

Newsletter for St Knud Lavard Church

English Translation – February 2016

The Danish edition of this Newsletter was published December 17th 2015 covering the period January to March 2016. This English edition is an excerpt of the articles in the Danish edition, including the events for March 2016. For pictures and illustrations, please refer to the Danish edition.

Dear Congregation

By Fr. Alren

It's winter again and it is stressful to go through the cold and dark days; but we are rejoicing because we will soon be celebrating Christmas, which means a lot to us. We are happy both for the gifts we receive and to see our family, and with even greater joy, we celebrate Jesus' birth. Jesus was born as our saviour because of God's love and mercy.

Pope Francis has announced 2016 to be a Year of Mercy, in order to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second Vatican Council on December 8th 1965. Hence the Year of Mercy started December 8th 2015. Pope Francis wants us to be able to experience God's mercy and that the Church will be a sacrament of God's mercy in this world.

The Pope published a paper called "Misericordiae Vultus", which means The Anniversary of Mercy. He introduces the paper by writing, "Jesus Christ is the face of God's mercy". In the document he writes among other things, that we must always meditate on God's mercy, and that our salvation rests upon it. This Year of Mercy will end with the celebration of "Christ the King" (solemnity) on November 20th 2016. The Pope has written a prayer especially for The Year of Mercy, which we pray every Sunday and weekday during this year.

I think that we need to renew our faith together with the whole Church, and surrender ourselves to become more Christian in our mercy for and love of others, so that we can be a tool for God's mercy and love. May Jesus, whose birthday we celebrate, teach us how we can be loving and merciful to each other.

I wish you a great and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I wish you all well.

Fr. Alren

Diary for March

Tuesday, 1 st	7 – 9 pm	Film evening about Catechesis
Sunday, 6 th	4th Sunday in Lent	
	10 am	Family Mass in Danish
	1 pm	Mass in English
Sunday, 13 th	5th Sunday in Lent	
	10 am	Mass in Danish
	1 pm	Mass in English
Tuesday, 15 th	7 – 9 pm	Presentation from Caritas in Uganda
Friday, 18 th	7 – 9 pm	Easter Movie
Sunday, 20 th	Palm Sunday	
	10 am	Mass in Danish
	1 pm	Mass in English
Tuesday, 22 nd	5 pm	Chrism Mass in St Ansgar's Cathedral
Wednesday, 23 rd	6 pm	Mass in English
Thursday, 24 th	Holy Thursday	
	5 pm	Mass in Danish, followed by dinner
Friday, 25 th	Good Friday	
	3 pm	The Lord's Passion in Danish
	5 pm	The Lord's Passion in English
Saturday, 26 th	Easter Vigil	
	11 pm	Mass in Danish & English
Sunday, 27 th	Easter Day	
	10 am	Mass in Danish
	1 pm	Mass in English
Monday, 28 th	2nd Day of Easter	
	10 am	Mass in Danish

Weekday Mass times

Tuesdays	5 pm	Mass in Danish
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Rosary in English
	6 pm	Mass in English, followed by Stations of the Cross
Thursday	11 am	Mass in Danish followed by lunch in the Parish Hall
Friday	3:30 pm	Rosary in Danish
	4 pm	Adoration
	4:30 pm	Stations of the Cross in Danish
	5 pm	Mass in Danish
Saturday	4:30 pm	Rosary in Danish
	5 pm	Mass in Danish

Adult Catechesis

Adult catechesis is an offer of contemplation and discussion of various topics and areas. The meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 to 9 p.m.

Date	Topic	Coordinator
01.03.2016	Movie about catechesis	Egle & Kristoffer
15.03.2016	Presentation from Caritas in Uganda	Eva
18.03.2016	Easter Movie	Petrea & John-Erik Stig Hansen
05.04.2016	Bible evening	Fr. Alren
19.04.2016	Movie and discussion: "Heaven is for real"	Petrea
03.05.2016	Bible evening	Fr. Alren
17.05.2016	Theme: Family Synod	John-Erik Stig Hansen

DUK local branch; Lyngby Young Catholics

By Michael Højer Clausen

In the cosy atmosphere of Fr. Alren's living room, the past year's activities for the children and youth were evaluated and a report was made. The financial account of 2014 was approved and Dorte Linnemann was thanked for having taken on the work of keeping the account. A new board of this local branch was elected including Maria Højrup as chairman, Dorte Linnemann as treasurer and Nataniel Olden-Jørgensen, Maximilian Olden-Jørgensen, Eva Linnemann Hansen as board members. Activities for 2016 were then discussed and it was agreed to try and re-establish a monthly Children's Day immediately after the Sunday Family Mass.

