

Weekly

Year 25, No. 17

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Bulletin

SUNDAY, 19TH JULY, 2020

Christ The King Catholic Church | P.O.Box CT 2110 Cantonments-Accra, Ghana

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CHRIST THE KING CHURCH THEME FOR THE YEAR

LET US REJOICE, FOR NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD - cf Is 61.2

OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays

8:00am-5:00pm

Saturdays

8:00am-12:00pm

Sundays

8:00am-2:00pm

SUSPENSION OF USED CLOTHING RECEIPTS

The Parish has suspended receipt of used clothing as part of efforts to fight the spread of the Corona Virus. We will duly inform you appropriately when we commence again.
God bless you.

VITUS DERY EDUCATION FUND (VDEF)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR VDEF SCHOLARSHIP

The Parish Priest of Christ the King Catholic Church wishes to announce to Parishioners that applications are invited from eligible candidates for the Vitus Dery Educational Fund (VDEF) scholarship awards.

ELIGIBILITY

The applicant must be:

1. An active parishioner of Christ the King Catholic Church with minimum of six (6) months registration with the Parish
2. Not more than 26 years' old
3. Must show proof of support or contribution to the development of the parish or a society within the parish.
4. Must have gained admission to an educational institution within any of the categories below:
 - a. Public Primary
 - b. Public Junior High School (JHS)
 - c. Public Senior High School (SHS)
 - d. Public Vocational and, or Technical School
 - e. Public Tertiary Institution
 - f. Catholic Tertiary Institution

HOW TO APPLY

- Submit an Application Letter
- Fill a VDEF application form and attach
 - * Proof of admission and
 - * Previous Performance Report(s) or Transcript(s)
- Application with all the supporting documents must be deposited at the Parish Office of Christ the King Church addressed as follows:

The Parish Priest

Attn.: VDEF Educational Board

Christ The King Catholic Church

Accra

DEADLINE

Deadline for submission of applications is 31st July, 2020.

Please Take Note

- The Board shall exercise its discretion in the selection of beneficiaries.
- The Fund shall support not more than two beneficiaries from a family.
- Assistance will not be offered to those applying to private educational institutions.

Thank you.

16TH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME, YEAR A

COMMENTARY ON READINGS

First Reading: God is kind, just and merciful. He condemns no one unjustly but He gives us hope that after sin He will grant us the grace to repent. (Wisdom 12:13, 16-19)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 86) “Lord, you are good and forgiving.”

You, O LORD, are good and forgiving,
abounding in kindness to all who call upon you.
Hearken, O LORD, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my pleading. **Res**

All the nations you have made shall come
and worship you, O LORD,
and glorify your name.
For you are great, and you do wondrous deeds;
you alone are God. **Res**

You, O LORD, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity.
Turn toward me, and have pity on me;
give your strength to your servant. **Res**

Second Reading: God has blessed us with His Holy Spirit to help us overcome our human weakness, teach us how to pray and to intercede on our behalf to God for our temporal and spiritual needs. (Romans 8:26-27)

Gospel: Three parables are read to us today; the Parable of the Weeds, the Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Parable of the Yeast. They tell us about good and evil and about the growth of the Church. (Matthew 13:24-43)

WEEKDAY READINGS & MEMORIALS 16TH WEEK IN ORDINARY, YEAR A

Monday	St. Apollinaris Mi 6:1-4. 6-8/Ps 50/Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday	St. Lawrence of Brindisi Mi 7:14-15. 18-20/Ps 85/Mt 12:46-50
Wednesday	St. Mary Magdalene Jer 1:1. 4-10/Ps 71/Jn 20:1-2. 11-18
Thursday	St. Bridget of Sweden Jer 2:1-3. 7-8. 12-13/Ps 36/ Mt 13:10-17
Friday	St. Francis Solano Jer 3:14-17/Jer 31/Mt 13:18-23
Saturday	St. James, Ap 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126/Mt 20:20-28

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
1 Kgs 3:5. 7-12/Ps 119/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52

REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus' discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus' explanation to the disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the “weeds” prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

