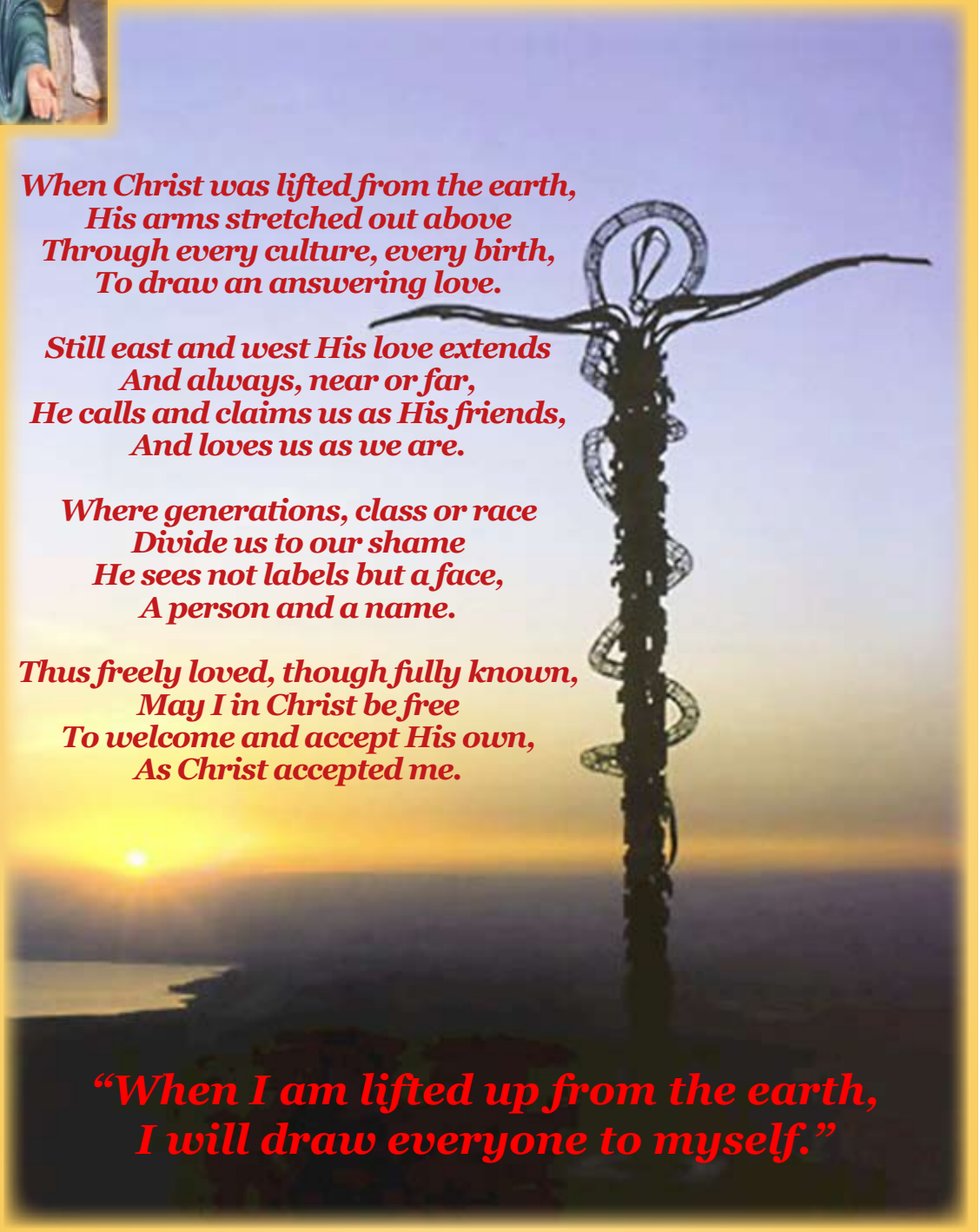
Our Lady of Grace

Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street · Avon Park, Florida 33825

5th Sunday of Lent **March 29, 2009**



When Christ was lifted from the earth,
His arms stretched out above
Through every culture, every birth,
To draw an answering love.

