



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.

September 7th and 8th 2013

23.ordinary Sunday –
Year C

St. Thomas Church

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The context of a meal is the proscenium for one of Jesus' more explicit teachings on the requirements of discipleship. Far from a perfunctory necessity a meal had in first century Judaism, an important defining social function. Table fellowship bordering on ritual was demanding: who issued the invitation for when and where, with whom one ate, what one ate and where one sat were paramount considerations. Nor was it without a cost since an invitation carried the personal obligation of reciprocating in kind. Contemporary etiquette rigidly guarded such accepted class delineation and religious observance. It was in such an atmosphere as arriving guests jostled one another for preferential seating at the host's right that Jesus suddenly intervened with one of his more trenchant teachings. One can only imagine how the festive atmosphere of the dining hall changed with Jesus' definitive but peremptory pronouncements! Since most invitations were issued on the basis of proper orthodox belief or blood and kinship, how could one possibly invite the poor and the marginalized without incurring ritual uncleanness? More was to come once he delivered his startling blueprint for Christian discipleship.

The first requirement of the would-be disciple is to prefer the kingdom of God to all other obligations including the all-important family and kinship. Without compromise or halfway measure this outrageously delivered teaching relegated such status-identifying relations to the margins of unimportance. The second requirement is to carry one's cross which in this case would mean to bear up under the burden and stigma of such radical detachment. Aside from the risks involved, being a "class-less" or economically dependent member of a "new family gathered for the kingdom of God" is hardly an enticement for most. The third and final requirement of discipleship is to give up all in preference for this kingdom of God. At once surprised, shocked and piqued, these dinner guests once comfortably settled for a Sabbath afternoon dinner, were now being challenged at the heart of their religious beliefs and cultural values.

Our Mother of Consolation

September 4

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near the Cross, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother." --John 19: 26-27

With these words Jesus was asking his Church, represented by the disciple, to console and care for his mother. At the same time he was asking his mother to console and care for the Church. From this arose the tradition that Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a source of consolation for the whole Church.

Monica, the mother of Augustine, suffered much from her wayward son's early life of sin. According to an ancient story, she confided her distress to Mary, who appeared to Monica wearing a leather cincture (a type of belt). As a pledge of her support, Mary removed the cincture and gave it to Monica to wear. Monica gave it to her son, who, after his conversion to Christ, gave it to the members of his monastic community.

The traditional depiction of Our Mother of Consolation shows Mary holding the child Jesus on her lap. Jesus and Mary both hold the Augustinian cincture in their hands.

Devotion to the mother of Jesus under the title Mother of Consolation has been an Augustinian tradition for centuries, since the cincture that is part of the Augustinian habit reminds them of the compassionate consolation she offers to the Church.

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

Mission 2013

Changing the world:

This reading is in support of the St Thomas mission to support the Year of Faith and the Emeritus Pontiff's call for mission.

When you ask a Brit how they are doing, you are likely to get a understated but ever so polite "Fine Thank You".

Ask the same question to an American fresh from the states and you are likely to get a "Fantastic" or "Never Better".

When you asked a Czech in the past how they are doing, you were taking a big chance of actually opening an entire conversation about the status of the person's job and family.

Today this is more likely to be a "Jde to" (it's going), Tak Tak (so so) or a "mohlo by to být lepší, mohlo to být horší" that is "it could be better but it could be worse".

The greetings and the positive or negative of our interaction has a great deal to do with what kind of emotion and feelings that we put into the world.

Immediately I thought of the proverb of a butterfly whose wings flapping in China would cause a hurricane somewhere else in the world. This was a concept used to illustrate the concept of attraction in Chaos theory and the Butterfly Effect was coined by the mathematician Edward Lorenz.

Others have used the ripples in a pond when a pebble is thrown into the water, to illustrate that an action has an effect on the environment surrounding it. No one can doubt the negative affects of a negative rumor, on a person, a family, a community and sometimes a nation and the world.

The Blessed Mother Teresa one said "Kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless."

Then I wondered why we would be positive? The economy is certainly nothing to be happy about, there are wars that are in our daily discussions. There are many problems in our daily lives, so as usual. Why would or should we make an attempt to pass on positive and kind words to someone else?

I turned to the scriptures and started in the old testament:

In Psalms, a book made up of 150 songs and prayers to express the full width and scope of the Hebrew faith in the one God, we find David writing:

16:9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

30:5 For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

30:11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

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

❖ Those interested in signing their children up for RE classes for 2013-2014 please bring a completed registration form to Mary Beth Hlavsa or JoAnn Manzano, or by email. Forms are available at the back of the church or at www.augustiniani.cz, please feel free to ask questions or email completed forms to Mary Beth at redirector@augustiniani.cz. Thank you and we look forward to seeing your children in RE this year!

❖ **WONDERING HOW YOU CAN GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY?** St. Thomas provides free English classes as part of their community outreach activities. Classes will be beginning 16 of September. And we are in need of native English speakers who can give of their time to teach classes. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Fr. Juan at juan@augustiniani.cz

❖ Parish Counsel meeting will be on Sept. 15th after 11:00am Mass

Proverbs comes from the time of Solomon. The builder of the first temple and many attribute at least partial authorship of the book to Solomon himself. We find here:

10: 28 The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.

17:22 A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

James 1: 2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Finally I found that Peter gave us the greatest summary of why we should be happy every day:

Peter 1:3-7 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

In the words of Father William: "He is risen! and he will come again! Praise and Glory to our Lord Jesus Christ.

So let's all walk out of here today and change the world. Let kind words and positive thoughts come out of us. God has given us the reasons to be joyous, let us make it infectious.

One never knows when these kind and positive words will lead to thoughts and deeds and soon, those butterfly wings will be stirring up a storm!

God Bless