



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.

February 9th and 10th 2013

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - C

St. Thomas Church

Josefska 8, Mala Strana, Prague 1, 118 01

Tel: 257 530 556, 602 643 365

Fax: 257530556

The Reflection of the Gospel

Luke, in contrast to the other three evangelists, dates the call of the first disciples well into the public ministry of Jesus. This seems the more likely. Undoubtedly, this would have given people like Simon and the other disciples time to reflect on the message and person of this mysterious rabbi of Nazareth. As Peter would play an important role in the early Church community, Luke concentrates on some important features of his vocation. At first, Peter dimly begins to see the meaning of Jesus' mission. That wondrous "catch of fish" which brought Peter to his knees marks the beginning of a relationship between the two, though loving yet fraught at times with misunderstanding and even abject denial. No matter, Jesus takes this into account and tells this gruff Galilean workingman that he is destined for the great task of "catching" men and women "alive" to the knowledge of truth. He is to launch out "into the deep"- an interesting metaphor for mission endeavor. The "called" will not "jump" into the Church, the apostle must go out, search for them and bring them in. So, it is the same injunction for each of us. We cannot beg off for "lack of skill," "training" or time. All of us are part of this evangelization to "announce the good news of Jesus Christ" whenever or wherever we find ourselves. If we are convinced our very hearts will call out! Is that true?

Mission 2013

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

Last week's Mission Message; spoke about whom we pray for. With that in mind, we take a moment for reflection on how to pray and the main components of prayer.

The Catechism clearly defines prayer as a "vital and personal relationship with the living and true God" (CCC, no. 2558)

Further reading of the Catechism speak of prayer as:

The raising of one's mind and heart to God in thanksgiving and in praise of his glory. It can also include the requesting of good things from God. It is an act by which one enters into awareness of a loving communion with God. "Prayer is the response of faith to the free promise of salvation and also a response of love to the thirst of the only Son of God" (CCC, no. 2561).

St Augustine wrote: Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you. He further stated that "True prayer, is nothing but love."

Prayer should arise from the heart. "Prayer," said St. John Vianney, "is the inner bath of love into which the soul plunges itself."

St. Francis advised: "Everyone of us needs half an hour of prayer each day, except when we are busy—then we need an hour."

As we go through the liturgy and celebration of mass, we both kneel and stand to pray. We pray the "Our Father" in the words that Christ himself gave us; we pray to the Holy Mother; we petition Our Father and request that he hear our prayers.

As we lift up our hearts today, let us not forget praise and thanks to our lord and to name the many blessings, we have in our lives. For those of you here with family, a quick turn of your head to the left or the right should provide you the inspiration and starting point for those blessings.

Today we celebrate God in our lives, his active participation in our lives and the fact that he gave us the ability to come to him in prayer. We praise his name, giving thanks to him and laying our burdens upon the altar of prayer, humbly beseeching our Lord for his grace and comfort.

You can find out more about the mission and catch up on the readings online at <http://www.augustiniani.cz/en>.

Ongoing Activities

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

*We are looking for a **professional English teacher** to teach English to children from 3 till 7 years old. Please contact Fr. Juan if you are interested

*Please, pray for the **Mission** in our Parish!

*St Thomas' English Speaking Community now has a presence on **facebook**. Please 'like' our page and if you want to get more involved with the community, join our group!

*Fr. William will be in USA for the next month. Fr. Juan will be taking care of the community: 602684538

*If you are interested in studying the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies, a course run by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, please see the website <http://brs-ccrs.org.uk> and contact Jim Willetts on jimwill@email.cz

***DIVE CLUB "BARRACUDA"** Dive club "barracuda", associated to the parish, offers dive courses (system CMAS) and the possibility to dive. If you are interested, please contact Ramón 774 717 049 o Antonio 608 22 76 86

* The **season of Lent** begins ASH WEDNESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY. Ashes will be distributed both on that day(at 06:00pm) and on Sunday 17 February, after Mass. Catholics are urged to enter into the spirit of this holy season of conversion.