Still east and west His love extends
And always, near or far,
He calls and claims us as His friends,
And loves us as we are.

Where generations, class or race
Divide us to our shame
He sees not labels but a face,
A person and a name.

Thus freely loved, though fully known,
May I in Christ be free
To welcome and accept His own,
As Christ accepted me.

"When I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw everyone to myself."

LENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE · MONDAY, APRIL 6, 5:30 PM

Parish Office
· Phone: (863) 453-4757
· Fax: (863) 453-2620
· Monday through Friday
9 AM to 2:30 PM

Pastor
Fr. Nicholas McLoughlin

Spanish Apostolate
Fr. José Gonzalez

Deacon
Fred Simon

Pastor Emeritus
Fr. Gerald Grogan

Assisting Clergy
Fr. Robert Onze
Fr. John Belfield
Fr. Leo Frechette

Administrative Assistant
Betty Heiring

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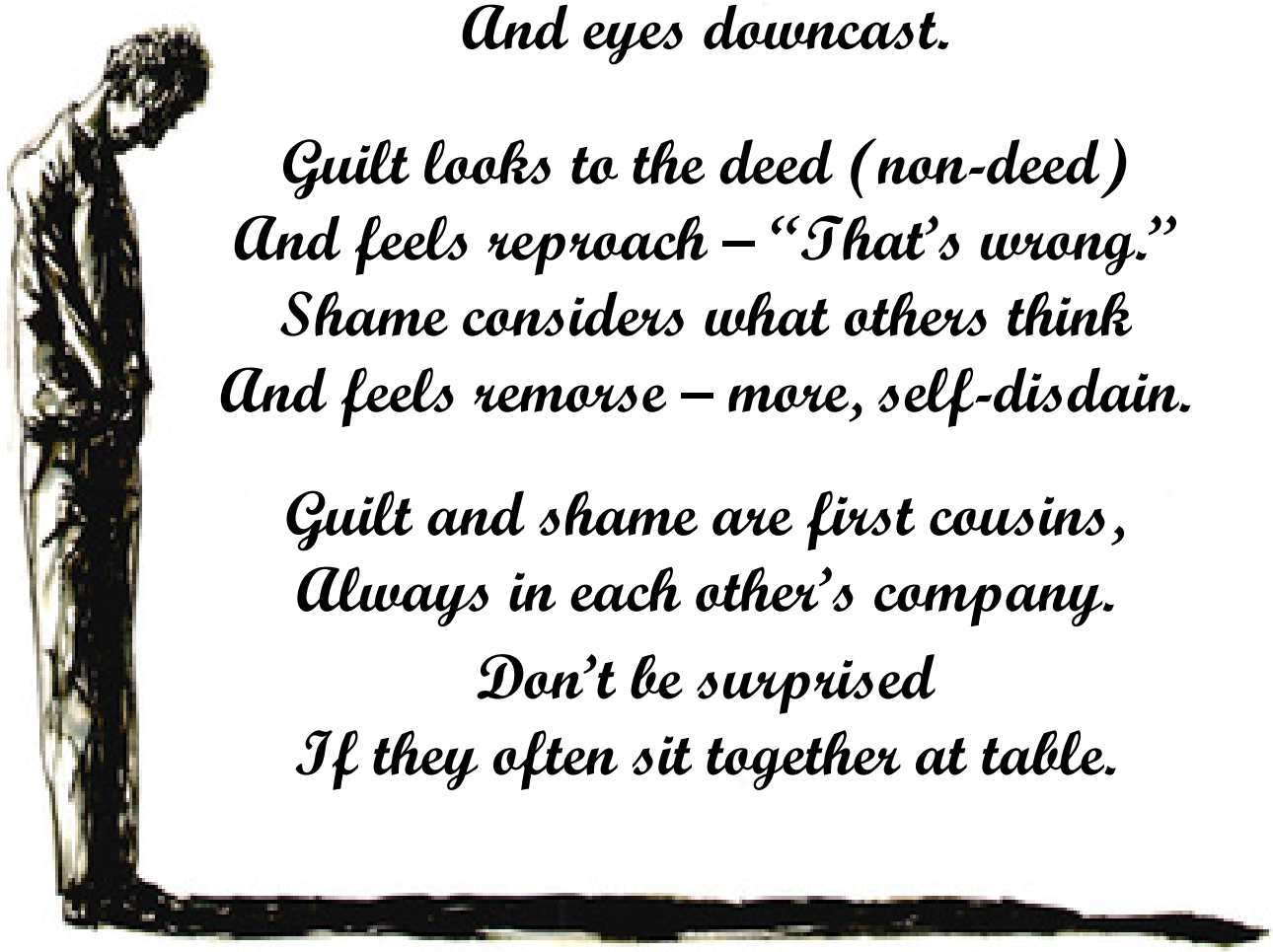
Parasites

