



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!*

July 14<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>rd</sup> 2012

The 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday -B

# St. Thomas Church

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## The Reflection of the Gospel

There is something paradoxical in today's gospel reading. The disciples usually described as uncomprehending and slow in understanding Jesus' teachings are now sent out on mission to announce what they have learned. Their preparation intense and tinged with a sense of urgency was simple enough: repent and believe. There was no time for sumptuary, boarding, food or pecuniary concerns- in fact; everything was to be sacrificed for mobility and detachment. Carrying only a traveler's staff to ward off scavenging animals, clothed with a simple tunic drawn up above the knees for ready travel and shod with sandals (not expensive shoes) to expedite the rocky paths of rural Palestine, they set out to be "the voice" of Jesus' proclamation. First, they are to preach the imminent advent of God's rule (or kingdom) with an unequivocal call to repentance. With the power of this message they are to cast out demons as a direct rebuke challenging the very grip of evil. Further signs are to be used such as anointing the sick with oil which the ancients thought therapeutic. But, not everyone who heard would listen nor would all the sick be cured since the rule or the kingdom of God is as freely accepted as it is rejected. Once the message is repudiated than in dramatic finale the ancient rabbinic principle is to be employed *shake the very dust from your feet!* Harsh words, indeed, but then again God's word is not to be taken lightly.

## Commentary to the first fading

In this short exchange, Amaziah objected about the prophecy of Amos. Amaziah was a priest at the king's sanctuary in Bethel, the capital of Israel (the so-called "Northern Kingdom"). Surrounding any king were advisors (so-called "prophets"). These "prophets" formed a permanent bureaucracy that guided the king in God's name.

There were other "schools" of prophets that banded together for common worship, spiritual development, and communal living. Like schools in ancient times, these bands of prophets had leaders who taught disciples.

[7:14-15] In either case, such prophets used their oratorical skills and spiritual insights to make a living.

Amaziah assumed Amos came as an unofficial prophet from the king's court at Judea (the "southern Kingdom") or from a school of prophets in the south. He assumed Amos preached against the king to garner support and financial assistance from the king's enemies. Unlike the bureaucratic prophet or the prophet of a school, Amos came to prophesy because of God's call. He was merely a farmer who left his trade (and income) to do God's bidding. Hence, his prophecy was honorable, not self-serving. He traveled far from his homeland to do God's will.

*"Remember, you will be faulted not because you are ignorant against your will but because you neglect to seek out what it is that makes you ignorant.*

*No one has ever been deprived of the ability to know the importance of finding out what it is damaging to be ignorant of. Neither have any been deprived of the ability to know that they should confess their weakness."* Saint Augustine, Free Will 3, 19

**Prayer: I have gone astray, and I have remembered you. I heard your voice behind me calling me to return. And now I return with excitement and desire to your fountain. Saint Augustine, Confessions 12, 10**

## Study of the Second Reading

Praise to God, God's choice, and work of Christ. Praise of God needs no explanation. But the choice of God does. The benediction actually used several verbs that were almost interchangeable in meaning: choose, elect, and predestine. Without a dark journey into the theological realm of predestination vs. free will for the individual, we can note God intended to establish a people of faith and praise. He willed his Son to die and rise again so his Son's followers could rise up with him. And become like his Son: holy and his children. That was God's choice. That was what God predestined his people to become. What does God's Son do for us now? Forgiveness, faith, and the gift of the Spirit (in that order). The first step in the journey toward God begins with forgiveness. That happened 2,000 years ago on Calvary. We realize and accept that forgiveness in faith, the second step. Finally, we receive the Spirit and his gifts to use as a way to strengthen our faith, build up the community, and evangelize. However, each one of those steps have a consequence in God's will. The redemption/forgiveness from the death of Jesus does not stop with believers. The author has a greater vision. Christ died not only for us, but for the entire cosmos. His death reconciles us to the Father. And will reconcile all creation to the Creator. As we are under the headship of Christ in his body, so will all creation be placed under his rule. That is meaning of the phrase "recapitulation." Next, faith is not just the acceptance of forgiveness. It is the cause of prayer, worship, and praise. We do not only believe we are "right" with God. We have a greater purpose. To praise him forever! Finally, the Spirit give us a taste of the end time. The work of the Spirit in us will continue into the Kingdom. In the Spirit, we will realize our final destiny before our Maker and King. What comes from God should return to him. This is story of creation and salvation. Like the author of Ephesians, we should praise God for what he has done, what he is doing now, and what will he will do at the end. For, he is our source. He is our destiny. Praise God!

