

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



## *Catholic Community*

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

**Mass: Fridays at 6 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel**

**Sundays at 10 a.m. in the main Sanctuary**

Interfaith Community Center • Hüttenweg 46 • 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

Phone (030) 8620-3636 • Fax (030) 8620-3638

Email: [allsaintsberlin@t-online.de](mailto:allsaintsberlin@t-online.de) / Website: [www.all-saints-berlin.de](http://www.all-saints-berlin.de)

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10-12

### **July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Readings (Missal p 190 et seqq.): Deut 30:10-14 • Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37 • Col 1:15-20 • Lk 10:25-37**

#### **Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber**

I presume Paul would have benefited from a class or two in anger control before he wrote his letter to the Galatians. It's an understatement to say he was uptight when he dictated it. He had personally evangelized the Galatian community, teaching them how to become other Christs by imitating Jesus' death and resurrection in their own lives. Only by giving themselves for others would they be transformed into the same new creation into which the risen Jesus had been transformed.

Yet in a short period of time, some of them – as former Jews - had reverted back to their old practice of finding salvation in keeping the 613 laws of Moses, symbolized by the men being circumcised. They found more security in that than in being crucified with Jesus. Paul was so infuriated by their behavior that a chapter before today's pericope, he angrily writes, "Would that those who are upsetting you might also castrate themselves!"

Using himself as an example, the Apostle encourages people just to look at him and see the damage to his body that his dying with Jesus has brought about. Paul's been scourged and beaten because of his imitation of Jesus, not because of his keeping the Mosaic regulations. Though he's endured great physical pain, he's convinced there's also a huge amount of psychological pain in discipleship. That seems to be what he means when he speaks about "the world being crucified" to him.

That's precisely the kind of pain Third Isaiah is presuming when he talks about "rejoicing with Jerusalem." Among other things, the prophet is trying to stimulate his community to simply leave Babylon and return to the Jewish capital. The problem is that when he's preaching these words, Jerusalem is in ruins, wiped off the face of the earth by the Babylonians over 60 or 70 years before. These formerly exiled Israelites not only have to return, they also have to rebuild. After one glance at the destroyed city, most decided to go back to Babylon. They found more peace and security in a foreign land than in rebuilding their native land.

Obviously we must go beyond the here and now and have a vision of what can be if we're true disciples. Living by such a vision entails a real psychological death; something not only many Israelites, but also many Galatians were unwilling to endure.

As we hear in today's gospel passage, giving oneself over to the vision of Jesus frequently causes rejection. Luke's Jesus is not just predicting what's going to happen when his followers try to evangelize others, like all gospel writers, Luke is also reflecting on what already happened to some of the "missionaries" in his own community. He wants to make certain they don't get down just because they were often rejected. No matter how their message was received, God is still among us working effectively in our daily lives. God's presence doesn't depend on people recognizing it. Whether proclaimers of Jesus' word succeed or fail, as long as they keep working to make the risen Jesus' vision a reality in this world, their names are "written in heaven." According to Luke's Jesus, that's the only thing that matters.

<http://www.fosionline.com> **Robert Vermalen Karban**

**Welcome to All Saints! Many of us are gone for the summer and return in August but would like to welcome you to our community. A few events to look forward to:**

- **Confirmation Mass on Saturday, October 8th (Contact: Lynn Brinda)**
- **Fall Family Bazaar on Saturday, September 17th. Contact Heide: [h.doblhofer@t-online.de](mailto:h.doblhofer@t-online.de)**
- **Welcome BBQ Potluck on Sunday, September 11th after Mass. Please bring a side-dish.**

**Have a great summer everyone!**

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