

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

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Our Mission Statement: The All Saints Catholic Community is a fully integrated, multicultural community with English as its unifying language. It is an open, warm, welcoming, inclusive community that prays together and celebrates its unity in diversity.

July 12, 2015 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (*Missalette* p 31 et seq.): Am 7:12-15 • Ps 85:9-14 • Eph 7:3-14 • Mk 7:13

Celebrant: Fr Wolfgang Felber SJ

Laudato si

On the care for our common home

Encyclical of our Holy Father Pope Francis of June 18, 2015

Saint Francis of Assisi prayed: "Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs". This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.

The whole human family must be brought together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Our Holy Father urgently appeals for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. He reflects on what is happening to our common home: pollution, waste and the throwaway culture, climate change, warming of the climatic system, an increase of extreme weather events and a rise in the sea level (a quarter of the world's population lives in coastal areas). He cites studies that show that global warming is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxides and others) released mainly by human activity. The problem is aggravated by the intensive use of fossil fuels and the soil, principally deforestation for agricultural purposes.

His Holiness also draws attention to other environmental issues, all of which are linked: reduction in biodiversity due to extinction of various species of plants and animals, a lack of essential resources like drinking water, energy and agricultural production in warmer regions. These environmental problems have a global impact with grave environmental, social, economic, political implications. The number of migrants fleeing from poverty caused by environmental degradation is constantly rising. Many of those who possess more resources and economic or political power seem mostly to be concerned with masking the problems or concealing their symptoms.

Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat the environmental catastrophe that is looming. There is an urgent need to develop policies to drastically reduce the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases and to replace fossil fuels with sources of renewable energy. But His Holiness stresses the point that each member of the human family must also take responsibility for the environment. Dealing responsibly with the home we have been given is as much about personal choices as it is about global policies. "Ecological citizenship" which cultivates sound virtues is needed to bring true transformation.

The Holy Father notes that it cannot be the answer to deny developing countries a better future in the name of an environmental ideology. He says, "it is troubling that, when some ecological movements defend the integrity of the environment, rightly demanding that certain limits be imposed on scientific research, they sometimes fail to apply those same principles to human life." With this, the Holy Father embeds the environmental mindset in a broader ecological approach that "takes into account the fundamental rights of the poor and the underprivileged."

Decline in the quality of human life, the breakdown of society and global inequality have been met with weak responses. An integral ecology is needed for the common good, a central and unifying principle of social ethics that reflects the interconnectedness of all Creation. "When our hearts are authentically open to universal communion, this sense of fraternity excludes nothing and no one. It follows that our indifference or cruelty towards fellow creatures of this world sooner or later affects the treatment we mete out to other human beings." The common good is "the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfilment".

Holy Father's prayer intentions for July

- **Universal:** That political responsibility may be lived at all levels as a high form of charity.
- **Evangelization:** That, amid social inequalities, Latin American Christians may bear witness to love for the poor and contribute to a more fraternal society.

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:

- **First Communion/Confirmation Parent's Meeting on Sunday, August 30th after Mass. Contact Jenny: jgebhar@yahoo.de**
- **Fall Family Bazaar on Saturday, September 5th. Contact Heide: h.doblhofer@t-online.de**
- **Welcome BBQ Potluck on Sunday, September 13th after Mass. Please bring a side-dish.**

Have a great summer everyone!

www.bildungsspender.de/all-saints-berlin

THANK YOU! The next 365 EUR donation has been transferred from our Bildungsspender fundraising account, bringing the total this year to 566 EUR! Please **CONTINUE** to support **All Saints Community Life** through our fundraising site at www.bildungsspender.de/all-saints-berlin at no extra cost. It's easy! Shop at one of more than 1500 online shops through this website & All Saints receives a DONATION for every transaction made!

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

Directions to All Saints: **Subway:** U 3, Oskar-Helene-Heim (10-min. walk) or S 1, Zehlendorf, then bus. • **Bus:** Bus 285: stop Am Waldfriedhof (last stop, 2-min. walk); bus 110 or 623: stop Oskar-Helene-Heim (10-min. walk) or bus 115: stop Hüttenweg (5-min. walk). • **Car:** A115 Avus highway, Hüttenweg exit or Clayallee (<http://berlinonline.de/citymap>)