

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.

August 31, 2014 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20:7-9 • Psalm 63:2-6, 8-9 • Romans 12:1-2 • Matthew 16:21-27

Celebrant: Fr. Jun Ocampo SVD

One of the papacy's most important tasks: bringing the prophets in the Church to the surface

The implications of the **Romans** passage are astounding (Romans 11:33-36). Let us listen again to Paul's praise of God's "*wisdom and knowledge*": "*Who can measure the wealth and wisdom and knowledge of God? Who can understand his decisions or explain what he does? Has anyone known the thoughts of the Lord or given him advice? Has anyone loaned something to the Lord that must be repaid?*" If that's true, then we who claim to be God's friends have a huge task: to constantly apply God's inscrutable wisdom and unsearchable knowledge to whatever happens in our everyday life. How can we accomplish this?

One thing is evident from our **Isaiah** passage (Isaiah 22:19-23): God is intimately interested in whatever happens in our daily life. God is interested in our daily life even to the point of arranging for a change in political power. If God is concerned about everything, then God is concerned about everything – no exceptions. But how do we make God's concerns our concerns?

Let us have a look at Matthew 16:13-20: **Matthew's** purpose in composing this story is to stress Peter's faith in the risen Jesus. Matthew's purpose is not to stress Peter's prerogative as the first infallible pope. It's that faith of people like Peter on which the Christian community is built. The objective of the evangelist is this faith of Peter, not the person of Peter, and surely not the idea that Peter was to become the 1st pope. From the gospel we know that even Peter can make gross mistakes. Not only by denying Jesus on Good Friday, but by supporting members in the young Church who are against baptizing non-Jews. Here Peter was clearly on the wrong side – Paul had an important conflict with him.

So the quest to know God's will is a constant task for anyone who dares to follow God, who calls himself or herself a friend of God. There's no one person, no one institution, no one situation who has a monopoly on God's will. The authors of our sacred scriptures presume that our minds and hearts must always be open to bring God's will to the surface – bring God's will to the surface even in situations, institutions, and persons in which we have never noticed it before.

The Jesuit Cardinal Avery Dulles said about the Roman-Catholic Church: "*Had there been a Holy Office in the early church, we would have just one gospel: Mark. But in our history books we would have reference to three notorious early Christian heretics named Matthew, Luke and John.*" Why did Avery Dulles say this? The power of the Church, the so-called *Magisterium*, had been discussed at the council. And many of the leaders in Rome had wanted to expand this central power of the Roman Church. So Avery Dulles wanted to make one thing clear: if we want to identify God's will in our lives, we can no longer rely just on papal decrees or conciliar statements. This is what the council's documents show.

Both the earliest church and the biblical Jews presumed the usual way to surface God's will was to listen to the community's prophets. Prophets – those special individuals, men and women, whom God inspires to be our conscience, to provide us with the future implications of our present actions. These are the people who consistently challenge us to return to the beginnings of our faith, who are able to cut through centuries of institutional addenda and recreate God's original plan for God's people.

Now let me come to another Jesuit: Pope Francis has this intention to get everyone's input into the Vatican's upcoming Synod on the Family. I think that this is certainly a step toward that broader sense of *Magisterium*, a broader notion of "the teaching of the Church". Perhaps one of the papacy's most important tasks isn't always to tell us God's will, but to bring the prophets in the Church to the surface – prophets whom God has inspired to do just that.

<http://www.dignityusa.org/breath/august-24-2014-twenty-first-sunday-year>

Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ



ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are **visiting All Saints for the first time**, please introduce yourself at the end of Mass so we can welcome you. Please join us for coffee and cake after Mass in the Community Hall!

Mark your Calendars

- The **Annual Fall Bazaar** is taking place on **September 6th from 9 am to 3 pm**. You can register by either stopping at the office after Mass, sending an email to allsaintsberlin@t-online.de or calling 030 862 03 636. Please leave a message - your call will be returned. The cost is one homemade cake and 10 euros. Volunteers to help set-up, clean-up or sell coffee & cake are always welcome!
- Boy Scout Troop 46 would like to invite the All Saints Community to their **60th anniversary celebration** on **Saturday, September 13th at 5:30 pm** at Hüttenweg.
- We will be having our annual **Fall Welcome BBQ** on **Sunday, September 14th** directly after Mass. Please bring a side-dish to share.

Please continue to donate to All Saints by using the **white envelopes** stamped **ALL SAINTS FUND** and/or transferring your donation to the Pax-Bank account printed below. We are completely **dependent** upon your donations. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Friends of All Saints Verein: Bank Account No.: 6001669018, BLZ 370 601 93, Pax-Bank eG
BIC: GENODED1PAX IBAN: DE15 37060193 6001669018

Our celebrants: Jesuits and White Fathers			
All Saints Coordinators	Altar Servers	Katharine Doeringer, Buck Chisolm	03328/335725, 86203785
	Bulletin, Website	Tamás Meggyes, Vanessa Hansen	811 06 33; 0157 78 95 9845
	Eucharistic Ministers	Heide Doblhofer	832 62 72
	Greeters	Buck Chisolm	0152 56301776
	Hospitality	Levina Menjares, Lupita Wilhelm	466 09 788, 305 82 45
	Lectors	Johannes Ploog	0160 98 28 9515
	Music Director	Johannes Wrembek	341 31 90
	Office, Treasurer	Heide Doblhofer	832 62 72

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. Gillissen, English-Speaking Cath. Mission, Johann-Georg-Str. 8, 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)

Directions to All Saints:

- **Subway:** U 3, Oskar-Helene-Heim (10-min. walk) or S 1, Zehlendorf, then bus.
- **Bus:** Bus 285: stop Am Waldfriedhof (last stop, 2-min. walk); bus 110 or 623: stop Oskar-Helene-Heim (10-min. walk) or bus 115: stop Hüttenweg (5-min. walk).
- **Car:** A115 Avus highway, Hüttenweg exit or Clayallee (<http://berlinonline.de/citymap>)

Please take this copy of the bulletin and use it to spread the word about All Saints.