wise and prudent. He was able to reconcile feuding families. He championed the rights of workers. He was a man of prayer, and was particularly devoted to the Eucharist.

One of his contemporaries gave this testimony to John's character: "If you ask me about the actions of Friar John, with regard to the poor and afflicted, exploited widows and children, the needy and the sick, I would have to say that he was naturally compelled to help them all in word and in deed. He was particularly interested in leading all to peace and harmony, and putting an end to hostility. Living in Salamanca, where the entire city was split into factions, he succeeded in preventing much bloodshed."

Due to John's repeated initiatives for peace, the opposing nobles of Salamanca signed in 1476 a solemn and perpetual peace treaty.

John drew his courage and strength especially from the daily celebration of the Eucharist, to which he was highly devoted.

John died in Salamanca June 11, 1479. His biographer, Friar John of Seville, believed that he was poisoned by somebody who did not like the honesty of his preaching. He was beatified in 1601 and canonized in 1690. His remains are preserved at the Cathedral of Salamanca.

Ongoing Activities

- ❖ We **welcome** all our new parishioners to St. Thomas Church. Please introduce yourselves, if you wish, at refreshments after the 11:00 am Mass on Sundays or just call us or visit at your convenience.
- ❖ If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, please contact osaprag@augustiniani.cz
- ❖ **AVAILABLE 01 JULY 2+1**with Patio Prague 3, Rehorova Beautiful Art Nouveau furnished apartment. High ceilings, original moldings and hard wood parquet floors throughout. Building fully refurbished. Storage space in basement. 65m2 composed of 1 large bedroom, full living room and fully-equipped kitchen with Czech mosaic original crystal tiling. Full bathroom with shower, tub, bidet and washing machine. Fully tastefully furnished. Private 25m2 patio with teak garden furniture. WIFI included. Excellent transportation: 3 tram, 4 bus and 1 metro lines. 16,000kc monthly; minimum 1 year lease. Prefer non-smokers, no pets and tenants with legal right of abode in the Czech Republic. Maximum 2 adults. Direct from owner(who resides in building); owner speaks English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, Polish and Czech. Further information at estebandepraga@yahoo.com.ar

Thanks to everybody for the great celebration of my **50th Priesthood Anniversary** on June 9th. I will pray for all of you. You are in my heart!

Fr. William, OSA

