

POPE LEO AT HIPPO

WHERE ST. AUGUSTINE WAS BISHOP

Dear friends in Christ,

One of the most significant stops on Pope Leo's recent apostolic visit to Africa was in Algeria, to Annaba, the site of the ancient city of Hippo. It is here that St. Augustine ministered as bishop. It is a place of great significance to Pope Leo, as so much of his life was spent as an Augustinian friar. You can tell Pope Leo's great affection for St. Augustine in his homilies, which are filled with references to this great saint's teaching. So, you can well imagine what an impact that visit had upon our Holy Father. So today, I offer for our reflection, the part of the homily Pope Leo gave there, in the Basilica of St. Augustine:

Dear brothers and sisters,

The divine Word pervades history and renews it through the human voice of the Savior. Today we listen to the Gospel, the Good News for all time, in this Basilica in Annaba dedicated to Saint Augustine, Bishop of the ancient city of Hippo. Over the centuries, the names of the places that welcome us have changed, but the saints continue to serve as our patrons and faithful witnesses of a connection to the land that comes from heaven. It is precisely this dynamic that the Lord revealed at night to Nicodemus: this is the strength that Christ instills in the weakness of his faith and the tenacity of his search.

Sent by the Spirit of God, which "you do not know where it comes from or where it goes" (Jn3:8), Jesus is a special guest for Nicodemus. In fact, he calls him to a new life, entrusting to his interlocutor — and to us as well — a surprising task: "You must be born from above" (v. 7). Such is the invitation for every man and woman who seeks salvation! Jesus' invitation gives rise to the mission of the whole Church, and consequently to the Christian community in Algeria: to be born again from above, that is, from God. In this perspective, faith overcomes earthly hardships and the Lord's grace makes the desert blossom. Yet the beauty of this exhortation also brings with it a challenge, which the Gospel calls us to face together. As a matter of fact, Christ's words contain all the force of a command: you must be born again from above! Such a command rings in our ears as a feat that would be impossible. However, when we listen attentively to the one who gives the order, we come to understand that this is neither a harsh imposition nor a constraint, and much less a condemnation to failure. On the contrary, the obligation expressed by Jesus is a gift of freedom for us, because it reveals an unexpected possibility: we can be born anew from above thanks to God. We should do so, then, according to his loving will, which desires to renew humanity by calling us to a communion of life that begins with faith. While Christ invites us to renew our lives completely, he also gives us the strength to do so. Saint Augustine attests to this well when praying in this way, "Give, O Lord, what you command and command what you will" (Confessions, X, 29, 40).

Therefore, when we ask ourselves how a future of justice, peace, harmony and salvation will be possible, we must remember that we are asking God the same question that Nicodemus asked: can our story truly change? We are so weighed down by problems, hardships and tribulations! Can we truly start our lives over again?

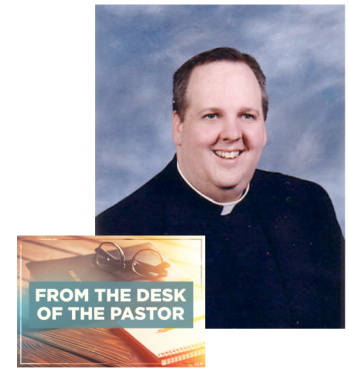
Yes! The Lord's response, so full of love, fills our hearts with hope. No matter how weighed down we are by pain or sin: the crucified One carries all these burdens with us and for us. No matter how discouraged we are by our own weaknesses: it is precisely then that God manifests his strength, the God who has raised Christ from the dead in order to give life to the world. Each one of us can experience the freedom of new life that comes from faith in the Redeemer. Once again, Saint Augustine offers us an example of this: we revere him for his conversion even more than for his wisdom. In this rebirth, providentially accompanied by the tears of his mother, Saint Monica, he found himself, exclaiming: "I could not therefore exist, could not exist at all, O my God, unless you were in me. Or should I not rather say, that I could not exist unless I were in you" (Confessions, I, 2). Christians are truly born from above, regenerated by God as brothers and sisters of Jesus...