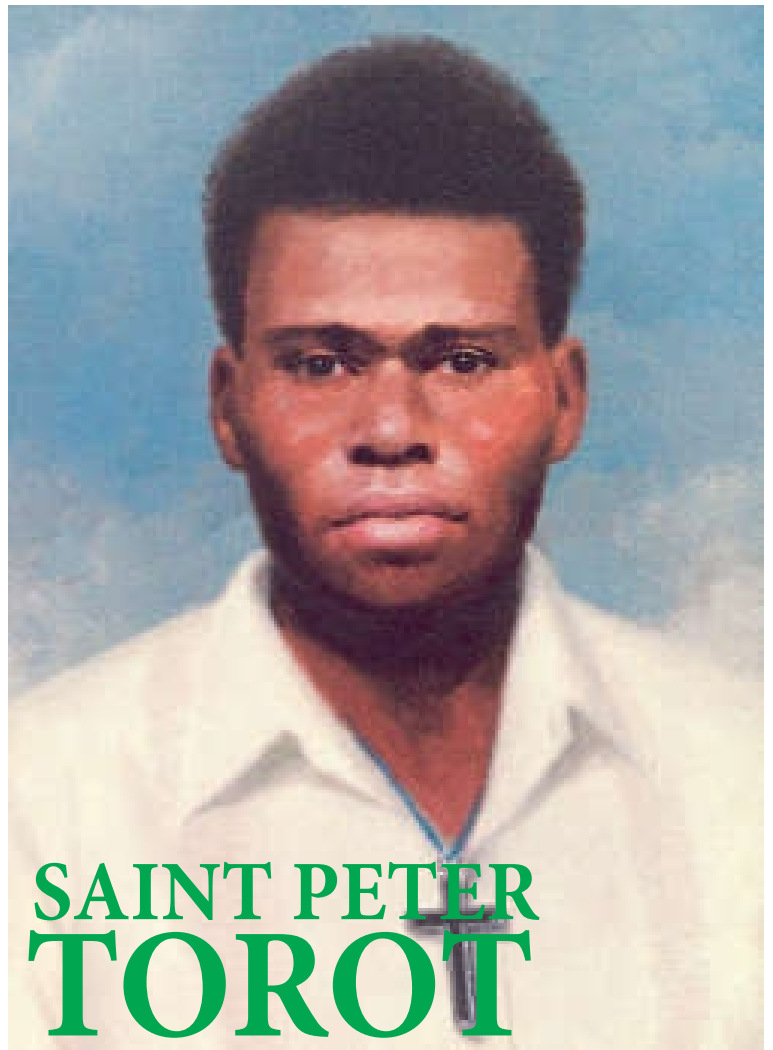
FAMILY CONNECTION

Taken together, the parables found in today's Gospel offer both a sobering reminder about the Kingdom of God and words of encouragement. As the wheat and the weeds must grow together until the harvest, so we may not know whether our actions contribute to God's Kingdom until God's final judgment. With this word of caution in mind, we act always in prayer that our actions will be consistent with God's plans. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we hear words of encouragement. God can bring the Kingdom of Heaven from even the smallest of beginnings. Thus, we ask God to work through us for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Set aside some time this week to make bread with your family. Show the amount of yeast that is required to raise an entire batch of bread. Observe that little things can go a long way. After the bread has been baked, gather together as a family. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 13:24-43. Reflect together on what Jesus means when he teaches that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed and like yeast. In these parables, Jesus is teaching us that God can work wonders from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of God. This means that even the little things that we do can make a big difference in the lives of others. What are some of the little things that we can do in our family that help to make things better for others? Decide on one action to take together. Pray that God will use your action to make a difference in the world. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Peter ToRot was born in 1912 on an island of Papua New Guinea. His father, the village chief, had invited Catholic missionaries to teach his people. Peter's father and mother were fervent Catholics, helping the poor and orphans, often in their own home. As a teenager, Peter was drawn to prayer and the Eucharist. The parish priest and Peter's father recognized Peter's faith and abilities. They encouraged Peter to become a catechist. Most of the evangelization in New Guinea was carried out by catechists. Their role was to give instructions to those preparing for Baptism, hold prayer services, and take care of the sick and those in need. Peter was assigned to work in his own village. He organized prayer groups and classes for instruction in the faith. He knew the Bible well, always carried it with him, and relied on it heavily in his teaching. His gentleness and genuine concern for everyone in his tribe drew people to him. They could tell that he practiced what he preached. On November 11, 1936, Peter married Paula LaVarpit, a young Catholic woman from a nearby village. They had three children. Peter was a kind and loving husband and father. Every day he and his family would gather together and pray. In March of 1942, during World War II, the Japanese occupied the little island. After a time of religious tolerance, the Japanese began to restrict missionary activity. Soon, all missionaries, Catholic and Methodist, were confined. When the priest in Peter's village was forced to leave, he shook Peter's hand and said, "I am leaving my work in your hands. Take care of these people. Don't let them forget about God." Peter did just that. He and the other catechists helped to keep the Catholic faith alive. Peter learned some Japanese and was able to get along well with the Japanese Naval Authorities. But then the Military Police took over. They thought the Christians were praying for a Japanese defeat. Christian worship was forbidden, and a decree was issued that the people should go back to the ancient practice of a man having more than one wife. Peter publicly protested this. Peter continued holding his prayer meetings, but in smaller, less noticeable groups. He encouraged his parish community to keep praying and to have faith. That was his work as a catechist. Peter was arrested when the Japanese Military Police found out he was organizing prayer groups. His family came to the prison every day to bring him food. Methodist and Catholic chiefs of different tribes tried to have Peter released, but could not. Peter told them, "Don't worry. I'm a catechist. If I die, I die for the faith." In July, 1945, Peter



was given a lethal injection by a Japanese doctor. A fellow prisoner watching from a distance reported Peter ToRot's death to the other prisoners. His family was called to take his body home to bury it. The crowd that gathered for the simple funeral proclaimed Peter a martyr for the faith. After an investigation, the Church agreed. Pope John Paul II proclaimed him a blessed on January 17, 1995. ☩

Blessed Peter ToRot considered himself a simple catechist, just doing his duty. But he was faithful to his duty in very difficult circumstances. His faith was clear and decisive, and he bravely stood up to defend it. He was a model of faithfulness for the people he catechized. He's also a model for us.

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