

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



## ***Catholic Community***

**Member of the English-Speaking Mission**

**Youth Mass: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 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

## **June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Readings (Missal no. 844): Acts 7:55-60 • Ps 91:1-2,6-7,9 • Rev 22:12-17, 20 • Jn 17:20-26**

**Welcome to our 9:30 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa**

- Lector: Brendan FitzPatrick • Eucharistic Ministers: Heide Doblhofer, Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann • Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: To promote charity work •

### **WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE EARLY CHURCH**

When we share something of our experiences with others, we tend to talk about our successes rather than our failures, our strengths rather than our weaknesses. When political parties are engaged in an election campaign they propagate their achievements and they speak of their wonderful ideas for the future, not about their broken promises of the past. When Christians long after the event wrote about the life of Jesus, most writers of the so-called apocryphal gospels idealised the figure of Jesus and his apostles, leaving out the painful passages which speak of their failures. The church has only recognised four of the many Gospels as authentic because they do not show only the greatness of the protagonists but equally clearly and brutally their human frailty.

The Gospels we read every Sunday speak of Jesus' holiness, his divine wisdom, his power of healing, his initial attraction for many people. But they also describe how he was severely tempted, how his mission finally failed, how he panicked in the face of torture and death, how he felt abandoned by His Father in the last moments of his life. His closest friends never understood his messages and ran away in the moment of danger and Peter, the appointed leader of the group, proved to be a coward. In the *Acts of the Apostles* Luke first depicts the Christian community in Jerusalem as perfect. All believers "were of one heart and on soul...and had everything in common". But a few chapters later he writes openly about the fierce fight between some Christians of Jewish origin who want to force those from other nations (the "gentiles") to get circumcised if they wanted to become Christians. And Paul had to defend the freedom from the Mosaic law that Jesus' good news were brought to the whole of humanity against Peter who had capitulated to the pressure of the Jewish-Christian groups around James. (cf. Gal 2:11-14) The dispute arose because Jesus had not left his apostles clear instructions how to go about their mission nor with clear answers about many open questions. He only promised them to send them the Holy Spirit, who would "teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

It is in this context of crisis that in the first reading the apostles hold an emergency meeting in Jerusalem to avoid a division in the church. After an intense discussion they agree to a compromise solution that maintains the basic freedom of Christians from the law Moses and from the obligation to be circumcised, but makes some good will concessions to the Jewish section by maintaining the prohibition of eating meat that is not kosher or that comes from pagan sacrifices, prohibition that the Church has abandoned long since. Even after the first council had settled the matter, the dispute continued for another generation and stopped only after the destruction of Jerusalem and the dispersion of the Jewish-Christian community.

What can we learn from this painful experience of the early church? The first lesson is that there are crises and conflicts also in the Church and that they are part of a process of growing in the meaning of the Gospel. Like the early church, the church today is living through a time of crisis where we struggle to find common answers to many complex questions for a church that is living in very different cultures and pastoral situations.

Secondly we should not panic, but be patient. Good solutions take time and they need to be taken at the right moment. They are like fruits on a tree. When you pick them too early they are sour and leave a bitter taste. When you wait for too long, the fruits start rotting and are no longer eatable. We must learn to wait for the right moment, for God's time.

Finally and most importantly, let us trust in God's spirit and pray for guidance which we rarely do in our pastoral meetings. If we are to follow the Holy Spirit our solutions must both be deeply rooted in the teaching of Jesus ("The Spirit will remind us of what Jesus has said"), but also answer the new questions and problems Christians are facing in the world of today. In this the Holy Spirit will be our true teacher (not management consultants).

The Holy Spirit leads not only the Church, but every person. Also in times of personal crisis, we must not panic, but see them as moments of growth, patiently wait for the right moment to take decisions and trust that God's Spirit will show us the way.

**Fr. Wolfgang Schonecke 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 May 26<sup>th</sup>: 95

Collection: All Saints Youth: €350.40







## Summer vacation "Goodbye" BBQ - June 16<sup>th</sup> after Mass

Please join us for our annual Goodbye BBQ before summer vacation, starts on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> after Mass. Hamburgers, grilled meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a hearty side dish, salad or dessert to share.

**We will need volunteers to help set-up, serve and clean-up. Please sign-up to help in the Fellowship Hall after Mass today.**

### Home4 LIFE- Africa

Home is an acronym for  
**H: hope,**  
**O: opportunity,**  
**M: motivation**  
**E: empowerment**



"HOME4LIFE" is designed to be a center for youths' orientation. It is an initiative of LIFE- Nigeria. LIFE: (Lay Initiative For Evangelization) is a non governmental organization registered in Nigeria that creates a platform for the laity to play active roles in Evangelization. The center is dedicated specially to youths who are socially displaced, disoriented, street children/youths from abjectly poor and vulnerable families( forced to child's Labour in street vending, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation)

It provides care through seminars/ workshops, music, vocational trainings, smart workshops for career seeking youths, spiritual and psychological guidance/counseling, education sponsorship for children from abjectly poor families (especially orphans) and free health care support for lowest income families.

<b>Planned outreach Network</b> Nigeria Cameroon Kenya Tanzania Botswana	<b>Coordinators in Germany</b> Juliet Aliyu Juliette Dobgima Peter Egbuna Chu Eben Chioma Anyasodo Rev. Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa (Spiritual Director)	<b>Bank info.</b> Sylvester Ajunwa IBAN: DE1279070022791800 BIC: DEUTDE3303 Purpose ( HOME4LIFE)
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### June 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr.

- Lector: Rachel Ruckeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt • Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael • Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: For needy people in Eastern Europe •

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: GENODE33HAN