*During **Lent season** every Friday at 6pm in the church will be the Stations of the Cross.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST WORLD DAY OF THE SICK(11 FEBRUARY 2013)

3. Various Fathers of the Church saw Jesus himself in the Good Samaritan; and in the man who fell among thieves they saw Adam, our very humanity wounded and disoriented on account of its sins (cf. Origen, *Homily on the Gospel of Luke XXXIV,1-9*; Ambrose, *Commentary on the Gospel of Saint Luke*, 71-84; Augustine, *Sermon 171*). Jesus is the Son of God, the one who makes present the Father's love, a love which is faithful, eternal and without boundaries. But Jesus is also the one who sheds the garment of his divinity, who leaves his divine condition to assume the likeness of men (cf. *Phil 2:6-8*), drawing near to human suffering, even to the point of descending into hell, as we recite in the Creed, in order to bring hope and light. He does not jealously guard his equality with God (cf. *Phil 2:6*) but, filled with compassion, he looks into the abyss of human suffering so as to pour out the oil of consolation and the wine of hope.

Feasts

09 *Maron*, the Patron and Apostle of Lebanon, is venerated this day.

-*Apollonia* (+249), a deaconess of Alexandria, first had her teeth bashed in and then was thrown into the fire. She is the Patroness of dentists.

-Today, Fr. William Faix, OSA, the pastor, celebrates his 50th **priest ordination day**. Please pray for him and all priests.

10 *Scholastica* (+543), the sister of *Benedict of Monte Cassino*, supported him in the establishment of monastic life for women, a precedent for later founders.

11 *Our Lady of Lourdes* is venerated under this title from apparitions in that site. Beginning this day to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858. The Pope has designated this day as a day of prayer for the sick.

-The *Lateran Pact* recognizes the sovereignty of the Vatican State in 1929.

-Japan celebrates *Foundation Day* or the founding of the Japanese nation in 660 BC with the accession of Emperor Jimmu.

13 *Christina of Spoleto* (+1453), after leading a rather disordered life, became a Tertiary of Saint Augustine and devoted herself to works of charity.

14 *Valentine* (+3rd century), a Roman priest, who after his arrest for performing illegal marriages, was executed. That incident along with the tradition that birds mate and sing this day exalted this Saint as the *Patron of Lovers and Engaged*. Happy St. Valentine's Day! Let us pray for those engaged and our married couples.

Blessed Simon Fidati of Cascia, OSA

February 16

Blessed Simon Fidati of Cascia (1295?-1348), an Augustinian Friar who advocated Gospel simplicity and community based on Christian love, was known for his powerful preaching and desire to form Christ in everyone.

Born in Cascia around 1295, Simon entered the Order of St. Augustine as a young man. He initially studied philosophy and science, but soon changed his focus to study spirituality and theology.

Simon loved solitude and contemplation, but in obedience to his superiors in the Order, willingly involved himself in apostolic work. He developed the reputation as a powerful preacher of the Word of God and an outstanding teacher of the spiritual life. Forming Christ in all people became the primary goal of all his ministry. He was especially devoted to the humanity of Jesus, which he saw as a key to the life of a Christian. This devotion was rooted in the context of the Augustinian traditions of "theology of the heart" and the centrality of God's love.

In spite of some difficulties, Simon remained faithful to his vocation. He valued Christian charity, obedience to the Order and a sense of community of fraternal love as the most important underlying values for living religious community life. His writings include *The Works of Our Savior*, a life of Christ written in the form of a commentary on biblical passages; *The Order of the Christian Life*, which inspires the reader to live in conformity to Christ, and *Epistolary*, a collection of approximately 50 of his letters.

Simon died in Florence February 2, 1348, during the Great Plague. His remains are preserved in Cascia at the Basilica of St. Rita. Pope Gregory XVI declared him *Blessed* in 1833.