

PASTORAL REGION ONE

United in Faith, Hope and Service to the Community
Rev Francis Tandoh, C.S. Sp, Pastor



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csaintaugustine@woh.rr.com

St. Benedict the Moor Church (SB)
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info@unitedinhope.org

St. Benedict the Moor Catholic School
138 Gramont Ave.: 937-268-6391
www.stbenedictthemoorcatholicsschool.org

PASTORAL STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Pastor: Fr. Francis Tandoh, C.S.Sp.
pastor@unitedinhope.org

Deacon: Kenneth Stewart (SA)

Music Ministers:

[SA]: Denise Jasek: denisejasek@gmail.com

[SB] Myrtle Miliner

Parish Administrators:

[SA] Fran Delegato

[SB] Janice Kwofie: admin@unitedinhope.org

Admin. Assistants:

[SA] Sylvia Hess

[SB] Susan Smith, office Volunteer

Regional Council Presidents:

Chair: Ken Marcellus **Vice:** Joe Deviliz

Prayer Chains, Sacrament of the Sick 937-268-6697

Weddings, RCIA/RCIC Call the offices 937-268-6697

Baptisms: Do you need your child Baptized Please call the Parish Office at 937 268 6697

Deacon Ken Stewart & Victor Obasuyi instructors

Regional Confessions: Saturdays 4pm or by appointment

Send your Bulletins Announcements to:

admin@unitedinhope.org or info@unitedinhope.org on Mondays

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Do you also want to leave?

My dearest children of God may the name of the Lord be praised both now and forever Amen. The readings of today invite us to reconsider our choice as disciples to remain with the Christ and His Church or to leave Him. The *Christian life is a series of daily choices for God or against God, as we choose to live out or reject the truths He has revealed through His prophets in the Old Testament and especially through His Son Jesus in the New Testament. The fundamental choice we make determines how we live our lives, deciding whom we will serve.*

In the face of all the scandals and abuses rocking the Church, I know many of you are getting fed up and might be warming up to leave the church. Many left in the past as a result of Pentecostal influences for such individuals, the Church is not modern or fashionable to their liking. Her doctrines and teachings are inexplicable in the light of reason. Such was the same reason many of the disciples of Jesus left him in the gospel of today, because what He was saying about His body being the bread that came down from heaven and that whoever feeds on this bread will live forever, simply did not make sense to them. The Eucharist has been a subject of many theological controversies among many Pentecostal groups. Till today, the Catholic Church has remained firm and unequivocally defends, teaches and preaches the "Real Presence" of Christ in the Eucharist. You have a choice to believe it or not. But let me ask must every truth about religion makes sense to man/woman? If everything about God or Religion is subject to rational understanding where then is the place of "Faith" in our religious life. Why are people criticizing and leaving the Church on account of her doctrines and tradition? If this Church has lasted for 2018 years with all her teachings and doctrine still intact in spite of all she went through during those persecution periods of her history, do you think, you will change them today?. Why are we being swept off by the wind of Pentecostalism that strives to make everything rational; relying solely on the Bible and interpreting it to suit personal ambitions and playing down on those aspects of religion that relied wholly on faith?

Are you also planning to leave because the Church and her ministers are suffering in this present generation? Are you worried about the scandals and abuses that are currently eclipsing the missionary spirit of the Church in the West and beclouding the minds of many with doubts about the authenticity of the church ministers(Catholic priesthood)? Whatever has happened is regrettable, the Pope has sincerely apologized on behalf on the Church to victims of abuses and urged us all to suffer together in prayer, fasting and penitence with those suffering abuses(the abusers and the abused) as members of one family of the Church of God. The Church is divinely instituted and entrusted to men chosen and set apart for God's work. We all are also stakeholders in this missionary activity of the Church in our world

today, so whatever happens is all our business it is not their business, it is not the Church of the Pope, Bishops Priests and Deacons (the clergy) , it is the Church of us all (clergy and laity) that is the more reason we suffer together when one or two amongst us has done wrong. In brotherly love and fraternity we rejoice with those who rejoice and suffer with those who suffer , that is what St Paul teaches us.(cf 1Cor 12:26). Let's keep praying for the Church. One thing is sure; the gates of hell shall never prevail against it.(cf Matt 16:18).