Guilt is the gap
Between the "is" and the "ought."
Shame is the blush upon the cheeks
And eyes downcast.



Guilt looks to the deed (non-deed)
And feels reproach – "That's wrong."
Shame considers what others think
And feels remorse – more, self-disdain.

Guilt and shame are first cousins,
Always in each other's company.
Don't be surprised
If they often sit together at table.

"We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2Cor 5: 20)

Easter Parish Picnic

Saturday, April 11th
Grogan Center
Easter Egg Hunt at 11:00 am
Lunch at 12:00
Hot dogs & Hamburgers provided
Bring a side dish to share

K of C Breakfast

K of C Breakfast, Sunday, April 5, 8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. Wish your friends Bon Voyage before they return 'North' for the Summer months. Cost is $5 per person: under 12 children eat free. Come and bring you friends.

K of C Recruitment Drive

The K of C will be recruiting new members, or, asking members from elsewhere to transfer their membership to the newly formed Our Lady of Grace Council after Mass next weekend.

K of C Tootsie Roll Drive

The K of C will hold a Tootsie Roll drive after Masses next weekend to benefit Ridge Area ARC for persons with disabilities.

First Friday Mass & Benediction

Friday, April 3, is the First Friday of the month. 8:00 a.m. Mass will be followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will conclude with Benediction at 9:00 a.m.

1st Saturday 8:00 a.m. Mass

8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday followed by Confessions immediately after Mass.

Holy Week Retreat: April 9-12

Includes 3 nights and 8 meals; daily meditations/Conferences; Evening Mass of the Last Supper; Way of the Cross & Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday; Easter Vigil & Sunrise Easter Liturgy of the Eucharist. Opportunities for Reconciliation, Euch. Adoration, Morning and Evening Prayers. Single: $290; Double, $215. Registration deadline: 3/30. Call OLPH Retreat Center (941)486-0233.

Divorce & Beyond

This program will address issues you face as a divorced adult. It will help you mourn your loss, move beyond the grief and adjust to your new lifestyle.

