



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



750 let Augustiniánů v Čechách

1262–2012

S nadějí a radostí

**THE AUGUSTINIANS IN THE CZECH
LANDS: 750 YEARS IN SERVICE OF THE
GOSPEL.**

With Hope and Joy!

April 14th and April 15th 2012

The Second Sunday of
Easter- B

St. Thomas Church

Josefská 8, Malá Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

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The Reflection of the Gospel

With the promulgation of the papal letter entitled *Rich in Mercy* (1981) which, in turn, had been spurred by the writings of Sister Faustina Kowalska of the Congregation of Mercy, devotion to the Mercy of God has been rapidly spreading throughout the Catholic world. Among the very strong requests expressed by Our Lord, according to this nun, was that the first Sunday after Easter be observed universally as the **Feast of Divine Mercy**. Citing his words: *This feast of Mercy emerged from the very depths of my mercy and it is confirmed in the very depths of my tender mercies... it is my desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter... I desire that the feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of my tender mercies are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fountain of my mercy... I want to grant a complete pardon for souls who will go to confession and receive Holy Communion on the feast of my Mercy... Whoever approaches the fountain of life (that is, receives Holy Communion) on this day (today, the Second Sunday of Easter) will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment... On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened.*

Commenting on these profound words, St. Faustina remarks: *That the feast of Mercy be a true refuge for all, the very depths of Jesus' generosity are opened **this day** in order to pour out upon souls, without holding back, graces of every type and degree. This generosity is... **the motive** for calling upon Divine Mercy with great and limitless trust, for all the gifts of grace Our Lord wants to squander on this Sunday. Why delay? Let us confidently approach our merciful Lord with confidence. Remember the A B C of mercy: Ask for mercy; Be merciful and Completely trust in Jesus.*

Study of the First Reading

In the early chapters of Acts, Luke painted an ideal portray of the Church in Jerusalem. Early Christians created this "ideal" more out of need than out of some sense of utopia. After all, many of believers left their extended families to become Christians. They banded together and shared their possessions/incomes. This was not a commune, as many liberal scholars would like to think, but more like a fraternal organization, with friend helping friend. [32] The Apostles were spiritual and organization leaders of this group. They were the ones who distributed goods to the poor in the community, so everyone could live. Eventually, the Apostles ordained deacons to care for the poor (i.e., the widows and the orphans who were homeless), again out of necessity. [33, 35] The spirit of unity was expressed in financial outreach. The "haves" shared with the "have-nots." Notice that those with property were not forced to sell their possessions for the Church; the offerings were made freely. This point would be made later in Acts 5:1-10. [34] Like the early Christian community, our parishes or assemblies are quilt works with different people from different backgrounds earning different salaries having different needs. This diversity creates a tension that can tear the community apart. Or it can spark a growing together. The resources for growth are usually present. Openness is needed to make that growth happen. Openness to others. Openness to the Spirit.

Let us pray

Eternal Father, I offer you the body and blood, soul and divinity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in atonement for our sins and the sins of the whole world. Through your most sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and the whole world.

To fittingly celebrate this feast sincerely repent of all sin, place complete trust in Jesus Christ, go to confession, receive Holy Communion on the feast of Mercy, venerate the image of divine mercy and above all be merciful to others, through our actions, words and prayers on their behalf

XIV. AUGUSTINIAN WEEK

23.4-27.4

Saint Thomas Monastery , Josefská 8. Praha 1

AUGUSTINE AND THE AUGUSTINIANS IN THE CZECH LANDS: 750 YEARS IN SERVICE OF THE GOSPEL

April 23, 2012

5:30pm A beneficial concert will be presented for the special school in Ruzinovske by the children of Saint Augustine's School, Krc, and the school in Ruzinovske
06:30pm The Opening Exhibit: Saint Augustine and the Augustinians in the Czech Lands
07:00pm The Mystique of Iberian Wine.

