



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.

July 20th and 21st 2013

16th Ordinary Sunday -C

St. Thomas Church

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GOSPEL STUDY

Hospitality in the time of Jesus was an important cultural as well as social function. Since there were no "fast food" eateries or convenient hotels, motels or hostels, the traveler depended on the good will of those locals who would provide some basic shelter and food. Written into their rules monasteries and convents in the Middle Ages long provided such hospitable amenities not only for itinerant guests but also for the homeless poor. The Protestant Reformation after 1517 changed all this. With the suppression of the English monasteries under Henry VIII (1536-1540), for example, thousands of dependent poor and stranded travelers had to fend for themselves.

Today's gospel reading from Luke uses the domestic setting of oriental hospitality for continuing last week's gospel theme. We noted in the previous Sunday the example of the Good Samaritan expressing his love of God through fraternal concern. Today this love theme is now expanded in the heartfelt hospitality offered Jesus in Martha and Mary's household. The Polish would add here that a "guest in the house is God in the house." The scene is domestic, indeed. Two sisters invite Jesus (probably with his entourage of disciples) for a meal. But, the chores involve not only the preparation and serving the meal but also the required washing of the guests' feet and perfuming their heads with aromatic oil. A stressed Martha soon complained to Jesus about her sister's "sitting at the feet of Jesus" with all these required tasks yet to be done. Jesus understood Martha's frustration and answered with was to become one of the most misunderstood biblical quotes: "Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." Some exegetes (biblical interpreters) understand this statement -despite the anachronism- as an encomium of mysticism or contemplative life. But, what Jesus here approves is Mary's burning desire which freely translated reads *that one thing which (Mary seeks) is the kingdom of God and it will not be taken from her.*

We, like Martha are called, challenged and charged with daily responsibilities. The stress of "deadlines" and multiple commitments can wean us away from that "one thing- the kingdom of God" and its pursuit. It seems that the Lord is telling us *how* we are to discover Him both in our work and our desire. Too frequently, however, we can lose sight of God (so unlike Mary) amidst those very affairs which wait for us to bless and redirect them in our pursuit of the kingdom- that "one thing" that really matters.

First Reading:

As a nomad, Abraham and his family lived in tents, as they traveled with their grazing herds in the desert. The few who lived in the harsh deserts of Judea depended upon each other for survival. Visitors were treated very well, for they brought companionship and help for the host. The practice of hospitality was highly prized in Abraham's time. As a merchant, Abraham looked for opportunities to trade. Any visitors meant an possibility to trade for materials he needed. No wonder he ran to greet three strangers and begged them to stay! [18:2-3]

As a gracious host, Abraham prepared and served a gourmet meal. [18:6-8] In return, the leader promised Abraham and his wife Sarah a son. Abraham who graciously gave the meal received a gift that was so much greater. He had a heir, one who could help manage the family flocks and the family trade, one who could take care of Abraham and Sarah in their old age, one who could carry on the family name and the family memory. Who gave him this promise? The Lord [18:1] and his two companions: His "goodness and kindness" (from Psalm 23:6), His "light and truth" (Psalm 43:3), and His "justice and judgement" (Psalm 97:2). (The pairs of divine qualities are given human form by Hebrews; Christians see the wanderers as the three persons of the Trinity.) In other words, God in his fullness gave Abraham the promise of a son. As God promised, so it happened. Abraham did not hesitate to welcome strangers. And through his welcome, Abraham received the Lord and his promise.

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

Mission 2013

Indulging our Children:

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

Our Holy Pontiff will soon be on his way to Brazil for the International Youth Day. They expect approximately 1.5 million visitors for this event.

The Vatican announced July 9 that Pope Francis had allowed that the faithful could receive indulgences through participation in World Youth Day. This included following the event through social media.

Naturally our sound bite driven press has announced to the world, that their sins will be forgiven if they follow the Pope on twitter.

International Youth Day is commemorated every year on 12 August. The Focal Point on Youth selects a theme for the day with input from youth organizations and members of the UN Inter-Agency Network in Youth development. It also organizes a commemoration of the Day at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Program encourages youth around the world to organize activities to raise awareness about the situation of youth in their country.

The Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary; the Vatican court that rules on the forgiveness of sins, has said that indulgences may be given to those who follow the "rites and pious exercises" of the event on television, radio and through social media.