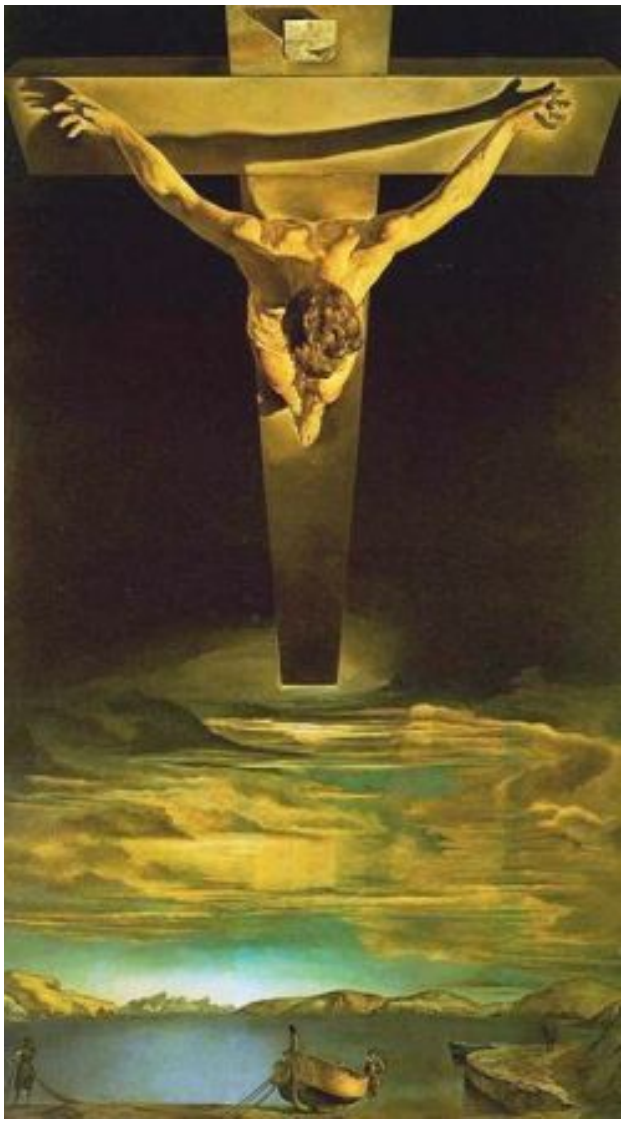
As you build a network of friends who experience similar feelings and who accept you where you are at this point of your life, you will become a stronger and happier person.

The program runs for 10 sessions. It starts on Friday, April 10, and runs through June 19. The program will be held at St. James catholic Hall, 3380 Placid View Drive, Lake Placid. The cost is $15.

For additional information or to sign up, contact Elsie or Jim at 699-2788.

New Choir Members

Dr. Bob Fritz, our new choir director, invites "anyone who likes to sing" to join the adult choir. It rehearses on Wed. evening at 7 p.m



Dear parishioners: The late Lewis Grizzard was a newspaper columnist and essayist known for his offbeat, often outrageous, Southern humor. Beneath the laughter, however, there was sadness, a life of personal suffering and loss. Some of Grizzard's pain came from his troubled relationship with his father, an alcoholic who left the family when Grizzard was a boy. "Before he died," he wrote, "I asked daddy a thousand times, 'What is wrong? Why can't you stay sober? Why can't you stay in one place? What can be so bad you can't talk about it?'" His father would never give a direct answer. One day, Grizzard pleaded desperately with his father to tell him what was wrong in his life. He told him that it didn't matter what it was, no matter how terrible, that he loved him whatever the awful truth was. But his father could not respond. He could only weep, sobbing out the words that he had made a mistake, "a bad mistake." "That's all I ever got," said Grizzard. "The man died, as far as I know, with his secret." What terrible secret did he have? Did he kill someone? Did he rob or cheat somebody? Was he a child molester? I can think of no more unthinkable. No matter. Whatever his sin, his secret, I loved him – and I love him – anyway." Whatever his sin, I loved him – and I love him – anyway. This is a moving tribute from a son to a wayward father. In a vastly more powerful way, it is a genuine description of John 3:16, of the unwavering love of Jesus Christ for all of us who, like Lewis's father, have secrets too shameful to tell. The most frequently quoted Gospel sentence, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that those who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life" are profound words of invitation: invitation to gratitude, invitation to trust, and, finally invitation to repentance for having been indifferent to such incredible, unconditional love. John continues: "God so loved the world that he sent his only Son… not to condemn the world, but, that the world might be saved by him." Paul reiterates this message: "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (Cor 5: 19-20). We are encouraged to experience that incredible love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation at one of the **Communal Penance Services** during Holy Week: **Monday**, April 6, at Our Lady of Grace, Avon Park; **Tuesday**, April 7, St. Catherine's, Sebring; **Wednesday**, April 8, at St. James in Lake Placid – all services are at **5:30 p.m**. 12 priests will be available for the Penance services. **Father Nick.**

We must speak for **human embryonic Life** as we speak for all human life. We must expose and oppose this new form of genetic slavery wherein an entire class of human life is being labeled as property to be used by those who are more powerful. With the stroke of a Presidential pen human embryos will become property, capable of being "manufactured" like a commodity and available to be used as spare body parts.