POPE LEO XIV

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

We have just kicked off the Annual Catholic Appeal, which is a really important campaign to our Archdiocese and our parishes. It is the way that the parishes of the Archdiocese fund those ministries we cannot do individually, and need to do together as a larger Church in Western Washington. **The Annual Catholic Appeal** funds ministries such the recruitment and training of future priests and deacons, hospital ministry at our larger regional hospitals, campus ministry at a number of our universities, CYO camping, as well as day to day essential services that we as parishes depend upon.

Your support is crucial to the success of the Archdiocese and its many ministries. So, I invite you to make a pledge today toward the Appeal. Your gift can be given throughout the year or all at once. How much should you pledge? Obviously, that would depend upon your circumstances, but certainly it should be in proportion to the way God has blessed you. Last year the average pledge from our parishes was around \$625. **Whatever the amount, your gift will make a tremendous difference.** Remember too, many employers will match the Annual Catholic Appeal. **Please pray about this request and make a pledge to support these important ministries.** We would be grateful if you would return the envelope or make your gift on-line at www.archseattle.org/giveaca. Thank you! May Christ continue to bless you and your families with his presence and his love!



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

ST JUDE Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9AM-4PM, Friday 9AM-12PM

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
May 4	May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10
9:00am Daily Mass 10:00am Women of Faith	5:30pm K-6 Faith Formation	8:30am Confessions 9:00am Daily Mass 7:00pm Gospel Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm House of Prayer	No Daily Mass 12:15pm Steps to Freedom 1:00pm Rosary Cenacle 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm OCIA 7:30pm Knights of Columbus - General	9:00am Daily Mass 9:30am-9pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10:00am Guardians & Angels	9:00am-1:00pm Life With the Holy Spirit Retreat Reunion (Lovett) 3:30pm Confessions 5:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass	9:00am Sunday Mass 11:00am Sunday Mass

HOLY INNOCENTS Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9AM-4PM, Friday 9AM-12PM

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
May 4	May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10
	9:00am Daily Mass 3:00-6:30pm Food Pantry	6:00pm Daily Mass 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	9:00am Daily Mass	9:00am Daily Mass 10:00am Choir Rehearsal 6-6:45pm Confessions 6-8pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament		8:00am Sunday Mass 10:30am Sunday Mass Knights of Columbus Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast After all Masses

ST ANTHONY Office Hours: Wednesday May 6, 2026 9AM-12PM

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 28	April 29	April 30	May 1	May 2
6:00pm Adoration & Rosary	7:30-9:30pm AA Meeting	6:00pm Bible Study		5:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

ASSISTANCE TO THOSE IN NEED

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

- St. Jude SVdP: Helpline assistance: 206-767-6449
- Holy Innocents: King County Crisis line at 211
- To learn more or to join the ministry contact:
 - Connie Dunn at Holy Innocents: connie@conniedunn.com
 - Diane Murphy at St Jude: svdp@stjude-redmond.org
- To donate furniture or household items email: svdpfurniture@stjude-redmond.org

SAFE PARKING AT ST JUDE

Safe Parking Helpline: 425-658-4982
safeparking@stjude-redmond.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Holy Innocents:
Contact George Doty 360-668-2224
Dotyga@aol.com
St Jude:
knightsofcolumbus@stjude-redmond.org

ONLINE GIVING ALL YEAR LONG

Donating online is easy! Use your phone camera to scan your parish's QR code below.



ST JUDE

You can also donate online on our website www.stjude-redmond.org. Our St Jude Parish Finance Council thanks you and asks for your continued generosity!



HOLY INNOCENTS

As a reminder... At Holy Innocents, we have two Stewardship Campaigns, our operations budget and our building loan. You can make a donation to either or both of these through our online giving platform found at our website www.holyinn.org. Thank you for your ongoing generosity toward supporting our parish.



ST ANTHONY