



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



"Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others."

— Saint Augustine

September 2nd 3rd 2017

22nd Sunday in Ordinary time

St. Thomas Church

Josefska 8, Mala Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Tel: 257 530 556

602 643 365

Sunday Gospel

Today's Gospel, from Saint Matthew, tells us about the relationship of Jesus with His followers. Peter does not want Jesus to suffer. None of us wants others to suffer, for the most part. Yet a human life lived in a way only to avoid suffering is a wasted life. Instead, Jesus invites us to follow Him and to accept the suffering that come with that following.

Jesus tells us in strong words: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Clearly it is not natural for us to want the cross or to follow someone who will lead us into suffering. Nevertheless, Jesus invites us to know what life really is by following Him.

If we follow the Lord, we will suffer. We will become like the Prophet Jeremiah and complain that following God makes us suffer. We will be like Saint Paul in recognizing that we must be transformed by the renewal of our minds. In the midst of all of this, the name of God can become like fire burning in our hearts and allowing us to rejoice in this life, even in the sufferings, because we are loved by God and know that in following Him, we are returning His love.

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.

Rule of St. Augustine

Chapter Five

30. Keep your clothing in one place in charge of one or two, or of as many as are needed to care for them and to prevent damage from moths. And just as you have your food from one pantry, so, too, you are to receive your clothing from a single wardrobe. If possible, do not be concerned about what you are to wear at the change of the seasons, whether all get back what they had put away or something different, provided none are denied what they need. If, however, disputes and murmuring arise on this account because some complain that they received poorer clothing than they had before, and think it is beneath them to wear the kind of clothing worn by others, you may judge from this how lacking you are in that holy and inner garment of the heart when you quarrel over garments for the body. But if allowance is made for your weakness and you do receive the same clothing you had put away, you must still keep it in one place under the common charge.

31. In this way, none shall perform any task for their own benefit but all you work shall be done for the community with greater zeal and more dispatch than if each one of you were to work for yourself alone. For love, as it is written, "is not self-seeking" (1 Corinthians 13:5), meaning that it places the common good before its own, not its own before the common good. Know, then, that the more you devote yourselves to the community rather than to your private interests, the more you have advanced. Thus, let love, which remains forever, prevail in all things that minister to the fleeting necessities of life.

32. It follows, therefore, that if persons bring something for a son or daughter or other relative living in the monastery, whether a garment or anything else they think is needed, this must not be accepted secretly as one's own but must be placed at the disposal of the superior so that, as common property, it can be given to whomever needs it. But if any secretly kept something given to them, they shall be judge guilty of theft.

33. Your clothing should be cleaned either by yourselves or by those who perform this service, as the superior shall determine, so that too great a desire for clean clothing may not be the source of interior stains on the soul.

34. As for bodily cleanliness too, none must ever deny themselves use of the bath when their health requires it. But this should be done on medical advice, without complaining, so that even though unwilling, they shall do what has to be done for their health when the superior orders it. However, if they wish it when it might not be good for them, you must not comply with their desire, for sometimes we think something is beneficial because it is pleasurable, even though it may prove harmful.

35. Finally, in the case of internal bodily pain, you must unhesitatingly take the word of God's servants when they indicate what is giving them pain. But if it remains uncertain whether the remedy they find pleasing is also good for them, a doctor should be consulted.

36. When there is need to frequent the public baths or any other place, no fewer than two or three should go together, and those who have to go somewhere must not go with those of their own choice but with those designated by the superior.

37. The care of the sick, whether those in convalescence or others suffering from some indisposition, even though free of fever, shall be assigned to brothers or sisters who can personally obtain from the pantry what they see is necessary for each one.

38. Those in charge of the pantry, or of clothing and books, should serve their brothers and sisters without grumbling.

39. Books are to be requested at a fixed hour each day, and anyone coming outside that hour is not to receive them.

40. Those in charge of clothing and shoes shall not delay in giving them whenever they are required by those in need of them.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH 2017/2018

From September 1st there are some changes in St. Thomas Church in Prague

Fr. Juan Provecho, OSA has been appointed new pastor of Saint Thomas Parish. He is taking the place of Fr. Antonio Rivas, OSA who died on August 1st 2017.

We pray also for the new pastor of the parish, Fr. Juan, asking for him all kind of blessings.

Like Pastor of the English speaking community continues **Fr. William Faix, OSA**, who also the prior of St Thomas Monastery.

Fr. Jozef Ržonca, OSA chaplain of the Church has been also appointed as pastor of the Spanish speaking community in the archdiocese of Prague.

Fr. Immam Abellama and Isabelo Carloman, OSA will serve also like chaplains.

FEASTS and ANNIVERSARIES: September

03 *Gregory I (+604)*, the Pope, organized liturgical music, papal administration and sponsored missionary activity in England.

04 *The SOLEMNITY OF OUR MOTHER OF CONSOLATION*

Activities

Back to School season is here! We'll be collecting donations of new school supplies all month. Examples if items needed are: pens, pencils, tempura paint sets, backpacks, notebooks, etc.

Sign up now for Religious Education classes: for kids aged 4+. Please come to our registration even after the 11:00 Mass on Sept 2. Classes begin with Orientation at 9:30am in the Refectory on September 10th. Please contact Mary Beth Hlavsa at REdirector@augustiniani.cz or +420 724 485 930 for more details.

Teachers are still much needed for Religious Education! Please contact Mary Beth Hlavsa at REdirector@augustiniani.cz or +420 724 485 930 to volunteer!

Marriage preparation. Saurday September 16th from 09:15 till 15:15.