Some might remember seeing this paraphrased quote by **Pastor Martin Niemöller**, from testimony he gave to Congress back in 1968: "First they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for the communists and I did not speak out because I was not a communist. Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me and by then there was no one left to speak out for me."

Contact your member of Congress and your Senator in Washington D.C. and speak out on behalf of the rights of unborn children.

Operation Rice Bowl Collection April 5 & 6

We commend you for practicing the three Lenten practices of **prayer, fasting and almsgiving.** It was gratifying to see so many parishioners participate in **weekday masses** throughout the season of Lent. There was a good attendance at **Stations of the Cross** on Wednesday afternoons. We trust that many parish families participated in the practice of fasting and almsgiving. You were encouraged to participate in a-frugal-meal-a-week as a family and to put the savings from the meal in the **Rice Bowl**. You are asked to consolidate those savings and to put them in an envelope and to drop them off in the offertory collection at all masses next weekend. The proceeds will be sent to **Catholic Relief Services** to feed the hungry people of the world. **75%** of the funds will be used to feed famine stricken people outside the U.S. **25%** of the funds will be used to feed the hungry here in the U.S.

Church Service Center Collection Next weekend

Won't you be generous?

God loves a generous giver

Sacramental Life of the Parish

Baptisms:
Baptismal orientation is the first Sunday of each month. Ceremonies are performed on the second Sunday.

Marriages:
Adequate preparation is required. Call the parish office six months in advance.

Ministry to the Sick:
Arrangements can be made to have a priest and/or a Eucharistic minister visit on a regular basis, if necessary. Call the parish office.

Registration
Permanent and seasonal members are encouraged to register. Registration cards are available at the main church entrance.

Schedule of Masses and Prayers

Saturday
8 AM with Confession
at 8:30 AM (Nov - May)
Vigil 4 PM
7 PM Spanish

Sunday
8 AM and 10:30 AM
Life Teen Mass 6 PM

Holy Days
Vigil 5:30 PM
8 AM

Daily Mass
Monday - Friday 8 AM

First Friday
Mass and Holy Hour
8 AM

First Saturday
Mass at 8 AM

Confessions
Saturday 3:30 PM

Readings for the Week of March 29, 2009

Sunday
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33

Monday
Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62
John 8:1-11

Tuesday
Numbers 21: 4-9
John 8:21-30

Wednesday
Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95
John 8:31-42

Thursday
Genesis 17:3-9
John 8:51-59

Friday
Jeremiah 20:10-13
John 10:31-42

Saturday
Ezekiel 37:21-28
John 11:45-56

Palm Sunday
Isaiah 50:4-7
Phillipians 2:6-11
Mark 14:1–15:47

Please Note: Names will be left on the prayer list for one month. If you would like a name to be kept longer on the list, please call the parish office.

Mass Intentions for The Coming Week

Saturday, Mar. 28
4 PM.....† Harold Kanaley by Claire Kanaley
† Marie Ward by Bill & Marie Crennan
† Ray Whitlatch by Rita Whitlatch
7 PM.....Spanish Mass

Sunday, Mar. 29
8 AM.....Living and deceased members of the Heiring family by a friend
† Marie Carducci by Rocky Carducci
10:30 AM.....† Gene Gorski by Earl & Jere Miller
† Bob Bland by Tony Skorupski
6 PM.....Life Teen Mass

Monday, Mar. 30
8 AM.....† Harold Kanaley by Claire Kanaley
12 NOON.....Special intention for Jack Heiring by the Women's Guild

Tuesday, Mar. 31
8 AM.....† Ken Kelly by Ruth Kelly
12 NOON.....† Maude Shaffer Vachon & Robert J. Vachon, Sr. by their daughter

Wednesday, Apr. 1
8 AM.....† Evelyn Vargo by Rosemary Weise
Joan D'Amanda by her husband
12 NOON.....† Dorothy Lane by Annette Daff