April 24

6:00pm Conference presented by Dr. William Stanislav Faix, OSA, Ph.D,
750 Years of Augustinians in the Czech Lands
7:00pm Mass commemorating the Conversion of Saint Augustine (AD 387)

April 25

6:00pm Book Presentation by Fr. Jan N. Jiriste, Kostel a klaster sv. Vavřava v Bele pod Bezdězem (The Church and Monastery of St. Wenceslaus in Bele pod Bezdězem)
6:30pm Dr (Cand.) Francis Chambers, OSA, M.A. Saint Augustine and His Friends (Sv. Augustin a pratele)

April 26

12:15pm Mass celebrated in honor of Our Mother of Good Counsel, Patroness of the Augustinians
06:00pm Dr. Vaclav Nemeč, Křesťanská konverze jako uzdravení vůle podle sv. Augustina
(Christian Conversion as a healing of the will according to Saint Augustine)

April 27

6:00pm Conference presented by Fr. Antonio F. Rivas Gonzalez, OSA, Sv. Augustin v době krize (Saint Augustine in times of Crisis)

Study of the Second Reading

These verses were covered in some detail with the study of 1 John 5:1-9 on the Baptism of the Lord (Cycle B). In that study, I mentioned the practical nature of Christianity. It was a religion that integrated prayer with acts of charity. It was not an esoteric religion such as many contemporaries of the author and his audience wanted. They were Gnostics, those who believed Jesus came as a spirit (in some non-material body) that gave a secret knowledge that led to salvation. With this knowledge (and its practice), one could "save" himself from the evil of the material world. The author of the letter opposed this view with his emphasis on "water, blood, and the Spirit," a clear indication of his belief that God worked in the physical world. (Please see that study for more details.) In this season of Easter, the reading reaffirms our belief that the Risen Lord is still present and at work in our material universe. HE shares his struggle of water (his Baptism) and blood (his death), and everything in between. He also shares the Spirit, the gift of his resurrection. The Risen Lord is with us in a very real sense.

Announcements and Ongoing

Activities

*Every Saturday at 9:00am feeding of the homeless, as a social service

*We are looking for an **English teacher** for next school year for our School in –Prague 4. If you are interesting, please contact with fr. Juan.juan@augustiniani.cz

*We are organizing a pilgrimage to Poland, Czestochowa, **25.5. – 27.5. 2012. Price 1400.- CZK** For concrete information ask Fr. Juan. Juan@augustiniani.cz or 602684538.

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

**Parish Council Meeting Announcement, Sunday, April 21th
After Mass. 12:30 pm**

All members are cordially invited to attend

Icon workshop at St. Thomas the Apostle, Prague-

Monday July 2 to Saturday July 7, 2012 6 days
9:30 to 4:30 one hour for lunch.

Limited to 10 participants.

Workshop/retreat given by Fr. Richard G. Cannuli, OSA

The workshop/retreat consists of painting an icon of St. Augustine of Hippo, 11 h X 9 w. It will be in the Byzantine Russian tradition using panel, egg tempera and 22 k gold leaf. All supplies and notes will be provided.

The workshop/retreat will give participants time to reflect on the spirituality of the "icon" as it applies to its place in the Church and the symbolism that is used in the process. At the end of the workshop/retreat participants will leave with a finished icon.

The cost for the workshop/retreat is \$420.00 US dollars.

Very important NO ARTISTIC TALENT NECESSARY only a desire is required.

The 15th Annual Marian Pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Gracious Madonna, at sv. Dobrotiva-Zaječov, will be held on May 19. We meet in front of St. Joseph's Church on Josefská Street, at 08:30 am, Saturday morning, May 19. If you do not have a ride please contact Fr. Juan Bautista for details. In keeping with our tradition, please bring a lunch, which you can share with another person on pilgrimage. Whatever is left over (if you so will) is given to the poor. There is a brochure, which explains the origins and traditions behind this beautiful 700-year pilgrimage, which has been renewed after forty years of communism.