

Synod of African Bishops Rome 2009

“We recall with just pride that Christianity has been in Africa since its very beginning, in Egypt and Ethiopia, and soon after in other parts of North Africa. This ancient Church has enriched the universal Church with prestigious theological, spiritual and liturgical traditions, illustrious saints and martyrs ...

“We are convinced that the first and most specific contribution of the Church to the people of Africa is to proclaim the Gospel of Christ... for life in Christ is the first and principal factor of development”... (Pope Benedict)

“The Church is second to none in the fight against HIV/AIDS and the care of people infected and affected by it in Africa. The Synod thanks all those who are generously involved in this difficult apostolate of love and care. We plead for sustained support to meet the needs of many for assistance.

“This Synod, with the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, seriously warns that the problem cannot be overcome by the distribution of prophylactics. We appeal to all who are genuinely interested in arresting the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS to recognize the success already obtained by programs that propose abstinence among those not yet married, and fidelity among the married. Such a course of action not only offers the best protection against the spread of this disease but is also in harmony with Christian morality. We address ourselves particularly to you, the youth. Let no one deceive you into thinking that you cannot control yourselves. Yes you can, with the grace of God.”

Collections:

1 January	World Peace Day
4 January	African Catechists
6/10/24/31 January	Our Mission
17 January	Family work in the church
2/7/17/21 Feb.	Our Mission
14 February	Catholic schools
28 February	Caritas



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**January/February
2010**

Word of the Priest

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"We live in a world full of contradictions and deep crisis. Science and technology are making giant strides in all aspects of life, equipping humanity with all that it takes to make our planet a beautiful place for us all. Yet tragic situations of refugees, abject poverty, disease and hunger are still killing thousands on a daily basis."

This seems to be an appropriate diagnosis of the world of today to which most of us would readily subscribe. I found it in the "Message to the People of God of the Second Special Assembly for Africa of the Synod of Bishops" of October 2009.

The African Bishops continue: "In all this, Africa is the most hit. Rich in human and natural resources, many of our people are still left to wallow in poverty and misery, wars and conflicts, crisis and chaos. These are very rarely caused by natural disasters. They are largely due to human decisions and activities by people who have no regard for the common good and this often through a tragic complicity and criminal conspiracy of local leaders and foreign interests."

Many Africans, even non-catholic, will be grateful to these Bishops for telling the truth in such a simple language. And many Americans and Europeans will agree with their verdict. But should we despair?

"Africa must not despair. The blessings of God are still abundant, waiting to be prudently and justly employed for the good of her children ..."

All this applies not only to Africans. The New Year 2010 is a challenge to every Christian. We should see the crisis, but also the blessing. We should denounce crimes and abuses, but also announce human achievements and praise the Lord's mercy.

May Our Lady assist us.

Father Herbert Gilllessen

Liturgy January/February 2010

All Saints / St Bernhard / St Albert

JANUARY

1	Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God	---	11 a.m.	12 noon
3	Epiphany of the Lord	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
6	Epiphany of the Lord	---	7 p.m.	---
10	Baptism of the Lord	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
17	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
24	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
31	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon

FEBRUARY

7	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
14	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
17	Ash Wednesday	----	7 p.m.	----
21	First Sunday of Lent	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
28	Second Sunday of Lent	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon

Information for the Mission in General

Our Mission offers pastoral care, religious education (children and adults: First Holy Communion, Confirmation). Baptisms, weddings, hospital and home visits can be arranged through the Priest.

The Priest is also available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass and by appointment. For weddings, please contact Father Gilllessen 3 months in advance.

English-speaking Roman Catholic Mission

at St Bernhard (Rectory)

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at St Albert the Great

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10709 Berlin-Charlottenburg
(U-Bahnhof Adenauerplatz,
S-Bahnhof Halensee) M19, M29
Lehliner Platz

at All Saints

Hüttenweg 46
14195 Berlin
Bus 285, 115,

at Heilig Geist

Filipino Community
Bayernallee 28
14052 Berlin-Charlottenburg
(S-Bhf.Heerstr./U-Bhf. Neu-Westend)
Mass on Sundays at 3.30 p.m.

at St Michael

Ghana Community
Waldemarstr. 8-10
10999 Berlin
U-Bhf Moritzplatz
Sunday at 1 p.m.