## Feasts

- 14 *Le Quatorze Juillet* commemorates the storming of the Bastille (Paris) in 1789 and the beginning of the French Revolution.  
-*Hroznat, O.Praem (+1217)*, saintly Norbertine canon through unjust accusations died in prison.
- 15 *Bonaventure, OFM (+1274)* with *Thomas Aquinas* is regarded as one of the great theologians of the medieval Church.  
-*Swithin of Winchester (+862): on this day if it does rain, for 40 days it will remain.*  
-*Vladimir of Kiev (+1015), Prince of Rus, was baptized in 988 and brought his people over to the Christian faith. His grandmother was St. Olga.*
- 16 The Commemoration of *Our Lady of Mount Carmel*, the patroness of the Carmelite Orders, is observed.  
-The Islamic calendar is dated from the *Hegira (Hedzra)* in AD 622.  
-The Great Schism between the Eastern and Western Churches began in 1054.
- 17 *Magdalene Albrici, OSA (+1465)* an Augustinian nun and foundress was known for her gentleness of spirit. *Jadwiga (+1399)*, Queen of Poland, was influential in the conversion of the Lithuanian peoples to the faith.

## Announcements and Ongoing Activities

\*If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, please contact [osaprag@augustiniani.cz](mailto:osaprag@augustiniani.cz)

\*Our regular **organist** and pianist for the last few years will be leaving us at the end of June. If you can play the keyboard or guitar, even if only on an occasional basis, we would like to hear from you! Please contact the director of the choir Tim Young: [tim@young.co.cz](mailto:tim@young.co.cz)

\*We wish all our families a wonderful, restful summer and look forward to welcoming you back at our Sunday School in September

\*If you wish to sign up your child for the 2012-2013 religious education program for children and youth or if you are interested in helping with the program as a teacher or an assistant, please contact Mary Beth Webster at [marybethwebster@hotmail.com](mailto:marybethwebster@hotmail.com).

\*Mary Beth, our RE coordinator, was married in St. Thomas Church on Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> with Richard. Congratulation and all the best!

\*Fr. William, the Pastor of the community, thanks all of you for your care and prayers during the last weeks, when He has been sick. God bless you!

\* We are looking for an **English teacher** to teach children in our school in Prague. If you are interesting, please contact Fr. Juan at 602684538. Experience in teaching children is required!

The requirements to be teacher in our school:

- \*To have an academic requires title according with the Czech education system
- \*To be a good person, with a good reputation
- \*To be Christian.
- \*Always see the good in our students and praise them
- \*To have enthusiasm for his/her work.

## Ever Ancient, Ever New-Sacred Treasures"

Presents Interpretive View of Iconic Images with an art exhibit in  
Augustinian Cloister, Cloister of St. Thomas,  
Josefská 8. Prague 1.  
Rev. Richard Cannuli, OSA

As an artist, Reverend Richard G. Cannuli (OSA) continually pushes his creativity. The Roman Catholic priest (Order of St. Augustine), artist and educator feels that his upcoming exhibit of Old World religious icons, "**Ever Ancient, Ever New – Sacred Treasures**", attains his next level. The show opens Friday 22, June until 22 July 2012, at the Augustinian Cloister of St. Thomas, Josefská 8 Prague