

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 20, 2014 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 • Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 • Romans 8:26-27 • Matthew 13:24-43**

**Celebrant: Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ**

### Jubilee Reflections 2

Priests usually make a "retreat" every year. For a week they withdraw to a quiet place to pray and meditate the word of God under the guidance of a "retreat master." I was looking forward to such a retreat when I received a letter from my religious superior not to make but to preach that retreat as he had to undergo an urgent operation and was not able to come. I was furious but as mobile phones and e-mails did not exist at the time, I could not even refuse the request. On a sunny Sunday I set out on the 150 km journey. After a short time in the middle of a forest the middle of the road was blocked by a huge rock. I turned round and tried another route only to be faced with a landslide. Working for hours, some local people managed to clear the road enough for me to get through. It looked as if some evil spirit was trying to discourage me. Then in the twilight of the evening I saw a branch across the road and beyond it a huge gaping hole where there used to be a bridge. The rainy season had been particularly heavy and floods had carried the bridge away. Taking yet another detour, I finally reached the retreat house around midnight on my last drop of gas. In the morning I met my confreres, read the letter to them and told them that I had prepared nothing. We would come together once a day. If I had to say anything, I would say it. For the rest they should pray on their own. When at the end of the retreat one of them told me that this had been the best retreat in his life, I knew it was not my merit. On this occasion and many others afterwards I experienced the truth of Jesus' promise: "Do not worry what to say. It will be given you."

Yes, God provides, not only for our spiritual needs, but also for our material needs. In 1994 some ten thousand refugees from Ruanda arrived in Nairobi. As they were illegal, they did not get any support from anybody. We started a small program for them without any means and almost miraculously we always received what we just needed. We can trust God to give us "our daily bread", i.e. what we truly need for today: no more, no less.

**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](http://www.troop46berlin.ScoutLander.com))