Thursday, Apr. 2
8 AM.....For our parish family
12 NOON.....Special intention for Esther Fauek by Alice McLennan

Friday, Apr. 3
8 AM.....† Timothy Roche by his parents
12 NOON

Saturday, Apr. 4
8 AM.....Benefactors of the parish
4 PM.....In thanksgiving for Noreen Buckley by Mike Buckley
† Marie Helfrich by Loretta Evans
† Art Paek by Gloria Paek

Sunday, Apr. 5
8 AM.....† George Mullen by Betty Lou Mullen
† Marie Carducci by Rocky Carducci
10:30 AM.....† Ida Framo by Ray & Mary Curci
† Kim Edward Hughes by L.J. & E. Hughes
† Johnny Grill and Pat Sedlock by John & Michelle Sedlock and family

Please pray for the sick...

Dale Pounds
Rainald Gervais, Jr.
James Curtis
Agnes Belfield
Betty Freeman
Philip Cooper
Jason Pearson
Charles Heim
Mary K. Strong
Conner Race
Rosalle Cenzano
Roger Simoneau
Dorothy Tanner
Rudy Cecere
John Topa
Delores Angemeier
Wayne Overton
Ralph Lundy

Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the
hour of our death.
Amen.

And also for...

those who care for the sick,
deceased members and benefactors of the parish,
especially Dorothy Moot and Helen Singer, who died this past week
and our loved ones.

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Bill Hutchison

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Judy Nugent

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Charles Devlin
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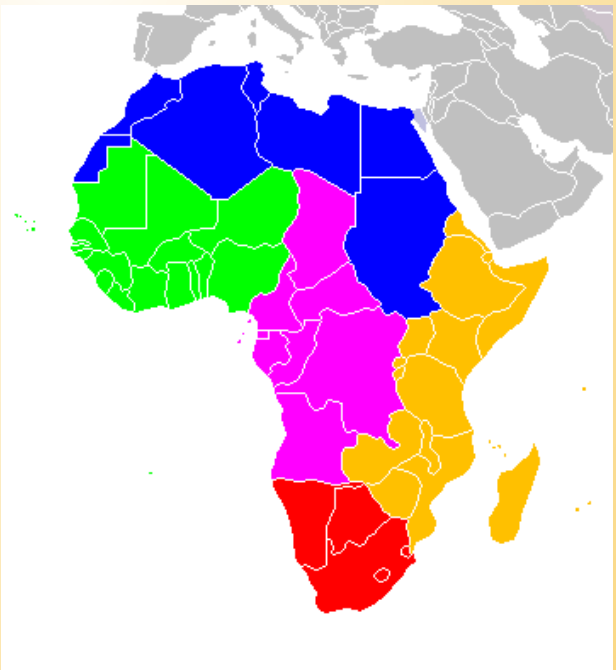
Pope Benedict Visits Africa

Africa: sub regions as delineated by United Nations geographic classification scheme:

- Northern Africa
  - Physiographically, country with partial territory in Western Asia – Egypt (Sinai Peninsula)
- Western Africa
- Middle Africa
- Eastern Africa
- Southern Africa



Going, therefore, teach all nations…." There are 157 million Catholics in Sub-Saharan Africa today out of a total African population of 1 billion people. The Catholic Church has grown exponentially in sub-Saharan Africa in the 20th Century. Much of Africa was under European colonial control until the early 1960's. Today, there are 53 independent African nations. The movement toward independence in Africa coincided with the second Vatican Council, which emphasized dialogue with developing nations and respect for other cultures. With this new pastoral emphasis coming out of Vatican II, the Catholic Church began to recognize other cultural forms of expression in the life of the African Catholic Church. The Church in Africa became more Africanized in its leadership and pastoral and teaching personnel, leading to an enormous influx into the Catholic Church in sub-Saharan Africa. The Pope's visit highlights the importance of the Church in Africa. Later this year, there will be a Synod of the African Church.