

FAMILY OF PARISHES NE #8

United in Faith, Hope, and Service to the Community

Rev Francis Tandoh, C.S.Sp, Pastor

Rev. Benoit Mukamba, C.S.Sp., Parochial Vicar



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[SB] Janice Kwofie:

Admin. Assistants:

[SA] Sylvia Hess

[SB] Susan Smith, office Volunteer

Family of Parishes NE 8 Council President:

Joe Deviliz (SA) Roland Winburn (SB)

Prayer Chains, Sacrament of the Sick 937-268-6697

Weddings, RCIA/RCIC Call the offices 937-268-6697

Baptisms: Do you need your child Baptized Please call the Parish Office at 937 268 6697

Deacon Ken Stewart & Victor Obasuyi instructors

Regional Confessions: Saturdays 4pm or by appointment

Send your Bulletin Announcements to:

admin@unitedinhope.org or info@unitedinhope.org on Monday

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Seek and You Shall Find

A man had a minor heart attack and was rushed to the nearest hospital for immediate coronary surgery. A congregation of religious sisters runs the hospital. The operation was successful, and the next day, the nun visited him in his room. “Mr. Jones, you’re doing just fine,” the nun said with a big smile as she gently patted his hand. “But we have to know who will pay for your medical bills. Do you have a medical insurance?” “No, I don’t have,” the man said in a weak voice. “Are you going to pay in cash, then?” “I don’t think I can, Sister. I have no money.” “Do you have a family or any close relatives around here?” “Yes, I have. But she is an old maid, a spinster nun assigned in Florida,” said the man. The nun’s smile vanished, and quickly corrected him, “I beg to disagree, sir. Nuns are not spinsters! They are married to Jesus.” The man’s face brightened up and said, “Really? Then, you may send the bill to my brother-in-law!”

This story reveals a profound truth. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he started with the word “Abba”, which, in the English language, is equivalent to how a child would call his father, as in “Daddy” or “Papa”. Jesus is telling us that we are closely related to God. He, in fact, is our loving Father!

In the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus is not merely giving us a formula of prayer that is easy to memorize and recite. Rather, in giving us the prayer “Our Father”, Jesus is offering a three-fold invitation to us. In the first place, he is inviting us to enter into an intimate relationship with God. St. John pointed it out in his letter: “See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are” (1Jn 3:1). Hence, we are reminded that when we pray, our only and best disposition is to be like little children. That is why Jesus insisted, “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 18:3). God wants us to relate to Him as a child relates to his own father – with love, trust, honesty, humility and total dependence.

Many times, when parishioners come to me asking for prayers, they would invariably say, “Father, please pray for my intention. I know you are close to God and you are an expert in praying.” I am not even sure if this is a compliment. Contrary to popular belief, praying is not the monopoly of priests. It is supposed to be the main priority in the life of every follower of Christ. In the Gospel last Sunday, Jesus told Martha: “Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from her” (Lk 10:42).

Prayer is the lifeblood of our soul. Saint Padre Pio calls it the “oxygen of our soul”. We cannot live without it. All of us need and are expected to pray. And if we love God, we will find time to pray. Prayer is an expression of our relationship with God. We pray, not because we like to be close to God. Rather, we are close to God, and so we pray. A child who does not have close relationship with his father will not talk to him in an intimate way. Prayer is the fruit of our relationship with God. The more we love God, the better our prayer will be. Therefore, there are no experts in prayer, but only true lovers of God. Likewise, seniority does not matter in prayer, but only the ability to become like little children.

Secondly, in teaching the “Our Father”, Jesus also invites us to enter a more meaningful relationship with Him and with one another. If we call God “Father”, then Jesus is our brother. Perhaps, nobody among us here will object to that. But Jesus has identified himself with our fellowmen, especially those considered the least, the lost and the last. In the parable on the Last Judgment, Jesus concluded: “Whatsoever

you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me” (cf Mt 25). He demands that we also accept His brothers and sisters as our own. That is why the prayer starts with the first-person pronoun “our”. It is never “My Father”. A selfish person has no right to pray the “Our Father”.

