

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

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Our Mission Statement: The All Saints Catholic Community is a fully integrated, multicultural community with English as its unifying language. It is an open, warm, welcoming, inclusive community that prays together and celebrates its unity in diversity.

July 13, 2014 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:10-11 • Psalm 65:10-14 • Romans 8:18-23 • Matthew 13:1-23

Celebrant: Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

Attendance on July 6th: 212

Collection: Friends: €418.99, Schools: €102.41

Jubilee Reflections 1

As I celebrate my golden jubilee of priesthood with you, I want to tell you about three events which made me understand more deeply what Christian faith is all about. Event one:

When I arrived in my first parish in Uganda in 1964, I was not only overwhelmed by the beauty of the place. What impressed me most was the sense of solidarity of the people there. They would carry their sick for hours over the volcanic mountains to the mission hospital and at least two would stay with the patients to cook and care for them and sleep on the cement floor under their bed at night. What is my message as a missionary to people who seemed to be more Christian than anything I had seen at home? My question turned into a crisis of vocation. My question was answered when a few months later travelling with a teacher on a motorcycle we found a woman near the bush path lying in the grass with a cut on her head, covered in blood and unconscious. I did not know what to do and went to greet the people living nearby and asked them whether they had seen the woman on the path. "Yes, they said, when we came out this morning she was there." "But why did you not take her to the hospital?" I asked. Their short answer remains still engraved in my memory: "S'uwacu!" they answered. "She is not one of us." At this moment I knew what my message was. You do not have to tell people in Africa about the existence of God or about solidarity. Africa's problem is tribalism. What they need is to extend their solidarity beyond the limits of family and clan to everybody and learn that all others are equally God's children and therefore their brothers and sisters for whom they are responsible. This is a challenge for all of us. We all tend to reserve our love and solidarity to family, friends and interest groups. It is a continuous struggle to expand the horizon of our charity and responsibility to include those nobody cares about. Pope Francis keeps reminding us "to go to the margins."

Fr Wolfgang Schonecke

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Boy Scout Troop 46: All Saints is the proud Chartered Organization for Boy Scout Troop 46 "Freedom Outpost." *True to Scouting Values for Over 55 years* (www.troop46berlin.ScoutLander.com)

Have a great summer! And safe travels!