

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

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Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10:00-12:00

### October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal 929: Gen 2:18-24 • Ps 128:1-2,3, 4-5, 6 • Heb 2:9-11 • Mk 10:2-16

#### Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Dietmar Lenfers, MAfr

- Lector: Tom Fitzpatrick • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans, John Massey •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Timothy Pedussel, Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: All Saints •

### Homily on the Twenty Sixth Sunday – All Saints

"We saw someone driving out demons in your name", someone said whom we do not know; "he does not follow us", and so "we tried to prevent him". John said this, and Jesus' reply is short and clear, "*do not prevent him*". Spontaneously the disciples react as it seems best to their minds. Jesus tells them categorically that they got it wrong. In these few words lies a serious warning for us.

It is so easy to fall into the belief that only **we** do the right thing, and that the others are mistaken. That is what John had in mind, "*he does not follow us, so we tried to prevent him*". That is, those who are not with us are questionable or outright enemies. No, says Jesus, "*whoever is not against us is for us.*" Good actions can occur everywhere. And we ought to train our eyes to perceive the good that is being done by others, outside our group, outside the Catholic Church, by non-Christians, outside the framework of religion, for instance by the State or the general public. All too often we are quick to criticize what others do, and are reluctant to recognize the good aspects of their actions. Of course, one has to admit that actions, plans and schemes, policies and responses may often not be perfect. But they may still be good. What could and should be improved is not automatically bad because it is not yet perfect and awaits improvement. Our own perception is deficient when it fails to recognize any good except in our own courtyard. Great people know this.

Moses was a great man. The first reading we heard illustrates the same point. After talking with the Lord, Moses was about to delegate leadership to officials among the people, because he realised that it was neither wise nor possible do everything by himself. So, he appointed seventy elders to help him, and for this reason these men were called to come out to the Tent of Meeting. There the LORD bestowed his spirit upon them, thus declaring publicly in front of the congregation that these men were truly authorized to act in God's name. Now there were two of them, their names are given as Eldad and Medad, who had stayed behind in the camp although their names were on the list of those invited to gather at the Tent of Meeting. Perhaps one might suspect, these two promised to become troublemakers from the very start. At least they appeared in the eyes of Joshua. He informed Moses of their absence and that the spirit had gripped them nevertheless while in the camp. He wishes: "*Moses, my lord, stop them.*" Joshua shows himself a small mind, who values law and order more than the good done by force of the spirit of God. Moses, the great man, disagrees: "*Would that the Lord might bestow his spirit on them all.*"

This greatness of mind, that both Moses and Jesus display in their reactions and which these texts teach us, protects us from the scourge of fanaticism. In recent times we were faced with so many awful examples of this mental illness. Only a small mind becomes a fanatic, blind and incapable of recognizing good anywhere except in his own group. Fanatics tolerate only their own way of doing and therefore they strongly feel with full conviction that all other people got it entirely wrong. That is a very unchristian frame of mind. The gospel teaches us that charity is the first commandment, and charity obliges us to be on the look-out for good in everyone we meet. Others may be different, but they must not be regarded as enemies for that reason. Words of praise and approval are always preferable and should come more easily from our tongue than a flood of blame and criticism.

In the Ethiopian liturgy - I lived there for many years - we daily repeat a wonderful prayer that summarizes this Christian attitude beautifully. One can translate it as "*Wherever evil is done, let us keep apart. Wherever good is done, let us be*

partners", or, "Whenever good is done, let us join and share in it." The question **who** does good or evil is simply ignored. It is irrelevant.

For Joshua this was a surprising lesson. The same for John, who wanted to stop those" who *do not follow us*". He had to learn the lesson, and he did. Later the old apostle proved that he had grasped the point when he wrote "God is love". We too must learn. "Wherever and whenever good is done, let us be partners." Amen.

Fr. Dietmar Lenfers, MAfr

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

Attendance on September 30th: 73

Collection: All Saints: €212.84

### **Last Call . . . for First Holy Communion (Spring 2019) and Confirmation (2020)!**

First Holy Communion (for 2nd & 3rd graders) and Confirmation classes has begun. **But there is still time to join these classes.**

Please share this news with friends and invite our young people to grow in their faith through the sacraments.

Registration forms are outside the church office; please submit completed forms to the office or via the mail box.

For questions about the sacraments, please contact: (FHC): Zachary Chitwood ([zacharias7@gmail.com](mailto:zacharias7@gmail.com)) or (Confirmation) Karen Castellon ([karencastellon908@gmail.com](mailto:karencastellon908@gmail.com)).



**Do you like to sing? Consider joining the choir!**

All are cordially invited to join our choir. All it takes is desire on your part and willingness to come early to practice before Mass.

Interested? Speak with any member of the choir or Johannes Wrembek, our Music Director

### **Clip out and put on your fridge or family board!**

#### **Mark your calendars:**

- October 14<sup>th</sup> – **All Saints Council** meets in the conference room after Mass
- October 14<sup>th</sup> – **Confirmation Class** meets at 11:15 a.m. in Classroom 1.
- October 14<sup>th</sup> – **First Holy Communion Class (FHC)** meets at 11:15 – 12:00 p.m. in the Nursery.

#### **LONG RANGE (get these in your planner):**

- November/December – **Special elections for open position on the Friends of All Saints Verein and All Saints Council** – consider volunteering to serve the community - Dates to be announced
- November 24<sup>th</sup> – **Thanksgiving Dinner** in the Fellowship Hall from 6 p.m. onward.
- November 30<sup>th</sup> – **Christmas Tree arrives.** Tree set up / decorated and church decorated with ivy beginning at 5:00 p.m.
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Annual Christmas Caroling** at Elder Folks Home starting at 3:00 p.m.
- December 8<sup>th</sup> – **Combined Advent Service** with PFF and Crossways – details **TBA**
- December 8<sup>th</sup> – Preparations for the **Annual Children's Pageant** – details **TBA**

### **October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 10 am Mass: Celebrant: Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa**

- Lector: Karen Castellon • Eucharistic Ministers: Jennifer Evans, John & Glenda Massey •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: Jackie Anders •
- Designated collection: For renovation of St. Hedwig's Cathedral •

Designated collections are for special purposes in the Archdiocese of Berlin and are transferred in full. **However, in agreement with the Archdiocese, All Saints 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