In his book “Jesus of Nazareth”, Pope Benedict XVI said: “Only within the ‘we’ of the disciples can we call God ‘Father’, because only through communion with Jesus do we truly become ‘children of God.’ In this sense, the word “our” is really demanding: It requires that we step out of the closed circle of our ‘I’. It requires that we surrender ourselves to communion with the other children of God. It requires that we accept the others – that we open our ears and our hearts to them. When we say the word out, we say Yes to the living Church in which the Lord wanted to gather his new family...The Our Father overcomes all boundaries and makes us one family.”

Finally, in teaching us the “Our Father”, Jesus is inviting us to share His vision of this world. The Lord’s Prayer is not as simple as it looks. It is radical and revolutionary: it is a prayer that demands a fundamental change of the world – from being a world of injustice, selfishness, and

St. Augustine St. Benedict the Moor Our Lady of Grace Queen of Martyrs & Corpus Christi Churches: Family of Parishes Northeast #8 July 23, 2022

misery, into a world of justice, peace and happiness. It is a prayer that impels us to obey God's will so that we can be instruments for the transformation of this world into becoming God's kingdom on earth: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is heaven."

In the Our Father, Jesus is offering us His threefold invitation: to become God's children, to become brothers and sisters of Jesus and of one another, and to become instruments for the coming of God's kingdom on earth. There is an RSVP attached to this invitation. We have to reply, and it should be: "Amen!"

Fr. Mike Lagrimas



REGION ONE LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

[SA] St. Augustine [SB] St. Benedict
July 23 3:45p **[SB] Confessions**
July 23 4:30pm **[SB] Fr. Matthew Amoako Attah**
July 24 8:30am **[SA] Paul Stocket**
July 24 10:30am **[SB] Parishioners**

YOUR STEWARSHIP THANK YOU

ST. AUGUSTINE WEEKLY COLLECTION
July 17: Collection: \$ 1,896.00, St. Vincent's \$15

ST. BENEDICT WEEKLY COLLECTION
July 17: Collection: \$2,636, Maintenance \$25, School 425, SB Charities \$5, Up to date Capital Campaign, \$53,175.00



ST. AUGUSTINE MINISTERS SCHEDULE

July
 24 Patrick Barnett
 31 JoAnne Vincent

ST. BENEDICT MINISTERS SCHEDULE

JULY 24TH – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reader – Janet Harden
 2nd Reader – Michael Stitts
 Petitions – Victor O'Basuyi
 Extraordinary Ministers – Victor O'Basuyi, Emmett Orr, Carolyn Day

JULY 31ST – EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1st Reader – Annette Young

2nd Reader – Angel Kelly
 Petitions – Victor O'Basuyi
 Extraordinary Ministers – Victor O'Basuyi, Susan Smith, Sharon Hairston

Reminders

St Augustine Rosary is in person every Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

St Benedict Bible Study Every Wednesday at 7 PM on Google meeting <https://meet.google.com/hpy-pmvp-fvt>
Or dial: +1 402-921-2290 PIN: 708 666 706#

Started book of Kings on June 1,

Change in Dial-in Number for Rosary

New Dial-In Number: 6677701427
 Access Code: 556136
 Rosary time is every Monday at 11am. Join your church family in praying for the community and each other.



Pray for our sick and Shut-Ins

Mae Wilkinson, Kenneth Bronston, I Helen Spanish, Pat bell, Betty Jones, Susie Roberts, Angelina Matin, Nancy Green, Mary Dudley, Priscilla Moon, Annena Younger, Keno Hampton, Sherman Mosley, Juanita Newell, Robert Florence, Rita Ellicott, Loure Hayes, Renee' Raisch, Don Hoog and Ray Metzger, Kathy Bowers, Joyce Mersch

Nursing Homes

Eddie Weaver Mary Scott
 Roberta Hickman Heartland of Kettering



Thank you to all those who were able to make it to all these meetings of Beacons of light. Some attend about three others two or more. Right now, some of you have experienced the distances among us as family. But I believe that is not going to deter us but rather going to energize us for better communication among us. Stay tuned for more information as it comes. Continue to visit <https://catholicaoc.org/beacons-of-light>

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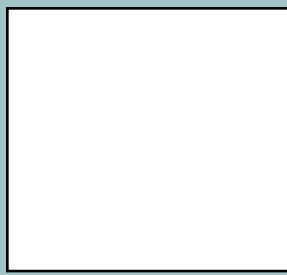
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