

## Informative Bulletin of the Paphos Latin Parish

June 2018

### THE MOST HONOURED PEOPLE

#### The People of God

Many people nowadays claim that all religions are the same as they all encourage good deeds and avoidance of evil, therefore little matters which religion one follows, provided he/she is “a good person”.

However, this is far from the truth. Although most creeds have a moral code for good living, the foundation of their beliefs are very alien to the Christian faith.

We are not to compare their differences, but rather to see what the Christian faith offers way above and beyond all other faiths.

**God is love!** God walks with humanity throughout her history. **God became man**, never ceasing to be God, in order to reveal His divine love for us. **God, in the person of Christ, was willingly sacrificed on the Cross** for the redemption of all men and women. God loves the sinner, but “hates” the sin. **God gathers a people to Himself.** God remains faithful to His promises fo ever. **God is given to us for nourishment; we eat His Body and drink His Blood!**

God wants us to participate in His divine nature. He has gone before us to prepare a place for us with Him fo ever. **He is a Trinity of Persons -Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in a communion of love.** He purifies us, sanctifies us and entrusts to us the task of making known His love to the world.

His Church possesses the authentic teaching of Christ and is **Catholic**, i.e. **Universal**; all peoples are called to her.

The Church upholds the whole Apostolic doctrine (**catholic** in Greek means **whole, total, universal**); she does not pick and choose —that is the characteristic of heresies (*heresy in Greek means preferential selection*).

In other words, we, Christians, are the most honoured people on earth, for God lives in us and amongst us and He, little-by-little, transforms us by His grace, to His perfect image.

What can ever surpass, in the whole world, the hope we have in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?

#### *From home and from afar*



“Teacher”, said John, “we saw a man driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because

he was not one of us:.

*“Do not stop him.” Jesus said. “No-one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us.*

*I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.” (Mk. 9. 38-41)*

### Here and now

Let us ask ourselves this evening, adoring the Christ truly present in the Eucharist: do I let myself be transformed by Him? Do I let the Lord who gives Himself to me, guide me to come out more and more from my little fence, to get out and be not afraid to give, to share, to love Him and others?

Discipleship, communion and sharing. Let us pray that participation in the Eucharist move us always to follow the Lord every day, to be instruments of communion, to share with Him and with our neighbor who we are.

Then our lives will be truly fruitful. Amen. (*Pope Francis, Rome 2013*)

*Since the very beginning the Church derives her strength from the Holy Eucharist.*

*The Risen Lord, truly present in the consecrated Bread and Wine makes us mystically present at His Last Supper every time we participate in the most Holy Sacrament.*

*It is like history get condensed —a real actualization here and now of the event whose anamnesis (memorial) we celebrate (i.e. Christ’s sacrifice) and, at the same time, the present moment in time, i.e. the Church’s liturgy, unfold to infinity — for her horizon and her fulfillment extend “to the end of times” (Mt. 28, 20).*

*Let us, therefore, not forget the eternal dimension of the present moment!*

*Whatever we think, say and do contain a dimension of eternity and are little stones in the building up of the Church and oft he world!*

### Martin Luther King Jr.



Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968) was an African-American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement from 1954 until his death in 1968. King is best known for advancing civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience, tactics his Christian beliefs and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi helped inspire.

The trip to India, in 1959, affected King, deepening his understanding of non-violent resistance and his commitment to America's struggle for civil rights.

In a radio address made during his final evening in India, King reflected, "Since being in India, I am more convinced than ever before that the method of nonviolent resistance is the most potent weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for justice and human dignity."

Martin Luther King was assassinated 50 years ago in Memphis, Tennessee, USA, on April 4, 1968.

### Did you know...

The word “elpida” ἐλπίδα (=hope) in the Greek language is derived from the Greek verb ἐλ-π-ομαι (el-p-omai) = to expect, to hope, which etymologically is akin to Φέλ-π-ομαι, Fel-p-omai, Indo-european root wel- (=I want, I choose).

In Latin vel-le (I want), voluntas (will), in French vouloir (to want), in German wollen, in English will.

So, the object of our hope completely engages our will, hence our freedom.

The fact that we never stop hoping despite accidents and adversities is a strong indication that truly deep inside us, just subconsciously sometimes, we hope for something which will give us joy — and that joy we want to last forever.

What, then, is this absolute good to which we so strongly look forward?

Nothing less than God Himself!

Only He can fulfill our innermost desire hidden deep in our heart.

### The Ocean of Love



It is good to contemplate the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, a God that creates incessantly, redeems and sanctifies, always with love and for love, and to every creature that receives Him, He gives the gift to reflect a ray of His beauty, goodness, and truth.

He has always chosen to walk with humanity and forms a people that are a blessing for all the nations and for every person, none excluded.

Therefore, the task of every baptized person is the same as that entrusted by Jesus to His disciples: “Go [ . . . ] and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

A task that, thinking of the meaning of the verb “baptize,” that is, “immerse,” we can translate with the invitation to “immerse” every human being in this ocean that is the love of God; a love that raises from sin, heals the wounds of the soul and gives us salvation.

*(Pope Francis, Rome, 27/5/2018, from his homily on Holy Trinity Sunday)*

### O Sacred Heart



O Sacred Heart, our home lies deep in thee;  
on earth thou art an exile's rest,  
in heav'n the glory of the blest,  
O Sacred Heart.

O Sacred Heart, thou fount of contrite tears;  
where'er those living waters flow,  
new life to sinners they bestow,  
O Sacred Heart.

O Sacred Heart, our trust is all in thee,  
For though earth's night be dark and drear,  
thou breathest rest where thou art near,  
O Sacred Heart.

O Sacred Heart, when shades of death shall fall,  
receive us 'neath thy gentle care,  
and save us from the tempter's snare,  
O Sacred Heart.

O Sacred Heart, lead exiled children home,  
where we may ever rest near thee,  
in peace and joy eternally,  
O Sacred Heart.

*(Words by Francis Stanfield, 1835-1914, music by R.R. Terry 1865-1938 Sacred Heart)*

### **The fierce urgency of now**

We refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together." (Martin Luther King, 28/8/1963)

to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.