Everyone comes to a point in their lives where they need to make a choice. Life is full of decisions and choices. That is the amazing thing about God, he created man and woman with free will. He gives us options, not orders, and has faith in us that we will make the right choices when the time comes. Whether you are purchasing a car, a house, starting a family, moving, starting or changing a career, deciding what to eat for dinner, what movie you are going to watch tonight, we all have decisions in our lives. Yes, some are bigger than others but God loves it when we are listening closely to His direction and we make righteous choices. This doesn't come naturally for anyone, we all need a little help, a little guidance, and a whole lot of grace. What Choices are you making today to leave the Church or to stay with her? Most times you make a choice to leave a particular place to another because you think where you are going is better, but in the long run, you discover that you left the right place to the wrong place. *Peter and the Apostles were wise and faithful to discern that Jesus has the words of eternal life and they chose not to leave Him.* Do you think it will be a wise choice for you to leave this Church or this Christ that has the words of eternal life? you have to reconsider your choice and make a decision. Joshua assembled and challenged the whole tribes of Israel at Shechem in the first reading to decide whom they will serve: either the living God of Israel or the gods of the Amorites in whose land they dwell. This Renewal of Covenant ceremony in Joshua chapter 24 reminds us that the Eucharist is a Covenant meal that calls for a decision of Faith. Today we are faced with similar decision to choose whom we shall serve. Like Joshua and His family, I have already chosen and dedicated myself to serve God in the Catholic Church no matter what happens I will die in the Lord and as a Catholic. It is all about the choice you and your family makes today. If you choose to leave the Church today like those Jews whose minds were not open to the truths of faith the choice is yours, but remember the Lord needs you, we all need you.

The second reading emphasizes the unity that must exist in the Body of Christ and the intimate relationship between Jesus and his followers. It also challenges the Ephesian Christians and us *to make the right choices in life and build Christian marriages on mutual respect and love, ac-

St. Augustine & St. Benedict the Moor Churches: Pastoral Region One August 22, 2021

cepting each other's rights and dignity.* Paul also uses the husband-wife relationship as an analogy to explain the close relationship between Christ and the Church. Paul reminds us that Jesus nourishes us, the members of his Church, through the Eucharist, making us His own Flesh and Blood, as husband and wife become one flesh.

Concluding His long Eucharistic discourse, today's Gospel passage describes the various reactions of the people to Jesus' claims. Jesus gives his twelve apostles the option of leaving him or staying with him. The apostles exercise their freedom of choice by choosing to stay with Jesus. In this Eucharistic celebration, we, too, are called to make a decision, profess our Faith in God's Son and renew the Covenant ratified in Jesus' life, death and Resurrection. Let us therefore as wise children of God make the right religious choices. *May the light of the Holy Spirit help us to discern the right choices to make in every aspect of our life. May our free will never lead us to sin but may it be used to choose all that will be pleasing to God.* _The choices you make in life define who you are and what you are going to become, so choose wisely._ By Fr. Clem C. Aladi (<https://www.catholicforlife.com/year-b-homily-for-the-21st-sunday-in-ordinary-time-9/>)

St. Benedict 15th Anniversary Timeline

Special Anniversary Mass 26 September 2021

Virtual Event & End of Silent Auction (22 or 23 Oct)

**Reminder for Bible Study this coming week August 25th
at St Benedict**

Topic: Angles in the Bible

NOTE: Below is the connection information either on line or via telephone.

Hangouts Meet joining info

<https://meet.google.com/hpy-pmvp-fvt>

Or dial: +1 402-921-2290 PIN: 708 666 706#

First time using Meet? [Learn more](#)

08/25: Lesson #5

09/01: Lesson #6

08/08: New Study TBD

REGION ONE LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

[SA] St. Augustine [SB] St. Benedict

Aug 21 4pm [SB] Regional Confessions
4:30pm [SB] Mass

Aug 22 8:30am [SA]
10:30am [SB] Region One Parishioners

Workshop On Beacons of Light

Informational Workshop on the Archdiocesan initiative of reconfiguring the Regions into Family of Parishes, "Bea-

cons of Light", for Region One St. Augustine and St. Benedict Parishes.