The Penitentiary said that Pope Francis' Twitter account, which has already gathered seven million followers, would be one such medium.

The fact is that the cause and the motivation behind having an International Youth Day is cross border, sponsored by the United Nations and might we dare say, an appealing cause for all denominations and religions?

So, what did our church mean and what can we tell others around the water cooler?

Just what is an indulgence? Indulgences have been recorded since the beginning of the church. In the middle ages the church got a bad reputation from many Archbishops using the promise of indulgences to help pay for supporting the Crusades. Indulgences were seen as an out an out fundraising for the church and according to most historic sources, this has more than a once of truth to it.

Indulgences are not: Payments for the forgiveness of sins. It is not a permission to commit sin, nor a pardon of future sin; neither could be granted by any power. It is not the forgiveness of the guilt of sin; it supposes that the sin has already been forgiven.

An indulgence is defined as the remission of the temporal punishment – the unhealthy attachment to created things – due to sins, which have already been forgiven.

Allowing indulgences to those who follow World Youth Day through the new means of social communication is really an invitation to spend time in prayer with the pilgrims of World Youth Day.

JD Flynn is a special assistant to Bishop James Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska and he also holds a licentiate in canon law from Catholic University of America.

In an interview he noted the historical link between pilgrimages and indulgences, saying that "a person is invited oftentimes to make a pilgrimage, and in the context of that pilgrimage is invited to sacramental confession, and also invited to pray for the Church, to pray for the Holy Father, to pray for the souls in purgatory – and those are the sanctifying things."□□"People who make spiritual pilgrimages receive in a particular way the grace to overcome the temporal penalties of their sins," he reflected.□

"The great thing about the age we live in is that people can make pilgrimages ... even when they can't be physically present, so the extension of the World Youth Day indulgences to so-called 'digital pilgrims' is really a recognition that we, as members of the body of Christ, can participate in prayer and spiritual communion with one another, even when we're not in physical proximity with one another."

So can we achieve salvation through the Internet?

believers would first have to confess their sins, offer prayers and attend Mass.



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.

❖ I personally want to take this opportunity to thank all our parishioners who are leaving us. Your support and concern made our parish the good community it is

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

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

❖ AVAILABLE 01 JULY 2+1with Patio Prague 3, Rehorova Beautiful Art Nouveau furnished apartment. High ceilings, original moldings and hard wood parquet floors throughout. Building fully refurbished. Storage space in basement. 65m2 composed of 1 large bedroom, full living room and fully-equipped kitchen with Czech mosaic original crystal tiling. Full bathroom with shower, tub, bidet and washing machine. Fully tastefully furnished. Private 25m2 patio with teak garden furniture. WIFI included. Excellent transportation: 3 tram, 4 bus and 1 metro lines. 16,000kc monthly; minimum 1 year lease. Prefer non-smokers, no pets and tenants with legal right of abode in the Czech Republic. Maximum 2 adults. Direct from owner(who resides in building); owner speaks English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, Polish and Czech. Further information at estebandepraga@yahoo.com.ar

July Feasts and Commemorations

- 22 Mary Magdalene, a woman disciple of Jesus, who has been called the "apostle to the apostles" since it was she who first announced the resurrection of the Lord.
-Gregor Mendel, OSA, the Augustinian friar who pioneered the study of heredity, was born in 1822.
- 23 Bridget of Sweden (+1373), wife, mother, widow and foundress of a religious order (the Brigittines), worked all her life for Church unity and reform. She has been acclaimed on the patronesses of continental Europe.
- 24 Christina, the Martyr (+304), a young Christian woman, suffered all indignities rather deny her faith.

(Mission 2013)

When I was young and my grandmother was too sick to attend mass. She would listen to the Mass broadcast on the radio. I recently listened to the celebrations in Velehrad that way. She said it was almost like being there and God knew she couldn't make it that day.

When we receive indulgences normally and in person; or absolution, through confession, we commit ourselves to the process. When we are following the process electronically, it is no different. Vatican officials noted that to obtain indulgences over the Internet or otherwise, So the Press claim of salvation through tweeting and less purgatory for following Twitter might grab headlines, but a better way to say it would be that the Vatican recognizes that the more time we spend in prayer and refection the less time we spend in purgatory.