



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 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>  
2013

24.ordinary Sunday –  
Year C

# St. Thomas Church

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Luke's gospel is replete with many beautiful parables or short morality stories. Today's reading about the Prodigal Son fits squarely within that genre as one of the most poignant in the New or first Testament. The pericope or selection opens with a "double audience" of the sympathetic but religiously suspect "tax collectors and sinners" and Jesus' ever present critics the "Pharisees and those skilled in religious law." For the Pharisees, Jesus was too cavalier in his approach to religious tradition and practice. After all, they (the orthodox) would argue that those tax collectors or those who collaborated with the pagan Romans and the sinners who did not observe all the requirements of the Law were by their "irreligious" attitudes already condemned. Life in the world to come was for these religious folk a reward for specific obedience to the Law. Now Jesus' short moral story of the "wayward son, the forgiving father and the merciless brother" itself an illustrated response to such judgmental attitudes brought home a clear lesson. The merciful father certainly is a loving image of God Himself who gives, yearns for his younger son and forgives. The younger son could certainly stand as a symbol of those who have strayed: unmindful of the hurt they carelessly caused, they come back to themselves, seek forgiveness through repentance in the open arms of their father. The figure of the merciless brother, conversely, was a direct indictment of the Pharisees and scribes glorying in their unforgiving attitudes and peevish behavior which effectively annulled the record of religious fidelity and constancy. The lesson is clear. As important and necessary as religious observance is, we can all fall into the trap of self-satisfaction paradoxically through religious practice. Self-congratulation with one's record of practice and ethical behavior is a form of hypocrisy if we cannot open our hearts in forgiveness. Today's gospel is beautifully relates how the merciful father went out to both the repentant son and his unforgiving brother; in other words, God even meets us in our very painful sinful moments. Do we recognize Him?

## St. Ludmilla

September 16<sup>th</sup>

Wife of Boriwoi, the first **Christian** Duke of **Bohemia**, b. at Mielnik, c. 860; d. at Tetin, near Beraun, 15 September, 921. She and her husband were **baptized**, probably by St. Methodius, in 871. **Pagan** fanatics drove them from their country, but they were soon recalled, and after reigning seven more years they resigned the throne in favour of their son Spitignev and retired to Tetin. Spitignev died two years later and was succeeded by Wratislaw, another son of Boriwoi and Ludmilla. Wratislaw was married to Drahomira, a pretended **Christian**, but a secret favourer of **paganism**. They had twin sons, **St. Wenceslaus** and Boleslaus the Cruel, the former of whom lived with Ludmilla at Tetin. Wratislaw died in 916, leaving the eight-year-old Wenceslaus as his successor. **Jealous** of the great influence which Ludmilla wielded over Wenceslaus, Drahomira instigated two noblemen to **murder** her. She is said to have been strangled by them with her veil. She was at first **buried** in the **church** of St. Michael at Tetin, but her remains were removed to the **church** of St. George at Prague before the year 1100, probably by St. Wenceslaus, her grandson. She is **venerated** as one of the **patrons** of **Bohemia**, and her **feast** is celebrated on 16 September.

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

**FATHER ALEJANDRO MORAL ANTON OSA,**  
**ELECTED PRIOR GENERAL OF THE**  
**AUGUSTINIAN ORDER**



It is with great joy and sincere gratitude to God that we announce the election of Fr. Alejandro Moral Antón as the 97th Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine, on this day, September 4, 2013, the Feast of Our Mother of Consolation, Patroness of the Order. We call upon the intercession of Our Mother of Good Counsel, of our Holy Father Saint Augustine and of all of our Saints and Blesseds, that our Order, under his leadership, may increase in unity and holiness

Father Alejandro was born in La Vid (Burgos), Spain, on June 1, 1955. He entered the novitiate of the Augustinian Province of Spain in 1972 and professed his religious vows on September 12, 1973. Following studies in La Vid and Madrid, he continued his academic preparation at the Collegio Internazionale S. Monica in Rome, and made his Solemn Profession in September, 1980. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 20, 1981.

Father Alejandro served his Province at various times as librarian, bursar, director of formation, and Provincial counselor. In 1995, at the age of 40, he was elected Prior Provincial and served in this capacity until his election as Vicar General of the Order in 2001. From that time until his election as Prior General he has been a member of the Order's General Curia and has held various responsibilities: as President for the Commission charged with the revision of the Constitutions, President of the Economic Commission, and President of the Order's Secretariat for Justice and Peace; from 2004 until the present he has served as Procurator General of the Order and since 2009 has been Assistant to one of the two Federations of Augustinian Contemplative Nuns in Spain. Father Alejandro has also worked extensively with the Order's international commissions of Laity, Education, Finances and Spirituality. He has published various articles on Sacred Scripture and the Religious Life, and has translated several works on Augustinian Spirituality into Spanish. He comes to the Office of Prior General, therefore, with much experience, that augurs well for his service to the Order.

**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](mailto:osaprag@augustiniani.cz)

❖ **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](mailto:juan@augustiniani.cz)

❖ **Marriage Preparation:** The next one-day marriage preparation will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

❖ Today Sunday begin the **Religious education Program**. Thanks to all the teachers and voluntaries that are going to help during this school year. God bless!

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

❖

***ELECTION FOR***

**NEW PARISH COUNCIL**

- Parish Council consists of the priests who are working with the community plus 3 elected parishioners and 3 parishioners appointed by the pastor
- We are beginning the process on September 21<sup>st</sup>
- First step: the pastor will elect a commission to coordinate the elections.
- All parishioners elder than 15 years are invited to give to this commission the names of some candidates to be members of the parish council.
- Candidate can be each parishioner elder than 18 years.
- The deadline to give names of candidates is October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- After that date the commission will prepare a list of candidates that will be presented to the parish on October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The election of the Parish Council will be October 20<sup>th</sup> after 11 am mass
- The new elected parish council is going to be presented to the community on October 27<sup>th</sup>,
- The members of the parish council are elected for a time of 5 years