

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Hüttenweg 46 • 14195 Berlin-Dahlem
Phone (030) 86203636 • Fax (030) 86203638
Email: allsaintsberlin@t-online.de
Website: www.all-saints-berlin.de



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.

August 3, 2014 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:1-3 • Psalm 145:8-9, 15-18 • Romans 8:35, 37-39 • Matthew 14:13-21

Celebrant: Fr. Herbert Gillessen

God's word is the most powerful force our faith has to offer

Saint Paul makes a statement of faith (Rm 8,18): *"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us."* Paul brings a challenge to our attention: *How do we know the things we hope for in faith will eventually happen one day?* Isaiah and Jesus in the gospel according to Matthew give the same basic answer to this question, even though they were active more than 500 years apart. Paul employs the image of a woman in labor to convey his point: *"We know that all creation is still groaning and is in pain, like a woman about to give birth. The Spirit makes us sure about what we will be in the future. But now we groan silently, while we wait for God to show that we are his children. This means that our bodies will also be set free. And this hope is what saves us."* (Rm 8 22-24).

Isaiah was active during the darkest hour of the Chosen People – the Babylonian Exile 2500 years ago. Then, a large part of the Jews were confined in Babylon; a safeguard against any revolt against their foreign conquerors. For the people in exile, there was no hope to return to the Promised Land. But then this unnamed, unexpected *prophet* comes and promises their time of punishment is over. Sounds great, but how can the people in exile be certain this longed for day is just around the corner? Isaiah has just one answer: *We've got Yahweh's word on it! If Yahweh says it, it happens, no matter the obstacles."* *"Rain and snow fall from the sky. But they don't return without watering the earth that produces seeds to plant and grain to eat. That's how it is with my words. They don't return to me without doing everything I send them to do."* (Is 55 10-11)

Jesus, like Isaiah and Paul, was amazed at the power of the word he proclaimed: if just a little bit of seed takes root it will produce *"fruit, a hundred, or sixty or thirty fold."* Do we not also proclaim God's word in a world where few seem concerned with this word? Though God's word is easy to ignore, it is the most powerful force our faith has to offer.

cf <http://www.dignityusa.org/breath/july-13-2008-fifteenth-sunday-year>

Fr Wolfgang Felber SJ

Friends of All Saints Verein: IBAN: DE15 37060193 6001669018 BIC: GENODED1PAX, Pax-Bank eG

All Saints Council: Konrad Giersdorf (Co-Chair) * Vanessa Hansen (Co-Chair) * Rudolf Hausmann * Nora Bungert * Tamás Meggyes * Marianne Sihotang

Friends of All Saints Verein: Howard Eyth * Mike Hoth * Lupita Wilhelm * Heide Doblhofer * Eddie McGreal

Rector Ecclesiae: Fr. Gillessen, English-Speak. Cath. Mission, Johann-Georg-Str. 8, 10709 Berlin, Tel: 8132026

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)