

**“Australian Jewels”
(Pope Benedict XVI in Sydney,
World Youth Day 2008)**

“For some of us, it might seem like we have come to the end of the world! For people of your age, however, any flight is an exciting prospect. But for me, this one was somewhat daunting! Yet the views afforded of our planet from the air were truly wondrous. The sparkle of the Mediterranean, the grandeur of the north African desert, the lushness of Asia’s forestation, the vastness of the Pacific Ocean, the horizon upon which the sun rose and set, and the majestic splendor of Australia’s natural beauty which I have been able to enjoy these last couple of days; these all evoke a profound sense of awe. It is as though one catches glimpses of the Genesis creation story – light and darkness, the sun and the moon, the waters, the earth, and living creatures; all of which are “good” in God’s eyes (cf. *Gen* 1:1-2:4). Immersed in such beauty, who could not echo the words of the Psalmist in praise of the Creator: “how majestic is your name in all the earth?” (*Pss* 8:1)...”

“There is also something sinister, which stems from the fact that freedom and tolerance are so often separated from truth. This is fuelled by the notion, widely held today, that there are no absolute truths to guide our lives. Relativism, by indiscriminately giving value to practically everything, has made “experience” all-important. Yet, experiences, detached from any consideration of what is good or true, can lead, not to genuine freedom, but to moral or intellectual confusion, to a lowering of standards, to a loss of self-respect, and even to despair...”

“Do we recognize that the innate dignity of every individual rests on his or her deepest identity – as image of the Creator – and therefore that human rights are universal, based on the natural law, and not something dependent upon negotiation or patronage, let alone compromise? And so we are led to reflect on what place the poor and the elderly, immigrants and the voiceless, have in our societies. How can it be that domestic violence torments so many mothers and children? How can it be that the most wondrous and sacred human space – the womb – has become a place of unutterable violence? ...”

“Our hearts and minds are yearning for a vision of life where love endures, where gifts are shared, where unity is built, where freedom finds meaning in truth, and where identity is found in respectful communion. This is the work of the Holy Spirit! This is the hope held out by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is to bear witness to this reality that you were created anew at Baptism and strengthened through the gifts of the Spirit at Confirmation. Let this be the message that you bring from Sydney to the world! ...”

First Holy Communion

Preparation begins on Sunday, 12 October 2008, at 10 a.m. here at St Bernhard. Children should be at least seven years of age (2nd graders).

Our programme requires the cooperation of the parents.



**English-speaking
Roman Catholic Mission
Archdiocese of Berlin**

Königin-Luise-Str. 33
14195 Berlin

Tel.: 813 20 26

Fax: 813 20 47

E-mail: alsda46@aol.com

www.English-Mission-Berlin.de

Pax-Bank Acc. No. 6000 843014

Bank ID number: 370 60193

Mission Priest:

Father Herbert Gillessen

Tel.: (030) 83 20 24 88

Assistant Priest:

Father Clemens Pfaff, M.Afr.

Tel.: 74 00 19 05

Secretary: Sibylle Reed-Robie

Tel.: 813 20 26

Office hours: Monday through

Thursday 9 to 13

**October/
November 2008**

WORD OF THE PRIEST

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

According to tradition Saint Paul the Apostle was born in Tarsus in Cilicia (now Turkey) about the year 8 AD. That is why Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed a "Year of Saint Paul" from 29 June 2008 to 29 June 2009 and invited Christians to study his letters and visit his places.

How did Paul who was a Jew (Saul) and had persecuted the church become a Christian? In his letter to the Galatians he writes: "When God, who from my mother's womb had set me apart and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me..." (1,15-16).

So God took the initiative. There were no previous merits on the part of Paul to deserve the grace of faith: he was set apart from his mother's womb. And what was the essence of the Christian act of faith? The recognition of "the Son": that Jesus of Nazareth was the eternal Son of the Father.

Jesus himself had said: "No one knows the Son except the Father" (Mt 11,27). The mystery of Jesus is so unfathomable that only the Father who eternally generates him knows him. We can only know "the Son" by divine revelation.

In the Acts of the Apostles Saint Luke, the faithful companion of Paul, describes the decisive event: "As (Paul) was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" He said: "Who are you, Sir?" The reply came: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." (9,3-5)

This encounter with the Risen Lord changed the life of Saint Paul completely. He could never forget the majesty, the beauty and the authority of Jesus in his glory. All his ideas and teachings turn round the crucified and risen and glorified Jesus of Nazareth.

May the celebration of this 2000-year – Jubilee of Saint Paul bear abundant fruit in our Mission.

Father Herbert Gillissen

Liturgy October / November 2008

All Saints / St Bernhard / St Albert

OCTOBER

5	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
12	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
19	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
26	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon

NOVEMBER

1	All Saints*		
	6:00 p.m.	6:00 p.m.	---
2	All Souls		
	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
9	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome		
	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
16	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time		
	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
23	Our Lord Jesus Christ the King		
	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon
30	First Sunday of Advent		
	10 a.m.	11 a.m.	12 noon

* Holy Day of Obligation in the Archdiocese of Berlin

Collections:

October 5, 19: our Mission, Oct. 12: Catholic Schools

October 26: World Mission Day

Nov. 1, 30: our Mission, Nov. 2: education of our priests in Central and East Europe, Nov. 9: CARITAS, Nov. 16: DIASPORA, Nov. 23: Orphans

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 Gillissen 3 months in advance.

English-speaking Roman Catholic Mission at St Bernhard (Rector)

Königin-Luise-Str. 33
14195 Berlin (Dahlem)
(U3 Dahlem-Dorf,
Bus X83, X11)

at St Albert the Great

Nestorstr. 10
14052 Berlin-Charlottenburg
(U-Bahnhof Adenauerplatz,
S-Bahnhof Halensee) M19, M29
Lehniner 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.