Caritas Flea Market in the Basement

By Tuulikki Albeck, Caritas Representative at St Knud Lavard Church

Michèle Marques and I opened a flea market in two rooms of the church basement during the Sundays of Advent. One room is filled with clothes, the other room with books, furniture, toys and things. As we had too much clothes, we offered it free to the au-pair girls. The books were also free in the beginning. In spite of this, we managed to collect as much as 2000 DKK.

Now, we have been given permission to open the flea market once a month. To begin with, we are open on March 6th and April 3rd from 11 am to 3 pm. If this is a success, we will continue.

People, who are financially strained, will get "fleas" for free.

Therefore, you may bring **clean** clothes, books, small pieces of furniture and other things, that are whole and in working order. No big pieces of furniture as they are hard to get into the basement and up again after the sale. You are welcome to just leave the clothes and the things in the basement, and we will sort them. Also, please remember that we are collecting used stamps in the box next to the hymnaries at the back of the Church. Your old glasses, you can hand in to me.

“Laudato si” – a groundbreaking encyclical

By John-Erik Stig Hansen

Pope Francis has excited much of the world with another encyclical, "Laudato si" (= "Blessed are you"). The title is taken from one of St Francis of Assisi's Canticles (1182-1226), originally written in Italian, but reproduced below in English translation from <http://www.franciscanfriarstor.com/>.

The encyclical is a significant rebellion against the existing notion, that man is the master of creations with the right to use the nature and all other creatures, as they are considered to be lower spiritual beings without rights or importance. Pope Francis rebels against this misconception and highlights the duty of man to regard themselves as part of the whole creation, and to understand the incarnation of Christ as God's way of showing solidarity with the whole creation.

The materialistic exploitation mentality of today's secular society does not only impact nature, but also our fellow human beings. In particular, the poorest people on Earth will be hit twice: Their labour and access to the Earth's resources are abused by rich people from other parts of the world, and when the exploitation of the rich creates climate problems and shortage of resources, then the effects of this hit the poorest people hardest.

The Pope's new encyclical is a unique document that provides a new understanding of the Church's social teaching and doctrine on nature. One may well find more inspiration for reading in this canticle from his "name brother", St Francis of Assisi, The Canticle of the Brother Sun:

*Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honour,
and all blessing.*

*To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no man is worthy to mention Your name.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,
especially through my lord Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.
And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendour!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.*

*Praise be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon
and the stars, in heaven you formed them
clear and precious and beautiful.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather through which
You give sustenance to Your creatures.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night and he is beautiful
and playful and robust and strong.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains us and governs us and who produces
varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.*

*Praised be You, my Lord,
through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.*

*Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.*

*Praised be You, my Lord,
through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no living man can escape.*

*Praised be You, my Lord,
through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no living man can escape.*

*Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will
find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.*

*Praise and bless my Lord,
and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.*

AMEN

Our Church hosting three priestly ordinations – simultaneously!

By John-Erik Stig Hansen

St Knud Lavard church was built in 1957 and is the largest Catholic Church in the Eastern part of Denmark. Therefore, it is an appropriate venue for the really big events. Saturday October 3rd 2015 was a unique experience for 450 church attendants. The deacons Davide De Nigris, Gilberto Vinciguerra and Mate Rada were ordained to priesthood by Bishop Czeslaw Kozon at a festive Mass at St Knud Lavard Church. More than thirty priests, many altar servers and an enthusiastic choir singing neo-catechumenal song to Spanish melodies, gave the event a character that will be remembered by many.

The bishop preached on the theme, friends (Jn 15, 9-16), which every Christian will know from his/her own relationship with Jesus Christ - that part of the Almighty God, who became one of us. In the present ordination ceremony, Davide, Gilberto and Mate further unfolded what they had received through their ordination as deacons, since their responsibilities as pastors in the Christian congregation expanded. The priest candidates answered “Yes” to be obedient to the Bishop and his successors, “Yes” to preach the Gospel, and “Yes” to celebrating the Eucharist and the other sacraments. And this was in addition to their deacon-promises of obedience and abstinence of material wealth and sexual practices. Such fundamental promises are not to be taken lightly. For the priest candidates it has been up to 17 years of preparation, in order to be sure that this is the call from God to them, that this must be the purpose of the rest of their adult lives.

Therefore, the ceremony celebrated at St Knud Lavard Church formed a unique experience, marked by great solemnity and the noticeable presence of the Holy Spirit. The laying on of hands, first from the Bishop and subsequently the other priests, the anointing of the priest candidates, and the familiar yet ever-changing ritual of the Mass, put a thought-awakening setting around this important event - not only for the three young men's personal lives, but also for the life of the Catholic Church congregation, thereby for the life of the Church itself.

Although we may not have more priestly ordinations on the program just now, it should nevertheless be mentioned that Jan Hansen, who was formed from St Knud Lavard Congregation after his priestly ordination last spring, will have his First Mass at St Knud Lavard Church. It happens on Palm Sunday, 20th March 2016.