



## *Catholic Community*

### Member of the English-Speaking Mission

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

**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 30, 2015 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (*Missalette* p 50 et seq.): Deu 4:1-2, 6-8 • Ps 15:2-5 • Jam 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27 • Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**Celebrant: Fr. Jun Ocampo SVD**

#### **On the care for our common home**

Rarely has a church document received so much public attention as the recent encyclical of Pope Francis dealing with one of the greatest challenges of our times: climate change and the destruction of the environment. The title of the letter is the opening words of St. Francis' hymn to creation *Laudato Si* (Let it be praised). Why is this document so important not only for Christians, but humanity as a whole?

- Climate change affects everybody already and will do so even more in the future. That is why Pope Francis – like his predecessor John XXIII addresses it to 'all people of good will.' It is the No. 1 challenge for us today. The Pope writes: "Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day". (25)

The Pope identifies central themes. I just want to touch on three of them.

1. **The environmental destruction and the scandal of hunger and poverty have the same root cause.** "The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation." (48) It is the same limitless human greed, the insatiable hunt for maximum profits that hurts the poor and destroys nature. In the Pope's language: We need "to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor". (49)
2. **We have to read the biblical story of creation in a new way.** With the aid of scientific discoveries and ever more efficient technologies we have for two centuries been extremely successful in fulfilling God's command in the first chapter of the creation story: "to fill and subdue the earth" (Gen 1:28). We have forgotten to look at the second creation story where God put Adam (man) into the garden of Eden and tells him "to cultivate and care for it" (Gen 2:15) The Pope writes: "The Genesis account which grants man dominion" over the earth, has encouraged the unbridled exploitation of nature by painting him as domineering and destructive by nature. This is not a correct interpretation of the Bible... The biblical texts tell us to "till and keep" the garden of the world. "Tilling" refers to cultivating, ploughing or working, while "keeping" means caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving." (67) As God cares for all his creatures we need to learn to care for creation.
3. **We have to learn to look at creation in a different way.** Pope Francis combines two insights that each creature is unique and has a value in itself and at the same time all creatures, human beings included, are all linked together and depend on each other. Here are some beautiful quotations from *Laudato Si*.  
"In the Judaeo-Christian tradition, the word "creation" has a broader meaning than "nature", for it has to do with God's loving plan in which every creature has its own value and significance. Nature is usually seen as a system which can be studied, understood and controlled, whereas creation can only be understood as a gift from the outstretched hand of the Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into universal communion." (76)

If you wish to read more, but do not have the time to go through the 200-page document, I will be happy to send you nine meditations of one page each on the major themes of Laudato Si with a short introduction and a few salient quotations. Just write to [w.schonecke@gmx.de](mailto:w.schonecke@gmx.de)

**Fr Wolfgang Schonecke MAfr**

## WELCOME YOU AT ALL SAINTS!

*Visiting All Saints for the first time? Please introduce yourself and tell us where you are from at the end of Mass so we can welcome you and join us after Mass for coffee and cake in the Community Hall!*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Annual All Saints Fall Family Bazaar Saturday, September 5, 9 am – 3 pm Hüttenweg 46, Berlin-Dahlem

Cost for a space reservation: 10 euros + 1 cake

**Contact:**

Heide Doblhofer

Tel. 8620 3636

Email: [allsaintsberlin@t-online.de](mailto:allsaintsberlin@t-online.de)

Your help for set-up, selling coffee and cake and clean-up is needed. Please volunteer!



### All Saints looks forward to welcoming **Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa**, the new head of the English-Speaking Mission in Berlin!

Fr. Sylvester was born in 1969 in Nigeria and was ordained in 1997. He has been in Germany since 2007 and earned his doctorate in Pastoral Theology from the University of Würzburg. He currently works in Bad Kissingen and will be moving to Berlin at the end of the year. We look forward to meeting you!

A guided **Scripture Study** series using the Catholic Perspectives "**Six Weeks With The Bible**" program will be offered after Sunday Mass (from 11:15 – ca. 12:00 h) in a total of 12 sessions over the next months until May 2016. The first series of six sessions is entitled "**God Makes a Start**" and will focus on Genesis 1-11. The second series of six sessions is called "**Getting to Know Jesus**" and will focus on the Gospel of Mark. If you have time, grab a cup of coffee and then join the group in the classroom.

The first scheduled sessions are on the following dates: **Sep 6th, Sep 29th, Oct 4th**. Please indicate your interest to Jenny via email: [jgebhar@yahoo.de](mailto:jgebhar@yahoo.de).

### First Communion & Confirmation Parents' Meeting Today after Mass

Please contact Jenny for more information:  
[jgebhar@yahoo.de](mailto:jgebhar@yahoo.de)



### All Saints Annual Fall BBQ Potluck

After Mass on Sunday, September 13th  
Please bring a side-dish to share!

**Children's Liturgy** will take place on  
September 13th

"**Designated collections**" are for special purposes in the Archdiocese of Berlin and are transferred in full. However, in agreement with the Archdiocese, the All Saints Catholic Community receives no financial support, so we are completely **dependent upon your donations**. 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 written below. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**Friends of All Saints e.V.** IBAN: DE15 3706 0193 6001 6690 18, BIC: GENODED1PAX



**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>)