Saturday August 27, 2021 at 10am at St. Benedict Multipurpose Room.

Please make it a point to attend as we move forward in discerning our future.

We are no longer streaming our mass live. Parishioners and visitors are encouraged to visit in person. All COVID protocols are in place ensuring your safety.

BEACONS UPDATE: BE HEARD, STAY INFORMED, SIGN UP

Beacons of Light, the archdiocese-wide pastoral planning process currently underway, will impact every parish in the archdiocese, including ours. To stay on top of the latest developments on Beacons of Light, sign up for the free monthly *Beacons* Update newsletter at www.BeaconsAOC.org.

COMMENT ON DRAFT "FAMILIES OF PARISHES"

Make sure your voice is heard! Beacons of Light, the archdiocese-wide pastoral planning process currently underway, will result in all parishes being grouped into "Families" under the leadership of one pastor. A draft of this plan will be shared for public comment **October 1-20** at www.BeaconsAOC.org. Do not miss this opportunity to provide your input to this important initiative which will shape the future of our archdiocese.

ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH NEWS

ST. AUGUSTINE WEEKLY COLLECTION
Will appear in next week's bulletin



ST. AUGUSTINE MINISTERS SCHEDULE

August 22 Patrick
August 29 Randy

ST. BENEDICT MINISTER'S SCHEDULE **AUGUST 29TH – TWENTY-SECOND IN ORDINARY TIME**

1st Reader – Judy Baker
2nd Reader – Danielle Kenny
Petitions – Victor O'Basuyi
Extraordinary Ministers – Victor O'Basuyi, Derek Arnold, Susan Smith

ST. BENEDICT WEEKLY COLLECTION
August 15: \$4,850 Maint Coll: \$150.56

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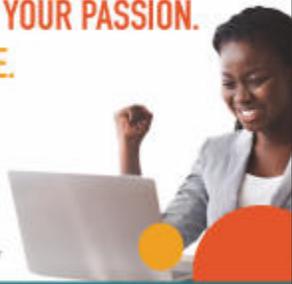

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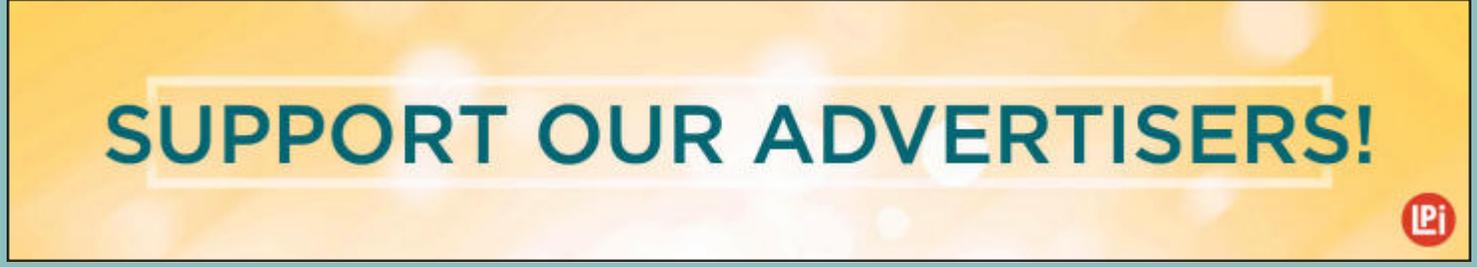


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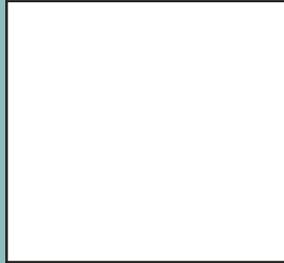


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