

ST. THERESA’S CATHOLIC CHURCH Fr, Paulinus Okpala, Pastor 807 South Third Street, Cordele, Georgia 31015 229.273.3774 (office) 586.285.1864 (emergency) Office Email: churchofthelittleflower@gmail.com Website: www.churchofthelittleflower.church.com Mass Times Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm Sunday: 9:30 am (English) & 12:15 pm (Spanish) Daily: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday: Noon Wednesday: 6:00 pm Adoration: Wednesday 5:00 pm Private Prayer: Wednesday 8:00 am – 7:00 pm	Sacraments Baptism, Marriage, & Anointing of the Sick – Call for appointment First Communion, Confirmation & Religious Ed – Sunday 11:00 am – 12 Noon Youth Group – Resumes September 9 7:00 – 8:30 pm Men’s Group – Thursday 5:30 – 6:30 pm Confessions: Sunday: 8:45-9:15 pm & 11:30 am to Noon: Saturday: 4:15 – 4:45 pm; Wednesday: 5:15 – 5:45 pm and by appointment	DAILY MASS August 29 5:00 pm Mass Tony “Dante” Lai+ Anna Le Thi Vy Bobby Hooper+ August 30 9:30 am Mass 12:15 PM Mass
Love Has the Shape of the Cross Last Sunday we heard Peter make a beautiful profession of faith in Christ. But, strangely enough, Jesus ordered his disciples not to reveal who he was to anybody. Today, we begin to understand better why he did it. Both the people and the disciples had a wrong understanding of the Messiah. Peter used the right words, but he meant the exact opposite of what he said. Like all the rest of the people, the apostles thought that the Messiah would be a politically great, glorious, and victorious king, but this was not the plan of God. In today’s gospel, Jesus begins to explain the meaning of the Messiah and to make it clear that he is going up to Jerusalem, not to take over power, but to give up his life. This is a big shock to Peter and the apostles. The idea that the Messiah will be humiliated is unacceptable to Peter. He has always believed that the Messiah would never be defeated. Quite the contrary, he would defeat all the enemies of Israel. All the rabbis taught that the Messiah would never die, and he would start an era of happiness without end for the just. A good number of Christians, today, do have a modern version of this notion. So, what is this strange talk of Jesus? Jesus reveals the mystery of the Cross. It is the revelation of love, the power that really rules the universe. Human thoughts and means of overcoming evil with counter-violence are opposed to the ways of God. Love overcomes evil with greater love, giving up one’s own life. This is the Christian revolution. Jesus shockingly tells all his followers that the sacrifice for good to reign in the world is the <u>self</u>. He leads the way and declares that whoever is unwilling to forget self is unready to follow him. But whoever forgets and gives up self for the sake of love is like a grain planted in the ground. He lives. At every Mass, he repeats this message by breaking himself and planting himself in the lives of the faithful. Paul, in the second reading, declares that if our worship is to be spiritual, our lives must become a living sacrifice of love. Let us, therefore, look on the Cross as the sign of our faith, the example and strength for our daily lives of sacrificial love. God bless you all. Fr. Paulinus	Second Collection ~ Next weekend will be for the Annual Catholic Appeal. Please pray about what you can give. If you haven’t given, this will be an opportunity to do so. Thank you to all who have generously given. Bible Study ~ have you ever wondered about the background of the culture of Jesus’ time? Beginning on Sunday, September 20 at 10:45 pm, Father will dive deeper into the weekend’s scriptures. He will help you to “See the Old Testament in the New Testament and see how the New Testament is hidden in the Old.” This study will give you a better understanding of Jesus’ ministry. Make plans to check this out! Today is Called By Name ~ Help us to recognize faithful young people in our Diocese who love Christ and His Church. Bishop Parkes is asking us to submit names of unmarried young men and women, high school age or older who may be called to priesthood or consecrated life, or who show the gifts to become faithful Catholic leaders in any vocation. Those who are named will receive a letter of encouragement from Bishop Parkes and support from the Vocation Office as they seek God’s will for their lives. Complete a card at Mass or submit a name at savannahvocations.org/calledbyname. The cards will be collected after the Homily. Beatification of the Georgia Martyrs ~ will be Saturday, October 31 at the Savannah Convention Center. If you are interested in riding in the Church Bus, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The cost is \$55 per person. Please let us know by next Sunday, September 6 if you are interested in riding along. Most information can be found on diosav.org. Youth Group ~ Will resume on Wednesday, September 9, 7:00-8:30 pm. Dinner will be provided. All youth 6th grade and up are welcome. Today’s Readings can be found on page 927 in the St. Augustine Hymnal	August 31 Noon Mass September 1 No Mass September 2 5:00 pm Holy Hour 6:00 pm Mass Ron & Joanne Dawson September 3 No Mass September 4 Noon Mass You can scan the QR code to donate online.